

4TH JUNE, 1914.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FRANCIS HENRY MAY, K.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL F. H. KELLY, C.B. (General Officer Commanding Troops).

HON. MR. CLAUD SEVERN (Colonial Secretary).

HON. MR. J. H. KEMP (Attorney-General).

HON. MR. E. D. C. WOLFE (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. MR. A. F. CHURCHILL (Director of Public Works).

HON. MR. E. R. HALLIFAX (Secretary for Chinese Affairs).

HON. MR. C. McI. MESSER (Captain Superintendent of Police).

HON. MR. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

HON. MR. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

HON. MR. E. A. HEWETT, C.M.G.

HON. MR. E. SHELLIM.

HON. MR. D. LANDALE.

HON. MR. LAU CHU PAK.

MR. M. J. BREEN (Clerk of Councils).

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

Papers

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—

Draft agreement made between His Excellency Sir Henry May and Messrs. Dennys & Bowley, representing the promoters, in connection with a scheme for the development of a portion of the south side of the island of Hongkong.

Quarterly return of excesses on sub-heads met by savings under heads of expenditure for the first quarter of 1914.

No. 1, Report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee at a meeting held on March 2nd, 1914.

No. 2, Report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee at a meeting held on May 21st, 1914.

Report on the Finances for the year 1913.

Report on the New Territories for the year 1913.

Report of the Harbour Master for the year 1913.

Report of the Director of the Royal Observatory, Hongkong, for the year 1913.

Report of the Superintendent of Prison for the year 1913.

Report of the Land Officer for the year 1913.

Report of the General Post Office for the year 1913.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—As regards the first of those papers, the draft agreement made between the Governor of Hongkong and Messrs. Dennys & Bowley, representing the promoters, for a scheme for developing a portion of the south side of the island of Hongkong, this agreement is now being laid before the Council, but it is proposed to take no action upon it till the next meeting of the Council, which will be at least a fortnight hence, in order that hon. members of Council may have an opportunity of studying it and forming their views. It is then proposed to submit it for the approval of the Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—With regard to the report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee (No. 1), I am glad to see that the Committee approved the very excellent scheme of improving all roads in the city which has been put forward by Mr. Perkins of the Public Works Department. But I would like to say that the Government cannot, as at present advised, commit itself to adopt the suggestion of the Committee as regards the priority of the roads to be completed under this scheme. I do not think anybody can say that the roads between Murray Barracks and Jubilee Street are otherwise than in good condition. The

road known as Queen's Road East is not subject to heavy traffic, and cannot be described as being in a bad condition, whereas Connaught Road and Des Vœux Road are in need of very extensive repairs. Connaught Road is subject, moreover, to great damage in the typhoon season by water being dashed over the road surface and washing it away. Therefore I imagine, as soon as money is available, the Director of Public Works will advise the Government that Connaught Road and Des Vœux Road are the two roads which ought really to have priority. They are, moreover, roads where there is exceedingly heavy traffic.

Financial Minutes

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. the Governor, laid on the table **Financial Minutes Nos. 17 to 25** and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Financial

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. the Governor, laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 5), and moved its adoption.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Opium Ordinance

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following resolution:—"Whereas by the provisions of Section 5 Sub-section (1) of the Opium Ordinance, 1914, it is provided as follows:—"No person shall import, or aid or abet the importation of any raw opium into the Colony, if such importation shall have been notified in the *Gazette* in pursuance of any resolution of the Legislative Council as being illegal. Now it is hereby resolved that the importation into the Colony of any kind of raw opium except (a) Indian opium covered by export permits from the Government of India to the effect that it has been declared for shipment to or consumption in China, and (b) Persian opium is illegal, and it is further hereby resolved that a notification shall be made in the next issue of the *Gazette* to this effect, and it is also hereby resolved that Notification No. 70 published in the *Gazette* of the 2nd March, 1914, be rescinded."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Administration of the Hospitals

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied to a series of questions on this subject put by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. Questions and answers are appended:—

Question.—Did His Excellency the Officer then Administering the Government forward to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the proposal which was made by the Honourable Member for the Chamber of Commerce in this Council, on the 23rd October last, for a Committee of Five Justices of the Peace "to go into the whole question as to the supply of nurses in the Government Hospitals, their pay, allowances, and all other kindred questions relating to the efficiency of this branch of our public service?" If so, what was the reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and when was it received?

