



Mr. SHEWAN addressed the Council and moved—

*That the answer to Mr. Playfair's question be recorded in full and that in future, answers to questions of Honourable Members be recorded in full in the same manner as the questions are recorded.*

Mr. PLAYFAIR seconded.

The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council.

The Attorney General addressed the Council.

Mr. SHEWAN replied.

The Attorney General addressed the Council.

The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government addressed the Council.

Motion put and negatived.

Minutes confirmed.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting, held on the 9th of August, were read and confirmed.

His Excellency then read to the Council the following telegram received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

*Telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Hongkong.  
Dated 12th August.*

“His Majesty the King cordially thanks the Executive and Legislative Councils and people of Hongkong for their loyal congratulations to him and Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of their Coronation.”

FINANCIAL MINUTE.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following Financial Minute, (No. 38), and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee:—

W. J. GASCOIGNE.

C.C.D.  
195 of 1902.

The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a further sum of £1,245.3.0, being the estimated sum required to meet the charge for the pay of the Volunteer Contingent during their absence from the Colony in connection with the Coronation of His Majesty the KING, as approved by the Secretary of State.

ABSTRACT.

Pay on voyage to and from England, 84 days:—

1 Major at 16/- a day, .....	£ 67. 4.0
1 Lieutenant at 7/6 a day,.....	31.1.00
3 Sergeants at 4/- each a day, .....	50. 8.0
4 Corporals at 3/- each a day, .....	50. 8.0
32 Rank and File at 2/6 each a day, .....	336. 0.0

Total pay on voyage,.....£535.10.0

Pay while in England, 57 days:—

1 Major at 30/- a day, .....	£ 85.10.0
1 Lieutenant at 14/- a day,.....	39.18.0
3 Sergeants at 7/- each a day, .....	59.17.0
4 Corporals at 6/- each a day, .....	68. 8.0
32 Rank and File at 5/- each a day, .....	456. 0.0

Total in England,.....£709.13.0

Grand Total,.....£1,245. 3.0

Government House, Hongkong, 11th August, 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 7th August, 1902, (No. 10), and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

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

*How is the Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund formed?*

*What does the fund amount to at present?*

*Do all Civil Servants subscribe to it? If not, why not?*

*What proportion of their salaries is subscribed by those who belong to the Fund?*

*Do the Government assist this Fund in any way already?*

*If so, how?*

*What is the difference between the rate of 3/- per dollar and the rate taken at by 1/9, estimated to amount to per annum?*

*The difference between 1/6 the rate paid by Ceylon and the rate of the day say 1/4 is only two-pence per rupee or say 12½%, but at Hongkong the difference will be about 1/3 per dollar or over 76%. Why is the Hongkong contribution so much more liberal?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.—Mr. PLAYFAIR gave notice, that at the next meeting of Council he would ask the following question:—

*With reference to the recent collapses of newly erected houses in both Hongkong and Kowloon and consequent deplorable loss of life, what steps have the Government taken to fix the responsibility?*

*Will the Government take steps to license Contractors under bond or otherwise?*

*Will the Government state what the regulations are as to public enquiries being held into accidents such as these?*

*Will the Government table a return showing the number of houses which have collapsed this year with fatal results and giving the owners' names, the architects' names, the contractors' names, and date of erection?*

The Colonial Treasurer addressed the Council.

The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council.

WATER WORKS BILL.—The Attorney General moved the third reading of a 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.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Dr. HO KAI and Mr. WEI YUK opposed the motion.

Motion—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

W. J. GASCOIGNE,  
Officer Administering the Government.

Read and confirmed, this 3rd day of September, 1902.

R. F. JOHNSTON,  
Acting Clerk of Councils.