

*19th May, 1932.*

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT  
(HON. MR. W. T. SOUTHORN, C.M.G.)

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING THE  
TROOPS (MAJOR-GENERAL J. W. SANDILANDS, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. MR. E. R. HALLIFAX, C.M.G.,  
C.B.E.).

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (HON. MR. C. G. ALABASTER, K.C.,  
O.B.E.).

THE SECRETARY FOR CHINESE AFFAIRS (HON. MR. A. E. WOOD).

THE COLONIAL TREASURER (HON. MR. E. TAYLOR).

HON. MR. H. T. CREASY, C.B.E., (Director of Public Works).

HON. COMMANDER G. F. HOLE, R.N., (Retired) (Harbour  
Master).

HON. DR. A. R. WELLINGTON (Director of Medical and  
Sanitary Services).

HON. MR. T. H. KING, (Inspector General of Police).

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK, KT., K.C.

HON. MR. W. E. L. SHENTON.

HON. MR. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D.

HON. MR. J. P. BRAGA.

HON. MR. S. W. TS'O, O.B.E., LL.D.

HON. MR. J. J. PATERSON.

HON. MR. T. N. CHAU.

HON. MR. W. H. BELL.

MR. R. A. C. NORTH (Deputy Clerk of Councils.)

**MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of Council were confirmed.

**NEW MEMBER.**

THE HON. MR. A. E. WOOD took the oath of allegiance, and his seat as a member of the Council.

**PAPERS.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. The Officer Administering the Government, laid upon the table the following papers:—

Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903,—conditions in respect of licences for the sale, in places outside a public market, of articles of food for man usually sold or exposed for sale in a public market.

Rescission of the Order of the 17th December, 1931, published in the Gazette of the 18th December, 1931, as Government Notification No. 798, declaring Amoy an infected place.

Amendments to regulations made under the Cremation Ordinance, 1914.

By-laws and amendment to the Aerated Water Manufactories By-laws made under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

By-laws and amendment to the Laundries By-laws made under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

By-laws and amendment to the Bakehouses By-laws made under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

Amendment to the Food-preserving Establishments By-laws made under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

By-laws and amendment to the Dairies By-laws made under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

Order made under section 2 of the Prisons Ordinance, 1899,—new prison at the south east of Lai Chi Kok Prison.

Addition to the Air Navigation Directions, (Hong Kong), 1932.

Report of the Director of the Royal Observatory, Hong Kong, for the year 1931.

Kowloon-Canton Railway (British Section) Annual Report for 1931.

Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the whole question of Government Launches (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1932).

QUESTIONS.

HON. MR. R. H. KOTEWALL asked:—

1.—In view of the great hardship which residents of the rider-main districts are suffering in having to obtain their water supply from the street fountains in this hot weather, will the Government, as an experiment, restore the supply to the houses in these districts on the same restriction in respect of hours of supply, so as to give the people an opportunity to prove that, in the present acute state of the water situation, they are able to keep down consumption of water obtained through such direct supply, to the same level as that through the street supply; on the understanding that every effort is made by the three Chinese members of the Legislative Council to impress upon the people the imperative necessity for conserving every drop of water, and that the street supply will be reverted to, should it be found that the consumption of a direct house supply appreciably exceeds that of a street supply?

2.—Will the Government state whether any houses in the rider-main districts have been disconnected from the rider-mains and, if so, will it give the reasons for its action, in view of the statement made by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi, in this Council on the 23rd September, 1929, (*Hansard* 1929, p. 232), namely:

“It will, of course, be impossible to discard the rider-main system until there is an assured supply of water available both on the island and on the mainland throughout the year; and the Government will certainly give this Council an opportunity to debate the matter before the rider-mains are abolished”?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—

1.—The Government does not feel justified in reopening the rider-mains. The Director of Public Works has a scheme under consideration by which a longer period of supply can be given from street fountains, while a shorter supply will be made available for those on metered supplies. It is hoped that this scheme will be ready for operation in the course of the next few days. It is not considered safe to allow unmetered supplies in houses until the position improves.