Answer.—The proposal was forwarded to the Secretary of State in the despatch on the Estimates, paragraph 14 of which was as follows:—

"Mr. Hewett in the course of his remarks on the Budget stated that in view of the number of hospitals in existence in the Colony, the number of nurses at present engaged by the local Government seemed to be altogether inadequate and suggested that a small committee be formed of five Justices of the Peace to go into the whole question of the supply of nurses in the Government hospitals, their pay, allowances and all other kindred questions relating to the efficiency of this branch of the public service. In my reply I stated that I did not think it would be necessary to appoint a Committee but that on the return of the Governor the question would be very carefully considered and that I would specially mention the matter to you when forwarding the Estimates. I am taking steps to have the necessary data ready to place before Sir Henry May on his return."

In his reply to that despatch the Secretary of State made no reference to the question.

Q.—Has the letter of the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, dated the 2nd July last, and addressed to the Principal Civil Medical Officer,

setting forth on behalf of the Sisters reasons why they considered that their numbers should be increased by two, or has a copy of such letter ever been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies? If so, when was it forwarded?

A.—The answer is in the negative. But the Secretary of State has been informed of the reasons adduced by the Sisters in the letter referred to.

Q.—Was it impossible to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the increase of two Sisters in the Staff prior to the introduction of the Estimates for 1914 in this Council?

A.—If the Government had been prepared to ask for an increase of two Sisters at the beginning of July it would have been possible to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State to such increase prior to the introduction of the Estimates for 1914 in this Council.

Q.—Were the two additional Probationers, decided upon by His Excellency the Governor on the 19th August last, introduced into the Estimates for 1914 with the previous sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies? If so, how was such sanction obtained and when? If not, has such sanction been since obtained and when?

A.—The previous sanction of the Secretary of State was not obtained. As these were only minor appointments they were provided for in the Estimates for 1914, and attention was drawn to them in the despatch which accompanied the Estimates. The Secretary of State approved the Estimates in his despatch dated the 12th December, 1913.

Q.—In connection with the answer to my third question at the last meeting of this Council, how many of such 208 cases were Military Women, and how many of such cases were Maternity cases? For about how many days, on the average, did each of such maternity cases remain in a Government Hospital in 1913?

A.—Eighty-two of these cases were women, forty-seven of whom were maternity cases. The average stay of the maternity cases in hospital was 19.3 days.

Q.—What fees per diem are paid to the Government in respect of

- (a) Military Women, and
(b) Military Children?

What items of expenditure, and to what amount, produce the result, which is alleged in the answer to my third question at the last meeting of this Council, namely, that, although \$8,881.88 was received, in 1913, by the Government in fees on account of Military Women and Children, such fees leave no profit to the Government?

A.—The fees per diem are as follows:—

(a.) Military women—four dollars.

(b.) Military children under 12 years of age, one dollar; 12 years of age and over, two dollars.

The Maternity Hospital is carried on as part of the Civil Hospital, and it is therefore impossible to separate the expenses of the former from those of the latter.

The total expenditure on the Civil and Maternity Hospitals for the year 1913 was \$97,135, and the revenue \$27,548. The average cost of each patient per diem was \$2.64.

The total expenditure on the Victoria Hospital, exclusive of the Medical Officer's salary, was \$16,690 and the revenue \$3,893. The average cost of each patient per diem was \$3.16.

The number of days spent by Military women and children in the hospitals during 1913 and the financial result to the Government were as follows:—

Government Civil Hospital.

Women	120 days at \$4	\$480
Children over 12....	12 days at \$2	24
Children under 12..	38 days at \$1	38

Maternity Hospital.

Women	891 days at \$4	\$3,564
Infants (no charge)	512 days	

Total.....1,573 days. Total \$4,106

Cost to Government at \$2.64 a day \$4,152.72

Victoria Hospital.

Women	793 days at \$4	\$3,192
Children over 12....	41 days at \$2	82
Children under 12..	1,739 days at \$1	1,739
Infants (no charge)	78 days	

Total.....2,656 days. Total \$5,013

Cost to Government at \$3.16 a day \$8,392.96

Total cost \$12,545.63

Total receipts 9,119.00

Loss to Government... \$ 3,426.68

I would point out that the total receipts are given as \$9,119. That is the highest sum which could have been received. It has not been calculated whether a lesser sum may have been actually received.

