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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 8.

THURSDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1888.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
(SIR G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX, K.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Acting Chief Justice (JAMES RUSSELL, C.M.G.), *vice* His Honour Sir
GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt., on leave.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (FREDERICK STEWART).
" the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY).
" the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER).
" the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE).
" the Harbour Master, (HENRY GEORGE THOMSETT, R.N.).
" PHINEAS RYRIE.
" WONG SHING.
" ALEXANDER PALMER MACEWEN.
" JOHN BELL-IRVING.
" CATCHICK PAUL CHATER.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER.—Mr. CATCHICK PAUL CHATER, having been elected by the Justices of the Peace to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. F. D. SASSOON, was duly sworn in and admitted a Member of the Council.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 8th instant, were read and confirmed.

PAPER.—The Colonial Secretary, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following paper:—

Report of the Captain Superintendent of Police for 1887. (No. $\frac{3}{88}$).

BILL ENTITLED THE STAMP DUTIES AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1888.—The Treasurer moved the first reading of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED THE UNCLAIMED BALANCES ORDINANCE, 1888.—The Attorney General moved the second reading of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill.

Bill reported with some verbal amendments.

The Attorney General then moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed, and numbered as Ordinance 11 of 1888.

BILL ENTITLED THE VAGRANCY ORDINANCE, 1888.—The Attorney General moved that the Council resume consideration, in Committee, of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Council went into Committee.

Bill reported with amendments.

The Attorney General then moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed, and numbered as Ordinance 12 of 1888.

JURY LIST, 1888.—Strangers having retired by request, the Council proceeded to consider the Jury List for 1888.

The List was duly revised, corrected, and the Special Jurors designated in terms of Section 4 of Ordinance 24 of 1882.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned to Tuesday, the 28th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 28th day of February, 1888.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 85.

The following Bills, which were read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council held yesterday, are published for general information.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 29th February, 1888.

A BILL

ENTITLED

The Trees Preservation Ordinance, 1888.

Preamble.

WHEREAS great damage is done to trees and plantations in the neighbourhood of the respective villages of this Colony, and whereas it is frequently difficult or impossible to discover the persons who have committed such damage: Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Village rates may be increased to make good damages to trees.

1. Whenever it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council that trees or plantations belonging to Government in the neighbourhood of any village in this Colony have been destroyed, and that there is sufficient reason to believe that such cutting down, injury, or damage was committed by the inhabitants of the said village or by any of them, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, by order under his hand, to levy a special rate assessed upon such village to an amount sufficient to cover the damages done, and such increased assessment shall take effect from the earliest day after such order on which it can be brought into force, and shall continue until the Governor in Council, by a further order under his hand, shall revoke or alter the original order, which the Governor in Council shall do when he is satisfied that the injuries to trees on account of which the original order was issued have ceased, or that they were not committed by the inhabitants of such village.

Orders to be read with Rating Ordinance.

2. Every such order shall be read as forming part of the Municipal Rates Ordinance No. 21 of 1885, or of any Ordinance which may be substituted for that Ordinance.

Not to prevent other penalties.

3. Nothing in this Ordinance shall operate to prevent any person from being prosecuted for injury or cutting down trees or for stealing or for the unlawful possession of wood under any enactment under which, before the passing of this Ordinance, he might have been so prosecuted,