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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 2.

THURSDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 1901.

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 Attorney General, (WILLIAM MEIGH GOODMAN, Q.C.).

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALEXANDER MACDONALD THOMSON).

„ the Director of Public Works, (ROBERT DALY ORMSBY).

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

„ BASIL TAYLOR. (Acting Harbour Master).

„ CATCHICK PAUL CHATER, C.M.G.

„ HO KAI, M.B., C.M.

„ JAMES JOHNSTONE KESWICK.

„ WEI YUK.

„ JOHN THURBURN.

„ RODERICK MACKENZIE GRAY.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 24th January, 1901, were read and confirmed.

Dr. HO KAI and Messrs. J. THURBURN, R. M. GRAY and WEI YUK, took the oath of allegiance to His Majesty King EDWARD VII.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council as follows:—

Before we proceed to business, I desire to propose for the acceptance of this Council a Resolution expressing our heartfelt loyalty and devotion to His Majesty King Edward VII. Two days ago, joined by many of the principal inhabitants of this colony, we proclaimed His Majesty as our rightful Sovereign Lord. We did so according to the form prescribed by the ancient custom of England and in the nearest available centre of the population, and we did so solemnly, and with hearts full, believing that a worthy King, instinct in every fibre with the best feelings of an Englishman, had been called by the grace of God to reign over us, but feeling that we proclaimed and acclaimed His Majesty in the presence of the yet unburied remains of His Majesty's incomparable Queen Mother, of Her whose name we have

all lisped in our earliest childhood and who throughout our lives has been to us the embodiment of everything that was great and good and noble and queenly. His Majesty's life has long been public property. We all know him and we love him as a man for personal qualities which will brighten kingly virtues. He has never in his past life been found wanting in his public duties, and only those whose good fortune has placed them in close connection with His Majesty can realize how anxiously as Prince of Wales he devoted himself to the furtherance of all good works in the public interest. I enjoyed the high honour of His Majesty's notice, and I feel how true is the instinct of the British people that the crown of our best-beloved and venerated Queen has descended upon a successor who will be a great and worthy Sovereign Lord over this vast Empire. I beg to propose to you the following Resolution:—

“We, the members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong, beg with profound respect to express to Your Majesty, on the occasion of your accession to the Throne of Your Majesty's ancestors, our sentiments of devotion and loyalty to Your Majesty. We pray that God's blessing may rest upon the successor of the revered and noble Queen whose memory is so lovingly enshrined in the hearts of her people, and we pray that to Your Majesty there may be granted a happy and glorious reign over a united and prosperous people.”

The Honourable C. P. CHAPTER addressed the Council as follows:—

Your Excellency, it is with very great pleasure that I rise to second the Resolution just proposed, which will, I am sure, be carried with acclamation in this Council and be fervently endorsed by all His Majesty's loyal subjects in this colony. For I venture to say that, though one of the most distant dependencies of the great Empire over which King Edward VII. has been suddenly called to rule, there is no more loyal community than this, of which I am proud to be one of the representatives. In no British colony is the late Queen more sincerely mourned, and in no part of his vast dominions will His Majesty the King find readier sympathy in the regal duties which he is so eminently fitted to discharge, but which nevertheless entail such weighty responsibilities. In the midst of our gloom and while keenly feeling the great loss the Empire has suffered in the death of our venerated Queen and Empress, it is no small consolation to know that she has left for her successor one whose mature judgment, ripened experience, and ready tact will be sure to carry him through difficulties and guide him to safe conclusions in great crises, should such come. That His Majesty King Edward may enjoy a happy, peaceful and prosperous reign, not less glorious than that of his illustrious predecessor, is indeed the prayer of his subjects of whatever race or creed. I beg to second the Resolution.

