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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 10.

THURSDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 1902.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

(Major-General Sir WILLIAM JULIUS GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G.).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (FRANCIS HENRY MAY, C.M.G.).

” the Attorney General, (Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, Kt.).

” the Colonial Treasurer, (ALEXANDER MACDONALD THOMSON).

” the Harbour Master, (ROBERT MURRAY RUMSEY, R.N.).

” the Director of Public Works, (WILLIAM CHATHAM).

” the Medical Officer of Health, (Dr. FRANCIS WILLIAM CLARK).

” Ho KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

” WEI YUK.

” CHARLES STEWART SHARP.

” CHARLES WEDDERBURN DICKSON.

” GEORGE WILLIAM FORBES PLAYFAIR.

” ROBERT GORDON SHEWAN.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 21st July, 1902, were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following Financial Minutes, (Nos. 36 and 37), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

W. J. GASCOIGNE.

C.S.O.  
1281 of 1902.

The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and seventy-five Dollars (\$175) to meet the pay of a native Non-Commissioned Officer to supervise the work in connection with the suppression of Mosquitoes from 10th July to 31st December, 1902, inclusive.

Government House, Hongkong, 19th July, 1902.

W. J. GASCOIGNE.

C.S.O.  
135 of 1902.  
(Extension.)

The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of Eight hundred and eighty Dollars and seventy-nine Cents (\$880.79) to cover the cost of repairing the Matsheds, &c., at Taipo, damaged by the Typhoon of the 18th July, 1902.

Government House, Hongkong, 31st July, 1902.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee dated the 21st July, 1902, (No. 9), and moved its adoption.

—The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and pointed out that the adoption of the Report involved the passing of the following Resolution:—

*It is hereby resolved that all Pensions paid in England from the Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund be paid at the rate of three Shillings the Dollar, the difference between that rate and the rate of the day being made good out of the revenue of the Colony.*

Question—put and agreed to.

QUESTION.—Mr. PLAYFAIR, pursuant to notice, asked the following question:—

*Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary state whether the Report of the Commission on the Public Works Department recommending an increase in the Staff has been carried out in its entirety, and if not, why not? In view of Mr. Chadwick's Report that "the Public Works Staff is much undermanned in every branch, both technical and clerical," and in view of the fact that the new Ordinance now before the Council will vastly increase the work and responsibilities of the Public Works Department far beyond the requirements advised by the Commission, are the Government making arrangements for a still further increase of the Staff?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following papers:—

1. Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of Hongkong, for 1901.
2. Report of the Principal Civil Medical Officer, for 1901.
3. Report on the Assessment for 1902-1903.
4. Blue Book for 1901.

RATING BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Rating Ordinance, 1901.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

The Attorney General moved the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable the Bill to pass through its remaining stages at this Meeting of Council.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

The Attorney General addressed the Council, and moved the second reading of the Bill.

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 without amendment.

The 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.

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.—Owing to a misunderstanding on the part of Mr. SHEWAN as to the motion for the passing of a Resolution as to the rate of exchange for the payment of Pensions under the Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund, the matter was reverted to.

Mr. SHEWAN addressed the Council, and moved "that the Government inform Mr. Secretary Chamberlain that while agreeing to the Resolution, the Unofficial Members deprecate such eleemosynary grants, and think that any assistance to Civil Servants of this kind should take the form of an increase of salaries."

Mr. PLAYFAIR seconded.

The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council.

The Attorney General addressed the Council.

Mr. SHEWAN withdrew his motion.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS BILL.—His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government addressed the Council, and announced that the second reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Public Health and Buildings would not be taken until after the return to the Colony of His Excellency Sir HENRY A. BLAKE.

WATER SUPPLY BILL.—The Attorney General moved that Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for and regulate the Supply of Water in the Colony of Hongkong and for the Maintenance and Repair of the Works in connection therewith, be resumed.

Council resumed and Bill reported with amendments.

The Attorney General moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Dr. HO KAI and Mr. WEI YUK signified their dissent.

The third reading of the Bill was deferred.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned until Wednesday, the 13th August, 1902.

W. J. GASCOIGNE,  
*Officer Administering the Government.*

Read and confirmed, this 13th day of August, 1902.

M. J. DRAYSON,  
*Acting Clerk of Councils.*