

The Surveyor General replied that the permanent buildings for the Lazaretto were contracted to be ready on the 1st of July next; and that, pending the completion of the permanent buildings, suitable accommodation was being provided for the reception of the sick, should occasion require it, in temporary and provisional matsheds.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL GRANT.—The Honourable T. JACKSON gave notice that at the next meeting he would move the following resolutions, and introduce a Cathedral Bill:—

1.—That the Secretary of State for the Colonies be invited to reconsider the decision which has been arrived at as to the withdrawal of ecclesiastical grants in this Colony, with a view to the continuance of such grants, as in Singapore and in Mauritius.

2.—That the only expenditure which could be retrenched under the instructions received is a small salary, nominally of £800, but really of £640, paid to the Colonial Chaplain, and representing little more than remuneration for the necessary services of burying the dead, attendance at the gaol, at hospitals, &c.

3.—That if this salary be withdrawn, the Colony will have to pay nearly if not quite as much in allowances for these services, thus substituting a precarious and unsatisfactory arrangement for one which works to the satisfaction of all concerned.

4.—That the instructions to disestablish the Church on the first opportunity were not called for by any public demand, and that no public feeling exists in the Colony on the subject except such as is adverse to the course proposed.

5.—That the policy of disestablishment, still far from being generally accepted at home, has been, as far as the information of this Council goes, distasteful to every Colony on which it has been imposed; that it has been reversed in two Colonies, and in at least one more continues to be an offence and a public grievance to the Community.

6.—That a doubtful policy of this kind should not be, in ignorance of many of the essential circumstances of the case, needlessly forced upon an unwilling community which, administering its own revenue, is more interested in guarding against the misappropriation of that revenue than any external authority can be.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.—On the motion of the Acting Attorney General, seconded by the Acting Colonial Secretary, the following Bills were read a second time:—

(a.) A Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Vagrants.*

(b.) A Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend the Law as to Sales of Land by Public Auction.*

(c.) A Bill entitled *An Ordinance for the Relief of Widows and Children of Intestates where the personal estate is of small value.*

The Acting Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would move that the Council go into Committee on these Bills.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Acting Attorney General moved that the other Orders of the Day be postponed.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned to Wednesday, the 24th instant, at 4 P.M.

W. H. MARSH,
Administering the Government.

Read and confirmed, this 24th day of March, 1886.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 102.

The following Bill, which was read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council held this day, is published for general information.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 24th March, 1886.

A BILL

ENTITLED

The Cathedral Ordinance, 188 .

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Trustees
incorporated.

1. The existing Trustees of Saint John's Cathedral Church at Victoria in this Colony under Ordinances No. 2 of 1847 and No. 3 of 1850, and their successors from time to time to be appointed or elected under this Ordinance, shall be a body corporate by the name of the Trustees of Saint John's Cathedral Church at Hongkong, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and with power to purchase, hold, take and enjoy to themselves and their successors all houses, buildings, and lands which they may require for the purposes of the said Cathedral Church, and shall sue and may sue and be sued in their corporate name in all Courts.

Objects.

2. The corporation is created for the purpose of maintaining the said Church for religious worship according to the rites and usages of the Church of England.

Estate.

3. The said Church and land thereunto belonging, the boundaries of which are set out in the Schedule to this Ordinance, are hereby vested in the said corporation, subject to a right of way over the public road running through the said land as shewn in the plan prepared by the Surveyor General, dated the day of and sealed with the seal of the Colony.

*The Trustees.*Existing
Trustees.

4. The Trustees and Auditors of the said Cathedral Church appointed or elected under Ordinance 2 of 1847 at the time of the coming into force of this Ordinance shall continue in Office until new Trustees shall be appointed or elected under this Ordinance.

Future
appointments.

5. The appointment or election of Trustees and Auditors shall take place annually, and all Trustees and Auditors so appointed or elected shall continue in Office until a fresh appointment or election is made. Any Trustee or Auditor may be re-elected or re-appointed.

Annual
Meeting.

6. The election of Trustees and Auditors shall take place at a general meeting of the seat-holders of the Church, hereinafter called the Annual Meeting, to be summoned by the Trustees for the time being, during the month of April or May in each year. At least ten days' notice of such meeting shall be given by notices to be exhibited at each doorway used by the Congregation of the Church.

Seat-holders'
Trustees.

7. Two Trustees, being Members of the Church of England and seat-holders of the Church, and one other person to act as Auditor shall be elected at each Annual Meeting, and the out-going Trustees shall notify the Colonial Secretary of such election.

Official
Trustees.

8. The Governor shall then appoint four persons, being Members of the Church of England, to be Trustees, and one person to be an Auditor. The Auditors, whether appointed or elected, shall not at the same time be Trustees.

Cases of
absence.

9. In case of any vacancy occurring among the Trustees or Auditors by death, absence from the Colony, or other incapacity, it shall be lawful for the seat-holders or the Governor, as the case may be, to fill up such vacancy in like manner as the original appointment was made under Section 7 or 8 of this Ordinance.

Chairman.

10. The Colonial Chaplain shall be at all times Chairman of the Trustees, but shall not have the power of voting by reason of being such Chairman except in cases where the votes of the Trustees present shall be equal.

Secretary.

11. The Trustees shall appoint one of their number to be their Secretary and Treasurer.

Meetings.

12. Meetings of the Trustees shall be called by the Secretary on the requisition of the Chaplain or of any two Trustees. Such meetings shall be convened by written notice. The attendance of four Trustees, or of three and the Chaplain shall form a quorum.