Q.—In connection with that part of the answer to my third question at the last meeting of this Council which sets forth the percentages of cases treated at the Maternity and Victoria Hospitals, will the Government state the actual numbers of cases dealt with at each of such Hospitals during each of the years 1908 to 1913 inclusive?

A.—The actual number of cases treated in Maternity and Victoria Hospitals during the years 1908 to 1913 inclusive was as follows:—

	Maternity.	Victoria.	Total.
1908	82	234	316
1909	122	219	341
1910	107	344	451
1911	135	309	444
1912	144	234	378
1913	205	224	429

Q.—When was the nursing of plague-cases transferred from the Kennedy Town Hospital to the Government Civil Hospital? How many plague-cases were treated at the Government Civil Hospital during the years 1912 and 1913 respectively? How many of such cases have been treated there during each month since the beginning of the present year? Are such plague-cases treated in an isolation ward or in the general ward?

A.—From the year 1896 cases of plague were treated in the Civil Hospital, but they were definitely transferred to the Civil Hospital and the Tung Wa Hospital in 1909 when the Hospital Hulk *Hygeia* was sold.

The number of cases of plague treated in the Civil Hospital during the years 1896 to 1908 inclusive was as follows:—

1896	34	cases.
1897	4	„
1898	56	„
1899	23	„
1900	17	„
1901	16	„
1902	7	„
1903	78	„
1904	5	„
1905	5	„
1906	23	„
1907	4	„
1908	22	„

In 1912 the number of cases of plague treated at the Government Civil Hospital was 37, and in 1913 the number was 7.

The number of such cases treated there during each month of the present year is as follows:—January 2, February 2, March 8, April 16, and May 22. It very seldom happened that a sister who had charge of a plague patient did duty in the Maternity Hospital.

Arrangements, however, have recently been made for plague cases to be treated in a separate ward, the sister in charge of which does not work in the Maternity Hospital.

Q.—What is the “enlargement of Hospital,” which is referred to in foot-note (15) on p. 59 of the White Book relating to the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1914, which, according to the statement in that foot-note, necessitated the appointment of two additional Probationers? Are there in fact now only two probationers on the Government Nursing Staff out of seven who were provided for in the Estimates for 1914?

A.—The enlargement of the Hospital referred to is the addition to the Maternity Hospital of a third class ward containing six beds, and the conversion of the operating theatre into a private ward. No increase in the staff of sisters or probationers was asked for as a consequence of those extensions. It was an error to state that the two probationers were required for these additions.

There are only two probationers on the nursing staff at present.

Q.—Were any, and, if so, how many, Sisters on the Staff of the Government Civil Hospital taken ill during the course of last summer, and between what dates were they absent from their duties? Did not such absence from duty place extra work on the shoulders of the Sisters remaining on duty?

A.—There was no sick leave during the months of April, May and October last year, but during the months of June, July, August and September five members of the nursing staff of the Government Civil Hospital were on the sick list for a total period of 83 days. They were absent from their duties between the following dates:—

27th June to the 17th July.
22nd July to the 15th August.

9th August to the 13th August.
19th August to the 21st September.
1st September to the 3rd September.

Three of these sisters were granted ordinary leave and were absent from their duties in addition to the above periods between the following dates:—

18th July to the 29th August.
16th August to the 13th September.
22nd September to the 9th November.

In consequence of the above sick leave and ordinary leave, a certain amount of extra work had to be performed by those sisters who were not sick, as is the case in every hospital. The hours of duty were as always, eight.

To fill temporary vacancies an additional European qualified Sister was engaged on the 24th of July and was employed until the 15th of November. There were also four probationers of some standing on duty throughout the year 1913, and two extra during the last 3½ months of the current year.

Q.—In connection with the intention of His Excellency the Governor (expressed at the last meeting of this Council) to "recommend to the Secretary of State for the Colonies an increase of three Sisters as a temporary measure pending further investigation as to the disposition of the Staff," will the Government state:—

- (i.) Are such Sisters to be engaged from England or locally?
- (ii.) For how long are they to be engaged?
- (iii.) When will the services of the one Nurse, who was stated by His Excellency, at the last Meeting of this Council, to have been already engaged as one of such three Sisters, be available to the Government? What examinations has she passed and what training has she had? Has any further nurse been engaged, in connection with such increase, since the last meeting of this Council? If so, what examinations has she passed and what training has she had? Has the Secretary of State for the Colonies now sanctioned such increase?

