

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 143.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No 3.

THURSDAY, 3RD MARCH, 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 Education, (EDWARD ALEXANDER IRVING).

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

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

„ 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 adjournment.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th February, 1921, were confirmed.

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

Jurors List for 1921.

Return of Excesses on Sub-Heads met by Savings under Heads of Expenditure
for the 4th Quarter, 1920.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes
Nos. 8 and 9, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

No. 8.—Public Works Recurrent, New Territories, (47)
Water Account, (Meters, &c.), \$400.00

No. 9.—Public Works Extraordinary, Kowloon:—

Buildings:—

Tsimshatsui Police Station Exten-
sion, \$ 116.85

King's Park Quarters, Installing
Water Closets, ... 294.24

————— 411.09

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. 1), dated the 17th February, 1921, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

LIGHT DUES.—The following Resolution which was moved by the Colonial Secretary and seconded by the Colonial Treasurer at the last meeting of the Council was then considered:—

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.

Mr. HOLYOAK, Mr. JOHNSTONE, Mr. PARR, Mr. POLLOCK, and His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council.

After some discussion His Excellency the Governor put the Resolution to the meeting with the words “during the present year” inserted after the word “collected” in the second last line, and the Resolution was unanimously carried.

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

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 “Fai 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?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

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

1. *Will the Government include in the Hongkong Hansard all Legislative Council Questions which have been answered in the Government Gazette, together with the Answers to such Questions?*
2. *Will the Government include in the Census which is being compiled this year, a Census of Chinese who have been bought—*
 - (a) *for purposes of adoption;*
 - (b) *for domestic service?*
3. *When will work be commenced on the Kowloon hospital site? What steps are being taken to expedite the building of such hospital?*
4. *Is it the fact that, without alteration to the passing points, Cars can be put on the Peak Tramway to hold 60 passengers each instead of 40? If so, will the Government, in view of many people being frequently crowded out of the Cars, urge the Peak Tramway Company to put on such larger Cars at an early date?*
5. *Will the Government lay upon the table the correspondence between*
 - (i) *His Excellency the Governor; and*
 - (ii) *The Hongkong Government*

and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon the subject of Constitutional Reform, since the Public Meeting in January, 1919, at which Resolutions were passed in favour of

- (i) An Unofficial majority on the Legislative Council;
(ii) The abolition of Government nomination in regard to all the non-Chinese members of that Council; and
(iii) Enlarging the body of electors?

The Colonial Secretary replied.

VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION BILL.—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the 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 second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

On the motion of the Attorney General it was agreed that in the new paragraph (9) in section 3 the word “public” be inserted before the words “motor vehicles” in the second line and the words “amendment or” inserted before the word “cancellation” in the seventh line.

On Council resuming, the Attorney General reported that the Bill had passed through Committee with two amendments 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.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION BILL.—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the 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 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 *sine die*.

R. E. STUBBS,
Governor.

Confirmed this 7th day of April, 1921.

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