The Honourable Dr. HO KAI addressed the Council as follows:—

Sir, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, and those whom we have the honour to represent on this Council, I have much pleasure in supporting most cordially the resolution that has been so eloquently proposed by Your Excellency and seconded by the Honourable the Senior Unofficial Member. In the deep and universal gloom into which we have all been plunged by the sad death of our beloved Queen, the accession of His Most Gracious Majesty Edward VII. to the throne has been the one bright spot, the silver lining, as it were, of the black cloud overhanging the whole Empire. In His Majesty we have a most worthy successor to our glorious and noble Queen, and on him we may confidently rest our hopes of the future and the continued greatness, prosperity and happiness of the vast British Empire. “May His Majesty have a long, happy, and glorious reign” is the humble wish and fervent prayer of all His Majesty's loyal and devoted Chinese subjects in this colony of Hongkong.

His Excellency asked Members who were prepared to assent to the Resolution to rise.

All rose, and the Resolution was carried unanimously.

PAPER.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the Report dealing with the Water Supply at Kowloon.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following Financial Minutes, (Nos. 1 to 5), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O.
2627 of 1900.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Fourteen thousand Four hundred and Twenty-nine Dollars and Sixty-three Cents (\$14,429.63) to meet the cost of repairing the damages done by the recent typhoon.

ABSTRACT.

Medical Department,—

To replace bamboo sun blinds,	\$ 207.50	
To replace stores, medicines and sundries destroyed at Taipo,	81.00	
		\$ 288.50

Police Department,—

Repairs to two Police Launches,.....	7,740.00
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Botanic and Afforestation Department,	481.13
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Public Works Department,—

Praya Road West,	\$1,000.00	
Hospital Sheds, Kennedy Town,.....	850.00	
Telephones,.....	700.00	
Sheds at Taipo,	1,500.00	
Lighthouse repairs, &c.,.....	1,500.00	
Miscellaneous,	370.00	
		5,920.00

Total,.....\$14,429.63

Government House, Hongkong, 7th January, 1901.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O. 535 of 1900. The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of One thousand Four hundred and Forty Dollars (\$1,440) to cover, during the current year, the cost of increases of salaries of Mr. MOORE and Mr. MACKIE, Student Interpreters.

Government House, Hongkong, 10th January, 1901.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O. 114 of 1901. The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Two hundred Dollars (\$200) to provide additional support for boats' davits in the Lighthouse Steam Tender *Stanley*.

Government House, Hongkong, 16th January, 1901.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O. 173 of 1901. The Governor recommends the Council to re-vote the following sums being unexpended balances of the votes for 1900 under the heading "Public Works Extraordinary":—

Completion Improvement Wongneichong Recreation Ground,	\$3,132.10
Expenses in the New Territory,	609.28
Yaumati Nullah,	1,263.32
Chair Shelter at Peak,	900.00
Disinfector Station and Quarters,	1,957.79
Starling Inlet Police Station,	1,371.83
Causeway and Pier in Deep Water, Taipo,	2,969.28
Sookunpo Latrine,	2,155.34
Public Latrines,	2,709.35
Sewerage of Victoria,.....	1,644.48

Total,.....\$18,712.77

Government House, Hongkong, 18th January, 1901.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O. 2627 of 1900. The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of One thousand One hundred and Forty-five Dollars (\$1,145) to cover the losses of houses and furniture done by the fire at Tai O on the 2nd instant.

Government House, Hongkong, 25th January, 1901.

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 17th December, 1900, (No. 20), and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.—The Director of Public Works laid on the table the Report of the Public Works Committee dated the 23rd January, 1901, (No. 1), and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Public Health in the Colony of Hongkong.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

RATING BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Rating.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Criminal Law as regards certain indecent outrages and assaults.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

TRUSTEE BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Trustees.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend and declare in certain respects the Law to be administered in the Supreme Court.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

CIVIL PROCEDURE (STATUTES REPEAL) BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to repeal various Statutes relating to Civil Procedure or Matters connected therewith.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to establish a Code of Procedure for the Regulation of the Process, Practice, and Mode of Pleading in the Civil Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the Colony.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

DEFENCE CONTRIBUTION BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to repeal and re-enact with amendments The Defence Contribution Ordinance, 1896.

The Colonial Treasurer addressed the Council, and seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENT BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council, and moved the second reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed.

Bill reported with amendments.

The third reading of the Bill postponed to a subsequent meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned till Thursday, the 7th February, 1901, at 3 p.m.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 7th day of February, 1901.

R. F. JOHNSTON,
Acting Clerk of Councils.