

No. 533.

Hong Kong.

*The Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10
of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations.*

It is hereby declared by order of His Excellency the
Governor in Council that Dairen is a place at which an
infectious or contagious disease, namely, cholera, prevails.

D. W. TRATMAN,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
18th August, 1932.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 534.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. II.

Thursday, 4th August, 1932, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT
(Hon. Mr. WILFRID THOMAS SOUTHORN, C.M.G.).

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General JAMES
WALTER SANDILANDS, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (Mr. EDWIN RICHARD HALLIFAX, C.M.G., C.B.E.).
„ the Attorney General, (Mr. CHALONER GRENVILLE ALABASTER, K.C.,
O.B.E.).

„ the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (Mr. ALAN EUSTACE WOOD).

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (Mr. EDWIN TAYLOR).

„ Commander GEORGE FRANCIS HOLE, R.N. (Retired), (Harbour Master).

„ Dr. ARTHUR ROBERTES WELLINGTON, (Director of Medical and Sanitary
Services).

„ Mr. THOMAS HENRY KING, (Acting Inspector General of Police).

„ Mr. RICHARD McNEIL HENDERSON, (Acting Director of Public Works).

„ Sir HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, Kt., K.C.

„ Mr. WILLIAM EDWARD LEONARD SHENTON.

„ Mr. ROBERT HORMUS KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D.

„ Mr. JOSÉ PEDRO BRAGA.

„ Mr. TS'Ō SEEN-WAN, O.B.E., LL.D.

„ Mr. JOHN JOHNSTONE PATERSON.

„ Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN.

„ Mr. WILLIAM HENRY BELL.

„ Mr. HENRY ROBERT BUTTERS, (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

1. The Council met pursuant to adjournment. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government occupied the Chair.

MINUTES.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th June, 1932, were confirmed.

OATH.

3. The Hon. Mr. RICHARD McNEIL HENDERSON, (Acting Director of Public Works) took the Oath of Allegiance and his seat as a Member of the Council.

PAPERS.

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

Notification under section 3 of the Marriage Ordinance, 1875.

Amendment under section 6 of the Vaccination Ordinance, 1923, of the forms set out in the Second Schedule to the Ordinance.

Resolution passed by the Legislative Council under section 39 of the Liquors Ordinance, 1931, Ordinance No. 36 of 1931, dated 30th June, 1931.

Additional regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 37 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, dated 30th June, 1932.

Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, dated 5th July, 1932.

Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, dated 6th July, 1932.

Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, dated 7th July, 1932.

Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 2 of the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, 1922, Ordinance No. 5 of 1922, dated 7th July, 1932.

Amendments made by the Governor in Council under section 18 of the Prisons Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 4 of 1899, dated 10th July, 1932.

Notification under section 3 of the Marriage Ordinance, 1875.

Rescission and substitution of regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 5 of the Ferries Ordinance, 1917, Ordinance No. 28 of 1917, dated 15th July, 1932.

Approval and appointment to be a warehouse under section 52 of the Liquors Ordinance, 1931, Ordinance No. 36 of 1931, dated 15th July, 1932.

Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 88 of the Liquors Ordinance, 1931, Ordinance No. 36 of 1931, dated 15th July, 1932.

Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, dated 18th July, 1932.

Addition to regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 3 of the Post Office Ordinance, 1926, Ordinance No. 7 of 1926, dated 20th July, 1932.

Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 3 of the Importation and Exportation Ordinance, 1915, Ordinance No. 32 of 1915, dated 20th July, 1932.

Addition to regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 2 of the Advertisements Regulation Ordinance, 1912, Ordinance No. 19 of 1912, dated 28th July, 1932.

Amendments to the Air Navigation Directions (Hong Kong), 1932.

Administration Reports, 1931 :—

Part I.—General Administration :—

Report of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

Part VI.—Public Works :—

Report of the Director of Public Works.

Sessional Papers, 1932 :—

No. 4.—Colony's Water Supply. Efforts to check waste. Universal Meterage: Rider Mains.

QUESTIONS.

