

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 addressed the Council and stated that by inadvertence the Bill had been put down in the Orders of the Day for the second reading, while, as a matter of fact, the Bill had already been referred to the Standing Law Committee of the Council. He stated that a Member of the Standing Law Committee would have to be appointed in the place of Mr. BELL-IRVING.

STANDING LAW COMMITTEE.—Mr. KESWICK was appointed a Member of the Standing Law Committee *vice* Mr. BELL-IRVING, absent on leave.

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

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed this 31st day of July, 1899.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.--No. 440.

The following Bills, which were read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council held this day, are published.

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

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 31st July, 1899.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance for the Naturalization of YEUNG CHEUK HIN alias YEUNG SHUN KONG.

Whereas YEUNG CHEUK HIN (楊綽軒) alias YEUNG SHUN KONG (楊順綱), a native of Lung Mi Tò (龍尾導) village, in the district of Pün Ū (番禺), in the province of Kwangtung (廣東), in the Empire of China, is the sole proprietor of the Kwong Shang (廣生) shipehandler's firm and is the managing partner of the Yee Shang (怡生) coal firm both of which have their business premises at No. 68, Praya Central, Victoria, in this Colony, and has continuously resided in this Colony for the last forty years and has carried on business in this Colony for the last thirty years and is possessed of landed property in this Colony and has declared his intention of residing here permanently and has petitioned to be naturalized as a British subject within the limits of this Colony, and whereas it is expedient that he should be so naturalized:

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Naturaliza-
tion of
YEUNG
CHEUK HIN.

1. YEUNG CHEUK HIN (楊綽軒) alias YEUNG SHUN KONG (楊順綱) shall be and he is hereby naturalized as a British subject within this Colony and shall enjoy therein, but not elsewhere, all the rights, advantages, and privileges of a British subject, on his taking the Oath of Allegiance under the Promissory Oaths Ordinance, 1869.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to amend "The Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1897."

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as "The Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1897, Amendment Ordinance, 1899," and shall be read and construed as one with that Ordinance which is hereinafter referred to as the principal Ordinance.

Short title and construction.

2. The expression "Keeper" as used in this Ordinance shall include any person having or appearing to have the care or management or control of the brothel in question; and the expressions "brothel," and "owner," and "occupier" shall have the same meaning as in Ordinance 9 of 1897.

Interpretation.

3. The following new section to be numbered 11A shall be inserted after section 11 of the principal Ordinance:—

New section 11A.

"11A.—Every person who, being the occupier or keeper of any brothel, permits any woman suffering from any contagious disease to be or remain in such brothel for the purpose of prostitution, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction before the Supreme Court or a Magistrate to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to both; and if any person, not being a natural born or naturalized British subject, who has been previously convicted of an offence under this section, shall again be found guilty of such an offence the Governor-in-Council may issue an Order banishing such person from the Colony under any Banishment laws which may from time to time be in force in this Colony.

Penalty for permitting a woman suffering from contagious disease to remain in a brothel.

In the case of any prosecution under this section, it shall not be necessary for the prosecution to prove that such occupier or keeper as aforesaid knew that the woman was suffering from a contagious disease, but such knowledge shall be presumed by the Court or Magistrate unless such occupier or keeper satisfies the Court or Magistrate that he had not such knowledge."

4. Upon complaint laid before a Magistrate by the Captain Superintendent of Police or by the Registrar General that any house or portion thereof is used as a lodging house for prostitutes or disorderly persons or as a brothel, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate to issue a summons to the occupier or keeper of the house or portion thereof of which complaint is made; and upon the hearing of the case if the Magistrate is satisfied that the house or some portion thereof is used in the manner complained of he may order the occupier or keeper to discontinue such use of it; and if such order is not complied with within such time as the Magistrate may by his order direct the Magistrate may impose upon such occupier or keeper a fine not exceeding fifty dollars for every day that the house or any portion thereof shall be so used after the time directed by the Magistrate's Order.

Closing of brothels on the complaint of the Captain Superintendent of Police or of the Registrar General.

The provisions of the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890, relating to summary procedure shall apply to proceedings under this section.

The provisions of this section shall be in addition to those contained in section 4 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1894.

Saving of powers in Ordinance 6 of 1894.

5. After the use of any premises as a brothel has been discontinued under the provisions of section 4 of this Ordinance, the owner of such premises shall, if such premises are found to be again in use as a brothel, be liable upon summary conviction before a Magistrate to the payment of a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars.

Liability of owner.

6. Any European Officer of Police not being below the rank of sergeant who is generally authorized in writing for that purpose by the Captain Superintendent of Police and any person who is generally authorised in writing by the Registrar General for that purpose may at all times without

Power to visit disorderly houses.

notice enter and demand to see and interrogate any or all the inmates of any place on land or water which he may have reason to believe is used as a lodging-house for prostitutes or disorderly persons or as a brothel, or in connection with which he may have reason to believe that an offence has been committed under this Ordinance.