2.—In February last it was decided in Executive Council that universal meterage should be introduced as soon as possible, and that in the rider-main districts the cost of transferring existing house-services from the rider-mains to principal mains should be borne by public funds. Considerable progress has been made with this scheme, and a large number of meters have been fixed within the Rider-Main Areas. The Government will give this Council an opportunity to discuss the proposal for the abolition of the rider-main system generally before the filling of the reservoirs makes the reintroduction of the rider main system a practical possibility.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. The Officer Administering the Government, laid upon the table the reports of the Finance Committee, No. 4 and No. 5 of 7th April and 28th April, 1932, and moved that they be adopted.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and this was agreed to.

#### SANITARY BOARD BY-LAWS.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved.—

“That the By-Laws made by the Sanitary Board under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, on the 12th day of April, 1932, relating to Dairies, be approved.” He said.—Under section 16 (19) of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, the Sanitary Board is given power to make by-laws for the regulation of dairies; but under section 17 the by-laws so made are subject to the approval of this Council. Under section 6 (18) a dairy is defined so as to include any farm-house, cow-shed, milk-store, milk shop or other place from which milk is supplied or in which milk is kept for the purpose of sale. This new law, made by the Sanitary Board on April the 12th, enables the Board to exempt from the ordinary dairy by-laws shops in which milk is kept and sold only in sealed bottles as received from an ordinary dairy. I move that this by-law be confirmed.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the by-law was approved.

#### WATER SHORTAGE.

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK.—I beg leave to move the following:—

"That the Unofficial Members of this Council, in view of the present serious recurrent water shortage, respectfully urge the Hong Kong Government to press the Home Authorities immediately to sanction the commencement of the second section of the Shing Mun Water Scheme."

This motion is being made as an emphatic protest by the united body of Unofficial members against any further delay by the Home Authorities in sanctioning the commencement of the second section of the Shing-Mun scheme, and also in the hope that it may strengthen the hands of the Hong Kong Government, which Unofficial members cannot doubt is fully alive to the serious gravity of the present water situation.

This grave situation, which seeing that this Colony is dependent upon reservoir storage, combined with catch-waters, for its water supply, can only be relieved by the immediate commencement and urgent pushing on to completion of the large dam at Shing-Mun, with its potential storage of 3,000 million gallons, together with its necessary catchwaters.

On the 18th July, 1929, the following resolution, which was a form of a resolution then proposed by me, as amended to meet the views of the then Governor, H.E. Sir Cecil Clementi, was unanimously passed in this Council (See *Hansard* 1929 p. 3):

"That, in the opinion of this Council, it is imperative in the interests of this Colony that permanent measures to increase the water supply of the Colony should be pressed on with the utmost despatch."

Again, in the debate on the Budget on the 19th September in that year, I, speaking on behalf of all the Unofficial Members of Council, said.—"Another pressing need is an adequate water supply. It seems most regrettable that your Excellency is not even now able to lay before us definite waterworks extension proposals under the second section of the Shing-Mun scheme, seeing that the full needs of Hong Kong Island are not (as we gather from Mr. Henderson's reports) met under present arrangements, and even with the pipe-line across the harbour and the building of the Aberdeen Reservoir, up to a later period than the year 1932. Also it must be borne in mind that the construction of the big Shing-Mun Dam, which apparently is the corner-stone of the second section scheme, will take many years to complete, even after the plans for it have been drawn up and decided on."

Again, at p. 179 of *Hansard*, I said.—"We venture, however, to express grave doubts whether, unless the Government very speedily indeed gets on with the construction of the big dam at Shing-Mun, it will be reasonably practicable for the Government

for some years to come to discard the rider-main system. We would, therefore, most strongly urge the Government to press on with the plans for the construction of the big dam in the Shing-Mun gorge and with the building of the dam itself."

And, in the course of the same debate (see *Hansard* at page 193) the Honourable Sir Shou-son Chow, speaking on behalf of himself and the other two Chinese members, after pointing out the hardships then suffered by the poorer classes of Chinese, said.—"Sir, we cannot afford a recurrence of that most distressing condition. It must be prevented with all the means and energy at the command of the Government. All the permanent schemes should be decided upon and pressed on with the greatest possible speed, without a single day's avoidable delay."

