

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 531.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 7.

Thursday, 1st September, 1927, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
(Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, K.C.M.G.).

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General CHARLES CAMAC LUARD, C.B., C.M.G.).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILFRID THOMAS SOUTHORN, C.M.G.).  
„ the Attorney General, (Sir JOSEPH HORSFORD KEMP, Kt., K.C., C.B.E.).  
„ the Colonial Treasurer, (CHARLES McILVAINE MESSER, O.B.E.).  
„ Mr. EDWIN RICHARD HALIFAX, C.M.G., C.B.E., (Secretary for Chinese Affairs).  
„ Mr. HENRY THOMAS JACKMAN, (Acting Director of Public Works).  
„ Sir SHOUSON CHOW, Kt.  
„ Mr. ROBERT HORMUS KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D.  
„ Mr. DALLAS GERALD MERCER BERNARD.  
„ Mr. ARTHUR CECIL HYNES.  
„ Mr. JOHN OWEN HUGHES.  
„ Mr. WILLIAM EDWARD LEONARD SHENTON.  
„ Mr. ERIC WILLIAM HAMILTON, (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

ABSENT :

The Honourable Mr. EDWARD DUDLEY CORSCADEN WOLFE, (Captain Superintendent of Police).

1. The Council met pursuant to adjournment. His Excellency the Governor occupied the Chair.

MINUTES.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th July, 1927, were confirmed.

PAPERS.

3. The following papers were laid on the table :—

Administration Reports, 1926 :—

Part II.—Law and Order :—

Report of the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Report of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

Report by the Chief Officer, Hong Kong Fire Brigade.

Part III.—Public Health :—

Report on the Medical Department.

Report on the Botanical and Forestry Department.

Part VII.—Undertakings of Government :—

Report on the Kowloon-Canton Railway (British Section).

Sessional Papers, 1927 :—

No. 4.—Financial and other statistics showing the Development of Hong Kong during the thirty years 1897-1926.

No. 5.—Recommendations by the Harbour Master as regards staff establishment and salaries for the Government Marine Surveyor's Department.

No. 6.—Abstract showing the differences between the approved Estimates of Expenditure for 1927 and the Estimates of Expenditure for 1928.

No. 7.—Bias Bay Piracies.

Order made by the Governor in Council under section 9 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, on 5th July, 1927.

Lithuania (Extradition) Order in Council, 1927.

Crown Titles.

Rescission of the Order made by the Governor in Council under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, on 27th July, 1927.

Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, on 4th August, 1927.

Rules made by the Governor in Council under section 23 of the Estate Duty Ordinance, 1915, on 30th August, 1927.

Forms prescribed by the Governor in Council under section 23 of the Estate Duty Ordinance, 1915, on 9th August, 1927.

Regulation made by the Captain Superintendent of Police under section 19 of The Police Force Ordinance, 1900, and approved by the Governor in Council on 10th August, 1927.

Albania (Extradition) Order in Council, 1927.

Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, on 15th August, 1927.

Order made by the Governor in Council under section 12 of the Rope Company's Tramway Ordinance, 1901, on 16th August, 1927.

Rescission of the Order made by the Governor in Council under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, on 22nd August, 1927.

Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 3 of the Licensing Ordinance, 1887, on 25th August, 1927.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

4. The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Reports of the Finance Committee (Nos. 8 and 9), dated 25th July, 1927, and 18th August, 1927, respectively, and moved their adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

5. The Hon. Mr. D. G. M. BERNARD gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would ask :—

- (1) What experience is considered necessary before Police Officers are entrusted with the shooting of dogs, and
- (2) What weapons are used.

## QUESTIONS.

6. The Hon. Mr. D. G. M. BERNARD, pursuant to notice, asked :—

Will the Government cause an enquiry to be held into

- (a) the circumstances connected with the shooting of dogs at Jardine's Corner, Peak, on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, the 23rd and 24th July, having due regard to the people using the roads and the necessity or otherwise of such drastic action ;
- (b) the method of enforcing the muzzling regulations and make recommendations for the future ?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows :—

- (a) The Government has caused full enquiries to be made into the occurrences referred to in the first part of the Honourable Member's question. The shooting near Jardine's Corner was carried out by experienced Police Officers as the result of a complaint from a Peak resident of the danger to children from the presence of so many unmuzzled dogs in that neighbourhood, and the Government much regrets that by an error of judgment the shooting took place in the presence of children and that one child received a slight scratch apparently from a ricochet or a piece of stone. Orders have been issued that every possible care is to be taken to avoid the shooting of dogs in the presence of children, but it is obvious that the presence of spectators cannot always be avoided. The Government much regrets the necessity for undertaking the unpleasant duty of shooting dogs, but this necessity is forced upon it by the wholesale disregard of the law by dog-owners in this Colony. Among these law-breakers are to be numbered many Peak residents. It must be within the knowledge of all Honourable Members that, even since the occurrence referred to, dog-owners on the Peak and elsewhere still permit their dogs to roam about unmuzzled. As to the necessity for drastic action on the Peak as well as elsewhere it does not seem necessary to add anything to the bare statement of the fact that no less than 20 dogs from the Peak have been reported to the Police as having bitten people since the 1st January, 1926, that there were 184 reported cases of persons being bitten by dogs in Hong Kong Island since that date, 11 reported cases of rabies and 11 reported cases of hydrophobia. The risk of the terrible disease of hydrophobia arising from the presence of unmuzzled dogs in a Colony infected with rabies appears to be quite inadequately appreciated.
- (b) With regard to the second part of the Honourable Member's question the Muzzling Regulations will be enforced by prosecution of owners, capture of dogs when this is practicable and can be effected without undue risk of danger to the Public Servants employed, and by shooting. As regards the future, the Government is determined that dog-owners shall not, by their disregard of the law, imperil the lives of others and proposes, after this public warning, to give orders for the most rigorous enforcement of the law with a view to the extermination here, as in other law-abiding countries, of the scourge of rabies and the danger of hydrophobia.

## MOTIONS.

7. *Asylums Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Asylums Ordinance, 1906.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

8. *Prohibited Areas (Afforestation) Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to enable certain areas to be declared prohibited areas with a view to the protection of afforestation operations.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

9. REVIEW OF THE PAST THIRTY YEARS.—His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council and reviewed the Colony's financial history for the past thirty years.

10. *Appropriation Bill for 1928.*—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Seventeen million four hundred and fifty thousand one hundred and three Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1928.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

11. *Public Works Loan Bill.*—The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to make provision for a loan of five million dollars for the carrying out of certain public works.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

12. The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 15th day of September, 1927.

C. CLEMENTI,  
*Governor.*

Confirmed this 15th day of September, 1927.

E. W. HAMILTON,  
*Deputy Clerk of Councils.*

No. 532.—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. 11 of 1927.—An Ordinance to amend the Asylums Ordinance, 1906.

Ordinance No. 12 of 1927.—An Ordinance to enable certain areas to be declared prohibited areas with a view to the protection of afforestation operations.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1927.—An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Seventeen million four hundred and fifty thousand one hundred and three Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1928.

Ordinance No. 14 of 1927.—An Ordinance to make provision for a loan of five million dollars for the carrying out of certain public works.