Persons trading in prostitution.

7.—(1.) Every male person who—

(a.) Knowingly lives wholly or in part on the proceeds of prostitution; or

(b.) In any public place persistently solicits or importunes for immoral purposes;

shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months with or without hard labour.

(2.) If it be made to appear to a Magistrate by information on oath that there is reason to suspect that any house or any part of a house is used by a female for the purposes of prostitution and that any male person residing in or frequenting the house is living wholly or in part on the earnings of such prostitute the Magistrate may issue a warrant authorising any Police Officer or Constable to enter and search the house and to arrest that male person.

(3.) When a male person is proved to live with or to be in company of a prostitute and has no visible means of subsistence he shall, unless he can satisfy the Court to the contrary, be deemed to be knowingly living on the earnings of prostitution.

(4.) Any person, not being a natural-born or naturalized British subject, who is convicted of an offence under this section, may be banished from the Colony by an Order of the Governor-in-Council made under any Banishment laws which may from time to time be in force in this Colony.

Amendment of s. 30 of 9 of 1897.

8. Section 30 of Ordinance 9 of 1897 is hereby amended so as to read as follows:—

30.—(1.) The Registrar General and any officer generally authorized for that purpose in writing by the Registrar General shall have power without warrant to search any ship, boat, house, building, or other place where he has reasonable cause to suspect that there is any woman or girl who is or may be liable to be dealt with under the provisions of this Ordinance or in which he has reasonable cause to suspect that an offence under this Ordinance is being committed, and may remove any such woman or girl to a place of safety to be there detained until her case be enquired into.

(2.) The Registrar General shall have power to search any ship, boat, house, building, or other place for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is therein any woman or girl who is or may be liable to be dealt with under the provisions of this Ordinance, or whether any offence under this Ordinance is being committed and may remove any such woman or girl to a place of safety to be there detained until her case be enquired into.

Objects and Reasons.

This Bill is passed to amend "The Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1897," in several particulars which have been called to the attention of the Colonial Government by the Secretary of State.

Clause 1 provides for this Bill being read with Ordinance 9 of 1897.

Clause 2 deals with interpretation.

Clause 3 imposes a penalty upon the occupier or keeper of any brothel who permits a woman suffering from a contagious disease to remain in a brothel for the purpose of prostitution. This clause will, it is hoped, tend to promote the proper medical treatment of prostitutes when suffering from disease.

Under clause 4 of this Bill, unlike section 4 of Ordinance 6 of 1894, it is not necessary to prove to the Magistrate that the brothel is a nuisance to the neighbourhood.

Clause 5 imposes a penalty upon the owner of any premises, which are found to be again in use as a brothel, after having been closed under clause 4.

Clause 6 gives to the Police and to the Registrar General's officers extended powers of visitation and search and interrogation for the purposes of this Ordinance.

Clause 7 reproduces the provisions of "The English Vagrant Act, 1898," with an added power of banishment. The class of persons to be dealt with under this clause is said to be on the increase in this Colony.

Clause 8 is passed under instructions from the Secretary of State for the amendment of section 30 of Ordinance 9 of 1897.

HENRY A. POLLOCK,
Acting Attorney General.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance for the prevention of the concealment of Opium on board steamships.

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Concealment of Opium Ordinance, 1899. Short title.

2. The expression "steamship" as used in this Ordinance shall mean any vessel propelled by steam. Interpretation.

3. Any person who shall conceal or secretly place any raw or prepared opium in any part of any steamship shall be liable upon summary conviction before a Magistrate to the payment of a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars and in default of payment of such fine to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months with or without hard labour, and any opium concealed or secretly placed as aforesaid shall be seized and the Magistrate may, whether any person is charged with or convicted of any offence under this Ordinance or not, order such opium to be forfeited. Penalty for concealing opium on steamship.

Objects and Reasons.

The object of this Ordinance is to impose a penalty upon any person found concealing opium on board of any ship.

This Ordinance has been brought forward in consequence of representations made by the Chamber of Commerce to the effect that persons have sometimes concealed opium on board of ships bound for Saigon, and that such concealment has led to very heavy fines being inflicted upon the ship on her arrival in Saigon, upon such opium being pointed out by informers there who most probably have been in communication with the actual concealers of the opium.

HENRY E. POLLOCK,
Acting Attorney General.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 441.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Dr. JAMES ALFRED LOWSON to be Acting Medical Officer of Health and Acting Sanitary Superintendent with effect from the 31st July, 1899, during the absence from the Colony of Dr. FRANCIS WILLIAM CLARK, or until further notice.

His Excellency has further been pleased to appoint Dr. LOWSON to be a member of the Sanitary Board for the above period.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 1st August, 1899.