Equally emphatic were the remarks of the Honourable Sir Shou-son Chow on the 20th October, 1930 (see *Hansard* 1930 p. 199), in speaking for all the Unofficial Members jointly.

Finally, it was decided to place the work in the hands of an eminent firm of consulting engineers in England, Sir Alexander Binnie, Son and Deacon, and, in January of last year, Mr. Gourleay of that firm paid a visit of inspection to this Colony, and in the autumn Mr. Binnie came out here, with the result that, on the 10th December last year, (see *Hansard* 1931 at page 209) His Excellency the present Governor stated in this Council as follows:—"The position with regard to the second section is that the scheme has been submitted to the Consulting Engineers, and two members of the firm have been out here and have approved of it. The question was referred to the Secretary of State in the first instance and it was held over temporarily for that report. He expressed some views on the subject as to whether we could afford the total cost. It is a very expensive scheme, but I strongly pointed out, in a despatch which included a reference to the Gaol, that not only was it an essential work, vital to the Colony, but that I considered our financial position was amply good enough to permit of the scheme being proceeded with at once. In the telegram in which the Secretary of State approved of the Gaol being paid for out of loan funds, he merely stated, with regard to the second section of the Shing-Mun scheme, that we must wait a little until he had seen the Consulting Engineers' Report. I assume, therefore, that, if the second report is favourable, we shall be allowed to proceed with it."

With reference to those remarks of H.E. the Governor, it seems to me absurd to suggest that this Colony, whose actual revenue for 1931 amounted, I understand, to far more than the estimate, i.e. to about thirty-three millions of dollars, cannot afford to pay for such a vital necessity as water, which is far more necessary to this Colony and its expansion than even a new Gaol.

Since then, we must assume, in the absence of any news to the contrary, that the report of Mr. Binnie was favourable to the construction of the new dam as an engineering feat; and yet here we are, still waiting for the assent of the Secretary of State to our proposals for the financing of work which was declared by the unanimous vote of this Council, Official as well as Unofficial, on the 18th July, 1929, to be work requiring to be "pressed on with the utmost despatch."

It is difficult to be patient in the face of such delay on the part of the Home Authorities in sanctioning the necessary expenditure on such an urgent and pressing need as a pure water-supply, especially bearing in mind the fact that, if we commenced work upon the second section of the Shing-Mun scheme to-morrow, it would probably take from two to three years before we should obtain even a partial increase of our water-supply by the partial construction of the big dam.

From the middle of 1928 down to the middle of 1929, as was pointed out by the late Governor (see *Hansard* 1929 at page 134) the rainfall was only about 38 inches. From the 1st October last until the middle of May this year the rainfall was only about 15½ inches. I quote these figures merely for the purpose of emphasising the point that we are always liable to a recurrent water shortage in this Colony if we have a dry autumn followed by a dry winter and spring, and that our only salvation lies in the promptest pushing on with the big Shing-Mun dam.

In conclusion, I do most strongly, on behalf of the Unofficial Members, urge your Excellency to convey to the Right Honourable The Secretary of State for the Colonies our protest against the delays which have taken place in the sanctioning of the commencement of this most vital and necessary scheme for the welfare of this Colony.

This dam must, in our opinion, take precedence over every other public work.

HON. MR. R.H. KOTEWALL.—I beg to second the motion. The ground is so well covered by the Honourable Senior Unofficial member that very little remains for me to say.

There can be no question that the most pressing problem now confronting the Colony is our water supply. Representing as I do the preponderant element in the population, I urge with all emphasis that not another day's avoidable delay in commencing the second section of the Shing-Mun scheme should be permitted, in view of the great hardship entailed on the poorer classes whenever a restriction on the water supply is imposed.

Time and again during the last three years have the unofficial members of this Council pressed on the Government the imperative need of pushing on with the work; and it is inexplicable why in face of these strong representations and of the equally strong opinion expressed by His Excellency the Governor, as quoted by the Honourable Senior Unofficial Member, the Secretary of State should have held up this most essential and urgent undertaking.