Notice.

13. Two clear days' notice shall be given when possible of any meeting of Trustees, and, should two days' notice not have been given, the Chairman shall postpone the meeting if any Trustee who is unable to attend should call upon him in writing so to do.

The Church. Management.

14. The Trustees may call a General Meeting of Seat-holders at any time, and shall call such a meeting within fourteen days after receiving any requisition in writing to that effect signed by not less than twenty seat-holders.

General Meetings

15. At least ten days notice of the time and place of holding such General Meeting shall be given by notices conspicuously posted at each doorway of the Church used by the Congregation. The Colonial Chaplain, if present, shall preside at such meeting; and no General Meeting of seat-holders, except the Annual Meeting, or for the purposes of Section 22 of this Ordinance, shall be held unless at least twenty seat-holders are present.

Notice.

16. The right of voting at every General Meeting of seat-holders shall be vested in renters of sittings in the Church who shall have duly paid the rent of their sittings. Provided always that no such seat-holder shall on any occasion be allowed to give more than one vote.

Right to vote.

17. The allotment of sittings in the Church in force at the time of coming into operation of this Ordinance shall be continued until the same shall be altered under the provisions of this Ordinance. And such allotment and all future allotments shall be subject to the following, reservations of sittings for which no rent shall be charged, namely;—

Allotment of Sittings.

(1.) One third part of the whole number of the sittings in the Church for the use of the poorer classes of the community.

Sitting Reserved.

(2.) Such sittings for the Governor of the Colony, the Officer Commanding the troops, and Officers of the garrison as the Trustees shall deem sufficient and may be able to provide.

18. The Trustees shall make arrangements for placing the whole Church at the disposal of any Military Chaplain for garrison services at such hours as may not interfere with the usual and ordinary services of the Church.

Military Services.

19. The Trustees shall, at each Annual Meeting, assess and fix a rent for each sitting in the Church, and may at any time make agreements or contracts with any person desirous to engage the same according to such assessment, and such rent shall be in force from the 1st day of April in the year in which it is fixed until the thirty first day of March next following. The rents of all sittings in the Church shall be paid in advance.

Seat-Rents.

20. If it shall at any time appear to the Trustees that such Annual Assessment is insufficient to defray the necessary charges and costs of the Church, they may call a General Meeting in the manner provided by Section 15 of this Ordinance, and, with the assent of a majority at such Meeting, such majority not being less than twenty persons in number, may substitute such higher assessment as to such majority may appear sufficient.

Increase of Rents.

21. No seat-holder shall, under any pretence whatever, be deprived of the free use of his sitting at all times when the Church shall be open for public worship, except when the Church shall be used for a Military Service or under the following circumstances;—

Forfeiture of seat.

(1.) If he fail to pay the rent of such sitting in advance within three months after it shall have been demanded by the Trustees.

(2.) If he fail to pay the difference between the rate assessed on such sitting and a higher assessment made under Section 20 of this Ordinance within one month after such difference shall have been demanded by the Trustees.

(3.) If he designedly and habitually interrupt the celebration of divine worship or disturb any part of the Congregation within the Church by any unseemly noise, gesture or behaviour.

22. In any of the three cases provided for in the last Section, the Trustees may issue a Monition to such defaulter or offender, and in case such person shall not forthwith pay the sums claimed, or desist from the practice complained of, the Trustees may call a General Meeting of the seat-holders, and such Meeting may authorise the Trustees to declare the sitting or sittings rented by the person complained of to be vacant.

Monition and forfeiture.

Funds.

23. The Trustees shall collect all seat-rents and other moneys due or coming to the Church, and may at their discretion sue for the recovery of the same. The Trustees shall, out of the said sums, pay the salaries of all officers of the Church, and shall apply the surplus, if any, to such repairs and improvements of the Church and the Trust property as shall seem to them expedient.

Accounts.

24. The Trustees shall keep accounts of all money received and paid by them under the last Section, which accounts the Auditors or either of them may inspect at all reasonable times. Such accounts shall be brought down to the thirty-first day of March in each year, and then closed and audited by the Auditors. The audited account shall be laid before the Annual Meeting, and published as soon after such meeting as possible in the *Government Gazette*.

Monuments.

Monuments.

25. The Trustees may in their discretion permit the erection of any monument in the Church or in the enclosure surrounding it on payment of a fee of not less than one hundred dollars in each case. Any person having received permission to erect a monument shall be allowed to maintain the same.

Repairs.

26. The Trustees may order the removal of any monument which shall have become ruinous, dilapidated, or unsightly, if the owner thereof cannot be found or refuses to properly repair and maintain such monument.

Crown Rights.

Crown rights reserved.

27. Nothing herein contained shall affect or be deemed to affect the rights of Her Majesty the Queen, her heirs or successors, or of any bodies politic or corporate, or other person or persons, except such as are mentioned in this Ordinance and those claiming by, from, or under them.

Repeal.

Repeal.

28. Ordinances No. 2 of 1847 and No. 3 of 1850 are hereby repealed.

SCHEDULE.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 103.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—

Ordinance No. 6 of 1886.—*An Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, to regulate the printing of Newspapers and Books and the keeping of Printing Presses within the Colony.*

Ordinance No. 7 of 1886.—*An Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, to repeal the Usury Laws and to fix a legal rate of interest.*

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 24th March, 1886.