

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 90.

The following Bill, which will be read a third time at the next Meeting of the Legislative Council, is published for general information.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 12th March, 1887.

A BILL

ENTITLED

*An Ordinance for the better protection of
young Girls.*

WHEREAS it is expedient to prevent adopted female children and other young girls from being brought up in the Colony for the purpose of prostitution either here or elsewhere: Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. Whenever the Registrar General shall have reason to believe that any female child under the age of sixteen years has been purchased and brought into the Colony or that any female child between the ages of six and sixteen years is in the custody or under the control of any person in the Colony with the view of being trained or disposed of as a prostitute either in the Colony or out of the Colony, it shall be lawful for the Registrar General to summon before him such Custodian requiring at the same time the production of the said child, and to make full inquiry into the said matter.

2. If any person who has received such notice shall not appear, and produce the said child, and shall not satisfactorily account for such default he shall be liable on conviction before a Magistrate to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars, and in default of payment to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding six months.

3. It shall be lawful for the Registrar General by notice in writing under his hand, to summon before him any person who he believes can give information respecting any such female child, or its treatment by its adopted parents, custodian or employer, and any person disobeying such notice, and not giving satisfactory reason for such default shall be liable on conviction before a Magistrate to a penalty not exceeding two hundred dollars or in default thereof to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding three months.

4. If the said Custodian shall attend, the Registrar General may associate with him two or more Justices of the Peace, or such other persons as may from time to time be designated by the Governor, and he shall thereupon proceed to inquire into the matter, and shall hear and examine upon oath any person capable of giving evidence in such matter. At such inquiry the said Custodian may be assisted by Counsel or Solicitor and such Custodian or any husband or wife of such Custodian shall be a competent but not a compellable witness at every hearing before the said Registrar General or in any subsequent inquiry. If after due inquiry the Registrar General shall be satisfied that any offence against the provisions of Ordinance No. 2 of 1875 has been committed by the said Custodian he shall commit him for trial to the Supreme Court. In such case it may be lawful for the Registrar General to admit the said Custodian to bail and in case of his non-appearance on his trial recognizance of bail may be enforced by the Supreme Court in the usual manner.

If the said Registrar General is satisfied that the said child is being trained as a prostitute or that it is the intention of the said Custodian thereof to dispose of the said child as a prostitute or that it has been purchased for the purposes of emigration and if the said Custodian shall consent that the matter be dealt with by the Registrar General it shall be lawful for the Registrar General to make an order for the proper custody of the said child, or if he

Preamble.

Registrar
General may
summon
Custodian of
any female
child between
6 and 16 years
of age.

Penalty for
not appearing
and producing
child.

Registrar
General may
summon any
person who
can give
information.

Registrar
General may
associate with
him two or
more Justices
of the Peace
or such other
persons.

Custodian or
husband or
wife of such
Custodian to
be competent
witnesses.

Registrar
General may
make an order
for the
custody of
the child
under certain
circumstances.

should think fit to leave the said child with the said Custodian he may require the latter to furnish such security in such an amount with such sureties as he shall think fit for the proper care and bringing up of the said child.

The Registrar General may also call upon the said Custodian to furnish him with a photograph of the said child.

If Custodian declines to have the matter dealt with by the Registrar General, the case may be remitted to a Magistrate.

5. If the said Custodian declines to have the matter dealt with by the Registrar General the said Registrar General shall make an order for the temporary custody of the said child and shall remit the matter to a Police Magistrate who on hearing the parties shall if he is satisfied that the child is being trained as a prostitute or that it is the intention of the Custodian thereof to dispose of the said child as a prostitute or that the said child has been purchased for the purpose of emigration may make an order in conformity with the provisions of Section 4 of this Ordinance.

Registrar General may apply for Habeas Corpus.

6. Whenever the Registrar General shall have reason to believe that any female child between the ages of six and sixteen years is in the custody, power or possession of any person who has no legal right to such custody, and that it is prejudicial to the interests, and liberty of such child that she should continue in the custody of such person, it shall be lawful for the Registrar General to make application to a Judge in chambers for a writ of *Habeas Corpus*.

On the return of the said writ the said Judge shall make such order respecting the custody, education, and bringing up of the said child, and on such conditions as he shall deem best in the interest of the said child.

In dealing with such cases no parent who has voluntarily parted with such child for the purpose of adoption into another family or who has received money for the parting with the custody of the child for any other purpose shall be deemed to have any legal right to the custody of such child as its natural guardian.

Recovery of sums due on promise or agreement already entered into.

7. In any action which may hereafter be entered for the recovery of any sum due on any promise or agreement which before the coming into operation of this Ordinance has been entered into before the Registrar General with respect to the custody, maintenance or giving in marriage of any female child, it shall not be necessary for the plaintiff in such action to allege or to prove that any consideration was given for the said promise or agreement, and it shall not be competent for the said defendant to allege in defence that the Registrar General had no authority or power to require such promise or agreement from him, or that no consideration was given for the same.

Governor in Council may make Regulations.

8. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to make and when made to alter, amend, or revoke all Rules and Regulations necessary for the efficient working of this Ordinance.

Forms.

9. The forms contained in the Schedule to this Ordinance shall be the forms to be used when required under this Ordinance.

SCHEDULES.

A.

Notice under Section 1 of Ordinance No. of 1887.

To A.B.
residing at

In virtue of the powers conferred on me by section 1 of Ordinance No. of 1887, I do hereby require you the said A.B. to appear before me at my office situate in on at of the clock in the noon and then and there to bring and produce one C.D. a female child now in your custody or under your control.

Dated this day of in the year One thousand Eight hundred and

Registrar General.

Take Notice that if you do not obey this summons you are liable to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars, and in default of paying the said sum to imprisonment not exceeding six months.

B.

HONGKONG } Know all men by these presents that we
TO WIT. }

A.B. of
C.D. of
and E.F. of are hereby
jointly and severally bound to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors
in the sum of _____ dollars, for which payment well and truly to be
made we do hereby bind ourselves our Executors, Administrators and
Assigns firmly by these presents.

Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year _____

Whereas _____ Police Magistrate
(as the case may be) has under the provision of Section 5 of Ordinance
No. _____ of 1887, this day entrusted to the care of the said A.B. one
G.H. a female child.

Now the conditions of the above recognizance are such that if the
said A.B. do well and truly (here state conditions) then the above
recognizance to be null and void otherwise to remain in full force
and effect.

Signature of A.B.

(S)

C.D.

(S)

E.F.

(S)

Taken and subscribed by the said A.B., C.D. and E.F. on the day
month and year aforesaid

Before me

Registrar General.

C.

IN THE COLONY OF HONGKONG.

*In the matter of Ordinance _____ of 1887,
and in the matter of C.D. female
child.*

To A.B.

These are to require you the said A.B. to be and appear before me
at my office situate in _____ on _____ to give informa-
tion respecting the treatment of one C.D. a female child.

And take notice that if you do not attend you are liable to a fine
not exceeding two hundred dollars, and in default of payment of the
same to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding three months.

Dated this _____

Registrar General.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 91.

It is hereby notified for general information, that Her Majesty The QUEEN has been graciously
pleased to confirm the temporary appointment of The Honourable CATCHICK PAUL CHATER to be an
Un-Official Member of the Legislative Council of Hongkong during the absence of the Honourable
FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 12th March, 1887.

* GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 92.

The following Returns of Deaths for the Week ended the 5th March last are published for general
information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 12th March, 1887.