
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 676.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 7.

 Wednesday, 28th July, 1938, at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(Sir GEOFFRY 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).

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

„ Dr. LI SHU-FAN.

„ Mr. ANDREW LUSK SHIELDS.

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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 7th July, 1938, were confirmed.

PAPERS.

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

Additional Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet to the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hong Kong, dated 30th April, 1938.

Order made by the Governor in Council under section 167 (1) of the Buildings Ordinance, 1935, Ordinance No. 18 of 1935, dated 14th July, 1938.

Amendment made by the Governor in Council under section 37 of the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1938, Ordinance No. 5 of 1938, to the Regulations in the Schedule to that Ordinance, dated 19th July, 1938.

Amendment made by the Governor in Council under section 2 of the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, 1922, Ordinance No. 5 of 1922, to the emergency regulations for the prevention of cholera, dated 19th July, 1938.

Proclamation No. 5.—Crown Rents (Apportionment) Ordinance, 1936, Ordinance No. 4 of 1936, to come into operation as regards certain lots, areas or districts on 15th July, 1938.

Proclamation No. 6.—The Tung Wah Infectious Diseases Hospital at Kennedy Town appointed a leper settlement.

Administration Reports, 1937 :—

Part I.—General Administration :—

Report of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

Report of the Superintendent of Imports and Exports.

Part VII.—Undertakings of Government :—

Report of the General Post Office.

Report on the Kowloon-Canton Railway (British Section).

Sessional Papers, 1938 :—

No. 8.—Report of the Committee on the Training of Teachers.

No. 9.—Colonial Accounts.

I. Despatch of Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 25th November, 1937.

II. Note by Financial Secretary, Hong Kong.

Annual Abstract Account for 1936, with report of Director of Colonial Audit.

QUESTION.

4. The Hon. Mr. JOHN JOHNSTONE PATERSON, pursuant to notice, asked the following question :—

Has the Government any statement to make on the refugee situation?

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows :—

The refugee problem is complicated by the absence of accurate statistics and, in particular, of any means of estimating the extent to which the poorest class of the resident population has been displaced from its homes by a refugee influx of relatively wealthier persons. There is good reason for believing that this has taken place on a large scale.

2. According to the information available, which is derived mainly from railway and steamer figures, though these have been checked against other returns, it is reasonable to suppose that the net increase of the population during the last 12 months coming from outside the Colony is somewhat under 250,000 persons. Inclusive of these, it is estimated that since the 1931 census was taken the population has increased by at least 50 per cent., while the number of tenements has increased by about 8 per cent. over the same period. From these estimates it is possible to gain some idea of the overcrowding which now obtains locally.

3. There have been some 30,000 persons sleeping in the streets during the current summer month. As no summer count has been made previously it is not possible to state the extent to which this is in excess of the

normal. Competent observers have stated that this is three to four times as many as the number usual at this season. The 30,000 persons are distributed approximately as follows:—

13,000 in Hong Kong,
17,000 in Kowloon.

4. These street sleepers can be classified in two ways:—
- (a) they include some 9,000 destitute persons of both sexes, of whom some 3,000 are refugees;
 - (b) they contain some 6,000 women and children of whom probably the majority are destitute: 1,500 of them are believed to be refugees.

It is to be assumed that few of these 9,000 persons have any accommodation to which they could repair in the winter months. Assuming 1,500 able-bodied men, there remain at least 7,500 destitutes for whom housing will be required in two or three months' time.

5. *Camps for destitutes other than able-bodied men.* Government proposes to erect at once temporary accommodation for 3,500 destitute women, children, and infirm men at the following points:—

Accommodation for 1,500 at North Point,
,, ,, 2,000 at Kowloon Tsai.

The latter camp will be as far from Waterloo Road as is conveniently possible. In both cases the camps will be designed for rapid extension, but while the scheme is in its present experimental stage it is considered unwise to carry it out on a larger scale. The estimated capital cost of such buildings, capable of accommodating 3,500 destitutes, is put at between \$350,000 and \$400,000 which must be accepted as a provisional figure only. The cost of administration of camps containing that number is put at a rate of \$285,000 per annum.

