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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, NO. 8.

TUESDAY, 20TH JUNE, 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 Acting Attorney General, (HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK).

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

” the Colonial Treasurer, (ALEXANDER MACDONALD THOMSON).

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

” 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 JOHNSTONE KESWICK.

” WEI YUK.

ABSENT:

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

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 18th April, 1899, were read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Acting Attorney General, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—

1. Financial Returns for the year 1898.
2. Harbour Master's Report for the year 1898.
3. Reports of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Surveyor, and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for the year 1898.
4. Statement of Water Account for the year ending 31st December, 1898.
5. Report of the Director of the Observatory for 1898.
6. Report of the Acting Registrar General for 1898.
7. Report of the Pó Léung Kuk Society for the year ending 31st December, 1898.
8. Report of the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department for 1898.
9. Secretary of State's Despatch with reference to the contribution from Hongkong towards the Funds of the School of Tropical Medicine.
10. Report of the Director of Public Works for 1898.
11. Report of the Acting Postmaster General for 1898.

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 and 2nd March, 1899, (No. 2).

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

1. Will the Government lay upon the table a statement of the amount expended by the Public Works Department for repairs and alterations to "Beaconsfield" and of the re-payments made by the owner of the building in respect of the former; also state for the information of the Council under what authority this expenditure has been disbursed?
2. Will the Government lay upon the table a statement of the total expenditure payable out of the Colonial Treasury in connection with the preparations for and the occupation of the Colony's new territory leased by China to Great Britain per the Convention of 30th June, 1898?
3. What steps have the Government taken to bring the Police Force up to its full strength as authorised by Ordinance, and are the Government prepared to introduce an Ordinance sanctioning the increase of the force to a strength sufficient for the adequate policing of the Colony's new territory?
4. Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which passed between the British Government and the Imperial Government of China and the Colonial Government on the subject of the arrangements to be made in accordance with the Convention of 20th June, 1898, for the better protection of the Chinese revenue from loss by the smuggling of opium from Hongkong into China?
5. Are the Government prepared to introduce a Bill to amend the Women and Girls' Protection Ordinance on similar lines, so far as circumstances permit, to those embodied in an "Ordinance to amend the Women and Girls' Protection Ordinance, 1896," read a first time in the Singapore Legislative Council on Tuesday, 13th instant—the outcome of correspondence between the Straits Government, the Straits Settlements Association and the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and if not, will the Government inform the Council of the cause of the delay?

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

1. Will the Government state whether or not there has been any change, improvement, or progress in the mode of treatment of the plague patients in the Colonial Hospitals since the disease appeared in epidemic form in 1894?
2. As the proportion of deaths to cases is larger here than in India, where considerable progress in treating the disease has been made, why has not constant (say, weekly) communication been opened with the Indian Government for the purpose of securing the latest information as to treatment of patients?
3. If no such communication has been attempted, will the Government take steps to secure it without further delay?
4. Does the Government supply the Medical Staff at the Hospitals with all the necessary instruments (such as microscopes, &c.) for the purpose of diagnosing cases when first presented? If not, will the Government take steps to procure all the needful appliances for the conduct of medical investigations without delay?

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

1. The Secretary of State for the Colonies having only sanctioned the collection of duties on Opium by this Government, do the Government propose to collect Customs duties on other commodities?
2. The Stations formerly belonging to the Imperial Maritime Customs having been taken over by the Police, will the Government say whether or not the Customs Officials are still in occupation?
3. Have the Colonial Government undertaken to collect duties temporarily or for an indefinite period?

The Acting Attorney General replied.

BILL ENTITLED THE PIERS ORDINANCE, 1899.—The Acting Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Mr. WHITEHEAD addressed the Council.

The Acting Attorney General addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Mr. KESWICK moved on behalf of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, for permission that Counsel be heard at the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. CHATER seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE NATURALIZATION OF TS'OI YEUK-SHÁN.—The Acting Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE NATURALIZATION OF FAN NANG, alias FAN SAU, alias FAN PAT SHAN, alias FAN TUN SHIN.—The Acting Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO FURTHER AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, 1887.—The Acting Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ARMS CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE, 1895.—The Acting Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LIQUOR LICENSES ORDINANCE, 1898.—The Acting Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO FURTHER AMEND THE CATTLE DISEASES, SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MARKETS ORDINANCES.—The Acting Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORISE THE APPROPRIATION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY SUM OF THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-TWO DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-SEVEN CENTS, TO DEFRAY THE CHARGES OF THE YEAR 1898.—The Colonial Treasurer moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Acting Attorney General 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 that the Report of the Standing Law Committee (No. 2) as laid by him on the table be adopted.

Mr. CHATER seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed.

Bill reported without amendment.

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

The Colonial Treasurer 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 Tuesday, the 27th June, 1899, at 3 p.m.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

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

R. F. JOHNSTON,
Acting Clerk of Councils.