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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 6.

MONDAY, 13TH MARCH, 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 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.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 27th 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 of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade for 1898.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee dated the 27th February, 1899, (No. 2), and moved its adoption.

The Acting Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Mr. BELILIOS addressed the Council.

Mr. WHITEHEAD addressed the Council.

The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council.

His Excellency addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

REPORT OF THE STANDING LAW COMMITTEE.—The Acting Attorney General, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Standing Law Committee dated the 16th February, 1899, (No. 1).

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

- (1.) *Has the Government received a copy of a letter from the Director of the Manila Observatory, dated the 7th March, in which he complains of a letter addressed by the Director of the Hongkong Observatory to the Weather Bureau of the Government of the United States of America, in which the said passages are said to occur:—"The Observatory in Manila is in the hands of men who possess very little scientific education" and that "scandal is caused by the Observatory continually communicating sensational typhoon warnings to the newspapers in Hongkong"?*
- (2.) *Was this communication to the Weather Bureau of the United States Government made with the knowledge and consent of the Colonial Government?*
- (3.) *Has Dr. Doberck been asked to explain his action in condemning an Observatory to whom the Colony is so much indebted for the timely storm warnings received for a number of years past?*
- (4.) *What action do the Government propose to take in this matter?*
- (5.) *Is not an apology or an explanation due to the Director of the Manila Observatory from the Government?*
- (6.) *In reference to the correspondence between the Kowloon School Committee and the Government on the subject of the provision of educational facilities for the European children in that portion of the Colony, and which, after extending over some two years, eventually culminated in an offer by His Excellency Major-General Black "to establish a school open to children of any nationality, to provide a teaching staff, to charge fees at the same rate as the fees paid at Queen's College, and to give a purely English education," which was gratefully accepted by the Kowloon School Committee in September last, will the Government be good enough to say what has been done in the matter?*
- (7.) *If the scheme is being carried out, when will the teachers arrive from England?*
- (8.) *It being proposed to rent a house for the purpose for a period as a trial, has any building been secured by the Government?*
- (9.) *If nothing has been done towards redemption of the pledge made by the Government to the Kowloon School Committee, is it intended to go on with the scheme?*
- (10.) *If not, will the Government give reasons for not so proceeding?*

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

- (1.) *There being an understanding between the subscribers to the Fund for the commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee that the Jubilee Road shall be constructed, the funds for which are now lying in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank untouched though nearly two years have elapsed since their subscription, will the Government be good enough to state whether the survey and planning of the Road have been completed?*
- (2.) *Will the Government be good enough to state when it is proposed to commence work on the first section of the Jubilee Road?*
- (3.) *Will the first section be made round Mount Davis?*
- (4.) *Can the Government give the approximate date of the completion of the section to its juncture with the Aberdeen Road?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

Mr. CHATER, pursuant to notice, asked the following question:—

With reference to the Notes and Comments contained in the "Hongkong Telegraph" of Monday, the 27th February last, relating to the alleged insanitary condition of certain lanes and alleys lying between Queen's Road and the Praya, to the westward of Pedder's Street, will the Government state whether the condition of the lanes and alleys in question is such as it is said to be?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

Mr. WHITEHEAD, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

- (1.) *Will the Government inform the Council on what grounds it has refused to put an end to the farming out of the Slaughter-houses to a Chinese Contractor as recommended by the Sanitary Board in their resolution of 2nd February last, which reads:—
"That the Board recommend the Government to transfer the management and control of the Slaughter-houses to the Sanitary Board upon the expiration of the present lease to the farmer."*
- (2.) *Referring to the statement in the fifth paragraph of the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 254 of 6th November, 1896, will the Government inform the Council whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies has given any decision as to the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board in connection with Sir William Robinson's recommendations on the subject contained in his Despatch No. 150 of 30th June, 1896.*

- (3.) Will the Government inform the Council whether, in the opinion of its Legal Adviser, the action of the Sanitary Board as at present constituted is, in face of the provisions of section 4 of the Public Health Ordinance No. 24 of 1887, legal and justifiable?
- (4.) Will His Excellency the Governor inform the Council whether he has received any instructions to deal with the reconstitution of the Sanitary Board?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF DIVINE WORSHIP AND OTHER SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RITES AND CEREMONIES OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AT SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH AT VICTORIA AND ELSEWHERE IN THIS COLONY; FOR THE INCORPORATION OF A CHURCH BODY IN WHICH THE SAID CATHEDRAL CHURCH SHALL BE VESTED AND BY WHICH IT SHALL BE ADMINISTERED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE SAID CATHEDRAL CHURCH.—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 a verbal 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 TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO SOLICITORS OF THE SUPREME COURT.—The Acting Attorney General addressed the Council and moved that the Council go into Committee on clause 21 of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee.

The Acting Attorney General moved that the whole of clause 21 be struck out of the Bill and that clause 22 be re-numbered as clause 21.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Mr. BELILIOS addressed the Council opposing the motion.

Dr. HO KAI addressed the Council in support of the Acting Attorney General's motion.

Mr. BELILIOS again addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

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

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

The Acting Attorney General moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Mr. BELILIOS moved that the third reading of the Bill be postponed.

The Council divided:

<i>For.</i>	<i>Against.</i>
Honourable WEI YUK.	Honourable E. R. BELILIOS.
„ J. J. BELL-IRYING,	
„ F. H. WHITEHEAD.	
„ HO KAI,	
„ C. P. CHATER.	
„ the Director of Public Works.	
„ the Acting Colonial Treasurer.	
„ the Captain Superintendent of Police.	
„ the Harbour Master.	
„ the Acting Attorney General.	
„ the Colonial Secretary.	

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding.

Motion carried by a majority of twelve to one.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed this 18th day of April, 1899.

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