

PAPER.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table a Return shewing the Expenditure of the 1893 Loan.

NEW LAW COURTS.—The Director of Public Works laid on the table the plans of the proposed New Law Courts.

REPORT OF THE STANDING LAW COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary, in the absence of the Acting Attorney General, laid on the table the report of the Standing Law Committee on the Merchant Shipping Bill (No. 3).

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO THE CARRIAGE AND POSSESSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.—The Colonial Secretary moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT ORDINANCE, 1899.—The Colonial Secretary 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 MAKE FURTHER PROVISION FOR THE SANITATION OF THE COLONY AND TO REPEAL CERTAIN ENACTMENTS OF THE CLOSED HOUSES AND INSANITARY DWELLINGS ORDINANCE, 1894.—The Colonial Secretary 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.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO APPLY A SUM NOT EXCEEDING TWO MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE DOLLARS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE YEAR 1900.—Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported without amendment.

The Honourable T. H. WHITEHEAD intimated that he would lay on the table a statement of reasons for dissenting from the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary 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 until Thursday, the 30th November, 1899, at 3 p.m.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 30th day of November, 1899.

R. F. JOHNSTON,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 670.

The following Bill, which was read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council held this day, is published.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 30th November, 1899.

R. F. JOHNSTON,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to amend the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873.

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 Dangerous Goods Amendment Ordinance, 1899, and it shall be read and construed as one Ordinance with Ordinance 8 of 1873 as amended by Ordinance 8 of 1892. Short title and construction.

2. Section 5 of Ordinance 8 of 1873 is hereby repealed and, in lieu thereof, the following new section is substituted:— New section substituted for s. 5 of 8 of 1873.

5. The following goods, namely:—

Petroleum, nitro-glycerine, or glonoiue oil, gun cotton, fulminate of mercury or of other metals, dynamite, blasting powders, gunpowder, fuzes, rockets, detonators, cartridges, ammunition of all descriptions, aqua fortis, vitriol, naphtha, and benzine shall be deemed to be dangerous goods within the meaning of this Ordinance.

3. The provisions of sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Ordinance 8 of 1873 shall not, after the passing of this Ordinance, apply to either of the following two classes of dangerous goods, namely:— Certain classes of goods to be exempted from certain provisions of 8 of 1873 and from operation of bye-laws.

(i.) Lubricating oils, or

(ii.) Petroleum tar or petroleum fuel which, after being tested by him, has been certified by the Government Analyst or other similar officer of this or any other British Colony or Possession to give off an inflammable vapour at a temperature of not less than 200° Fahrenheit.

Any bye-laws, rules, or regulations, relating to dangerous goods, which have been heretofore made under the provisions of any Ordinance, shall not, after the coming into force of this Ordinance, apply to either of the above two classes of dangerous goods, and any bye-laws, rules, or regulations hereafter made relating to dangerous goods shall not, unless expressly so provided, apply to either of the above two classes of dangerous goods.

Objects and Reasons.

The object of clause 2 of this Bill is to include, in the definition of dangerous goods, certain goods which are not specified in section 5 of Ordinance 8 of 1873, and which it seems desirable to treat as dangerous goods.

The object of clause 3 of this Bill is to except lubricating oils and high test petroleum tar or petroleum fuel from the operation of sections 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16 of Ordinance 8 of 1873, and from the operation of any bye-laws, etc. relating to the movement or storage of dangerous goods which have been heretofore made, and from any bye-laws relating to dangerous goods which may hereafter be made unless such special classes of goods are expressly mentioned in such bye-laws, etc. By that means such special classes of dangerous goods will be exempted from the severe tests which have been hitherto applicable to them in common with all other dangerous goods.

At the same time, however, it appears desirable, looking to dangers which might arise from the mixing of low flash oil with the high test oil, to retain the power of making bye-laws for the movement of and conditions for the storage of such special classes of goods, instead of exempting them altogether from all the liabilities attaching to dangerous goods.

HENRY E. POLLOCK,
Acting Attorney General.