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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 3.

WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 1899.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR HENRY ARTHUR BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

His Excellency Major-General WILLIAM JULIUS GASCOIGNE, C.M.G., General Officer Commanding.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (JAMES HALDANE STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G.).

„ the Acting Attorney General, (HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK).

„ the Harbour Master, (ROBERT MURRAY RUMSEY, R.N.).

„ the Captain Superintendent of Police, (FRANCIS HENRY MAY, C.M.G.).

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALEXANDER MACDONALD THOMSON).

„ 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.

„ JAMES JARDINE BELL-IRVING.

„ WEI YUK.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 1st February, 1899, were read and confirmed.

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

1. Report of the Head Master of Queen's College for the Year 1898.
2. Report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol for the Year 1898.

QUESTIONS.—Mr. BELILIOS pursuant to notice asked the following questions :—

- (1) Will the Government state whether or not sites for the proposed new Law Courts and for the new Post Office have been selected?
- (2) Will the Government state whether the plans for the above-named buildings have been considered, and whether they are prepared to recommend such plans for adoption?
- (3) Will the Government state whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies has sanctioned any scheme for the erection of the new public offices above-named put before him by the Government?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS.—Mr. BELILIOS gave notice that at the next meeting he would ask the following questions:—

- (1.) *The plot of land lying between Arbuthnot and Hollywood Roads to the N.E. of Victoria Gaol which has been resumed and cleared of the houses formerly standing thereon, and which has for about 12 months been lying fallow and unproductive, being a valuable site, will the Government state whether any plan for utilising it was considered before the rent-earning dwelling houses were demolished?*
- (2.) *If plans for utilising the ground had not been considered before the destruction of the property standing on this site, will the Government state whether or not such plans are under consideration now?*
- (3.) *If plans and specifications for building on the site are ready in the hands of the Public Works Department, will the Government be good enough to state when it is probable that such buildings will be ready for occupation by the Government servants or others for whom they may have been designed, and at what date the Colony may expect to be relieved from payment of rents for the accommodation of such Government Officers?*

RESOLUTION.—The Colonial Secretary moved the following resolution:—

*Whereas it has been usual to warn officers appointed to the service of this Colony since 1894, from a country possessing a gold standard of currency, that the exchange compensation allowance on half their salaries will be granted to them so long as it is granted to other members of the service, but that the continuance thereof is not guaranteed and is subject to the annual vote of the Council, and it is deemed that such warning is calculated to deter eligible persons from entering the public service, it is hereby resolved that it is expedient to discontinue such warning in future, and to regard the compensation as a permanent but not as a pensionable emolument.*

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to unanimously.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO MERCHANT SHIPPING, THE DUTIES OF THE HARBOUR MASTER, THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WATERS OF THE COLONY, AND THE REGULATION OF VESSELS NAVIGATING THE SAME.—The Acting 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 CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IN THE SUPREME COURT.—The Acting 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 AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO PRISONS.—The Acting 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 with amendments.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO SOLICITORS OF THE SUPREME COURT.—The Acting Attorney General moved the second reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Colonial Secretary in support of a suggestion made by the Honourable Colonial Treasurer moved that the Bill be referred to the Law Committee.

Mr. WHITEHEAD seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE NATURALIZATION OF MAK NGÁN WAN, alias MAK CHIN K'I, alias MAK SUI NIN, alias MAK YAT WO alias MAK SUN.—Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported with amendment.

The Acting 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 REGULATION OF VEHICLES.—Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported with amendments.  
The Acting 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.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned till Monday, the 13th February, 1899, at 3 p.m.

HENRY A. BLAKE,  
*Governor.*

Read and confirmed this 13th day of February, 1899.

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

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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 75.

The following Despatch is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 15th February, 1899.

HONGKONG.  
No. 13.

DOWNING STREET,  
6th January, 1899.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Major-General BLACK's Despatch No. 326 of the 24th of November, enclosing a copy of the interesting speech which he delivered to the Legislative Council reviewing the principal events that had occurred during his ten months' tenure of office as Acting Governor of Hongkong.

2. The period of General BLACK's administration was in many respects an eventful one for the Colony, and I wish to express my appreciation of his able services as Acting Governor, and my satisfaction that they have been so cordially recognized by the members of the Legislative Council.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor,

Sir H. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.,  
*&c., &c., &c.*

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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 76.

His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of the QUEEN, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—

Ordinance No. 1 of 1899.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 5 of 1866 and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1882.

Ordinance No. 2 of 1899.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 8 of 1870.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1899.—An Ordinance to provide for the reservation of certain land at British Kowloon known as Sung Wong T'oi (宋王臺) or Sung Wong T'ong (宋王堂).

Ordinance No. 4 of 1899.—An Ordinance to amend The Dogs Ordinance, 1893.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 15th February, 1899.