

powers as are vested in the Supreme Court of this Colony or in any Judge thereof on the occasion of any suit or action in respect of the following matters, viz :—

- The enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath, affirmation or otherwise ;
- The compelling the production of documents ;
- The punishing persons guilty of contempt ;
- The ordering the inspection of any property ; with power also, for the purpose of this Commission, to enter and view any premises.

And I do hereby further direct that every examination of witnesses shall be held in private ; And I do further require you to report to me the evidence and your opinion thereon ; and I hereby charge all persons in the Public Service to assist you herein.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Colony in Executive Council, this 14th day of February, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

By Command,

J. G. T. BUCKLE,
Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 14th February, 1898.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 72.

The following Bill will be read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on Wednesday, the 23rd instant.

J. G. T. BUCKLE,
Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 19th February, 1898.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to amend the Prepared Opium (Divans) Ordinance, 1897, (No. 15 of 1897).

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

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| <p>1. Section 2 of Ordinance 15 of 1897 is hereby repealed.</p> | <p>Repeal.</p> |
| <p>2. In lieu of section 2, the following section is substituted :—
In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires, the expression "Opium Divan" shall include any house, room, or other place—
(a.) Used for the sale of prepared opium or dross opium to be smoked on the premises, or
(b.) Used by the public for the smoking of prepared opium or dross opium where a fee, or its equivalent, is charged, or the dross resulting from such smoking is retained by or on behalf of the keeper for his benefit.</p> | <p>Section substituted for former section 2 of Ordinance 15 of 1897. Meaning of "Opium Divan."</p> |
| <p>3. In clause (e.) of section 6 of Ordinance No. 15 of 1897 the words "or a bonâ fide member of such keeper's family," are, hereby, struck out.</p> | <p>Amendment of clause (e.) of section 6 of Ordinance 15 of 1897.</p> |

Object and Reasons.

This Ordinance amends Ordinance 15 of 1897, in two particulars :—

- 1st. It substitutes a new definition of "Opium Divan" instead of that contained in section 2 of Ordinance 15 of 1897. This amendment has been approved by the Secretary of State.
- 2nd. It strikes out the words "or a bonâ fide member of such keeper's family." These words were not contained in my original draft of the Ordinance, but were added during the passage of the Bill through the Legislative Council.

The Secretary of State objected to this addition and requested that an Ordinance should be passed restoring the section to its original form.

The Opium Farmer has been consulted and has no objection to the amendments made by this Ordinance.

W. MEIGH GOODMAN,
Attorney General.