

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 139.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 4

THURSDAY, 5TH MAY, 1910.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT
(SIR FRANCIS HENRY MAY, K.C.M.G.).

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Colonel CHARLES WILLIAM ROBERT ST. JOHN).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (ALEXANDER MACDONALD THOMSON).

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (CHARLES MCILVAINE MESSER).

„ the Director of Public Works, (WILLIAM CHATHAM, C.M.G.).

„ the Registrar General, (ARTHUR WINBOLT BREWIN).

„ the Captain Superintendent of Police, (FRANCIS JOSEPH BADELEY).

„ Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

„ Mr. EDBERT ANSGAR HEWETT.

„ Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE.

„ Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

ABSENT :

The Honourable the Attorney General, (MARCUS WARRE SLADE, K.C.).

„ Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M.G.

„ Mr. HENRY KESWICK.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 14th April, 1910, were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 27 to 31, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee :—

No. 27.—Observatory, Bombs and tubes for making urgent typhoon signals,	\$ 120.00.
No. 28.—Public Works, Extraordinary, Furniture for the District Office, Taipo,	725.00.
No. 29.—Fire Brigade, Floating Fire Engine,	9,852.25.
No. 30.—Miscellaneous Services, Compilation of existing Regulations and Orders-in-Council,...	150.00.
No. 31.—Miscellaneous Services, Dr. EITEL'S Chinese-English Dictionary for Cadets,	600.00.

The Director of Public Works seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following papers :—

Report of the Director of the Observatory for the year 1909.

Report of the Education Committee.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee dated the 14th April, 1910, and moved its adoption.

The Director of Public Works seconded.

Question,—put and agreed to.

QUESTIONS.—Mr. STEWART gave notice that he will ask the following Questions at the next meeting of the Council:—

- (a.) *Did the Governor of the Colony in this Council on the 20th July, 1903, accurately state the intentions of the Government when he said "As regards the ground in front of the Club, I hope that nothing will ever be built upon it. I propose that the ground shall be made a public garden . . . My idea is that the ground shall be preserved as an open space entirely and add to the beauty of the place"?*
- (b.) *Did the Honourable the Director of Public Works (then as now Mr. Chatham) at the official ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Law Courts, on November the 12th, 1903, in the presence of the Governor of the Colony, the Hon. the Colonial Secretary (then Mr. now Sir Henry May), and many other high Government officials, accurately state the intentions of the Government when he read from a written document this announcement: "The area to the north of this will, therefore, remain unbuilt upon, and an almost unrivalled site for the Courts, having regard to the open spaces which will adjoin them on three sides, will thus be created"?*
- (c.) *Did His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard accurately state the intentions of the Government when, on the 28th October, 1909, he said in this Council, in reply to a question whether the Government would undertake to have the plot in question cleared and made presentable as soon as it is no longer necessary to the work on the Law Courts and Post Office to maintain it in its present untidy state: "the present intention of the Government is to clear the plot as soon as it can be done"?*
- (d.) *In view of these seemingly authoritative statements, not easily to be thought of as irresponsible utterances, is it, on consideration, really incomprehensible to high Government officials how an impression was created in the public mind which led to many hearing with surprise of the recent decision to sell to a private purchaser, for building purposes, the site in question?*

SQUATTERS AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved the First reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Squatters Ordinance, 1890.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

PHARMACY AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Pharmacy Ordinance, 1908.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed, the Bill being left in Committee.

MERCHANT SHIPPING FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance further to amend the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1892.

The Colonial Treasurer 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 Colonial Secretary moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

MALICIOUS DAMAGE AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Malicious Damage Ordinance, 1865.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed, the Bill being left in Committee.

OPIUM AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Opium Ordinance, 1909.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed, and Bill reported with amendments.

The Colonial Secretary moved the suspension of the Standing Orders and that the Bill be read a third time.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Some discussion then ensued and the motion was withdrawn.

MAGISTRATES AMENDMENT BILL.—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed, the Bill being left in Committee.

TRAMWAY (AMENDMENT) BILL.—The Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Tramway Ordinance, 1902, was not proceeded with.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 12th May, 1910.

F. H. MAY,

Officer Administering the Government.

Read and confirmed this 9th day of May, 1910.

C. CLEMENTI,

Clerk of Councils.

NOTICES.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

No. 140.—It is hereby notified that H. B. M.'s Consul-General at Yünnanfu has made arrangements with the Administrator of Foreign Affairs of the Province of Yünnan whereby the passports of British subjects entering China at Hokow, which have not been already sealed by a competent Chinese authority, can be presented for *use* to the *Fu Tu Pan* at that Port, who is the local Deputy for Foreign Affairs. As trains on the Yünnan railway only run during the day, a traveller bound for Yünnan is obliged to stay a night at Lao-Kay, and there is ample time for him after the arrival of the one train a day from Hanoi to engage his room at the hotel and then to cross over the boundary bridge to Hokow to visit the *Fu Tu Pan* and return to Lao-Kay in time for dinner.