

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 569.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 22.

THURSDAY, 23RD DECEMBER, 1915.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

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

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

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).

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

" 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.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 16th December, 1915, were confirmed.

THE LATE SIR THOMAS JACKSON.—His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council and moved the following Resolution:—

This Council desires to place on record its deep sorrow at the death of Sir Thomas Jackson, a former member of the Legislature, its appreciation of the magnificent services of the deceased to the Colony and to British trade, and its heartfelt sympathy with his widow and family in their bereavement.

Mr. WEI YUK seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT.—On the motion of His Excellency the Governor, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, it was agreed that, after the questions appearing on the agenda were answered, the Council be adjourned until Thursday, the 30th December, 1915, as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Sir THOMAS JACKSON.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 67 to 73 and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

No. 59.—Public Works, Recurrent, Hongkong:—

Maintenance of Buildings, \$ 2,500.00.

Gas Lighting, 1,400.00.

No. 67.—Public Works, Recurrent, Maintenance of Lai Chi Kok Water Works, 350.00.

No. 68.—Miscellaneous Services, Loss on Subsidiary Coins, 396,000.00.

No. 69.—Special Police Reserve, 5,916.85.

No. 71.—Public Works, Extraordinary, New Territories, Exhumation at Po Kong Po Cemetery, 2,901.62.

No. 72.—Public Works, Recurrent, Hongkong, Maintenance of Road and Bridges in City, 500.00.

No. 73.—Public Works Department, Stores, 3,550.00.

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. 17), dated the 16th December, 1915, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

RESOLUTION.—The Colonial Secretary moved the following Resolution:—

It is hereby resolved 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,from 11½% to 13%.*

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

QUESTIONS.—Mr. POLLOCK, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

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?*

His Excellency the Governor replied.

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

With reference to a Reuter's telegram published in the "Daily Press" of the 16th December in which it is stated that "In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law said the question of the desirability of removing alien enemies interned in Hongkong was being considered most carefully, and the Secretary of State was corresponding telegraphically with Hongkong on the subject":

Will the Government, for the information of the Colony, lay upon the table of this Council the telegrams and despatches which have passed to and fro between the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and this Government, or His Excellency the Governor, upon this subject?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 30th day of December, 1915.

F. H. MAY,
Governor.

Read and confirmed this 30th day of December, 1915.

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