

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 602.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 12.

Thursday, 18th August, 1932, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT
(Hon. Mr. WILFRID THOMAS SOUTHOORN, 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'ò SEEN-WAN, O.B.E., LL.D.

„ Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN.

„ Mr. WILLIAM HENRY BELL.

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

ABSENT:

The Honourable Mr. JOHN JOHNSTONE PATERSON.

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 4th August, 1932, were confirmed.

PAPERS.

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

Brewery Regulations and Licence made by the Governor in Council under sections 34 and 88 of the Liquors Ordinance, 1931, Ordinance No. 36 of 1931, dated 29th July, 1932.

Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, dated 2nd August, 1932.

Additional by-laws under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, prohibiting the sale of non-aerated drinks and jellies.

Additional regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 5 of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873, Ordinance No. 1 of 1873, dated 10th August, 1932.

Seven Orders under section 92 (8) of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, Ordinance No. 1 of 1903, dated 5th August, 1932.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

4. The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 8), dated the 4th August, 1932, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

MOTIONS.

5. The Colonial Treasurer moved :—

In pursuance of the powers conferred by section 39 of the Liquor Ordinance, 1931, Ordinance No. 36 of 1931, as amended by the Liquors Amendment Ordinance, Ordinance No. 20 of 1932, the Legislative Council resolves that, notwithstanding anything contained in the Liquor Duties Resolution published by the Notification No. 354 in the Gazette of the 2nd June, 1932, the Liquor Duty to be paid on beer brewed or made in the Colony shall be assessed at 60 cents per gallon when the original gravity of the worts for such beer does not exceed 1055 degrees as measured by the "Bates" standard saccharometer and at one additional cent per gallon for every degree in excess of an original gravity of 1055 degrees so measured.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

6. Debate was resumed on the motion moved by the Colonial Secretary on 4th August, 1932 :—

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 Hon. Sir HENRY E. POLLOCK, Kt., K.C. addressed the Council and on behalf of the European unofficial members moved the following amendment—

“That the principle of the abandonment of the rider-main system in this Colony be accepted, provided that the following conditions are complied with :—

- (1) That, in districts where the rider-mains have already been disconnected, those houses which are not at present supplied with meters be, at the earliest possible opportunity, (upon such application as hereafter in Section 3 referred to), and in priority to other houses, supplied therewith, and that the cost of installing such meters and the cost of connecting houses with the mains be paid by the Government.
- (2) That the Government thereafter (upon such application as hereafter in Section 3 referred to), proceed to supply meters in rider-main districts not yet disconnected, and on the same terms as to costs of installation and connexion as set out in the above condition (1).

(3) That, owners of houses in the rider-main districts, who desire to be supplied with meters upon the terms aforesaid, be required to send in applications for the same to the Water Authority, on or before October 31, 1932.

(4) That a free supply of water be continued through the street fountains.

The Hon. Mr. W. E. L. SHENTON seconded.

The Hon. Mr. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D. addressed the Council and on behalf of the Chinese members moved the following amendment—

That in the opinion of this Council the time has come for the Colony to decide upon the abandonment, on the expiration of two years from this date, of 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 Hon. Mr. S. W. Ts'o, O.B.E., LL.D. seconded.

The Hon. Mr. T. N. CHAU addressed the Council supporting the amendment.

The Colonial Secretary replied and stated that the Government was unable to accept the second amendment but was prepared to allow the first amendment to stand in the place of the original resolution if Council so desired.

On the second amendment being put to the vote it was declared lost.

Thirteen Members voted against and three—Hon. Mr. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D., Hon. Mr. S. W. Ts'o, O.B.E., LL.D., and Hon. Mr. T. N. CHAU—for the amendment.

The Hon. Mr. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D. addressed the Council on the first amendment.

The Colonial Secretary addressed the Council in reply.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government also addressed the Council.

The first amendment was then put to the meeting and declared carried.

The Hon. Mr. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D., Hon. Mr. S. W. Ts'o, O.B.E., LL.D. and Hon. Mr. T. N. CHAU abstained from voting.

7. *Supplementary Appropriation Bill.*—The Colonial Treasurer moved the Second reading of the 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 Attorney General seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

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

The Attorney General seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

8. *Foreshores and Sea Bed Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the 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 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.

9. *Factories and Workshops Bill*.—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the 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 second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Clause 4 (1) (*k*) was relettered (*l*) and a new clause (*k*) was inserted as follows:

(*k*) “prescribing the precautions to be taken against fire in factories and workshops”.

Clause 6. Marginal note “Registration necessary before opening or use” was added.

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

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government held that the amendments were not material.

The Attorney General moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

10. *Minimum Wage Bill*.—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the 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 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.

11. The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

W. T. SOUTHORN,

Officer Administering the Government.

Confirmed this 22nd day of September, 1932.

R. A. C. NORTH,

Deputy Clerk of Councils.