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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 4.

MONDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 1899.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

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

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 Acting 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.

ABSENT:

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

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

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 8th February, 1899, were read and confirmed.

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

Report on Queen's College by the Examiners appointed by the Government for 1899.

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

(1) *Are the Government taking steps to provide for the flushing of the drains and sewers and the watering of the roads throughout the city by the construction of tanks along the upper levels either for fresh or salt water, and if the latter for the construction of the necessary pumping stations?*

(2) *Are the Government taking any steps to introduce destructors for the disposal of the city refuse?*

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

- (1.) *The Special Commissioner appointed to report on the newly-leased territory at the back of Kowloon having duly made such report to the Colonial Office, returned to Hongkong, and resumed his duties as Colonial Secretary, will the Government lay on the table copy of his report and of all correspondence in connection with the extension of the Colony?*
- (2.) *Will the Government be good enough to state when and how the new territory will be taken possession of?*
- (3.) *Has any hitch occurred in the negotiations to cause the delay which has taken place?*
- (4.) *Will the leased area become part and parcel of the Colony of Hongkong administered by the existing officials or is it designed to appoint a separate staff of officials to govern the new territory?*
- (5.) *If it has been decided to make it a separate administration, will the Government say whether any estimate has been given of the cost of such undertaking?*
- (6.) *Has the question of Chinese jurisdiction or otherwise in the City of Kowloon been settled?*
- (7.) *If Kowloon City is not included in the concession, will the Government state what steps have been taken to relieve the harbour of Hongkong of the supervision of the Chinese Customs Cruisers?*
- (8.) *Are the existing Customs stations on the borders of the Harbour to be set back to the outer edge of the new frontier?*

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

- (1.) *The plot of land lying between Arbutnot 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?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

Mr. CHATER, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor, asked the following question :—

Will the Government state whether any steps have been taken to prevent sales of land in the Kowloon extension since the signing of the Convention?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

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 second reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Mr. BELILIOS addressed the Council.

The Acting Attorney General addressed the Council.

His Excellency addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Acting Attorney General moved that the Bill be referred to the Standing Law Committee.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IN 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 Acting Attorney General moved that the Bill be referred to the Standing Law Committee.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO PRISONS.—The Acting Attorney General moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

His Excellency suggested the withdrawal of the motion for the third reading of the Bill in order that the amendments made in Committee might be embodied in a reprint of the Bill.

Motion withdrawn accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned till Monday, the 27th February, 1899, at 3 p.m.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed this 27th day of February, 1899.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 128.

The following Bye-laws made by the Sanitary Board under section 13, sub-section 14, of "The Public Health Ordinance, 1887," and approved by the Legislative Council this day, are published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 27th February, 1899.

BYE-LAWS

Made under section 13, sub-section 14, of "The Public Health Ordinance, 1887."

1. The fee payable for each head of cattle shall be two cents for the day of entry into a Government depôt and a further sum of two cents for every day that each head of cattle remains in such depôt, not including the day of entry.

2. The Sanitary Board provides water only, for the use of the cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats housed in Government depôts. The owners of such animals must provide proper and sufficient food, and must send men in sufficient numbers, to look after, feed and water such animals.

Accommodation for such men is provided on the premises.

No cattle, pigs, sheep, or goats shall be removed from a Government depôt for any purpose except on a removal order signed by the inspector in charge. Such order shall be granted by the inspector in charge on the production and deposit of the receipt given on admission of the animals and in favour of the person therein named or of any other person on his order, and upon payment of a fee of five cents for each sheep or pig removed unless immediate payment is dispensed with.

Made by the Sanitary Board this 2nd day of February, 1899.

FRANCIS W. CLARK,
Acting Secretary.

Approved by the Legislative Council this 27th day of February, 1899.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 129.

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, 27th February, 1899.