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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 21.

THURSDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 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 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.

„ EMANUEL RAPHAEL BELILIOS, C.M.G.

„ WEI YUK.

ABSENT :

The Honourable THOMAS HENDERSON WHITEHEAD.

„ JAMES JOHNSTONE KESWICK.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 14th December, 1899, were read and confirmed.

PAPER.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following paper:—

Correspondence with reference to the services of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps in connection with the occupation of the New Territory.

FINANCIAL MINUTE.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following Financial Minute, (No. 28), and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee:—

HENRY A. BLAKE.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Two hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250) in aid of the vote "Maintenance of Gardens."

Government House, Hongkong, 15th December, 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 14th December, 1899, (No. 12), and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

BILL ENTITLED THE PIERS ORDINANCE, 1899.—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 COMPANIES ORDINANCE, 1877.—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.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, 1873.—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.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported with amendments.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUMMONING OF CHINESE BEFORE THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.—The Acting Attorney General moved the second reading of the Bill and addressed the Council.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Dr. HO KAI addressed the Council.

Mr. WEI YUK addressed the Council.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported with amendments.

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.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Mr. BELLIOS addressed the Council and moved that Counsel be heard on behalf of the arms dealers who had presented a petition against the second reading of the Bill.

Dr. HO KAI seconded.

Question that Counsel be heard—put and agreed to.

His Excellency then invited Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., who was present with Mr. J. HASTINGS, Solicitor, to come forward.

Mr. FRANCIS then addressed the Council.

Question that the Bill be read a second time—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.—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.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 28th December, 1899, at 3 p.m.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 28th day of December, 1899.

R. F. JOHNSTON,
Acting Clerk of Councils.