A.—(i.) Application has been made to the Secretary of State for three sisters to be engaged in England.

(ii.)—They will be on agreement for three years in the first instance on the usual terms.

(iii.)—The nurse referred to commenced her work on the 15th May in the Maternity Hospital. She received her training in the Dundee Royal Infirmary and passed the requisite examinations. No other nurses have been engaged locally.

HON. MR. POLLOCK—SIR, arising out of the answer to the last question, 11, when was the application made to the Secretary of State?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—On the 20th May.

A Motion Deferred

HON. MR. POLLOCK—SIR, before proceeding with the motion which stands in my name, I should like to consider the answers which have been given at this meeting of Council, and I therefore propose, with your Excellency's permission, not to proceed with the motion to-day at all events.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Very well.

Supplementary Appropriation

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the first reading of a Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to authorize the appropriation of a supplementary sum of six hundred and seventeen thousand seven hundred and eighty-three dollars and one cent., to defray the charges of the year 1913."

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The sum voted is to be expended as specified below:—

Treasury	\$ 2,077.92
Royal Observatory	664.49
Miscellaneous Services	206,310.79
Police and Prison Departments	45,179.09
Botanical and Forestry Department	4,553.88
Military Expenditure—Volunteers	10,967.68
Public Works, Recurrent	164,243.24
Post Office	183,214.51
Charitable Services	541.41
Total	<u>\$617,783.01</u>

Obscene Publication Ordinance

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill entitled, "An Ordinance for more effectually preventing the publication of obscene books, pictures and other articles." In doing so he said—The object of this Bill, Sir, is to fill a gap which exists in the law here at present in connection with the suppression of the publication of obscene books, pictures and other articles. Though it is an offence here to sell or otherwise publish obscene articles, and though it is an offence to obtain such articles for the purpose of sale, there is no provision in the law of Hongkong at present for obtaining a search warrant to search for such articles, therefore it is difficult to obtain evidence to found a case. This power to issue a search warrant was introduced in England some years ago, and the present Bill follows closely the terms of the English Act.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On 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, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Dentistry Ordinance

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to provide for the registration of qualified Dental Surgeons and otherwise to regulate the practice of Dentistry," be recommitted to a Committee of the whole Council for the purpose of discussing a certain amendment to clause 9 of the Bill, the amendment being the insertion of the date in which the Ordinance shall come into operation, namely, the 1st day of August, 1914.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The date suggested was approved by the Committee, and Council resumed.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL then moved the third reading of the Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Asiatic Emigration Ordinance

HIS EXCELLENCY—It is proposed that the next item on the orders of the day, the Asiatic Emigration Ordinance, stand over, as certain amendments have to be considered.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned till this day fortnight.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:—

Nullah Training at Magazine Gap

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,000 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, Drainage, Training Nullahs (c) Magazine Gap.

THE CHAIRMAN—The reason why there has to be a vote taken this year, which is not provided for in the Estimates, on this account, is that it was not proposed to continue the training of these nullahs, which is a very necessary work, this year, when the Estimates were being drawn up nine months ago. But since then the Military Authorities have decided to make another attempt to occupy the sanatorium near Magazine Gap, and, therefore, the Government think it desirable, in view of that, to go on with the training of these nullahs, which are mostly on Crown land, only a small portion of which goes into land under the jurisdiction of the Military Authorities. Therefore, the Government has recommended that this sum of money should be voted so as to go on with the work at once.

HON. MR. POLLOCK—I notice in the White Book we have before us to-day, at page 42, that this work seems to have proceeded very slowly. In 1913 there seems to have been a decrease on the vote anticipated of about \$8,000, therefore I suppose this \$4,000 will not even put us as far forward as we expected to be at the end of 1913.

THE CHAIRMAN—That is so, but when that vote of \$11,100 was taken, I do not think it was quite decided which nullahs should be trained. I don't think the scheme was entirely settled. I was not here during that time last year, and cannot say exactly why such a small sum was expended.

HON. MR. HEWETT—With regard to this vote, I should like to say that, to my own certain knowledge, for the last quarter of a century attempts have been made to make this place sanitary. The place has been, and is up to the present day fever stricken, and I would suggest for the consideration of his Excellency the Officer Commanding that the Military Authorities had better quit this site and get a better site somewhere else. To my certain knowledge there has been a waste of money on this place for the last quarter of a century. We have spent thousand of dollars and could never get the place in a sanitary condition; it never was in a sanitary condition, and it seems useless to go on spending money in this way. There are deep gullies there, covered by bushes and trees which are breeding places for mosquitoes.

