
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 466.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 6.

 Thursday, 31st May, 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 Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (Mr. NORMAN LOCKHART SMITH).

„ 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 WILLIAM EDWARD LEONARD SHENTON, Kt.

„ Mr. CHARLES GORDON STEWART MACKIE.

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

„ Mr. JOSÉ PEDRO BRAGA.

„ Mr. Ts'o SEEN-WAN, O.B.E., LL.D.

„ Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN.

„ Mr. WILLIAM HENRY BELL.

„ Mr. JOHN OWEN-HUGHES.

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

ABSENT:

The Honourable the Attorney General, (Mr. ROGER EDWARD LINDSELL).

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

MINUTES.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th May, 1934, were confirmed.

PAPERS.

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

Regulation made by the Governor in Council under section 5 of the Prospecting and Mining Ordinance, 1906, Ordinance No. 7 of 1906, relating to conditions of mining licences, dated 16th May, 1934.

Rescission of the Order made by the Governor in Council on the 9th February, 1934, under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, dated 23rd May, 1934.

Amendment of Regulations under section 4 of the Midwives Ordinance, 1910, Ordinance No. 22 of 1910, dated 15th May, 1934.

Administration Reports, 1933 :—

Part I.—General Administration :—

Report of the Director of the Royal Observatory, Hong Kong.

QUESTIONS.

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

1. In view of the fact that pigs and poultry are capable of being raised in the New Territories and in view of the further fact that the Colony spends on imports under these categories (including eggs) no less than about \$12,000,000 annually, will Government study the question of taking measures to stimulate intensively their production in the New Territories?
2. With the view of studying this question would Government consider favourably the suggestion that experts be invited to the Colony to report—
 - (a) on the most suitable types of pigs and poultry that it would be best to raise having due regard to the less exacting requirements of the Chinese population;
 - (b) on the methods to be adopted for greatly increasing the production of eggs; and
 - (c) on the most suitable foods that could be raised locally for the feeding of pigs and poultry, having regard to the nature of the soil and the climate?
3. With the view of giving effect to Question 2 would Government consider the practicability of inviting the assistance of experts from Shanghai, Manila or Ling Nam University, Canton?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows :—

1. This matter has been carefully considered by Government on numerous occasions in the past, but it has not been found possible to take any official action which would be of practical utility sufficient to justify the expense involved.
2. The breeding of an improved type of pigs and poultry has been undertaken in recent years by a number of private individuals and enterprises. Where these undertakings are able to show a profit it is considered that New Territory producers will not be slow in following the example shown them. His Excellency the Governor has however discussed the question with the District Officer, North, and made suggestions which are being further explored.

3. The Superintendent, Botanical and Forestry Department and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon are at all times prepared to consider requests for advice on such matters, and it would appear to be unnecessary at the present time to seek advice from elsewhere.

5. The Hon. Sir WILLIAM EDWARD LEONARD SHENTON, Kt., pursuant to notice, asked the following questions :—

(1) Will Government inform this Honourable Council :—

In respect of, the new Government Civil Hospital, the Kowloon Hospital, the New Central British School, Kowloon Tsai Garden City Development, the New Stanley Gaol, the Dragon Back Water Catchment Scheme and the Harbour Dredging Scheme.

- (a) What progress has been made up to date?
- (b) Whether such progress is in accordance with Government's Scheme of progress, whether in advance of time or behind time?
- (c) Whether the staff of the Public Works Department is sufficient to cope with the work?
- (d) Whether the surplus balances are sufficient to meet demands of the public works extraordinary programme as it at present progresses. Is there a substantial surplus which could properly be expended in speeding up the present progress?

(2) Will Government inform this Honourable Council :—

In respect of, the combined Post Office and Government Office Building at Kowloon, the Magistracy at Kowloon, the New Mental Hospital, the Government Employees' housing schemes and Anti-Malarial work in the Colony.

- (a) What is the present position?
 - (b) Whether the staff of the Public Works Department is sufficient to cope with the work?
- (3) As regards the New Government Civil Hospital would it not be desirable to take early steps to deal with the possible problem of Malaria?
- (4) Whether some of the public works extraordinary cannot usefully, and to the advantage of the Colony, be given to private firms in the Colony?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows :—

Replies to questions 1 (a), (b) and (c), and 2 (a) and (b) have, owing to their length, been given in writing and each member has been furnished with a copy of the replies.*

1 (d). The demands of the Public Works Extraordinary programme as it progresses can be met from the general revenues and surplus balances of the Colony. All the works mentioned in Questions 1 and 2 are being carried out as expeditiously as possible and provision of additional funds would not materially affect progress. Supplementary votes will be applied for as occasion arises. It is the intention of Government to introduce a Supplementary Budget at an early date.

Question 3.

The site has been under close observation for some time and mosquito surveys are frequently made. Up to date there has been no indication of any outbreak of malaria among the labourers employed on the site. Such anti-malarial measures as may be considered necessary will be carried out as the work proceeds.

