

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 79.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 2.

THURSDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1921.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR REGINALD EDWARD STUBBS, K.C.M.G.).

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General Sir GEORGE MACAULAY KIRKPATRICK, K.C.B., K.C.S.I.).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (CLAUD SEVERN, C.M.G.).

,, the Attorney General, (JOSEPH HORSFORD KEMP, K.C., C.B.E.).

,, the Colonial Treasurer, (CHARLES MCILVAINE MESSER, O.B.E.).

,, the Director of Public Works, (THOMAS LUFF PERKINS).

,, the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (STEWART BUCKLE CARNE ROSS).

,, 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. JOHN JOHNSTONE.

,, Mr. EDWARD VICTOR DAVID PARR.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th January, 1921, were confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 1 to 7, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

No. 1.—Kowloon-Canton Railway, Special Expenditure, Repairs to Railway Embankment,	\$ 3,625.00
No. 2.—Imports and Exports Department, Secret Service,..	2,000.00
No. 3.—Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, Roads, —Road contouring Mount Gough and forming sites for Quarters,	8,474.00
No. 4.—Kowloon-Canton Railway, Special Expenditure, Typhoon and Rainstorm Damages,	3,000.00
No. 5.—Kowloon-Canton Railway, Special Expenditure, Expenses in connection with motor car drivers,	750.00

No. 6.—Kowloon-Canton Railway, Special Expenditure, Additional Hydrants and Main for Kowloon Station,	\$ 1,200.00
No. 7.—Kowloon-Canton Railway, Special Expenditure, Locomotives,	14,800.00

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

JURORS LIST FOR 1921.—The Council went into Committee to consider the Jurors List for 1921 *in camera*.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS.—Mr. HOLYOAK gave notice that he will ask the following questions at the next meeting of the Council:—

1. Will the Government state when they hope to open the separate Maternity Ward of the Barker Road Hospital?
2. Have the recommendations of the Coroner's jury on the "Tai O" tragedy been carried out as regards two European Policemen being stationed at out-stations?
3. Will the Government, in view of the recent tragedy at West Point, wherein several persons lost their lives and many were injured, take steps at once to prohibit the sale of all so-called "Bombs" in this Colony, and further to enforce existing legislation against the throwing of crackers, stones or other missiles from verandahs of houses and buildings into the roadway?
4. In view of the general and considerable increase in motor traffic in this Colony, and the probability that it will still further increase ere long, will the Government appoint a small Committee to enquire into and revise traffic conditions and regulations?
5. In view of the fact that the Chamber of Commerce has recently received many complaints concerning the efficiency of the Fire Brigade service, more particularly afloat, and that there is a general feeling that it is not properly equipped for dealing with a serious harbour conflagration, will the Government at once appoint a Commission or Committee of enquiry into the gear and administration of the Fire Brigade?

Mr. HOLYOAK withdrew question No. 5 on His Excellency the Governor addressing the Council on the subject.

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

1. In view of the pressing need of room for further office accommodation in this Colony, will the Government approach the Military Authorities with a view to the Murray Parade Ground being handed over to the Government at an early date?
2. For the convenience of those who desire to build houses for their own occupation, will the Government state the terms and conditions upon which it is prepared to grant loans for the building of such houses?
3. Will the Government give a list of the various houses and flats which are being built with loans advanced by the Government and the dates of such respective loans and the estimated respective dates of completion of such houses and flats?
4. Will the Government consider the advisability of a Mental Ward for the care of the Insane being established in connection with the proposed New Hospital at Kowloon, so that those who are mentally afflicted may not be confined in the cramped and depressing quarters which are comprised in the present Lunatic Asylum?
5. What progress is being made by the Economic Resources Commission and how soon may some report from that Commission be expected?
6. Will the Government appoint a small Committee of experts for the purpose of considering the feasibility of extending the system of Water Closets in this Colony by the pumping up of sea-water from the Harbour and by the provision of a kind of pipe which will not be corroded by sea-water?
7. Will the Government introduce a Bill to amend section 26A of the Offences against the Person Ordinance, 1865, (which was introduced by Ordinance 9 of 1913) by inserting the words "medical aid" after "clothing" in the clause defining neglect of children and young persons, in order to bring the law of the Colony in this particular respect into line with the law of England, i.e., s. 12 (1) of the Children's Act, 1908?
8. In view of the fact that, in 1917 and 1918, many months of repeated representations by the Government and the Naval and Military Authorities and the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce and the China Association were required in order to obtain Exchange Com-

compensation for the Officers and Men of the Services, will the Government now co-operate with the local Naval Authorities in protesting against the recent proposal of the Home Authorities to impose Income Tax upon the Exchange Compensation granted to those who are serving under the Admiralty on this Station?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

LIGHT DUES.—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the following Resolution:—

Whereas it is expected that the total Revenue derived from Light Dues (Special Assessment) since the introduction of the rates at present in force will exceed in the current year the sum of \$1,104,293, being half the cost of the Typhoon Refuge at Mongkoktsui:

And whereas an undertaking was given that this Special Assessment would not be continued after the above mentioned sum had been raised unless a new Resolution should first be proposed to the Legislative Council:

And whereas, in view of the financial requirements of the Colony, it is expedient to continue the collection of Light Dues at the present rates:

It is hereby resolved by this Council that Light Dues shall continue to be collected at the rates laid down in Table P of the Schedule to the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, No. 10 of 1899.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Mr. HOLYOAK addressed the Council and moved that the Resolution be discussed at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded.

His Excellency the Governor agreed to postpone the Resolution to the next meeting.

VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Vehicles and Traffic Regulation Ordinance, 1912.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance, 1908.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

HOLTS WHARF BILL.—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to authorise the making of by-laws in respect of Holts Wharf.

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 Thursday, the 3rd day of March, 1921.

R. E. STUBBS,
Governor.

Confirmed this 3rd day of March, 1921.

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

No. 80.

Resolution passed by the Legislative Council on the 3rd day of March, 1921.

Whereas it is expected that the total Revenue derived from Light Dues (Special Assessment) since the introduction of the rates at present in force will exceed in the current year the sum of \$1,104,293, being half the cost of the Typhoon Refuge at Mongkoktsui :

And whereas an undertaking was given that this Special Assessment would not be continued after the above mentioned sum had been raised unless a new Resolution should first be proposed to the Legislative Council :

And whereas, in view of the financial requirements of the Colony, it is expedient to continue the collection of Light Dues at the present rates :

It is hereby resolved by this Council that Light Dues shall continue to be collected during the present year at the rates laid down in Table P of the Schedule to the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, No. 10 of 1899.

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

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
3rd March, 1921.

No. 81.—His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the KING, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council :—

Ordinance No. 4 of 1921.—An Ordinance to amend the Vehicles and Traffic Regulation Ordinance, 1912.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1921.—An Ordinance to amend the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance, 1908.