

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 557.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 21.

THURSDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 1915

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

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

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (CLAUD SEVERN).

„ the Attorney General, (JOSEPH HORSFORD KEMP).

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALEXANDER MACDONALD THOMSON).

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

„ the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (EDWIN RICHARD HALLIFAX).

„ Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

„ Mr. HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, K.C.

„ Mr. EDWARD SHELLIM.

„ Mr. DAVID LANDALE.

„ Mr. LAU CHÜ PAK.

„ Mr. PERCY HOBSON HOLYOAK.

ABSENT:

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General FRANCIS VENTRIS).

The Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police, (CHARLES McILVAINE MESSER).

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 2nd December, 1915, were confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.—Mr. HOLYOAK took the oath and assumed his seat as a Member of the Council.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 64 to 66, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

No. 64.—Public Works, Recurrent, Kowloon, Electric Lighting,	\$ 200.00.
No. 65.—Miscellaneous Services, War Department Expenditure,	17,000.00.
No. 66.—Public Works, Recurrent, Hongkong, Maintenance of Public Recreation Grounds,	380.00.

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 (No. 16), dated the 2nd December, 1915, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

QUESTIONS.—Mr. POLLOCK gave notice that he will ask the following questions at the next Meeting of the Council:—

1. *What steps is the Government or His Excellency the Governor taking to fill up the place of the late Mr. Hewett on the Executive Council?*
2. *Is it not the fact that I was a Member of the Executive Council, as Acting Attorney General, for periods of time amounting to nearly 3 years, and is it not the fact that I acted in addition as an Unofficial Member of that Council during the last absences on leave in Europe of Sir Paul Chater and Mr. Hewett respectively, in the years 1911 and 1912?*

3. *Has the Government or has His Excellency the Governor sent any Despatch, and, if so, when, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies recommending any, and, if so, what person as successor to Mr. Hewett on the Executive Council?*
4. *If any such Despatch has been addressed to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies has the Right Honourable Gentleman been informed in such Despatch of the facts referred to in the above question 2? Will the Government lay such Despatch (if any) upon the table of this Council?*
5. *Will the Government recommend to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the two Unofficial Members of the Executive Council shall be elected Members, instead of being nominated by the Government?*
6. *Will the Government recommend to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies that all the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council shall be elected, instead of two-thirds of them being nominated by the Government, and also that the number of Unofficial Members in that Council be increased?*

BRITISH NATIONALITY AND STATUS OF ALIENS (FEES) BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to provide for the fees to be paid in this Colony in respect of various things and matters to be granted or done under the provisions of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

TRAMWAY AMENDMENT BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend further the Tramway Ordinance, 1902.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

SOCIETIES AMENDMENT BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Societies Ordinance, 1911.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

DEPORTATION BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Deportation Ordinances, 1912-1914.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

COMPANIES BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the law relating to companies.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Mr. POLLOCK addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

On the motion of the Attorney General the following amendments were agreed to:—

The word “by” in section 1 was deleted and the word “be” substituted therefor.

The figures “191 ” wherever they occur throughout the Bill were deleted and the figures “1915” substituted therefor.

Mr. POLLOCK moved that the words “at Shanghai” in the last line of sub-section 4 of section 3 be deleted.

The amendment was not carried.

On Council resuming, the Attorney General reported that the Bill had passed through Committee with amendments and moved that it be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the law relating to importation and exportation.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

On the motion of the Attorney General the following amendments were agreed to:—

The words “or for the carriage of goods” were inserted after the word “navigation” at the end of sub-section (b) of section 2.

The words “and such officer may impose any condition whatsoever on the granting of any permit or licence” were inserted after the word “licence” at the end of section 5.

The following new sections, numbered 6 and 7, were inserted after section 5:—

“6.—(1.) Upon the failure of any condition of any bond required as a ^{Forfeiture of bond.} condition on the granting of any permit or any licence issued under this Ordinance the sum secured by the bond shall be deemed to be a debt due to the Crown and may be recovered in the same manner as Crown rents are recovered upon a certificate purporting to be under the hand of the Colonial Treasurer.

(2.) The recovery of any such sum shall not relieve any person from any other penalty to which he may be liable under this or any other Ordinance.

7.—(1.) Upon the breach of any condition of any permit or any ^{Forfeiture of deposit.} licence issued under this Ordinance any deposit required as a condition on the granting of such permit or licence shall upon application to a magistrate be declared by him to be forfeited to the Crown.

(2.) The forfeiture of any such deposit shall not relieve any person from any other penalty to which he may be liable under this or any other Ordinance.”

Sections 6 to 12 were renumbered 8 to 14.

On the motion of Mr. POLLOCK the following amendments were agreed to:—

The words “or of any Order-in-Council made thereunder” were inserted after the word “Ordinance” in the last line of sub-section (a), in the fifth line of sub-section (c), and in the third line of sub-section (d); the words “or by any Order-in-Council made thereunder” were inserted after the word “Ordinance” in the last of sub-section (3) of section 6 (renumbered 8); the words “or any Order-in-Council made thereunder” were inserted after the word “Ordinance” in the third line of section 7 (renumbered 9); and the words “or against any Order-in-Council made thereunder” were inserted after the word “Ordinance” in the second line of sub-section (1) and in the third line of sub-section (2) of section 10 (renumbered 12).

On Council resuming, the Attorney General reported that the Bill had passed through Committee with amendments and moved that it be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 23rd day of December, 1915.

F. H. MAY,
Governor.

Read and confirmed this 23rd day of December, 1915.

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Clerk of Councils.

No. 558.

Resolution passed by the Legislative Council under Section 31 (1) of the Rating Ordinance, 1901, (Ordinance No. 6 of 1901), this 23rd day of December, 1915.

Resolved by the Legislative Council that the percentages on the valuations of the tenements in the undermentioned places be altered as follows with effect from the 1st of January, 1916 :—

Taikoktsui, from 11½% to 13%.

Hok Un and Kowloon City Road from the Hung
Hom Police Station to the north as far as
and including Kowloon Inland Lot 1150
and Kowloon Marine Lot 67, ,, 11½% to 13%.

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
23rd December, 1915.

APPOINTMENTS, &c.

No. 559.—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. RICHARD ARTHUR BRABAZON PONSONBY to be his Private Secretary, with effect from the 18th December, 1915.

20th December, 1915.

NOTICES.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

No. 560.—It is hereby notified that all officials of the Hongkong Government and all officers of His Majesty's Naval and Military Forces stationed in the Colony are expected to write their names in His Excellency the Governor's visitors' book as early as possible in the month of January.

By Order,

RICHARD PONSONBY,
Private Secretary.

20th December, 1915.