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CONTENTS.

Notifi- cation No.	Subject Matter.	Page	Notifi- cation No.	Subject Matter.	Page.
—	Legislative Council Minutes, No. 15,.....	1913	683	Cancellation of Memorial of Re-entry of land,	2032
672	Bills read a first time :—		684	Bank note circulation—October,.....	2032
	Public Health and Buildings,	1916	685	Auction sale of land at Aberdeen,.....	2033
	Employers and Servants,	2010	686	Notice to mariners,	2035
	Junks (Collision),.....	2013	687	Statement of quarantine restrictions,	2035
	New Territories Titles,	2015	688	Sanitary measures against Hongkong,	2035
	Naturalization of Aliens,	2024			
673	Recognition of H. Kirino as Acting Consul for Japan, ...	2026		<i>Notifications repeated.</i>	
674	Recognition of A. R. Labarca as Consul of Chile,	2026			
675	Committee for Wong-nei-chong and Queen's Recreation Grounds,	2026	666	Tenders for small stores for Sanitary Board,	2036
676	Regulations for Queen's Recreation Ground,	2026	667	Tenders for sole privilege of slaughtering animals,	2037
677	Regulations for Wong-nei-chong Recreation Ground,	2028	668	Tenders for collection and removal of blood, &c.,	2038
678	Gun practice,	2029	669	Tenders for labour at Plague Cemetery,	2038
679	Meeting of Justices of the Peace,	2029		<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	
680	Meteorological observations—October,	2031	—	Unclaimed Telegrams,	2038
681	Applications for Seamen's Boarding House licences,.....	2031	—	Unclaimed Letters, &c.,.....	2039
682	Postal Notes—Prices, &c., of,	2032	—	Advertisements,.....	2047

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 15.

THURSDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 1902.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(Sir HENRY ARTHUR BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

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

ABSENT :

The Honourable the Officer Commanding the Troops, (Colonel LOUIS FAULKNER BROWN, R.E.).
 " the Attorney General, (Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, Kt.)

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 20th October, 1902, were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following Financial Minutes, (Nos. 60 and 61), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O.
1999 of 1902. The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Eighteen thousand six hundred and ten Dollars (\$18,610) to cover part of the cost of repairing the damages to roads, retaining walls and buildings caused by recent typhoons and severe rainstorms.

Government House, Hongkong, 21st October, 1902.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

C.S.O.
2528 of 1902. The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Five hundred Dollars (\$500) in aid of the following votes of the Magistracy:—

Office Furniture, Repairs and Incidental Expenses,	\$ 250.00
Costs of Witnesses for giving Evidence in Criminal Cases, and for interpreting Dialects with which the Court Interpreters are unacquainted,	250.00

Total,.....\$ 500.00

Government House, Hongkong, 22nd October, 1902.

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 20th October, 1902, (No. 14), and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL FOR 1903.—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council, and moved that the Council resolve itself into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Four million seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and forty-two Dollars and Twenty-three Cents to the Public Service of the Year 1903.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported without amendment.

The Colonial Secretary moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

CHINESE EMIGRATION AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved that the Council resolve itself into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Chinese Emigration Consolidation Ordinance, 1889.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported without material amendment.

The Colonial Secretary moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

DOGS AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved that the Council resolve itself into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Dogs Ordinance, 1893.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and Bill reported without amendment.

The Colonial Secretary moved the third reading of the Bill.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

LAND REGISTRATION (FEES) AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved that the Council resolve itself into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to repeal The Land Registry Office (Fees) Amendment Ordinance 1902: and to amend Ordinance No. 3 of 1844 entitled “An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Deeds Wills Judgments and Conveyances affecting real or immoveable property in Hongkong.”

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.
 Question—put and agreed to.
 Council in Committee on the Bill.
 Council resumed and Bill reported with amendments.
 The Colonial Secretary moved the third reading of the Bill.
 The Colonial Treasurer seconded.
 Question—put and agreed to.
 Bill read a third time.
 Question put—that this Bill do pass.
 Bill passed.

LIQUOR LICENCES AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved that the Council resolve itself into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Liquor Licences Amendment Ordinance, 1900.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.
 Question—put and agreed to.
 Council in Committee on the Bill.
 Mr. SHARP addressed the Committee, and moved as an amendment that the Bill do not come into operation until the 1st of January, 1903.
 The Colonial Secretary concurred.
 Motion agreed to.
 Council resumed and Bill reported with amendments.
 The Colonial Secretary moved the third reading of the Bill.
 The Colonial Treasurer seconded.
 Question—put and agreed to.
 Bill read a third time.
 Question put—that this Bill do pass.
 Bill passed.

STAMP AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved that the Council resolve itself into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Stamp Ordinance, 1901.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.
 Question—put and agreed to.
 Council in Committee on the Bill.
 Several amendments having been agreed to,
 Mr. PLAYFAIR moved as a further amendment that the limit of exemption, under the item 45, “Receipts,” be fixed at \$25.
 The Committee divided, and Members voted as follows:—

For the Amendment.

Mr. SHEWAN.
 Mr. PLAYFAIR.
 Mr. DICKSON.
 Mr. SHARP.
 Mr. WEI YUK.
 Dr. HO KAI.

Against the Amendment.

The Medical Officer of Health.
 The Director of Public Works.
 The Harbour Master.
 The Colonial Treasurer.
 The Colonial Secretary.

The amendment was carried by a majority of one, His Excellency the Governor having refrained from voting.

Council resumed and Bill reported with amendments.
 The Colonial Secretary moved the third reading of the Bill.
 The Colonial Treasurer seconded.
 Question—put and agreed to.
 Bill read a third time.
 Question put—that this Bill do pass.
 Bill passed.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council.
 ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 6th day of November, 1902.

C. CLEMENTI,
Acting Clerk of Councils.