

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 215.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 7.

THURSDAY, 2ND JUNE, 1910.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

(SIR FRANCIS HENRY MAY, K.C.M.G.).

The Honourable the Officer Commanding the Troops, (Colonel CHARLES WILLIAM ROBERT ST. JOHN).

- .. the Colonial Secretary, (ALEXANDER MACDONALD THOMSON).
- .. the Attorney General, (MARCUS WARRE SLADE, K.C.).
- .. 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).
- .. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M.G.
- .. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.
- .. Mr. EDBERT ANSGAR HEWETT.
- .. Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE.
- .. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.
- .. Mr. HENRY KESWICK.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 19th May, 1910, were read and confirmed.

TELEGRAMS.—His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government read various telegrams received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 40 to 44, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

- No. 40.—Supreme Court, Personal Emoluments, Additional 3rd Clerk,.....\$ 600.00.
- No. 41.—Victoria British School, Books,.....£8. 0s. 11/.
- No. 42.—Public Works, Extraordinary, Extension of Tai Po Land Office,\$ 320.05.
- No. 43.—Public Works, Recurrent, Waterworks, Maintenance of Shau-ki-wan,..... 2,500.00.
- No. 44.—Charitable Services, Allowance to family of late Lance-Sergeant Counsell,£50.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee dated the 19th May, 1910, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

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

Draft Appropriation Account for the year 1909.

Report of the Registrar General for the year 1909.

Report of the Harbour Master for the year 1909.

Reports of the Captain Superintendent of Police and of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade for the year 1909.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.—The Director of Public Works laid on the table the Report of the Public Works Committee dated the 19th May, 1910.

RESOLUTION.—Mr. STEWART, pursuant to notice, addressed the Council and moved the following Resolution:—

That, before putting up to auction the plot of Crown Land situated to the North of the New Law Courts, the Government shall refer the proposed conditions of sale to this Council.

Mr. WEI YUK seconded.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. HEWETT and Mr. STEWART addressed the Council.

The Resolution was then put to the vote and declared lost, ten Members voting against and two—Mr. STEWART and Mr. WEI YUK—for the Resolution.

Dr. HO KAI did not vote.

QUESTIONS.—Mr. OSBORNE, pursuant to notice, asked the following Questions:—

1. (a.) *Whether a contract for the new typhoon breakwater has been let, and if so, what is the contract date for completion of the work?*
- (b.) *If a contract has not been let, what is the cause of delay in doing so?*
- (c.) *On what date did the Home Authorities finally approve the plans of the breakwater?*
2. *Will the Government cause part of the foreshore at the Eastern and Western extremities of the town to be reserved and made suitable as public bathing places?*

The Director of Public Works replied.

QUESTIONS.—Mr. STEWART, pursuant to notice, asked the following Questions:—

- (i.) *Is it the case that on the 9th May the wife of the lately deceased Assistant Magistrate of the Sun On District, on her way through to Tientsin with his body, was committed to prison in this Colony, for seven weeks, for having in her possession a small quantity of opium dross, some anti-opium pills and a little raw opium, value, all told, about \$30?*
- (ii.) *Is it the case that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, recognising the hardship created in this instance by the operation of the Opium Ordinance, quashed the sentence?*
- (iii.) *Will the Government consider the advisability of so amending the Opium Ordinance as to provide magisterial discretionary powers or other means whereby bonâ fide travellers through the Colony, having in their possession a little opium for private use, may escape penalties intended for felonious smuggling?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved the First reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Three hundred and fourteen thousand five hundred and thirty-three Dollars and thirty-two Cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1909.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

PHARMACY AMENDMENT BILL.—The Attorney General moved the Third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Pharmacy Ordinance, 1908.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Mr. STEWART moved that the Bill be re-committed.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed, and Bill reported without amendment.

The Attorney General moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary 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 Attorney General moved the Third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Malicious Damage Ordinance, 1865.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

OPIUM AMENDMENT BILL.—The Attorney General moved that the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Opium Ordinance, 1909, be re-committed.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed, and Bill reported with amendments.

The Attorney General moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

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 *sine die*.

F. H. MAY,
Officer Administering the Government.

Read and confirmed this 14th day of July, 1910.

C. CLEMENTI,
Clerk of Councils.