THE CHAIRMAN—What about the private houses already there?

HON. MR. HEWETT—It would have been cheaper to leave the place ten years ago.

THE CHAIRMAN—The amount which has been expended there is not very large.

HON. MR. HEWETT—Money has been expended on it year after year. I lived there in 1889 and it was then insanitary.

THE CHAIRMAN—So far as the Military sanatorium is concerned, the Military Authorities are going to give it another chance.

HON. MR. POLLOCK—I suppose this training will be accompanied by cutting back the undergrowth?

THE CHAIRMAN—Yes.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I think it is only in the last three years that the matter has been taken seriously and the nullahs decently trained. I cannot say without reference why such a small sum was expended last year out of the amount voted.

A Caterpillar Plague in the New Territories

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,300 in aid of the vote Botanical and Forestry Department, Other Charges, Forestry, New Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN—This is rather interesting. The vote is necessitated by a plague of caterpillars on the Kowloon pine plantations, a visitation which occurs very occasionally. Nineteen tons of caterpillars have been collected, and the work of collecting is not yet finished, but the quantities collected are becoming much less every day. It is calculated that something like twelve million caterpillars have been destroyed altogether. This is the worst visitation since 1894, when 36 tons were collected.

New Territories Judicial Vote

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$900 in aid of the vote Judicial and Legal Departments, C.—District Officer, Other Charges, Southern District, Transport.

THE CHAIRMAN—The Southern District Officer has to do a good deal of travelling during the typhoon season to Cheungchau and Tai O, and it is difficult for him to get a suitable launch to go in practically all weathers on this duty, as he makes his arrangements beforehand, and the people know when he is coming. An arrangement has been made for two launches, one at a cost of \$3 an hour and one at \$4 an hour, and in bad weather the larger of these two launches, which is 84 feet long, will be used. A good deal of negotiation was needed to arrive at this arrangement, and the charge is fairly moderate.

Road-Making in New Territories

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$850 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, New Territories, Communications, Roads (a) Kam Tin—Au Tau.

THE CHAIRMAN—This is in connection with interest last year for road-making in the New Territories. The P.W.D. neglected to have the account adjusted. It is not a question of more money being required; it really is in the nature of a re-vote as the vote was not adjusted before the end of last year. Land had to be resumed in connection with this road,

with the result that in order to adjust the accounts the sum of \$843 and some cents are required and we have got to come to the Council for that sum.

Coolie Labour for Sanitary Work

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,000 in aid of the vote Sanitary Department, Other Charges, Sanitary Staff, Coolie Labour.

THE CHAIRMAN—This is required for extra coolies during the visitation of plague. The head of the Sanitary Department has had to engage a number of temporary coolies for cleansing and disinfection and may have to engage more. Their wages amount to \$371 a month, and as there is not sufficient money on the vote he has asked for this supplementary vote of \$1,000.

Compensation for Officers of the "Tai On"

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$2,830, in aid of the following votes:—

Miscellaneous Services.

Compensation to Captain and Officers of str. *Tai On* for the loss of personal effects \$2,750

Charitable Services.

Charitable Allowance to Widow of the late L. J. da Silva, for 8 months at \$10 a month 80

Total \$2,830

THE CHAIRMAN—This is compensation for the loss of personal property by Captain Wetherell, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Diaz and Mr. Concepcion of the *Tai On* (\$2,750), and an allowance of \$10 a month up to the end of this year for the widow of the late Mr. da Silva. This is not all we shall have to ask for, but it is all we have an estimate of at present. An allowance for the widow of the Chief Officer may have to be asked for later when we hear from India.

Volunteer Reserves Equipment

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$281.57 in aid of the vote Special Expenditure, B.—Volunteers, Reserves Equipment.

Grant in Aid of Scientific Research

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,091, the equivalent of £100, in aid of the vote Miscellaneous Services, Grants in aid of Scientific Institutes, Imperial Bureau of Entomology in London, in respect of 1913-14 and 1914-15.

Secret Service Vote

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$7,000 in aid of the vote Police and Prison Departments, A.—Police, Other Charges, Secret Service.