

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

No. 592.

Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 23 of the Water Works Ordinance, 1903, Ordinance No. 16 of 1903, on the 9th day of December, 1920.

The Regulations made by the Governor in Council on the 29th day of September, 1903, and published on pages 914 to 931 both inclusive of the Regulations of Hongkong, 1914, are hereby amended as follows:—

1. The words "local market rates" are substituted for the words "list of prices in Schedule 2" in the third line of Regulation 12.
2. Schedule 2 is cancelled.

No. 593.

Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 2 of the Plants Ordinance, 1920, Ordinance No. 11 of 1920, on the 9th day of December, 1920.

Azaleas.

1. Subject to Regulation No. 2 of these regulations no person shall without lawful excuse sell, offer for sale, or have in his possession or under his custody or control any portion of any azalea (杜鵑) whatsoever.

2. Regulation No. 1 of these regulations shall not apply to the following:—

- (a.) Whole plants which were grown outside the Colony and which were imported into the Colony as whole plants.
- (b.) Portions of azaleas which were grown in private gardens and which were picked with the consent of the owner or occupier of such gardens.

3. In any prosecution under these regulations the onus shall be upon the defendant of bringing himself within the exceptions of Regulation No. 2 of these regulations, or of proving lawful excuse, as the case may be.

S. B. B. McELDERRY,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
9th December, 1920.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 594.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 8.

THURSDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 1920.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
(Sir REGINALD EDWARD STUBBS, K.C.M.G.).

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

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (ARTHUR GEORGE MURCHISON FLETCHER, C.B.E.).
 „ the Attorney General, (JOSEPH HORSFORD KEMP, K.C., C.B.E.).
 „ the Colonial Treasurer, (DAVID WILLIAM TRATMAN).
 „ the Director of Public Works, (WILLIAM CHATHAM, C.M.G.).
 „ the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (EDWIN RICHARD HALLIFAX, O.B.E.).
 „ the Director of Education, (EDWARD ALEXANDER IRVING).
 „ Mr. HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, K.C.
 „ Mr. LAU CHÜ-PAK.
 „ Mr. PERCY HOBSON HOLYOAK.
 „ Mr. Ho Fook.
 „ Mr. EDWARD VICTOR DAVID PARR.

ABSENT:

„ Mr. JOHN JOHNSTONE.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th October, 1920, were confirmed.

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

Return of Excesses on Sub-Heads met by Savings under Heads of Expenditure for the 3rd Quarter, 1920.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 104 to 108, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

No. 104.—Education Department, Capitation Grants,	\$ 7,640.00
No. 105.—Public Works, Recurrent, Hongkong, (17) Typhoon and Rainstorm Damages,	35,000.00
No. 106.—Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, (16) Roads, (k) Shaukiwan,—Widening existing road between North Point and Quarry Point,...	20,000.00
No. 107.—Public Works, Recurrent, Hongkong, (16) Dredging Foreshores,	1,500.00
No. 108.—Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, (16) Roads, (e) Lugard Road Extensions,	5,000.00

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. 7), dated the 28th October, 1920, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

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

1. In view of the fact that the Government have been able in 1920 to issue Financial returns monthly, instead of at times with more than one month's Receipts and Payments grouped together, will they give the usual total receipts for January, February and March, 1919, also those of December, 1919, which have not been published, in order that some comparison can be obtained with the 1920 figures?
2. As the publication of the monthly Cash Account some three to four months later detracts considerably from its value, and in view of the fact that the Imperial Government is able to issue its Statement within a month after date, cannot some improvement be instituted (possibly by standardising the items and obtaining Crown Agents London figures by telegraph for incorporation) whereby the publication can be made within the month following?
3. Whereas the Monthly Financial Return merely gives the Receipts and Payments in one item respectively, which is the minimum of information which can be produced, and as the Government doubtlessly keep its Accounts in the form of the "Financial Returns for the year", cannot a Monthly Account be published to enable the Officials and public to follow the Returns intelligently on such lines as follows, e.g.:—

Items of Receipts and Payments under their separate standardised heads in columns reading

1. *Estimated Receipts 1920.*
2. *Receipts to date.*
3. *Receipts to same date previous year.*
4. *Receipts for same month previous year.*
5. *Receipts for Current month, with similar information on the other side respecting payments closing with the balances brought forward and carried forward to complete the account?*
4. *With regard to public moneys authorized to be lent at a low rate of interest in order to further the building of additional housing accommodation, will the Government cause a statement to be published annually in the Blue Book, giving particulars of the amount advanced by the Government, interest charged, accommodation to be provided, approximate rentals and security given for due fulfilment of contract and also terms of repayment and the names of the borrowers?*
5. *Having regard to the fact that owner occupiers are undoubtedly a great asset in any community, will the Government set aside a sum of 300,000 dollars out of Revenue for the purpose of making advances at a low rate of interest to persons who are desirous of building inexpensive houses for their own occupation?*
6. *Having regard to the popularity of the Bathing Beaches at North Point and Kennedy Town and to the fact that those areas are in danger of being required for various purposes in the near future, will the Government, before selling these public and accessible bathing grounds, arrange for the cheap transportation of intending bathers to the North Shore of Stonecutters' Island or some other convenient place for bathing?*
7. *If the Kowloon-Canton Railway (British Section) is in time to be linked up with the trunk lines of China and when such takes place, questions of rates and allowances are likely to be complicated ones based on both cost of construction, maintenance and running costs, and whereas all the Railways in China are and have been for sometime worked under a very efficient and standardised form of Accounts, will the Government take immediate steps to place the Colony's Railway Accounts on a similar basis so that our officials may be in a position to discuss questions of rates on a common basis?*
8. *Is the Colony's interest on investments in British War Loan and Colonial Government Stocks received free of Income Tax? If not, why not?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL FOR 1919.—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Four million and twenty-six thousand three hundred and thirty-six Dollars and eleven Cents to defray the Charges of the year 1919.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Colonial Secretary then moved that the Bill be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and this was agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL FOR 1921.—The Colonial Secretary moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Fourteen million and eighty-four thousand six hundred and sixty-two Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1921.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Mr. POLLOCK, Mr. LAU CHÜ-PAK, Mr. HOLYOAK, Mr. PARR, the Colonial Secretary, the Director of Public Works, and His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

On Council resuming, the Colonial Secretary reported that the Bill had passed through Committee without amendment and moved that it be read a third time.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PLANTS BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to provide for the protection of trees, shrubs and other plants.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

On Council resuming, the Attorney General reported that the Bill had passed through Committee without amendment 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.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1897.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

On Council resuming, the Attorney General reported that the Bill had passed through Committee without amendment 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.

CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to restrain certain acts of intimidation.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

On Council resuming, the Attorney General reported that the Bill had passed through Committee without amendment 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 Noon on Thursday, the 2nd day of December, 1920.

R. E. STUBBS,
Governor.

Confirmed this 9th day of December, 1920.

S. B. B. McELDERRY,
Clerk of Councils.