

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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No. 524.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. No. 8.

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Thursday, 22nd June, 1933, at 2.30 p.m.

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PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
(SIR WILLIAM PEEL, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.).

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General OSWALD CUTHBERT BORRETT, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (Mr. DAVID WILLIAM TRATMAN, C.M.G.).

„ 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. MICHAEL JAMES BREEN).

„ Mr. EDWARD DUDLEY CORSCADEN WOLFE, C.M.G., (Inspector General of Police).

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

„ Commander JOSEPH BERNARD NEWILL, D.S.O., R.N. (Retired), (Harbour Master).

„ Mr. ARTHUR GEORGE WARNHAM TICKLE, (Director of Public Works).

„ Sir HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, Kt., K.C.

„ Mr. CHARLES GORDON STEWART MACKIE.

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

„ Mr. JOSÉ PEDRO BRAGA.

„ Mr. TS'ò SEEN-WAN, O.B.E., LL.D.

„ Mr. JOHN JOHNSTONE PATERSON.

„ Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN.

„ Mr. PAUL LAUDER.

„ Mr. ALEXANDER WILLIAM GEORGE HERDER GRANTHAM, (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

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

MINUTES.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th June, 1933, were confirmed.

## PAPERS.

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

Order made by the Governor in Council under section 43 of the Distress for Rent Ordinance, 1883, Ordinance No. 1 of 1883, dated 2nd June, 1933.

Rules, approvals and appointments, and regulations made by the Governor in Council under the Liquors Ordinance, 1931, Ordinance No. 36 of 1931, dated 8th June, 1933.

Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 2 of the Advertisements Regulation Ordinance, 1912, Ordinance No. 19 of 1912, dated 14th June, 1933.

## QUESTIONS.

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

1. Is it a fact that on account of overcrowding in the Prisons, the Government has sanctioned or contemplates sanctioning the release of certain prisoners before the expiration of their terms of imprisonment?

2. Will the Government furnish this Council with comparative figures for the month of May 1932 and 1933, showing:—

(1) The number of prisoners serving terms in Victoria Gaol and the Laichikok Prison respectively.

(2) The number of prisoners serving terms for  
(a) hawking offences, and  
(b) other minor offences.

(3) The number of juvenile prisoners, if any.

3. If the comparison reveals an increase in the present number of prisoners, to what cause or causes does the Government attribute such an increase?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows:—

1. Yes, a number have been released and it may be necessary to release more. Those selected are under orders of deportation from the Colony.

2.—(1) The daily average number of prisoners:—

In Victoria Gaol in May 1932	...	...	...	626
May 1933	...	...	...	927
In Laichikok in May 1932	...	...	...	355
May 1933	...	...	...	457

(2) (a) The total number of persons received into prison for hawking offences were:—

May 1932	...	...	...	...	54
May 1933	...	...	...	...	166

(b) For other minor offences, *i.e.* terms of imprisonment of one month or less for offences other than hawking:—

May 1932	...	...	...	...	203
May 1933	...	...	...	...	257

The latter figure includes a number of persons convicted for opium offences and it should be stated that these are only treated as "minor" in a relative sense, *i.e.*, they are short sentence *opium* convictions.

(3) One juvenile was sent to prison in May 1932, and one in May 1933.

3. The increase is attributed largely to the greater number of convictions for opium offences—46 persons were sent to prison for such offences in May 1932 and 228 in May 1933. On 20th June there were in prison 488 persons convicted for opium offences.

The history of this abnormal increase in opium convictions is as follows:—

In accordance with the recommendations of the Bangkok Opium Conference this Government has replaced most of its licensed retailers of opium by Government shops. It has also as a precaution against the dissemination of illicit opium under forged or re-used Government labels introduced the tube-system, the Government's supply being obtained from the tube-packing plant of the Straits Settlements monopoly. Neither the shops nor the tubes have been popular with smokers here and a very heavy decrease in sales of Government opium has occurred, which in the light of past experience the Imports and Exports Department could only regard as indicating a corresponding growth in the consumption of illicit opium, and of the divans in which it is smoked. A special campaign against divans has therefore been instituted the results of which have fully justified the Superintendent's fears. The effects on the Gaol population are unfortunate, but we are pledged to keep opium smoking in bounds with a view to its ultimate confinement to smokers of Government opium, who can first be registered, then rationed and finally eliminated.

#### MOTIONS.

5. *Opium Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the law relating to Opium.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

6. *Supreme Court Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend further the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1873.”

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.

7. *Code of Civil Procedure Amendment (No. 2) Bill.*—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled “An Ordinance for the further amendment of the Code of Civil Procedure.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

In section 2 the word “aforesaid” was substituted for the word “oforesaid” in the last line.

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

8. *Probates Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend further the Probates Ordinance, 1897.”

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. *Public Works Loan Redemption Bill.*—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled “An Ordinance to make provision for the redemption of the bonds issued under the authority of the Public Works Loan Ordinance, 1927.”

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.

10. The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

W. PEEL,  
*Governor.*

Confirmed this 3rd day of August, 1933.

A. W. G. H. GRANTHAM,  
*Deputy Clerk of Councils.*

No. 525.—His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the KING, to the following Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council:—

Ordinance No. 16 of 1933.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to Opium.