

No. S. 174.—The following bill, which it is proposed to introduce into the Legislative Council shortly, is published for general information :—

C.S.O. 2568/21.

[No. 8 :—20.6.24.—1.]

A BILL

INTITLED

An Ordinance to amend the Opium Ordinance, 1923.

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 Opium Short title. Amendment Ordinance, 1924.

2. Section 21 (3) of the Opium Ordinance, 1923, is amended by the deletion of the words "unless it is proved, to the satisfaction of the magistrate," and by the substitution therefor of the words "unless the magistrate is satisfied". Amendment of Ordinance No. 30 of 1923, s. 21 (3).

3. The following table is substituted for that contained in section 39 (1) of the Opium Ordinance, 1923 :— Amendment of Ordinance No. 30 of 1923, s. 39 (1).

SECTION OR SUB-SECTION.	MAXIMUM FINE.	MAXIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT.
8	\$2,000	—
15 (1)	\$ 500	—
15 (2)	\$ 25	—
17	\$5,000	One year.
18	\$5,000	One year.
19	\$5,000	One year.
25 (4)	\$ 250	—
25 (5)	\$ 250	Six months.
26	\$ 250	—
29	\$ 250	Six months.
31 (3)	\$5,000	One year.

*Objects and Reasons.*

1. Clause 2 of the bill amends section 21 of the Opium Ordinance, 1923, in accordance with representations made by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

2. Clause 3 of the bill corrects certain drafting errors in the Opium Ordinance, 1923. These were due to the fact that three clauses were struck out of the bill at a late stage. The necessity of making consequential alterations in clause 39 (1) was overlooked.

3. The opportunity is taken to make \$250 the maximum penalty for refusal by a revenue officer or police officer to produce his badge. It seems unnecessary to give a power to imprison without the option of a fine.

J. H. KEMP,  
Attorney General.

2nd June, 1924.