

FINANCIAL MINUTE.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following Financial Minute, (No. 26), and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee:—

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O.
2992 of 1899.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Four thousand Dollars (\$4,000) in aid of the vote "Maintenance of Buildings."

Government House, Hongkong, 24th November, 1899.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

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 23rd November, 1899, (No. 10), and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, 1873.—The Acting Attorney General moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary 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 that this Order of the Day be discharged.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO THE CARRIAGE AND POSSESSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.—The Acting Attorney General moved the second reading of the Bill and addressed the Council.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Dr. HO KAI moved as an amendment that the second reading of the Bill be postponed and addressed the Council.

His Excellency addressed the Council.

Mr. WHITEHEAD seconded and addressed the Council.

Amendment agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT ORDINANCE, 1899.—The Acting Attorney General moved the second reading of the Bill and addressed the Council.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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.—Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported with amendments.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 7th December, 1899, at 3 p.m.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 14th day of December, 1899.

R. F. JOHNSTON,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 702.

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

R. F. JOHNSTON,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 14th December, 1899.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to amend the Companies Ordinance, 1877.

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 Companies Ordinance, 1899," and shall be read with "The Companies Ordinances, 1865 to 1890," and this Ordinance and those Ordinances may be cited collectively as "The Companies Ordinances, 1865 to 1899." Short title and construction.

2.—(1.) Whenever, before or after the commencement of this Ordinance, any shares in the capital of any company under the Companies Ordinances, 1865 to 1890, credited as fully or partly paid up shall have been or may be issued for a consideration other than cash, and at or before the issue of such shares no contract or no sufficient contract is filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, in compliance with section twenty-four of the Companies Ordinance, 1877, the company or any person interested in such shares or any of them may apply to the Court for relief, and the Court, if satisfied that the omission to file a contract or sufficient contract was accidental or due to inadvertence, or that for any reason it is just and equitable to grant relief, may make an order for the filing with the Registrar of a sufficient contract in writing, and directing that on such contract being filed within a specified period it shall, in relation to such shares, operate as if it had been duly filed with the Registrar aforesaid before the issue of such shares. Court empowered to grant relief for non-compliance with Ordinance 1 of 1877, s. 24. (61 & 62 Vic. c. 26.)

(2.) Any such application may be made in the manner in which an application to rectify the register of members may be made under section thirty-four of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, and either before or after an order has been made or an effective resolution has been passed for the winding up of such company, and either before or after the commencement of any proceedings for enforcing the liability on such shares consequent on the omission aforesaid, and any such application shall, if not made by the company, be served on the company. Ordinance 1 of 1865.

(3.) Any such order may be made on such terms and conditions as the Court may think fit, and the Court may make such order as to costs as it deems proper, and may direct that an office copy of the order shall be filed with the Registrar aforesaid, and the order shall in all respects have full effect.

(4.) Where the Court in any such case is satisfied that the filing of the requisite contract would cause delay or inconvenience, or is impracticable, it may, in lieu thereof, direct the filing of a memorandum in writing, and in a form approved by the Court, specifying the consideration for which the shares were issued, and may direct that on such memorandum being filed within a specified period it shall in relation to such shares operate as if it were a sufficient contract in writing within the meaning of section twenty-four of the Companies Ordinance, 1877, and had been duly filed with the Registrar aforesaid before the issue of such shares. The memorandum shall, before the filing thereof, be stamped with the same amount of *ad valorem* stamp duty as would be chargeable upon the requisite contract unless the contract has been produced to the Registrar duly stamped, or unless the Registrar is otherwise satisfied that the contract was duly stamped.

3. The jurisdiction given to the Court by this Ordinance is not by implication to curtail or derogate from its jurisdiction to grant relief in any such case under section thirty-four of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, or otherwise. Jurisdiction cumulative.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to provide for the summoning of Chinese before the Registrar General.

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

- Short title. **1.** This Ordinance may be cited as The Summoning of Chinese Ordinance, 1899.
- Power to summon person for examination. **2.**—(i.) The Governor may at any time direct the Registrar General to enquire into and report as to any matter which is connected with the New Territories as defined by section 2 of Ordinance No. 12 of 1899, if such matter exclusively concerns persons of Chinese race, whether British subjects or otherwise.
(ii.) It shall be lawful for the Registrar General to summon in writing under his hand and seal any person of Chinese race (whether a British subject or otherwise) who appears to him to be able to give information regarding any matter into which the Registrar General is directed by the Governor to enquire, reciting in the summons the subject of the enquiry.
- Person summoned bound to attend and answer. **3.** Every person so summoned shall be legally bound to attend before the Registrar General at the time and the place specified in such summons and to answer truthfully all questions which the Registrar General may put to him relating to the matter under enquiry, and to produce, if required by him, to the Registrar General or to some person deputed by him for the purpose, any books, documents, or other written matter pertinent to the enquiry, and to permit the inspection of any property either by the Registrar General or by some person deputed by him for the purpose, and the Registrar General shall for the purposes of this Ordinance have powers similar to those vested in the Supreme Court of this Colony in regard to administering oaths to witnesses and examining witnesses on oath, and any person wilfully giving false evidence on oath before the Registrar General shall be liable, upon summary conviction before a Magistrate, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour, or to the payment of a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars which may be recovered by distress, and the provisions of the Magistrate's Ordinance, 1890, relating to summary procedure shall apply to any proceedings under this section.
- Warrant for disobedience to summons, and penalty. **4.**—(i.) If any person so summoned omits to attend at the time and place so specified, it shall be lawful for the Registrar General to issue his warrant for the arrest of such person, and such warrant shall be executed by a Police Officer or Constable in the same manner as if it had been issued by a Magistrate, and every person so arrested shall be liable, upon summary conviction before a Magistrate, to the payment of a fine not exceeding ten dollars which may be recovered by distress, and the provisions of the Magistrate's Ordinance, 1890, relating to summary procedure shall apply to any proceedings under this section.
(ii.) If any person against whom a warrant has been so issued as aforesaid absconds or conceals himself so that such warrant cannot be executed, it shall be lawful for a Magistrate, on the application of the Registrar General, to order that the rents and profits of such person's property shall be attached by an officer named in such order until such time as such person shall appear before the Registrar General in obedience to such warrant. All or any part of the rents and profits so attached may, if a Magistrate in his discretion so orders, be forfeited to the Crown.
- Penalty for evading warrant.

Objects and Reasons.

The object of this Bill is to confer effective power upon the Registrar General to summon before him any Chinese whom he desires to question upon any matter of importance connected with the New Territories and affecting the Chinese.

Hitherto the Registrar General has not been able to enforce the attendance of persons before him in some cases where it was desirable that such attendance should be secured.

This Bill is framed upon similar lines to the first four sections of Enactment VIII of 1899 of the Malay State of Selangor. The other Federated Malay States are under similar Enactments.

HENRY E. POLLOCK,
Acting Attorney General.