

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**No. S. 229.**—The following Bills were read a first time at a Meeting of the Council held on the 31st July, 1913 :—

## A BILL

ENTITLED

### An Ordinance to amend the Regulation of Chinese Ordinance, 1888.

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows :—

Short title. 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Regulation of Chinese (Amendment) Ordinance, 1913, and shall be read and construed as one with the Regulation of Chinese Ordinance, 1888, (hereinafter called the Principal Ordinance) and the Ordinances amending the same and this Ordinance and the said Ordinances may be cited together as the Regulation of Chinese Ordinances, 1888-1913.

Amendment of section 53 of Principal Ordinance. 2. Section 53 of the Principal Ordinance is hereby amended as follows :—  
(a.) by the substitution of the words “one hundred” for the word “fifty” in the third line thereof ;  
(b.) by the substitution of the word “two” for the word “one” in the third line thereof.

Amendment of First Schedule of Principal Ordinance. 3. The First Schedule to the Principal Ordinance is amended—  
(a.) by deleting the first, second, third, fifth, and sixth items thereof ;  
(b.) by re-numbering item No. 4 “Item No. 1”.

#### *Objects and Reasons.*

The object of this Bill is to facilitate the proper registration of householders.

Neglect in registration has been, it is thought, due in the past largely to the fact that certain fees were charged in connection therewith. These fees were contained in the First Schedule to the Regulation of Chinese Ordinance, 1888, and were as follows :—

1. First registration of any house and householder, .....	\$3.00
2. Registration of change of ownership, ....	1.00
3. Registration of removal of registered householder, .....	0.35
4. Bond by non-resident householder, .....	5.00
5. Certified extract from register, first folio,	0.25
6. Do., do., do., each subsequent folio, .....	0.10

By Section 3 of the Bill the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th items are done away with.

No charge will in future be made in connection with the registration of any house and householder, or change of ownership, or removal of a registered householder.

The 4th item remains as it stood, whilst in the event of certified extracts from the register being at any time required the fee will be charged under the provisions of the Official Signatures Fees Ordinances, 1888-1913.

It is hoped that by thus doing away with these fees the practice of registration will be rendered more universal than has been the case in the past, especially when coupled as is now proposed with a more close system of supervision of the working of the law.

The other point dealt with in the Bill is the increase of the penalty capable of being inflicted in the case of offences against the provisions of the Principal Ordinance ; which would include failure to carry out the requirements relative to registration which the Principal Ordinance demands. This is dealt with by Section 2 of the Bill.

JOHN A. BUCKNILL,  
*Attorney General.*

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to amend the Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1899.

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows :—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance, 1913, and shall be read and construed as one with the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899 (hereinafter called the Principal Ordinance) and the Ordinances amending the same and this Ordinance and the said Ordinances may be cited together as the Merchant Shipping Ordinances, 1899-1913. Short title.

2. Section 39, sub-section (14), of the Principal Ordinance as re-enacted by section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance, 1911, is hereby amended as follows :— Amendment of section 39 of Principal Ordinance as re-enacted by section 4 of Ordinance No. 48 of 1911.

- (a.) by the insertion of the words "except licensed fishing junks" between the words "junk" and "shall" in the first line thereof;
- (b.) by the substitution of a "full stop" for the "comma" after the word "inclusive" in the fifth line thereof.
- (c.) by the deletion of the words "except in the case of a licensed fishing junk which has obtained a special permit from the Harbour Master" in the fifth, sixth and seventh lines thereof.

*Objects and Reasons.*

Under sub-section (14) of section 39 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, as that section now stands, it is provided that no junk except a licensed fishing junk which has obtained a Special Permit from the Harbour Master may leave her anchorage or attempt to leave any port in the Colony during certain hours of the night. These permits are issued to all such junks as a matter of course and are seldom if ever refused; they are issued monthly, twenty five cents being charged for each such permit.

The object of the present amendment is to do away with these monthly permits and to substitute a general Annual Permit which will be one of the conditions attached to the ordinary licence of which every junk has to be in possession; the fee of twenty-five cents per month will be compounded in one payment on the issue of the ordinary licence. The conditions of the licence will in the case of fishing junks enable them of course to get under way at night.

The chief reason for the amendment proposed to be made is in order to do away with the great labour and time occupied in the issue of these monthly permits. The apparent loss of control over these fishing junks occasioned by the change will however be more than counterbalanced by the inauguration of a system of endorsement on their licences of every entry of these fishing junks into the waters of the Colony as is done now in the case of trading-junks; in this way a record of the movements of these fishing junks will be obtained in a manner which is not at present possible. The necessary alterations in the form of licence and the system to carry out the necessary endorsements on these licences upon the entry of the junks into the waters of the Colony will be of course arranged for by regulations and departmental action.

JOHN A. BUCKNILL,  
*Attorney General.*