

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 376.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 3.

Wednesday, 20th April, 1938, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(Sir GEOFFREY ALEXANDER STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, K.C.M.G.).

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. NORMAN LOCKHART SMITH, C.M.G.).

„ the Attorney General, (Mr. JOHN ALEXANDER FRASER, M.C., *Acting*).

„ the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (Mr. ROLAND ARTHUR CHARLES NORTH).

„ the Financial Secretary, (Mr. SYDNEY CAINE).

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

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

„ Mr. THOMAS HENRY KING, (Commissioner of Police).

„ Dr. PERCY SELWYN SELWYN-CLARKE, M.C., (Director of Medical Services).

„ Sir HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, Kt., K.C., LL.D.

„ Mr. JOHN JOHNSTONE PATERSON.

„ Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN, C.B.E.

„ Mr. LO MAN-KAM.

„ Mr. STANLEY HUDSON DODWELL.

„ Mr. LEO D'ALMADA E CASTRO, Junior.

Mr. BRIAN CHARLES KEITH HAWKINS, (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

ABSENT:

The Honourable Dr. LI SHU-FAN.

„ Mr. MARCUS THEODORE JOHNSON.

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

MINUTES.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th April, 1938, were confirmed.

PAPERS.

3. The following paper was laid on the table :—

By-laws under the heading "Reconstituted Milk and Reconstituted Cream" made by the Urban Council under sections 5 and 6 of the Public Health (Food) Ordinance, 1935, Ordinance No. 13 of 1935, on the 29th day of March, 1938.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

4. The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 3), dated 13th April, 1938, and moved its adoption.

The Financial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

QUESTION.

5. The Hon. Sir HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, Kt., K.C., LL.D., said :—

By permission of Your Excellency I beg leave to put the following question, of which I have given too short notice for it to be included in the Orders of the Day :—

With reference to the Report of the Commission on Rents which was published as a Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1938, will the Government state what steps has the Government taken, or does it propose to take, for the purpose of dealing with the present rent situation ?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows :—

At the meeting of this Council held on 9th March, 1938, when the appointment of the Commission in question was announced, Your Excellency said :—

"Should the report of that Commission—and I hope that it will be able to reach its conclusions rapidly—convince Government that action is necessary along the lines which I have mentioned, a bill will be put before you with all possible expedition."

The recommendations of the Commission have been accepted by the Government including the general position that no case has been made for immediate legislative action in the matter of rent restriction.

At the same time the possibility of such action becoming necessary in the future, as is suggested in the final paragraph of Part VI of the Report, will be borne in mind. In particular the Government is keeping a close watch on the statistics of arrivals and departures as the present abnormal increase in the population of the Colony is clearly the chief factor in the situation which called for the appointment of the Commission.

MOTIONS.

6. *Vaccination Amendment Bill*.—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Vaccination Ordinance, 1923.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

The Honourable Mr. CHAU TSUN-NIN speaking on behalf of Chinese Members said that while they were prepared to support the Bill they would be glad of an assurance that the administration of the law would be carried out in such a manner as to cause as little interference with Chinese home life as possible.

At the request of the President, the Honourable Director of Medical Services replied stating that he was pleased to give the required assurance.

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.

7. The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,
Governor.

Confirmed this 12th day of May, 1938.

B. C. K. HAWKINS,
Deputy Clerk of Councils.

No. 377.—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. 5 of 1938.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the protection of women and girls.