6. *Tung Wah Hospital, Clearing House Camp.* The second class of refugees is transient, on its way to other places. These are being dealt with through the agency of the Tung Wah Hospital and accommodation has been found up to now for them at the old Government Civil Hospital, the old Victoria Gaol, the Kowloon Magistracy and the Tung Wah Hospital, which have served as clearing houses. In this category there are at the present time about 1,800 persons of both sexes. The old Government Civil Hospital has been condemned and the Victoria Gaol and Kowloon Magistracy will be required during the winter by the Street Sleepers' Society, as has been the case previously. The Tung Wah Hospitals have at the present time no refugees other than the sick.
7. In order to deal with this class Government proposes to set up a temporary camp on the Marina site in Kowloon to serve as a clearing house. It will be supervised by Government Departments, the Tung Wah Hospital Committee continuing to deal with the receiving and forwarding arrangements. The estimated capital cost is \$120,000 and the annual cost of administration is put at \$81,600. Accommodation for 1,000 persons is being erected in the first instance.
8. *Accommodation for refugees with small means.* A scheme has been put forward by the Emergency Refugee Council. The persons forming this class are needy but able to pay a small rent and subsist themselves. The proposal is to build accommodation for this class of refugees on King's Road towards Shaukiwan, if land is available there. It is proposed to let the accommodation to these refugees at the rate of \$2 per month per person housed. The initial capital cost of the scheme is put at \$35,000 of which Government proposes to advance up to \$17,500 on a dollar for dollar arrangement.

9. The total financial commitments above described are likely, therefore to amount *in the initial stage* to the following:—

	<i>Capital Cost.</i>	<i>Administration.</i> (12 months basis).
Refugee Camps, North Point and Kowloon Tsai.....	\$ 385,000	\$ 285,600
Marina Site Camp	120,000	81,600
Emergency Refugee Council Scheme, Kowloon Tsai	17,500	nil.
Total.....	\$ 522,500	\$ 367,200

10. It is at present uncertain to what extent it may be necessary to supply food to the two first classes: an estimate of the full cost of doing so has been included in the figure under administration. The estimated cost for food and fuel per refugee is on the basis of \$6 per month, according to Tung Wah Hospital figures. In this connexion it may be mentioned that during the present year supplementary provision for the relief of refugees dealt with by the Tung Wah Hospital has amounted to \$63,557 and a further application is about to be laid before the Finance Committee for \$55,000, making a total for nine months of \$118,557.

MOTIONS.

5. *Dangerous Drugs Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1935.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

6. *Sund Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Sand Ordinance, 1935.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

7. *Sedition Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to make better provision for the prevention and punishment of sedition.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

8. *Prohibited Publications Bill.*—The Attorney General addressed the Council and moved the First reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to prohibit the importation of undesirable publications.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

9. (*1937 Supplementary Appropriation Bill*).—The Financial Secretary moved the Second reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary sum of seven hundred and seventy-four thousand three hundred and twenty-one dollars and forty-four cents to defray the Charges of the year 1937.”

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

On Council resuming, the Financial Secretary 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.

10. (*Merchandise Marks Amendment Bill*).—The Attorney General moved the Second 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 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.

11. (*Bankruptcy Amendment Bill*).—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1931.”

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.

12. (*Dentistry Amendment Bill*).—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Dentistry Ordinance, 1914.”

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.

13. *Registration of Persons Amendment Bill.*—The Attorney General moved the Second reading of a Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Registration of Persons Ordinance, 1914.”

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 with material amendments and requested the President's permission under Standing Order No. 28 (1) to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Bill to be read a third time at the same meeting.

The President gave the required permission and Council approved the suspension of Standing Orders.

The Attorney General then moved that the amended Bill, which had already appeared in the Gazette as amended, be read a third time in substitution for the Bill as read a second time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

14. The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,
Governor.

Confirmed this 1st day of September, 1938.

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

No. 677.—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. 12 of 1938.—An Ordinance to amend the Sand Ordinance, 1935.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1938.—An Ordinance to make better provision for the prevention and punishment of sedition.

Ordinance No. 14 of 1938.—An Ordinance to prohibit the importation of undesirable publications.