

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.—The Acting Colonial Secretary moved the appointment of the following Committees:—

1. *Finance*, to consist of the whole of the Members of the Legislative Council, except the Governor, with the Colonial Secretary as Chairman.
2. *Law*, to consist of the Honourable the Attorney General (Chairman), The Honourable H. G. THOMSETT, R.N., the Honourable P. RYRIE, the Honourable A. P. MAC EWEN, and the Honourable WONG SHING.
3. *Public Works*, to consist of the Honourable the Surveyor General, the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer, the Honourable F. D. SASSOON, and the Honourable J. BELL-IRVING.

The Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

QUESTION.—Mr. MAC EWEN, pursuant to notice, asked:—

Has any word been received as to whether Sir GEORGE BOWEN will return to his Post as Governor of the Colony at the expiration of his leave on the 16th December next?

If the answer is in the negative, will His Excellency the Administrator wire to the Colonial Office to know whether Sir GEORGE BOWEN is coming out, and, if not, what steps are being taken to fill the Post?

The Officer Administering the Government replied.

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

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

(b.) A Bill entitled—*An Ordinance relating to Bills of Lading*.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE BETTER PROTECTION OF YOUNG GIRLS.—The Acting Attorney General moved the second reading of this Bill, and addressed the Council at length on the objects and reasons of it.

The Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.

After some discussion, the Acting Attorney General withdrew his motion pending the perusal by the Honourable Members of the correspondence on the subject.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—On the motion of the Acting Attorney General, the other Orders of the Day were postponed.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned to Friday, the 19th instant.

W. H. MARSH,
Administering the Government.

Read and confirmed, this 19th day of November, 1886.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 443.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to recognise provisionally, and until further notice, CARLOS DE RIBERA, Esquire, as in charge of the Spanish Consulate in this Colony.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 16th November, 1886.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 444.

It is hereby notified for general information, that Her Majesty The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve of the following temporary appointments as Members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong, viz.:—

The Honourable ALEXANDER PALMER McEWEN, *vice* The Honourable THOMAS JACKSON, on leave.

The Honourable JOHN BELL-IRVING, *vice* The Honourable WILLIAM KESWICK, on leave.

The Honourable HENRY GEORGE THOMSETT, R.N., *vice* The Honourable FREDERICK STEWART, doing duty as Colonial Secretary.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 20th November, 1886.