I should like to repeat here, what the Hon. Sir Shou-son Chow and I have said on previous occasions, that the people will not grudge any expenditure in the form of interest and sinking fund in respect of loans raised for providing waterworks which would obviate, at least for some years, the necessity for restrictions on the water supply, with all their attending hardships and inconvenience.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The Government can readily accept the motion of the Senior Unofficial Member, and, in fact, has already anticipated it by despatching a telegram to the Secretary of State on 11th May setting out the present water shortage and the consequent restrictions as still further reason for pressing on at once with the Gorge Valley Reservoir at Shing-Mun.

A short history of the more recent negotiations in connexion with the Shing-Mun Scheme will, I hope, serve to satisfy Honourable Members that there has been no undue delay in pressing on with it.

A dam of this height, storing water to a depth of 200 feet, falls into the category of the World's large engineering problems, and every step taken demands the most extreme circumspection. The services of an English firm, Messrs. Sir Alexander Binnie, Son and Deacon, with a very wide specialized experience in this kind of work, were, therefore, enlisted—and on 9th January, 1931, Mr. Gourleay, a partner in the firm, came out to inspect the site selected and its possibilities. The data were not then sufficient for him to return a final opinion, and more exploration work was called for.

On October 8th, 1931, Mr. Binnie of the same firm came to inspect the foundations, which had, in the meantime, been opened up, and finally reported that the scheme as proposed was a sound one.

The not unimportant question of finance remained, and the Secretary of State required figures which would justify Hong Kong in incurring the necessary loan—and it must not be forgotten that this work was not the only one on the loan list, though it is much the largest and the most important contemplated. The



year 1931 was a difficult financial one, but very full figures, containing all available information, were sent to the Secretary of State on 10th March, 1932, in support of the Government's view that finance need no longer stand in the way and that the work could and should be undertaken at once.

We hope we have now satisfied the Secretary of State on the engineering features of the scheme and the ability of the Colony to finance it; and nothing has been or will be left undone to show the great urgency. Government, indeed, welcomes this further opportunity for despatching another cable to convey to the Secretary of State the views of the Honourable Unofficial Members that have been so strongly expressed to-day.

In view of the admitted seriousness of the situation I will now ask the Director of Public Works to make a statement on the present position of the water supply and the new proposals for distribution.

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.**—The total quantity of water in storage in the reservoirs of the Colony to-day is 731 million gallons, being 573 million gallons in Hong Kong and 158 million gallons in Kowloon.

On Wednesday, the 11th May, it was deemed necessary to cut down the supply throughout the Colony to seven hours a day, and since then careful watch has been made both on the consumption and the distribution of this supply.

After full investigation it is now considered that neither the reduction in consumption nor the distribution of the present supply is satisfactory, and that further restriction is necessary.

The present supplies on both sides of the harbour must be cut down, and the proportion of the supply taken through meters should be reduced, as street fountain consumers are at present not getting an equitable share.

Under the existing systems of supply through meters and street fountains, both off the same main, it is not possible to restrict either supply separately, the result being that while there appears to be considerable hardship amongst those drawing their supplies from street fountains, metered consumers enjoy a comparatively generous supply.

To reduce the hours of supply to any considerable extent under the existing system would throw the burden of sacrifice still more on those using street fountains, and would further aggravate the present disparity of supply.

With the object of ensuring that all consumers should have an adequate supply, but that metered consumers should retain the advantage of having their water delivered through the house taps, the Waterworks Engineer, Mr. Newhouse, has evolved a scheme to overcome the present difficulties at a comparatively small cost.

It is proposed, in the case of the Central and Western districts of Hong Kong, to utilize the existing isolated trunk main in Caine Road, and connect to it a series of temporary subsidiary mains running down towards the harbour and carrying a large number of street fountains. In the case of the Eastern District of Hong Kong and the Kowloon districts, it is proposed to isolate certain suitably placed trunk mains and connect to them a large number of street fountains.

It would then be possible to give a supply to these subsidiary fountains during the period when all other supplies are cut off.

