

Draft Bill.

No. S. 134.—The following bill is published for general information :—

C S O / .

[No. 4 :—7.4.31.—2.]

A BILL

INTITLED

An Ordinance to amend the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1871.

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

Short title.      1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Legal Practitioners Amendment Ordinance, 1931.

Amendment of Ordinance No. 1 of 1871, s. 21.      2. Section 21 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1871, is amended by the deletion of the last seven lines thereof and by the substitution therefor of the words :—

“and such persons as have been admitted to practise as attorneys, solicitors, law agents or proctors in Great Britain or Ireland, to practise as solicitors in the court.”

Amendment of Ordinance No. 1 of 1871, s. 2      3. Section 2 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1871 is amended by the repeal of paragraph (e).

Amendment of Ordinance No. 1 of 1871, s. 22.      4. Section 22 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1871, is amended :—

- (i) in the first line of paragraph (b) by the deletion of the word “writer” and by the substitution therefor of the words “law agent” ;
- (ii) in the third line of paragraph (b) by the deletion of the words “Hongkong Law Society” and by the substitution therefor of the words “Incorporated Law Society of Hong Kong” ;
- (iii) in the ninth line of paragraph (b) by the deletion of the words “or writers” and by the substitution therefor of the words “, law agents or proctors” ;
- (iv) in the tenth line of paragraph (b) by the deletion of the words “at London, Dublin or Edinburgh” and by the substitution therefor of the words “in Great Britain or Ireland” ;
- (v) in the sixth line of the proviso to paragraph (b) by the deletion of the word “writer” and by the substitution therefor of the words “law agent”.

Amendment of Ordinance No. 1 of 1871, s. 23.      5. Section 23 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1871, is amended by the deletion of the word “solicitor” in the seventh line thereof and by the substitution therefor of the words “attorney, solicitor, law agent or proctor”.

Amendment of Ordinance No. 1 of 1871, s. 23A.      6. Section 23A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, 1871, is amended by the deletion of the words “Hongkong Law Society” in the first line and by the substitution therefor of the words “Incorporated Law Society of Hong Kong”

*Objects and Reasons.*

1. Under section 21 of the principal Ordinance the court is empowered to approve, admit, and enrol such persons as have been admitted as attorneys, solicitors, or writers in one of the courts of London, Dublin or Edinburgh, or as proctors in any Ecclesiastical Court in England, to practise as solicitors in the court, and the expression "writer" is to be deemed to include "law agents" as defined in section 1 of the Act, 36 and 37 Victoria, chapter 63.

2. It is felt that the limitation to named cities is too restrictive. The rights and duties of Law Agents in Scotland are regulated by the Law Agents (Scotland) Acts, 1873 and 1891. The term "Law Agent" (equivalent to "solicitor in England) is defined by the former Act as "Law Agents, shall include Writers to the Signet, Solicitors in the Supreme Court, Procurators in any Sheriff Court, and every person entitled to practise as an Agent in a court of Law in Scotland".

3. The Secretary of State, in a recent circular Despatch (dated the 8th January, 1931) forwarding an extract from a memorandum of the Council of the Scottish Law Agents Society regarding admission to practise in the Colonies, states that he is sure that the intention is that the same privilege should be conferred upon solicitors in Scotland as upon solicitors in England and that therefore the reference, so far as Scotland is concerned, should be "law agents admitted to practise in Scotland" and nothing more.

4. Section 21 of the principal Ordinance is amended accordingly and sections 22 and 23 are made uniform therewith.

5. Sections 2, 22 and 23A of the principal Ordinance are also amended so as to give The Incorporated Law Society of Hong Kong its correct title.

C. G. ALABASTER,  
*Attorney General.*

*April, 1931.*

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**NOTICES.**

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COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

**No. S. 135.—Statement of Sanitary Measures adopted by Hong Kong.**

Disease.	Port or Place.	Restriction in Force.	Authority.
Plague.	Bangkok.	Quarantine and/or Disinfection at the discretion of the Health Officer.	Notification No. 51 of 29th January, 1931.

E. R. HALLIFAX,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

*10th April, 1931.*