

BILL ENTITLED KELLET ISLAND ORDINANCE, 1898.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSES.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION OF FEES FOR THE ISSUE, BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HONGKONG; OF CERTAIN CERTIFICATES TO CERTAIN CHINESE DESIROUS OF PROCEEDING TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF CERTAIN CONSPIRACIES.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK ORDINANCES AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1882.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Acting 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 Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

The Attorney General moved the second reading of the Bill.

The Acting 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 Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned till Wednesday, the 3rd August, 1898.

WILSONE BLACK,
Officer Administering the Government.

Read and confirmed, this 3rd day of August, 1898.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 347.

The following Bill, which was read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council held this day, is published.

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

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 3rd August, 1898.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance for the Establishment and Regulation of Vacations in the Supreme Court.

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

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Supreme Court Short title. (Vacations) Ordinance, 1898.
2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise re-Interpret-quires, Public Holidays mean the days appointed as public ation. holidays by section 1 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, and include all other days appointed from time to time by the Governor to be observed as public holidays.
3. The following vacations shall be observed in each Vacations year in the Supreme Court and the Offices connected there- in the with, namely, the Long Vacation, the Christmas Vacation, Supreme Court and its the Chinese New Year Vacation, and the Easter Vacation. Offices.
- 4.—(1.) The Long Vacation shall commence on the 20th Commence- of September and terminate on the 17th of October. The ment and Christmas Vacation shall commence on the 24th of December termination of vacations. and terminate on the 1st of January. The Chinese New Year Vacation shall commence on the first day of the Chinese New Year and terminate on the fifth day of such New Year. The Easter Vacation shall commence on Good Friday and terminate on the Thursday in Easter week.
(2.) The days of the commencement and termination of each vacation shall be included in such vacation.
5. The Supreme Court and the Offices connected there- The Court and with shall be open during vacation (except on Public its Offices to Holidays) for the purpose of holding the ordinary Criminal be open in Sessions and any special Criminal Sessions, and also for the certain pur- purpose of issuing writs and of transacting any business poses. under the provisions of the next succeeding section.
6. The Court shall during vacation hear and determine Certain ap- all such applications as may require to be immediately or plications and promptly heard, and all applications for summary judgment suits may be under section 13 or section 84 of the Hongkong Code of heard in vac- Civil Procedure, and all suits and matters in the summary No. 13 of jurisdiction of the Court : Provided always that the hearing 1873. of any suit or matter in the summary jurisdiction of the Court may be adjourned over vacation, on reasonable cause being shown to the satisfaction of the Court.
7. Every act, matter, or thing done in vacation, in pur- Validity of suance of this Ordinance, shall be as valid to all intents acts done in and purposes as if done out of vacation. vacation.
8. No pleading shall be filed during a vacation except Filing of by order of a Judge under special circumstances. pleadings in vacation.
9. Where by any Act, Ordinance, or Rule of Court Vacations not regulating civil procedure, or by any special order of the included in Court, any limited time, not exceeding one month, is ap- computation pointed or allowed for the doing of any act or the taking of time. of any proceeding, no days included in a vacation shall be reckoned in the computation of such time, unless the Court otherwise directs.
10. During vacation, there shall be at least one Judge in Vacation the Colony, and the Offices of the Supreme Court shall be Judges. open daily, except on Public Holidays, for such time as the Office hours. Court shall direct.
11. The periods of vacation may be varied from time Power to vary to time and provision may be made for the conduct of the periods of business of the Court during vacation by General Rules vacation and or Orders of Court to be made by the Chief Justice, subject regulate to the revision and approval of the Legislative Council, and vacation business. published in the Gazette in the manner prescribed by No. 12 of section 24 of the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1873. 1873.
12. Section 2 of Ordinance No. 2 of 1869, entitled Amendment "An Ordinance to make further provision in relation to of section 2 Criminal Law and Procedure," is hereby amended by strik- of Ordinance ing out the words "except during vacation" and the brackets No. 2 of 1869. enclosing such words.
13. Ordinance No. 17 of 1882, entitled "The Supreme Repeal of Ord. Court (Vacations) Ordinance, 1882," is hereby repealed. No. 17 of 1882.

Reasons and Objects.

Prior to September, 1882, the Supreme Court of this Colony observed an annual vacation of two months. The effect of Ordinance No. 17 of 1882 was to completely abolish such vacation, with the result that the Court and its offices have remained open all the year round. This being the case, it is difficult for those members of the legal profession who require occasionally a few days rest and change, to absent themselves from the Colony for that purpose without the risk of serious loss to their business. I can find no record showing that the barristers and solicitors of the Colony were consulted before the former vacation was abolished; but there has been recently expressed an almost unanimous desire on the part of both branches of the profession that legal vacations should be re-established in the Supreme Court. That desire has been forcibly brought to my notice, and I have accordingly introduced the present Ordinance. Before doing so, I have consulted the Judges and modified the Ordinance in accordance with their suggestions. It will be observed that due provision has been made for the regular and prompt despatch of Criminal business and of all urgent matters in the Supreme Court as well as of suits in the summary jurisdiction. There is no reason to suppose that the passing of this Ordinance will prejudicially affect the interests either of suitors or of the general public.

W. MEIGH GOODMAN,
Attorney General.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 348.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint Dr. JAMES ALFRED LOWSON to be Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer during the absence from the Colony of Dr. JOHN MITFORD ATKINSON, or until further notice.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 5th August, 1898.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 349.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint WILLIAM CHATHAM, Assistant Director of Public Works, to act as Director of Public Works and Water Authority under the Water Works Ordinance, 1890, during the temporary absence from the Colony, on special service, of the Honourable ROBERT DALY ORMSBY, or until further notice.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 6th August, 1898.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 350.

The following is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 4th August, 1898.

NOTIFICATION.

Notice is hereby given that no sales of land within the Island of Liu Kung Tau made after the 24th May, 1898, will be recognized as legal or authorized, unless they shall have been first referred to the British Commissioner or Administrator, and thereafter approved by the Superior British Authority of the Territory of Weihaiwei.

The same regulation holds good in respect of land situated within the Inner Zone on the mainland.

G. KING HALL,
Captain, R.N.
L. C. HOPKINS,
Consul,
Commissioners for Weihaiwei.

H. M. S. *Narcissus* at Weihaiwei, 19th July, 1898.