5. The Hon. Mr. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D., pursuant to notice, asked the following question :—

With reference to the questions which I put in this Council on the 19th May, 1932, and the Hon. Colonial Secretary's reply thereto, and in view of the water situation having greatly improved since that date, will the Government state whether it is prepared immediately to re-introduce a direct supply of water to the unmetered houses in the rider-main districts for, say, 8 hours a day with, if necessary, a corresponding decrease in the hours of supply to the metered houses and the street-fountains, so as to permit of a fairer distribution among all classes of the population, and to reduce the risk of a spread of cholera-infection through contamination of water-receptacles exposed in the streets, and through water being drawn from possibly contaminated sources such as nullahs and streams.

The Hon. Mr. RICHARD McNEIL HENDERSON, (Acting Director of Public Works) replied :—

The Government sees no reason to grant a special concession to rider main areas at the expense of metered areas, when it is prepared to grant meters as quickly as the work can be carried out to all householders who apply for them. The Water position has recently improved to such an extent that it has become possible to open some of the rider main areas without detriment to the metered areas, and this has now been done. There remain certain rider main areas in which it has not been possible to reintroduce the old rider main system. This matter forms the subject of a motion to be introduced by the Colonial Secretary this afternoon.

6. The Hon. Mr. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D., pursuant to notice, asked the following questions :—

In view of the Government's intention to introduce universal meterage as soon as possible, will the Government state :—

- (i) Whether it will lay on the table at an early date a statement giving a history of the rider-main system.
- (ii) What is the number of meters applied for but not yet installed in (a) rider-main districts and (b) other districts; and when will they be installed.
- (iii) Whether there is an adequate supply of meters in the Colony to meet all demands for meters to be installed in the rider-main districts and other districts.
- (iv) How long will it take to have meters installed in all the unmetered houses in the rider-main districts due regard being given to the possibility of installing a meter on each floor of every tenement-house.

The Hon. Mr. RICHARD McNEIL HENDERSON, (Acting Director of Public Works) replied :—

- (i) This statement has been laid on the table to-day.
- (ii)—(a) 2,100.
(b) Including Kowloon 400.

- (c) It is hoped that under the system by which the Government proposes to supersede rider mains all existing applications will have been dealt with by the end of November.
- (iii) There are approximately 9,000 houses in the rider main districts of which 5,600 are without meters. There are 600 meters in stock in the Colony and further supplies totalling 3,650 are due by the end of October in fortnightly consignments from now on: more meters will be ordered as required. These meters will be installed in accordance with the Government scheme for the abolition of rider mains which will be explained in connexion with the Resolution for the abolition of the rider main system.
- (iv) This will depend on the rate of application and the number of applicants. The outstanding number of houses is 5,600 and 2,100 applications for meters have been received. To give separate meters to each floor of a tenement house throughout the Colony would involve the fixing of additional meters to an estimated number of from 40,000, to 50,000. This is a work which the Colony cannot undertake at present and very careful consideration of many factors (apart from the heavy capital expense) will be necessary before it is possible for the Government to pledge itself in this matter.

There is however no objection to individual owners installing separate meters of their own to determine the distribution of the supply passing through the main Government meter of the house.

7. The Hon. Mr. W. E. L. SHENTON, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

1. Will Government inform this Council of Government's policy in reference to an air mail service
 - (a) Between Hong Kong and French Indo-China,
 - (b) Between Hong Kong and Canton, and
 - (c) Between Hong Kong and Shanghai?
2. Has Government ascertained whether the French Government and Chinese Government are prepared to co-operate in such enterprises, and if so on what terms?
3. Is Government prepared to financially assist private enterprise in any or all of the above air lines?

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary replied:—

1. While the Government is not prepared to institute Air Mail services, it remains ready to accord sympathetic consideration to any practical proposals that may be put forward. In the absence of concrete proposals, the policy cannot be more closely defined.
2. The French authorities propose to carry out experimental flights between Hanoi and Hong Kong and it is possible that proposals will be put forward in the light of the results obtained.
No information is available regarding the attitude of the Chinese Government.
3. No undertaking can be given but the sympathetic consideration referred to in the first paragraph of this reply contemplates the grant of financial assistance if an application meets with approval.

