

*Objects and Reasons.*

The first twenty sections of this Bill, as will be seen from the marginal notes to them, correspond with the provisions of certain Acts of Parliament, relating to solicitor's costs, which are now in force in England but have not hitherto been extended to Hongkong.

Section 21 of the Bill is borrowed from a similar provision contained in the Straits Settlements Ordinances, and in the Statutes of some of the Australian Colonies, and its object is to prevent a solicitor, who has only newly arrived in the Colony and about whose antecedents and character nothing is known, from setting up in practice on his own account.

Section 22 provides for the payment by solicitors of a moderate fee on admission.

HENRY E. POLLOCK,  
*Acting Attorney General*

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 36.

The following Coroner's Returns for 1898, which were laid before the Legislative Council this day, are published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 25th January, 1899.

No. 1.

MAGISTRACY,  
HONGKONG, 10th January, 1899.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith the usual Annual Returns for the year 1898 in connection with all cases of death brought to the notice of the Police Magistrate acting as Coroner during the year.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,

WM. C. H. HASTINGS,  
*Acting Police Magistrate.*

The Honourable

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

TABLE A.—RETURN OF ALL DEATHS REPORTED DURING THE YEAR 1898.

NATIONALITY.	FORMAL ENQUIRIES HELD.					BURIED WITHOUT FORMAL ENQUIRIES.					
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Sex not ascertainable.	Total.
Europeans and Americans,...	5	...	...	...	5	17	3	1	2	...	23
Indians and Malays, .....	2	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	1	...	4
Japanese, .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Chinese, .....	20	3	1	1	25	412	171	378	350	25	1,336
Total,.....	27	3	1	1	32	433	175	379	353	25	1,365
Total for 1897,...	43	16	4	6	69	135	30	213	208	16	602

WM. C. H. HASTINGS,  
*Acting Police Magistrate.*

Magistracy, Hongkong, 10th January, 1899.

TABLE B.—RETURN OF FORMAL ENQUIRIES DURING THE YEAR 1898.

FINDING.	Euro-peans.	Indians.	Chinese.				Total.
	Men.	Men.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	
Accidental death, .....	...	...	3	...	1	1	5
Accidental death, resulting on Electric shock, .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute alcoholic poisoning,.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute gastritis caused by an overdose of arsenic—accidentally self-administered, .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
An overdose of chloral. Nothing before the Court to show that Deceased intended to take his life, .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chronic Bronchitis and Thrombosis, .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Collapse and shock consequent on submersion, the cause of the submersion being accidental, the launch <i>Alexandra</i> being in no way to blame,.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Collapse caused by the irritation caused by the gall stone, .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Consumption, .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Death by hanging in accordance with the sentence of the law,.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Death by opium poisoning, .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Death caused by fracture of the skull from a blow struck by the foreman in self-defence, .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Death caused by tubercular disease of long standing,.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Death from dislocation of the neck caused by the execution by hanging of the three deceased under sentence of death by the Supreme Court and by Warrant of the Governor dated the 6th January, 1898, .....	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Exhaustion from multiple liver abscesses, .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Found dead. Nothing before the Court to show the cause of death,...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Murdered by pirates in Chinese waters, .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Opium poisoning, self-administered,.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Plague, .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Shock resulting from Burns,.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Suicide by hanging, .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Syncope in acute gastritis and acute pancreatitis,.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
That deceased died from dislocation of the neck and consequent compression of the spinal cord occasioned by being hanged by the neck in the due execution of the sentence of death passed upon him in the Supreme Court and confirmed by the Governor's Warrant dated the 2nd day of February, 1898, .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total,.....	5	2	20	3	1	1	32

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Magistracy, Hongkong, 10th January, 1899.

TABLE C.—RETURN OF BURIALS WITHOUT FORMAL ENQUIRIES DURING THE YEAR 1898.

Reason why no Formal Enquiry was held.	Chinese.				Europeans and Americans.				Indians and Malays.		Japanese.		Sex not ascertainable.	Total.	Found on Land.		Found in Harbour.	
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Girls.	Men.	Women.			Known.	Un-known.	Known.	Un-known.
No suspicious circumstances, ...	375	153	318	292	13	1	1	2	3	...	1	...	...	1,159	364	585	58	152
No evidence and/or decomposed state of body, .....	19	13	51	55	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	165	6	57	2	100
Post Mortem satisfactory, .....	17	2	8	3	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	35	22	11	...	2
Suspected persons were charged for the murder of deceased, ...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...
Suspected persons were charged for causing the death of deceased, .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...
Total,.....	412	171	378	350	17	3	1	2	3	1	1	1	25	1,365	396	653	62	254

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