
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 231.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. I.

Thursday, 22nd March, 1934, at 2.30 p.m.

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, (Sir THOMAS SOUTHORN, K.B.E., 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. EDWIN TAYLOR).

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

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

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

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

„ Sir HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, Kt., K.C.

„ Sir WILLIAM EDWARD LEONARD SHENTON, Kt.

„ 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. CHARLES GORDON STEWART MACKIE.

„ Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN.

„ Mr. ROLAND ARTHUR CHARLES NORTH, (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

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

MINUTES.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st December, 1933, were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

3. *Standing Law Committee*.—His Excellency the Governor appointed the following to be Members of the Standing Law Committee:—The Hon. Attorney General (Chairman), the Hon. Secretary for Chinese Affairs, the Hon. Sir HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, Kt., K.C., the Hon. Sir WILLIAM EDWARD LEONARD SHENTON, Kt. and the Hon. Mr. Ts'o SEEN-WAN, O.B.E., LL.D.

PAPERS.

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

- Notice given by the Governor in Council under section 9 (1) of the Nurses Registration Ordinance, 1931, Ordinance No. 1 of 1931, dated 13th December, 1933.
- Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 2 of the Advertisements Regulation Ordinance, 1912, Ordinance No. 19 of 1912, relating to the display of advertisements, dated 20th December, 1933.
- Regulations under section 10 of the Naval Volunteer Ordinance, 1933, Ordinance No. 30 of 1933, dated 22nd December, 1933.
- Regulation made by the Governor in Council under sections 13 and 30 of the Vagrancy Ordinance, 1897, Ordinance No. 9 of 1897, relating to vagrants, dated 28th December, 1933.
- Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 5 of the Ferries Ordinance, 1917, Ordinance No. 28 of 1917, amending the list of excluded ferries, dated 20th December, 1933.
- Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 25 (4) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, relating to Table M in the Schedule to the Ordinance, dated 11th January, 1934.
- Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, dated 16th January, 1934.
- Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 5 of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873, Ordinance No. 1 of 1873, relating to Case and Bulk Oil, dated 16th January, 1934.
- H. Skott & Co., Ltd. exempted from the requirements of sub-section 2 of section 93 of the Companies Ordinance, 1932.
- Notice of commencement of the Naval Volunteer Ordinance.
- Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 37 (2) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, relating to Table E, dated 1st February, 1934.
- Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 5 of the Ferries Ordinance, 1917, Ordinance No. 28 of 1917, relating to Regulation 15A, dated 1st February, 1934.
- Declaration under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, Table L, Quarantine Regulations, dated 5th February, 1934.
- Notices to Mariners under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, dated 2nd February, 1934.
- Order made by the Governor in Council under section 5 of the Ferries Ordinance, 1917, Ordinance No. 28 of 1917, relating to the Ferry of Hu Tim operating between Tap Mun village and Tai Po, dated 16th March, 1934.
- Notification under section 3 of the Marriage Ordinance, 1875, Ordinance No. 7 of 1875, declaring the Anglican Church, situated at No. 3, Duke Street, Kowloon Tong, licensed for the celebration of marriages, dated 22nd February, 1934.
- Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 23 of the Waterworks Ordinance, 1903, Ordinance No. 16 of 1903, dated 25th January, 1934.
- Amendments to Appendix B (Pilotage Dues)—Increase of fees made by the Governor in Council under section 4 of the Pilots Ordinance, 1930, Ordinance No. 11 of 1930, dated 15th March, 1934.

Sessional Papers, 1934 :—

No. 1.—Report of the Committee regarding the marketing of New Territories produce in Hong Kong and Kowloon.

Administration Reports, 1933 :—

Part II.—Law and Order :—

Report of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, Official Trustee, Official Administrator and Registrar of Companies.

QUESTIONS.

5. The Hon. Mr. JOSÉ PEDRO BRAGA, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions :—

Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary state the reasons for the recent felling of the trees in Nathan Road at Kowloon, and on whose instructions were those useful and ornamental trees destroyed?

