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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, NO 2.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1898.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT
(Major-General WILSONE BLACK, C.B.).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary and Registrar General, (JAMES HALDANE STEWART LOCKHART).
" the Attorney General, (WILLIAM MEIGH GOODMAN).
" the Harbour Master, (ROBERT MURRAY RUMSEY, R.N.).
" the Captain Superintendent of Police, (FRANCIS HENRY MAY, C.M.G.).
" the Colonial Treasurer, (THOMAS SERCOMBE SMITH).
" the Director of Public Works, (ROBERT DALY ORMSBY).
" CATCHICK PAUL CHATER, C.M.G.
" HO KAI, M.B., C.M.
" THOMAS HENDERSON WHITEHEAD.
" EMANUEL RAPHAEL BELILIOS, C.M.G.
" WEI YUK.

ABSENT :

The Honourable JAMES JARDINE BELL-IRVING.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 23rd January, 1898, were read, amended and confirmed.

NOTICE OF MOTION.—Mr. WHITEHEAD gave notice that, at the next Meeting of Council, he would move the following motion:—

That Government lay upon the table a copy of its covering despatch forwarding to the Colonial Office the report dated 23rd November, 1896, of the Committee appointed 8th September, 1894, by His Excellency Sir William Robinson to report on the condition of the Government Offices and the desirability of locating the various Government departments under one roof, together with a copy of any further explanations the Government may have given in connection therewith and as called for by the Secretary of State's despatch No. 126 of 5th June, 1896.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following papers:—

1. Report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol for 1897.
2. Report of the Director of the Observatory for 1897.
3. Report on the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund for the year 1897.
4. Report on Public Works Department Stores.
5. Report of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade for 1897.
6. Criminal Statistics and Coroner's Returns for 1897.
7. Supreme Court Returns for 1897.

FINANCIAL MINUTE.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following Financial Minute, (No. 1), and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee :—

WILSONE BLACK.

C.S.O.
386 of 1898b.

The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to re-vote the following sums being unexpended balances of the votes for 1897 under the heading "Extraordinary Public Works" :—

Water Supply, Kowloon,	\$ 2,069
Extension of Station Street North, Kowloon, and Streets at Mongkoktsui,...	1,771
Taipingshan Improvement,	10,000
City of Victoria and Hill District Waterworks,	15,460
Road from Plantation Road to Magazine Gap,	1,531
Water and Drainage Works, Miscellaneous,	10,779

Government House, Hongkong, 11th February, 1898.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

RESOLUTION.—The Director of Public Works addressed the Council and moved the following resolution :—

That in the opinion of this Council it is expedient—

- A. *To construct the new Law Courts and accessory offices on Plot No. 2 on the New Reclamation, namely, the larger of the two lots reserved for Government Offices, immediately in front of the City Hall; and*
- B. *To retain the sites of the present Post Office and Supreme Court for the erection of a new Post Office, which should also afford accommodation for the Treasury and such other Offices as may be decided on.*

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Mr. CHATER moved that the resolution be postponed until a future meeting of the Council.

Mr. WHITEHEAD seconded.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government consented to the postponement until Monday, the 28th February.

RESOLUTION.—Mr. WHITEHEAD in pursuance of notice, moved the following resolution and addressed the Council :—

That the report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee at a meeting held on 13th ultimo and dated 14th idem be referred back to the Committee for amendment.

The Colonial Treasurer, with the permission of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, seconded the resolution *pro formâ* and addressed the Council.

The Director of Public Works addressed the Council.

Mr. BELLIOS addressed the Council.

Mr. WHITEHEAD replied.

The Council divided, and the motion was lost by a majority of nine votes.

<i>For.</i>	<i>Against.</i>
Mr. WHITEHEAD	Mr. WEI YUK.
	Mr. BELLIOS.
	Dr. HO KAI
	Mr. CHATER.
	Director of Public Works.
	Colonial Treasurer.
	Captain Superintendent of Police.
	Harbour Master.
	Attorney General.
	Colonial Secretary.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO FURTHER AMEND THE PRISON ORDINANCE, 1885.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PREPARED OPIUM (DIVANS) ORDINANCE, 1897, (No. 15 OF 1897).—The Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

The Attorney General moved the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

The Attorney General moved the second reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported without amendment.

The Attorney General moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE NATURALIZATION OF LEUNG P'UI CHI, alias LEUNG CHAK CH'ANG, alias LEUNG CHUNG.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE NATURALIZATION OF WONG CHUK-YAU, alias WONG MAU, alias WONG SUN-IN.—The Attorney General moved the second reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported without amendment.

The Attorney General moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE MORE EFFECTUAL PUNISHMENT OF BRIBERY AND CERTAIN OTHER MISDEMEANORS.—The Attorney General moved the second reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported without amendment.

The Attorney General moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

JURY LIST 1898.—The Council then proceeded to consider the Jury List for 1898 in private.

The List was duly revised, in accordance with section 8 of Ordinance 18 of 1887.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned till Monday, the 28th February, 1898.

WILSONE BLACK,
Officer Administering the Government.

Read and confirmed, this 28th day of February, 1898.

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