Question 4.

As will be seen from the answer to Question 1 it is the intention of Government to engage a firm of outside Architects for the construction of the new Central British School.

* Replies to Questions 1 (a), (b), (c) and 2 (a) and (b) asked by the Honourable Sir WILLIAM EDWARD LEONARD SHENTON, Kt.

Question 1.

Item.	(a) What progress has been made up to date.	(b)	(c)
New Government Civil Hospital.	Site preparation is about three-quarters completed. The steelwork is expected to arrive in the Colony about July when erection will be commenced.	Yes. Progress is satisfactory and within Government's time schedule.	Yes.
Kowloon Hospital.....	"C" block, Nurses Quarters and Medical Officers' House are completed. Site preparation for the Outpatient's Department has been completed and work has now commenced on the erection of the building.	Do.	Yes.
New Central British School.	To expedite this work steps are being taken to provide for its execution by a firm of non-Government Architects. Site formation in progress.	Progress slightly behind schedule.	No.
Kowloon Tsai Garden City Development.	Approximately half the amount of the work covered under the present contract has been completed.	Yes. This work is very considerably in advance of Government's time schedule.	Yes.
New Stanley Gaol.....	Site preparation is well advanced and is expected to be completed early in October.	Yes. Progress is satisfactory and within Government's time schedule.	Yes.
Dragon Back Water Catchment Scheme.	The first section of this Catchwater has been completed and the survey for the second section is in hand.	Do.	Yes.
Harbour Dredging Scheme.	The dredger for this work arrived in the Colony on 8th May and will have commenced dredging by 4th June at Kun Tong where it will be employed for three weeks after which period the dredging of the Harbour itself will be commenced.	Yes.	Yes.

Question 2.

Item.	(a) What is the present position.	(b) Whether the staff of the P.W.D. is sufficient to cope with the work.
Post Office and Government Office Building at Kowloon.	Sketch plans have been prepared and forwarded to Government and the question now awaits consideration with the 1935 Estimates.	Yes.
Magistracy at Kowloon.....	Site preparation is in hand and good progress is being made.	Yes.
New Mental Hospital	Sketch plans have been prepared and are now under consideration by Government.	Yes.
Government Employee's Housing Schemes.	(a) Senior Officers' Quarters, May Road. Working drawings have been prepared and a contract for site preparation will be let in about six weeks time.	Yes.
	(b) New Quarters at Peak Wireless Station. A contract will shortly be let for this work.	Yes.
	(c) New Quarters for the Director of the Royal Observatory. The work is completed and the house occupied.	—
Anti-Malarial Work	Good progress generally is being made in the following areas :— Stanley Peninsula, Taikoo, Sookunpoo, Lyemun and Kowloon Tong.	Yes.

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

Will the Government be good enough to state :—

- (1) What are the existing postal facilities for the New Territories, and in particular for Taipo Market, Un Long, Tsun Wan, Castle Peak, Kam Tin, Sheung Shui and Shatin?
- (2) If the existing facilities are inadequate, will the Government establish small post offices at all or some of these places, or devise other means whereby the inhabitants thereof may be enabled to send and receive letters and other postal matters with greater convenience and less delay than they do at present?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows :—

1. The only direct departmental services maintained in the New Territories are furnished by a postman attached to the office of the District Officer, North, Taipo, who serves Taipo Market and by a travelling postman who proceeds by train daily to Sheung Shui and thence by bus to Un Long where he effects local delivery, collection and sale of stamps. Otherwise the New Territories is served from the various Police Stations which exchange closed mails with the General Post Office daily and which effect district deliveries and sale of stamps in addition.

The particular districts referred to other than Taipo Market and Un Long namely Tsun Wan, Castle Peak, Kam Tin, Sheung Shui and Sha Tin are served by the Police Stations.

2. Post Offices are shortly to be established at Un Long and Taipo Market. In this year's Estimates provision has been made for the renting of suitable premises and for a staff of one clerk and two postmen for each office. In due course the present system will be progressively replaced by direct service from the Postal Department. It is also proposed to erect pillar boxes at Tsun Wan, Castle Peak and at five other points in the Territories. Many residents in the New Territories have their correspondence intercepted at the General Post Office and delivered at their town addresses.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

7. The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 6), dated the 17th May, 1934, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

MOTIONS.

8. *Hong Kong Dollar Loan Bill*.—The Colonial Treasurer addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to make provision for a loan of twenty-five million dollars for the carrying out of certain public works, for the redemption of certain inscribed stock, and for other purposes."

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

9. The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 7th day of June, 1934 at 2.30 p.m.

W. PEEL,
Governor.

Confirmed this 14th day of June, 1934.

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

No. 467.—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. 11 of 1934.—An Ordinance to make provision for a loan of twenty-five million dollars for the carrying out of certain public works, for the redemption of certain inscribed stock, and for other purposes.