2. Is it not true that shortly before the trees were felled quite a number of those with damaged or decaying trunks were treated at some expenditure of public money in a manner to arrest destruction through natural causes? And if true, what is the explanation for the sudden change of policy leading to the destruction of perfectly sound trees by means of human agency?

3. Is it the intention of Government to cut down any more, and if so, how many, of the trees that once formed such a picturesque avenue in Nathan Road?

4. Was any reference made to the Kowloon Residents' Association, or to the Hong Kong Automobile Association before the decision was taken and put into effect for the removal of the trees in question?

5. Will the Government consider the advisability of restoring, partially if not totally, the avenue that excited so much admiration, by commencing a programme of sapling planting in places where planting will not constitute a danger to wheeled traffic?

6. In future, in any matter affecting the amenities of the Peninsula, will the Government be good enough to ascertain, in the first place, the views of responsible bodies or organisations in Kowloon before carrying out decisions concerning which Kowloon residents may advantageously be consulted?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows :—

1. Instructions were issued by Government that certain trees should be felled, on the recommendations of the Inspector General of Police after consultation with the Superintendent, Botanical and Forestry Department, on the ground that they form an obstruction to traffic.

2. The treatment of damaged roadside trees is a routine matter usually attended to in February before the spring rains begin. When the trees in Nathan Road were treated the recommendations of the Inspector General of Police had not been received.

3. It is the intention of Government as at present advised to remove certain other trees, in particular those in the neighbourhood of bus stops and those at the corners of side streets.

4. The answer is in the negative.

5. Only such trees as are considered to constitute a definite obstruction to traffic are removed. It is not therefore considered advisable to replace them.

6. The Government are at all times prepared to give full consideration to views expressed by representative bodies, but cannot see their way to give the specified undertaking asked for.

REPORTS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

6. The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Reports of the Finance Committee (Nos. 13 and 14), dated 21st December, 1933, and 29th December, 1933, respectively, and (Nos. 1 and 2), dated 23rd January, 1934, and 21st February, 1934, respectively, and moved their adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

MOTIONS.

7. The Colonial Treasurer moved:—

That this Council approves of the expenditure of \$95,000 on Air Port—Wireless Telegraph Station—during the financial year 1934, 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 Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

8. The Colonial Treasurer moved:—

(a) That this Council approves the construction of a Second Cross Harbour Pipe at an estimated cost of \$375,000.

(b) That this Council authorizes the said sum of \$375,000 to be charged to a future loan and sanctions an advance of \$323,000 on account of this work during the financial year 1934 from the surplus balances of Colony.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

9. The Attorney General moved:—

That the Order dated the 15th day of January, 1934, made by the Chief Justice under section 32 of the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1873, be approved.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

10. *Commissioners Powers Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Commissioners Powers Ordinance, 1886.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

11. *Merchandise Marks Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Merchandise Marks Ordinance, 1890.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

12. *Registration of Persons Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to provide for the registration of certain persons.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

RETIRING MEMBER.

13. His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council expressing regret at the retirement of the Hon. Mr. ALAN EUSTACE WOOD, the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, and paying high tribute to his services.

The Hon. Sir HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, Kt., K.C., and the Hon. Mr. ROBERT HORMUS KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D., also addressed the Council in the same sense, on behalf of the Unofficial Members.

The Hon. Mr. ALAN EUSTACE WOOD replied.

ADJOURNMENT.

14. The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 29th day of March, 1934, at 2.30 p.m.

W. PEEL,
Governor.

Confirmed this 29th day of March, 1934.

R. A. C. NORTH,
Deputy Clerk of Councils.

No. 232.—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. 1 of 1934.—An Ordinance to amend the Commissioners Powers Ordinance, 1886.

Ordinance No. 2 of 1934.—An Ordinance to amend the Merchandise Marks Ordinance, 1890.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1934.—An Ordinance to provide for the registration of certain persons.