

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 307.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 6.

MONDAY, 10TH JUNE, 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, C.B.E.).

,, 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. 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 adjournment.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 6th June, 1918, were confirmed.

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

Report of the Superintendent of Imports and Exports for the year 1917.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 4), dated the 6th June, 1918, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

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

1. Will men, who are eligible for service under the General Military Service Ordinance, and who are either
 - (a) Members of the Belchers 6-inch section who have been through special training there and have passed in gunnery tests: or
 - (b) men of the Engineer Section who have passed in the required tests, be given the opportunity of proceeding to England and of there joining up with some unit in which their training here will be of use to them and to the Empire?
2. Will men who joined any of the various branches of the Volunteer Forces of this Colony either before the War or within 3 months after its commencement, and have not been home for over 5 years, be given the option of proceeding to England to join up?
3. As regards Government Civil Servants,
 - (i) Will not those Civil Servants who have left for home, under the express undertaking of the Government of this Colony to the effect that their Military pay shall be made up to their full Civil pay, be given the benefit of that undertaking and not be compelled to come in, against their will and contrary to the said undertaking, under the new scheme for separation allowances, insurance, etc.?
 - (ii) Will all Civil Servants who have gone home to fight, other than those falling under the above head (i), and, if not, what classes of such Civil Servants, be allowed to enjoy the privileges under the said new scheme?

(iii) Will the Government, in the case of those who have left, or may leave, the Colony on War Service, take steps for the purpose of insuring that their rights under the Widows and Orphans Pension Ordinances or regulations are not lost or prejudiced by any omission to keep up the periodical payments to the Fund?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE BILL.—The Attorney General moved that the Committee stage on the Bill intituled An Ordinance to provide for the raising of a force the members of which shall be liable to service with His Majesty's Forces outside the Colony during the present war, be resumed.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

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

Sections 2 and 11 were re-committed, the definition of "Competent Military Authority" in section 2 was deleted, and the following section was substituted for section 11:—

- 11.—(1) The said force shall be called the General Military Service Force of Hongkong.
- (2) All the provisions of the Army Act, and of all orders and regulations for the time being in force thereunder, and of all other Acts for the time being amending the Army Act, shall apply to the General Military Service Force of Hongkong, and to all persons belonging to the force, whether within or without the limits of the Colony, and whether such persons shall have been transferred or attached to some other corps or not.
- (3) For the purposes of the Army Act, and of the said orders and regulations, and of any Acts amending the Army Act, and of this Ordinance, every person belonging to the force shall be deemed to have been duly enlisted in His Majesty's regular forces for general service with the colours for the period of the war.

In section 4, the words " , which shall contain a substantial commercial majority" were inserted after the word "Tribunal" in sub-section (1), and the words " , but the substantial commercial majority shall always be maintained" were inserted after the word "permanently" in the fifth line of sub-section (2).

Section 6.—Mr. HOLYOAK moved, and Mr. LANDALE seconded, that section 6 be re-committed and that the words "and of British trade in the Far East" be inserted after the word "Colony" in sub-section (4) (a).

A discussion then ensued, and on the amendment being put to the vote it was declared lost, seven members voting against and six—Mr. POLLOCK, Mr. SHELLIM, Mr. LANDALE, Mr. LAU CHÜ-PAK, Mr. HOLYOAK, and Mr. Ho Fook—for the amendment.

On the motion of the Attorney General the following further amendment was agreed to:—

Section 16 was deleted and the following section was substituted therefor:—

- 16.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint three persons, two of whom shall be commercial men, to act as assessors upon appeals to the Governor in Council under the provisions of this Ordinance.
- (2) Every such assessor shall during his tenure of office as such assessor be entitled to be present at all proceedings whatsoever in any such appeal.

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.

Mr. HOLYOAK and Mr. POLLOCK asked for a division, and on the question being put to the vote eight members voted for the third reading and five—Mr. POLLOCK, Mr. SHELLIM, Mr. LANDALE, Mr. HOLYOAK, and Mr. Ho Fook—against.

Bill read a third time and passed.

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

F. H. MAY,
Governor.

Confirmed this 15th day of August, 1918.

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