

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 625.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 9.

Wednesday, 24th June, 1936, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(Sir ANDREW CALDECOTT, Kt., C.M.G., C.B.E.).

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General ARTHUR WOLLASTON BARTHOLOMEW, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (Mr. ROLAND ARTHUR CHARLES NORTH, *Acting*).

" the Attorney General, (Mr. CHALONER GRENVILLE ALABASTER, O.B.E., K.C.).

" the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (Mr. WILLIAM JAMES CARRIE, *Acting*).

" the Colonial Treasurer, (Mr. EDWIN TAYLOR, C.M.G.).

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

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

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

" Mr. JOHN JOHNSTONE PATERSON.

" Mr. WILLIAM HENRY BELL.

" Mr. Ts'ò SEEN-WAN, C.B.E., LL.D.

" Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN.

" Mr. LO MAN-KAM.

" Mr. STANLEY HUDSON DODWELL.

" Mr. ANTONIO FERREIRA BATALHA SILVA-NETTO.

" Mr. MARCUS THEODORE JOHNSON.

" Mr. DAVID MERCER MACDOUGALL, (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

ABSENT :

The Honourable Mr. THOMAS HENRY KING, (Inspector General of Police).

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

MINUTES.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd June, 1936, were confirmed.

OATH.

3. The Honourable Mr. MARCUS THEODORE JOHNSON took the Oath of Allegiance and assumed his seat as a Member of the Council.

PAPERS.

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

The Kai Tak Civil Airport declared by the Governor in Council under section 2 of the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance, 1936, Ordinance No. 7 of 1936, to be an "Authorised Aerodrome" and a "Sanitary Aerodrome", dated 4th June, 1936.

Amendments to Regulations under section 10 of the Naval Volunteer Ordinance, 1933, Ordinance No. 30 of 1933, dated 3rd June, 1936.

Amendments to the Vehicles and Traffic Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 3 of the Vehicles and Traffic Regulation Ordinance, 1912, Ordinance No. 40 of 1912, dated 11th June, 1936.

Administration Reports, 1935 :—

Part II.—Law and Order :—

Report on the New Territories : District Office, South.

QUESTIONS.

5. The Hon. Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions :—

With reference to the Hon. Colonial Secretary's replies to the questions asked by the Hon. Dr. R. H. KOTEWALL in this Council on the 10th January, 1935, in regard to the explosion of a gasometer at West Point, will the Government state :—

- (1) Whether it has been finally decided to move the gasometer at West Point to a more suitable site; and, if so, where the site is;
- (2) Whether advice of the Home Authorities has been obtained as to whether special legislation for the compulsory inspection of gasometers is desirable here; and
- (3) What action does the Government propose to take in regard to gasometers in other parts of the Colony?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows :—

- (1) The Hong Kong and China Gas Company have purchased an area of land now known as Inland Lots 4097 and 4098 situated to the South of the Cattle Depot at Kennedy Town. One Gasometer of 500,000 cubic feet capacity has already been erected on this area to replace the former main Gasometer at West Point. Government understands that the Company proposes to transfer at a later date all the remaining gas-holders in Hong Kong and Kowloon either to Kennedy Town or to Ma Tau Kok.

- (2) The advice of the Home Authorities on the desirability of special legislation for the compulsory external inspection of Gasometers has been obtained. Government has also had the benefit of the advice of the Institute of Gas Engineers in England on this subject.

In view, however, of the fact that a Gasholder Committee of the Institute of Gas Engineers has recently been examining in conjunction with the Home Office the question of the internal inspection of gas-holders it has been considered advisable to postpone further consideration of the matter until that Committee has issued its recommendations.

An officer of this Government at present on leave is under instructions to visit the proper authorities at Home with a view to acquiring the latest information regarding maintenance and design of gasholders from the point of view of public safety.

- (3) The reply to this question is contained in the foregoing answers.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

6. The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 5), dated 17th June, 1936, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

MOTIONS.

7. The Attorney General moved :—

That the rescission of by-law 1 contained in the Schedule of the Hawkers Ordinance, 1935, under the heading “B.—Licensed (itinerant) hawkers” made by the Urban Council on the 26th day of May, 1936, be approved.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

8. The Colonial Treasurer addressed the Council and moved the following resolution :—

Resolved under section 7 of the Motor Spirit Ordinance, 1930, Ordinance No. 4 of 1930, that the duties on light oils as set forth in the Resolution passed by the Legislative Council on the 22nd day of October, 1931, be increased to 30 cents per gallon.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council.

Question—put and agreed to.

9. (1935 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 hundred and twenty two thousand seven hundred and seventy one Dollars and fifteen Cents to defray the Charges of the year 1935.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

10. *Pleasure Grounds and Bathing Places Regulation Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to regulate certain pleasure grounds, bathing places and places of public resort.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

11. *Factories and Workshops Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Factories and Workshops Ordinance, 1932.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

12. *Jury Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Jury Ordinance, 1887.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

13. *Estate Duty Amendment Bill*.—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the Second reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Estate Duty Ordinance, 1932.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

The Hon. Mr. Lo MAN-KAM addressed the Council.

The Attorney General addressed the Council.

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.

14. *Pensions (No. 2) Amendment Bill*.—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend further the law relating to Pensions.”

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.

15. The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

A. CALDECOTT,
Governor.

Confirmed this 22nd day of July, 1936.

D. M. MACDOUGALL,
Deputy Clerk of Councils.

No. 626.—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. 28 of 1936.—An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of One hundred and twenty two thousand seven hundred and seventy one Dollars and fifteen Cents to defray the Charges of the year 1935.

Ordinance No. 29 of 1936.—An Ordinance to regulate certain pleasure grounds, bathing places and places of public resort.

Ordinance No. 30 of 1936.—An Ordinance to amend the Factories and Workshops Ordinance, 1932.

Ordinance No. 31 of 1936.—An Ordinance to amend the Jury Ordinance, 1887.