

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Draft Bill.

No. S. 80.—The following bill, which it is proposed to introduce into the Legislative Council shortly, is published for general information.

C.S.O. 1 in 750/17.

[No. 1:—13.1.25.—1.]

A BILL

INTITULED

An Ordinance to provide for the incorporation of the Trustees of the Sailors Home, Hongkong.

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 Sailors Home Short title. Ordinance, 1925.

2. The trustees of the Sailors Home, Hongkong, and their successors in office as hereinafter defined, shall be a body corporate, hereinafter called the corporation, and shall have the name of "The Trustees of the Sailors Home, Hongkong," and in that name shall have perpetual succession, and shall and may sue and be sued in all courts in the Colony, and shall and may have and use a common seal.

3.—(1) The person for the time being performing the duties of Harbour Master shall always be one of the said trustees.

(2) There shall be three other trustees who shall be appointed from time to time by the Committee of Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

(3) The certificate of the Colonial Secretary that any person was at the date of the certificate, or had been at some previous specified date, one of the said trustees, shall for all purposes be sufficient evidence of that fact.

(4) The first trustees shall be Dallas Gerald Mercer Bernard, George Francis Hole (Harbour Master), Archibald Orr Lang and George Macdonald Young.

4.—(1) The corporation shall have power to acquire, accept leases of, purchase, take, hold and enjoy any lands, buildings, messuages or tenements of what nature or kind soever and wheresoever situated, and also to invest moneys upon mortgage of any lands, buildings, messuages, or tenements, or upon the mortgages, debentures, stocks, funds, shares or securities of any government, municipality corporation or company, and also to purchase, acquire and possess vessels and other goods and chattels of what nature and kind soever.

(2) The corporation shall further have power by deed under its seal to grant, sell, convey, assign, surrender, exchange, partition, yield up, mortgage, demise, reassign, transfer or otherwise dispose of any lands, buildings, messuages, tenements, mortgages, debentures, stocks, funds, shares or securities, vessels, or other goods and chattels, which are for the time being vested in or belonging to the corporation upon such terms as to the corporation may seem fit.

5. All deeds and other instruments requiring the corporate seal of the corporation shall be sealed in the presence of two of the trustees and shall be signed by two of the trustees.

6. The piece or parcel of ground registered in the Land Office as Marine Lot No. 187A, together with all rights, easements and appurtenances belonging or appertaining thereto or therewith usually held, occupied and enjoyed, is hereby transferred to and vested in the corporation, for the unexpired residue of the term of years created by the Crown lease thereof, subject to the payment of the rent and the performance of the covenants and conditions reserved by and contained in the Crown lease of the same.

Vesting of certain property.

7. Nothing in this Ordinance shall affect or be deemed to affect the rights of His Majesty the King, his heirs or successors, or the rights of any body politic or corporate or of any other person except such as are mentioned in this Ordinance and those claiming by from or under them.

Saving of the rights of the Crown and of certain other persons.

Objects and Reasons.

1. The object of this bill is to create a corporation to be known as "The Trustees of the Sailors Home in Hong-kong", to appoint the first trustees, and to vest in the new corporation the Crown lease of the land on which the present Sailors Home stands.

2. The present Sailors Home was provided by the community, the site being given by the Government and the cost of the buildings being defrayed by public subscription. The original Crown lessees, who were practically trustees of the Sailors Home, have all died, and the Home has for many years been conducted by an informal committee which grew out of the body composed of the original Crown lessees.

3. The present site has become quite unsuitable for the purposes of a Sailors Home, and it is proposed to transfer the Home to a site in Kowloon immediately to the south of Signal Hill. There is no person or body at present who has any legal right to deal with the existing site. Accordingly the bill proposes to create a corporation consisting of the members of the present informal committee and to vest the present site in the new corporation. The members of the present committee, who will be the members of the new corporation, have agreed informally to surrender the existing site and buildings to the Crown, and the Government have undertaken to grant to the corporation the proposed new site in Kowloon and to provide the sum of \$800,000 for the erection, furnishing and endowment of the new Home.

4. St. Peter's church was erected in the year 1871 on a portion of the present site of the Sailors Home. The cost of the building was defrayed by subscriptions raised in the Colony and elsewhere and by a grant of \$2,500 by the Government. The total cost appears to have been about £1,500 or \$7,500. The site of the church is required for the purposes of a police station, and the authorities of the church would prefer to have it in a quieter neighbourhood than the present one. The Government accordingly propose to grant a new site for the church and to contribute the sum of \$50,000 for the erection of a new church.

5. The bill follows the usual form of incorporation Ordinances.

J. H. KEMP,
Attorney General.

13th January, 1925.