

No. S. 53.—The following Bills were read a first time at a Meeting of the Council held on the 26th February, 1914 :—

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to amend the Foreign Marriage Ordinance, 1903.

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 Foreign Marriage Ordinance, 1914, and shall be read and construed as one with the Foreign Marriage Ordinance, 1903, (hereinafter called the Principal Ordinance), and this Ordinance and the said Ordinance may be cited together as the Foreign Marriage Ordinances, 1903-1914.

Amendment of section 2 of Principal Ordinance. 2. Section 2 of the Principal Ordinance is hereby amended by the deletion of the figure and words " 3 consecutive weeks " in the fifth line thereof and by the substitution therefor of the words " one week ".

Date of coming into operation. 3. This Ordinance shall come into operation on the 23rd day of March, 1914.

Objects and Reasons.

By the Foreign Marriages Order-in-Council, 1913, promulgated on the 22nd November of that year certain regulations are prescribed under the provisions of the Foreign Marriage Act, 1892, relating to the marriage of British subjects outside the United Kingdom. This Order-in-Council will be published shortly in the *Gazette* of this Colony.

These regulations are intended to facilitate the performance of the contract of marriage by British subjects outside the United Kingdom and come into force on the 23rd March, 1914, from and after which day certain earlier Orders-in-Council, namely, the Foreign Marriages Order-in-Council, 1892, the Foreign Marriages Order-in-Council, 1895, and the Foreign Marriages Order-in-Council, 1903, are repealed.

These earlier Orders-in-Council and the new Order-in-Council of 1913 require in some small respects local legislation of reciprocal character and to meet the requirements of the earlier Orders-in-Council the Foreign Marriage Ordinance, 1903, was passed in this Colony.

By clause 11 of the new Order-in-Council, 1913, it is provided *inter alia* that a law enacted by the legislature of any part of His Majesty's Dominions outside the British Islands shall be deemed to give effect to the regulations contained in the Order or to unrepealed or future Orders-in-Council under the Foreign Marriage Act if it makes provision for the execution of certain formalities. These formalities with one exception are already provided for by our Foreign Marriage Ordinance, 1903. This exception is that in the Order-in-Council of 1913 the duration of the period of abode immediately preceding the notice of a marriage intended to be solemnized under the Foreign Marriage Act which must be given by one of the parties intending such marriage is fixed at *one* week instead of, as formerly, at *three* weeks.

Section 2 of the local Foreign Marriage Ordinance, 1903, fixes such period at *three* weeks, which, as stated above, was the period prescribed under the Orders-in-Council repealed by the new Foreign Marriages Order-in-Council, 1913, and this Bill is now introduced in order to make the necessary alteration.

JOHN A. BUCKNILL,
Attorney General.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to amend the Electricity Supply Ordinance, 1911.

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 Electricity Supply Amendment Ordinance, 1914, and shall be read and construed as one with the Electricity Supply Ordinance, 1911, (hereinafter called the Principal Ordinance), and this Ordinance and the said Ordinance may be cited together as the Electricity Supply Ordinances, 1911-1914. Short title.

2. Section 3 of the Principal Ordinance is hereby repealed and the following section substituted therefor:— Repeal of section 3 and substitution of new section therefor.

“3.—(1.) The regulations for securing the safety of the public contained in the schedule shall have effect as respects any company generating or supplying electricity within the Colony. Regulations for securing the safety of the public.

(2.) The provisions of this section shall be applicable retrospectively to any company in existence at the date of the coming into operation of this Ordinance.

(3.) It shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Council to grant exemption from the provisions of this section to any company which proves to the satisfaction of the Governor-in-Council that the conditions under which it generates or supplies electricity are such as not to endanger in any way the safety of the public.”

Objects and Reasons.

By Section 3 of the Electricity Supply Ordinance, 1911, certain regulations for securing the safety of the public which are contained in the Schedule to the Ordinance were declared applicable to any Company supplying electricity within the Colony but the application of these regulations was by a proviso restricted in a manner which experience has shewn to be not altogether satisfactory.

Under the old Ordinance the regulations were not to apply to any electric line or works laid down or erected by any person or body of persons for the supply of electricity generated upon any premises occupied by such person or body to any other part of such premises. Whilst the majority of Electric Installations to which this exempting proviso is applicable is no doubt free from danger it has been found that there do exist cases in which private installations apparently of faulty character are situated in the centre of or adjacent to other premises to which they constitute a constant danger.

In order to avoid this serious state of affairs, the present Bill has been introduced providing that the regulations for securing the safety of the public contained in the Schedule to the Ordinance shall have effect generally and that any exemption from the provisions of the section must be of specific character subject to the express permission of the Governor-in-Council.

Any installation of self contained character which does not shadow with danger other premises will under subsection (3), giving power to the Governor-in-Council to grant exemption from the general provisions of the section, be able to obtain freedom from the application of the regulations in question.

It would seem clear that from a public point of view and for the safety of the public the modification of Section 3 of the Electricity Supply Ordinance, 1911, which is proposed under the present Bill is a matter of great desirability.

JOHN A. BUCKNILL,
Attorney General.