

No. 83.

Order made by the Governor in Council under Section 9 of the Post Office Ordinance, 1900, Ordinance No. 6 of 1900, on the 28th day of February, 1918.

It is hereby notified that on and after this date the rate of postage on parcels to Netherlands-India will be \$1.15 for each parcel irrespective of weight up to 11 lb.

No. 84.

Order made by the Governor in Council under Section 9 of the Post Office Ordinance, 1900, Ordinance No. 6 of 1900, on the 28th day of February, 1918.

It is hereby notified that on and after this day parcels may be sent to the under-mentioned Countries on the Continent of Europe, etc., *viâ* Canada, and that the rates of postage payable on such parcels will be as follows:—

Destination.	For a parcel not exceeding		
	3 lb.	7 lb.	11 lb.
France (including Monaco).....	\$1.30	\$2.20	\$3.05
Algeria, Corsica, Portugal, Azores and Madeira.....	1.50	2.40	3.30
Italy, Spain (including Canary Islands)	1.60	2.50	3.40
Balearic Isles	1.75	2.65	3.55

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

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
28th February, 1918.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 85.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 1.

THURSDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1918.

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, C.M.G.).

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

- „ Mr. HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, K.C.
 „ Mr. EDWARD SHELLIM.
 „ Mr. DAVID LANDALE.
 „ Mr. LAU CHÜ-PAK.
 „ Mr. PERCY HOBSON HOLYOAK.
 „ Mr. Ho FOOK.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 27th December, 1917, were confirmed.

STANDING COMMITTEES.—His Excellency the Governor appointed the following Committees for the year 1918 :—

Finance Committee.—All the Members of the Council with the exception of the Governor.

Public Works Committee.—The Director of Public Works (Chairman), the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. SHELLIM, Mr. HOLYOAK, and Mr. Ho FOOK.

Law Committee.—The Attorney General (Chairman), the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, Mr. POLLOCK, Mr. LANDALE, and Mr. LAU CHÜ-PAK.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 1 to 8, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee :—

No. 1.—Kowloon-Canton Railway, Special Expenditure, Survey,	\$ 1,533.00
No. 2.—Charitable Services, Charitable Allowance to Mr. Shin Lok-shang, son of Sin Yan-wai late of the Education Department,.....	300.00
No. 3.—Kowloon-Canton Railway, Other Charges and Special Expenditure,	908.00
No. 4.—Miscellaneous Services, Rent of underground telegraph lines, between Observatory, Post Office, and Cable Office,	810.00
No. 5.—Imports and Exports Department, Secret Service,	1,000.00
No. 6.—Royal Observatory, Special Expenditure, Installation for receiving Time Signals by Wireless Telegraphy,	1,200.00
No. 7.—Public Works, Recurrent, Kowloon, (26) Improvements to Roads and Bridges,	5,500.00
No. 8.—Public Works, Extraordinary, (23) Miscellaneous Works,	15,000.00

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

SCAVENGING AND CONSERVANCY BY-LAWS.—The Colonial Secretary moved the approval of the new By-law made by the Sanitary Board on the 11th day of December, 1917, under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in substitution for By-law No. 1 (2) (b) (i) and (ii) of the Scavenging and Conservancy By-laws.

DISINFECTION OF INFECTED PREMISES BY-LAWS.—The Colonial Secretary moved the approval of the new By-law made by the Sanitary Board on the 13th day of February, 1918, under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in substitution for By-law No. 1 of the Disinfection of Infected Premises By-laws.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY-LAWS.—The Colonial Secretary moved the approval of the new By-law made by the Sanitary Board on the 13th day of February, 1918, under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in substitution for By-law No. 1 of the Notification of Infectious Disease By-laws.

REMOVAL OF PATIENTS BY-LAWS.—The Colonial Secretary moved the approval of the new By-law made by the Sanitary Board on the 13th day of February, 1918, under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in substitution for By-law No. 5 of the Removal of Patients By-laws.

Mr. POLLOCK addressed the Council and seconded.

Mr. HOLYOAK and His Excellency the Governor also addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

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

In view of the steeper portions of the Peak Road being dangerous for pedestrians, when in a slippery condition, will the Government take steps to make such steep portions less dangerous by putting ribbing across the road, or, if not, what other steps does the Government propose to adopt in the matter?

In view of the damage done by typhoon to shipping at and near Cheung Chow Island in August last and in view of the recent damage done by fire there, will the Government state what would approximately be the cost of connecting Cheung Chow with the Island of Hongkong

- (a) by wireless;
- (b) by other means?

