

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. S. 151.—The following Bill was read a first time at a meeting of the Council held on the 12th June, 1919:—

A BILL

INTITULED

An Ordinance for the appointment of a Special Custodian of Enemy Interests in China Companies.

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 “China Companies” Custodian Ordinance, 1919.

Definition. 2. “China Company” means a company limited by shares or by guarantee incorporated under the Companies Ordinances, and the operations of which are directed and controlled from some place within the limits of the China (Companies) Order in Council, 1915.

Power of Governor to vest shares etc. of China Companies in Custodian appointed by H.M. Minister in China. 3.—(1.) Notwithstanding any appointment by him of a Custodian under the Trading with the Enemy (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1915, the Governor may vest by order in any person, who has been appointed, whether before or after the commencement of this Ordinance, Custodian of Enemy Property in China by His Majesty’s Minister in China, as Custodian, any shares, stock, debentures, debentures stock, annuities, and any other obligations of any China Company (including any rights, whether legal or equitable, in or arising out of the same) held by or on behalf of an enemy and the right to transfer the same: and any such vesting order, when made, shall relate back to the time of the appointment of such Custodian and shall confer upon such Custodian and shall be deemed to have been conferred upon him as from the time of such appointment the right to sell manage and otherwise deal with and to transfer all such shares, stock, debentures, debentures stock, annuities, and other obligations of such China Company (including any such rights as aforesaid) without the necessity of any further conveyance, assurance or document.

(2.) Where such Custodian either proposes to sell or has already sold any shares, stock, debentures, debentures stock, annuities or other obligations of any China Company in respect of which a vesting order has been made under this Ordinance (including any such rights as aforesaid), the purchase by such Company of such shares, stock, debentures, debentures stock, annuities or other obligations (including any such rights) shall be or shall have been deemed to have been legal and valid, any law or any regulation of the company to the contrary notwithstanding and any shares, stock, debentures, debentures stock, annuities or other obligations so purchased may from time to time be re-issued by the company.

(3.) The transfer on sale by such Custodian of any property shall be conclusive evidence in favour of the purchaser and of such Custodian that the requirements of this section have been complied with.

Objects and Reasons.

The object of this Bill is to bring about a harmonious working arrangement, in the case of China Companies as defined by this Ordinance in regard to which companies His Majesty's Minister in China has appointed or may hereafter appoint a Custodian of Enemy Property in China whereby the Governor of this Colony is enabled (notwithstanding the appointment by him of a Hongkong official as Custodian generally of enemy property) to appoint the same Custodian in the case of China Companies as has been appointed or may hereafter be appointed by His Majesty's Minister in China. In this way all possibility of any future conflict of powers between the Colonial Treasurer here, who is usually appointed Custodian of Enemy Property and the Custodian of Enemy Property in China will be avoided. For a similar reason it has been thought desirable to make it clear in this Ordinance that the Custodian has full power to sell shares, stock, debentures, and debentures stock of a China Company and that such company has and has had full power to legally purchase the same "any law or any regulation of the company to the contrary notwithstanding".

H. E. POLLOCK,
Attorney General.

31st May, 1919.

NOTICES.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

No. S. 152.—Statement of Sanitary Measures adopted against Hongkong.

Place or Port.	Nature of Measures.	Date.	Reference to Government Notification.
Philippine Islands.	All passengers from Hongkong to produce special certificate.	7th March, 1918.	No. S. 49.
Chefoo.	Quarantine imposed on all arrivals from Hongkong.	4th March, 1918.	No. S. 56.
Saigon.	All vessels arriving from Hongkong will be inspected. Persons suspected of infection will be isolated and in such event the vessel will be disinfected. If any cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis are discovered the vessel and all passengers to Indo-China will be put in quarantine for six days and disinfected. No restrictions as regards loading and disembarking cargo.	17th March, 1918.	No. S. 63.
Canton.	Masters of vessels from Hongkong to pay strict attention to Clause 26 of the Harbour Regulations.	13th March, 1918.	No. S. 68.
Newchwang.	All vessels arriving from Hongkong will be treated as Suspected Vessels.	30th March, 1918.	No. S. 86.
Ningpo.	Quarantine imposed on all arrivals from Hongkong.	11th April, 1918.	No. S. 88.
Singapore.	Hongkong declared an infected port on account of cerebro-spinal fever.	2nd April, 1918.	No. S. 94.