8. The Hon. Sir HENRY E. POLLOCK, Kt., K.C., pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

1. Has the Government got any Estimate of the cost of making a motor-road from May Road to Magazine Gap? If so, what is the amount of such Estimate?

2. In the event of such a road being made, what would (approximately) be the saving of distance, as compared with the Stubbs Road route, in travelling by motor-car to Magazine Gap from

- (i) The General Post Office ;
- (ii) The May Road Tram Station ?

The Hon. Mr. RICHARD McNEIL HENDERSON, (Acting Director of Public Works) replied :—

- 1. \$75,000.
- 2.—(i) 2.4 miles.
- (ii) 4.8 miles.

MOTIONS.

9. The Attorney General moved :—

That the amendment to By-laws made by the Sanitary Board under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, on the 5th day of July, 1932, relating to Prevention of mitigation of epidemic, endemic, contagious or infectious disease, be approved.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

10. The Colonial Secretary moved :—

That with reference to the Colonial Secretary's motion passed on the 10th December, 1931, this Council approves of the additional expenditure of \$15,000 on the filters in connection with the Shing Mun Valley Water Supply Scheme, during the financial year 1932, which sum shall be met from a future loan and shall meanwhile be charged as an advance from the surplus balances of the Colony.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

11. The Colonial Secretary moved :—

- (a) That this Council approves the construction of the works connected with the Shing Mun Valley Water Supply Scheme, 2nd Section, at an estimated cost of \$9,200,000.
- (b) That this Council authorizes the sum of \$75,000 out of the said sum of \$9,200,000 to be charged to a future loan and sanctions an advance of this sum of \$75,000 during the financial year 1932 from the surplus balances of the Colony.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

The Hon. Sir HENRY E. POLLOCK, Kt., K.C., the Hon. Mr. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D., and the Colonial Secretary addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

12. The Colonial Secretary moved :—

That in the opinion of this Council the time has come for the Colony to abandon the principle of the rider main system, substituting therefor the principle of compulsory meterage to all house supplies to which the alternative shall be a free supply from street fountains.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

The Hon. Sir HENRY E. POLLOCK, Kt., K.C., asked that this question be adjourned until the next meeting of this Council and that such adjournment be for a fortnight.

Motion deferred till next meeting of Council.

13. *Supplementary Appropriation Bill.*—The Colonial Treasurer addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of One million eight hundred and eighteen thousand three hundred and seven Dollars and seventy-eight Cents to defray the Charges of the year 1931.”
The Colonial Secretary seconded.
Question—put and agreed to.
Bill read a first time.
14. *Foreshores and Sea Bed Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance, 1901.”
The Colonial Secretary seconded.
Question—put and agreed to.
Bill read a first time.
15. *Factories and Workshops Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to Factories and Workshops and to the employment of Women, Young Persons and Children in certain industries.”
The Colonial Secretary seconded.
Question—put and agreed to.
Bill read a first time.
16. *Minimum Wage Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to make provision for fixing minimum wages in occupations where the wages paid are unreasonably low.”
The Colonial Secretary seconded.
Question—put and agreed to.
Bill read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

17. The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 18th day of August, 1932, at 2.30 p.m.

W. T. SOUTHORN,
Officer Administering the Government.

Confirmed this 18th day of August, 1932.

H. R. BUTTERS,
Deputy Clerk of Councils.

No. 535.—His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government 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. 25 of 1932.—An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of One million eight hundred and eighteen thousand three hundred and seven Dollars and seventy-eight Cents to defray the Charges of the year 1931.
- Ordinance No. 26 of 1932.—An Ordinance to amend the Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance, 1901.
- Ordinance No. 27 of 1932.—An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to Factories and Workshops and to the employment of Women, Young Persons and Children in certain industries.
- Ordinance No. 28 of 1932.—An Ordinance to make provision for fixing minimum wages in occupations where the wages paid are unreasonably low.