1. *Whether the warrant which the Police Officers set forth to execute at No. 6 Gresson Street, on the 22nd January, 1918, was a warrant for the seizure of property stolen by armed robbers, and whether such warrant also covered the seizure of arms and/or ammunition and also whether such warrant was also a warrant for the apprehension of any, and, if so, how many persons and for what offences or suspected offences?*
2. *Whether it is the fact that the Police Officers, executing such Warrant, were unarmed, and, if so, whether there is any Hongkong Police Force Rule or Regulation or instruction upon the subject of search parties of Police going armed? If not will the Government consider the advisability of making a Rule or Regulation enjoining Police, when executing a search warrant, to go armed?*
3. *Is there any, and, if so, what Regulation in force in the Metropolitan Police Force, London, with reference to Police Officers engaged in search parties going armed?*

1. *Is His Excellency the Governor correctly reported as having made the following statements, in the course of his speech at the opening of the Taitam Tuk Reservoir, on the 2nd day of February, 1918:—*

“It will surprise some of you people to know the terrible casualties that are inflicted upon the Civil Service of this Colony by a too free use of alcoholic beverages. I wonder how many, you imagine, of the subordinate staff—concerning whom I have absolute figures—who arrive in this Colony, survive to earn their pensions. I wonder, if I were to ask the cause, what the answer would be: well, I can tell you that I am well within the mark when I say that of every two men who arrive here, whether as Policemen, or as Overseers of works such as these, Sanitary Inspectors, Revenue Officers, and so forth, there is not more than one who lives and remains in the service to earn his pension. I might add that the particular cause of the dismissal, loss of health, and even death, of the moiety that do not earn their pension, is drink.”

If His Excellency is not correctly reported as above, what amendments require to be made in the above report?

2. *In connection with the above statements of His Excellency will the Government lay upon the table of this Council statistics for the last 10 years, showing as regards*
 - (i.) Policemen;
 - (ii.) Overseers of Government works;
 - (iii.) Sanitary Inspectors; and
 - (iv.) Revenue Officers,*how many in each of above branches of the Service respectively have*
 - (a) been dismissed owing to drink;
 - (b) died of drink?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

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

1. *Will the Government state what was the strength of the Fire Brigade in pre-war days?*
2. *What is the present strength of the regular Fire Brigade?*
3. *How many of them are employed on police patrol and other duties?*
4. *In what part of the Colony are they stationed and at what hours are they engaged upon these duties, especially during the night?*
5. *How many regular fire-men now reside in No. 5 Police Station (Central Fire Station) and the Central Police Station?*
6. *Does the Government consider the “Volunteer” Brigade necessary and of practical value?*
7. *If so, will the Government arrange for the exemption of all “Volunteer” fire-brigade men—whether in “Defence Corps” or “Police Reserve”, from all Military or Police duties, except the annual musketry course?*
8. *In the event of a fire in an outlying district, such as Shau-ki-wan, what steps are taken to protect the central districts in case of further call?*

9. Is it not a fact that the Brigade is seriously understaffed and hopelessly handicapped through lack of efficient gear to deal successfully with a fire in such a building as the Hongkong Hotel or one of the European office buildings in Chater Road or other high buildings?
10. What is the utmost extension of the existing ladder escapes and to what height will they reach when fully extended?
11. Is it not a fact that in the fire in Watson's godown and laboratory the escapes were quite inadequate to reach the top story?
12. Is it not a fact that the Central Fire Station still relies on the prehistoric custom of giving an alarm by a handbell, instead of by electric alarm as is installed in other large towns? If the latter were installed would it not lead to a quicker turnout?

1. Will the Government state how many members of the European Regular Police Force have been allowed to go home since the outbreak of War in order to join the Army, and whether any of their names were submitted to the "Military Service Commission"?
2. How do the numbers of such European Regular Police Force now on duty in the Colony compare with the numbers on duty here on the 4th of August, 1914?
3. How many members of the European Police Force were allowed to leave the Colony during the year 1917?
4. Is it not the fact that in the year 1916 as compared with the year 1915 there was an increase of Burglaries and Larcenies amounting to 362 in number and that such increase was to a considerable extent due to the very large influx of undesirables into the Colony owing to disturbances in the neighbouring Chinese Provinces?
5. Has such influx of undesirables into the Colony continued during the year 1917, and if so, to what extent?
6. What steps are taken to examine boats, launches and trains arriving in the Colony, for diseased and undesirable persons, and what measures are adopted to prevent their landing?
7. In view of the serious depletion of the European Regular Police Force, will the Government take such immediate steps as may be possible during the War to increase the "Force"?
8. Of what date and pattern are the revolvers supplied to the Regular Police Force, and are they not inferior to those used by the Naval Yard Police?
9. What revolvers are issued to the Reserve Police Force and have they received any instruction and practice in the use of them?
10. Are the Regular Police given practice in revolver shooting?
11. Has the Government sufficient truncheons at the various stations to arm all the "Reserve Police Force" in case of need?
12. What are the individual amounts of the pensions which the widows and dependents of those murdered in the late "Gresson Street Raid" are entitled to receive from the Government?
13. Will the Government consider the advisability of immediately making a substantial money grant to supplement various local funds being raised to assist them?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

MALAY STATES EXTRADITION ORDINANCE REPEAL BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to repeal the Malay States Extradition Ordinance, 1903.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

INDECENT EXHIBITIONS BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to prohibit exhibitions, publications, and advertisements of an indecent, obscene, revolting, or offensive nature.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

JURORS LIST FOR 1918.—The Council went into Committee to consider the Jurors List *in camera*.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

F. H. MAY,
Governor.

Confirmed this 28th day of February, 1918.

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