On completion of these alterations it is proposed to give one period of full supply to the whole community, including the fountains, on the existing mains, and thereafter as long a period of additional supply as possible through the new subsidiary fountains.

By this method full control of the supply will be regained, distribution will be more equitable and any immediate necessity for the importation of water and the erection of tanks should be obviated.

If approved, the necessary works will be carried out as expeditiously as possible. It is hoped that this system of supply will be brought into operation in a week or ten days.

The number of the new street fountains to be fixed on the new subsidiary mains and trunk mains will not be less than the existing number of fountains on the present supply mains.

By reducing the hours of supply to metered services it is anticipated that a 12 hours supply can be given through the new fountains on the subsidiary mains.

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK.—I take it, when the Director of Public Works said just now that "the number of new street fountains to be fixed on the new subsidiary mains and trunk mains will not be less than the existing number of fountains on the present supply main," he meant that the number of fountains altogether would be double?

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.—Yes. During the period that the meter supply and the subsidiary supply are on.

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK.—I will now, Sir, formally ask—so that the Unofficial Members may have an opportunity of recording their vote—that this matter be put to the vote so that it may be seen they are all in favour of the motion which I have proposed. It is not, of course, for the Official Members to vote.

H.E. THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.—There is very little for me to add to the remarks of the Colonial Secretary in replying to the Senior Unofficial Member's motion. The Government accepts the motion of the Senior Unofficial Member and honourable members may rest assured that the importance and urgency of proceeding with the second section of the Shing-Mun scheme are fully appreciated by the Government, and I shall not fail to convey the views of the Unofficial Members of this Council to the Secretary of State.

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK.—By telegram, Sir?

His Excellency.—Yes.

On the vote being taken, the following members voted in favour of the motion.—Sir Henry Pollock, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Kotewall, Mr. Braga, Mr. Ts'o, Mr. Paterson, Mr. Chau, Mr. Bell. The official members did not vote.

#### VACCINATION AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Vaccination Ordinance, 1923" He said.—This Bill effects the necessary amendments in the principal Ordinance, consequential on the transfer of the Births and Deaths Registry from the Sanitary to the Medical Department.

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

#### Objects and Reasons.

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—

The Head of the Sanitary Department ceased to be Registrar of Births and Deaths under section 3 (2) of the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance (No. 7 of 1896) when the Ordinance was amended by Ordinance No. 26 of 1931. This Ordinance makes consequential amendments in the Vaccination Ordinance, 1923.

#### EMPLOYERS AND SERVANTS AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1932.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Employers and Servants Ordinance, 1902." He said.—This Bill repeals the penal sections in the principal Ordinance leaving the relations between employers and their servants subject to the ordinary law of contract.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a first time.

#### Objects and Reasons.

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—

The effect of this Ordinance is to delete from the Employers and Servants Ordinance, 1902, those provisions which applied penal sanctions to labour engagements. The relations of employer and employed are left to be governed by the ordinary law of contract but the summary procedure before a magistrate, in respect of wages and breach of contract, provided by the principal Ordinance, is retained in the new and abbreviated section 12.

#### MILITARY STORES (EXPORTATION) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1932.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a bill intitled "An Ordinance to amend the Military Stores (Exportation) Ordinance, 1862." He said.—The object of this Bill is explained in the short memorandum attached to it.

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

#### Objects and Reasons.

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—

1. This Ordinance repeals section 6 of the principal Ordinance, No. 1 of 1862, and re-enacts it with the substitution of the words "under the powers conferred by the Order of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in Council of the 26th day of October, 1896, or any Order of His Majesty in Council amending or substituted for the same" for the words "under the powers conferred by sub-clause 9 of clause III of the Order of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in Council of the 26th day of October, 1896, as amended by the Order of His Majesty in Council of the 28th day of August, 1914."

2. Section 14 of the Interpretation Ordinance, No. 31 of 1911, provides that where any Ordinance repeals and re-enacts, with or without modification, any provision of a former Ordinance, references in any other Ordinance to the provisions so repealed, shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as references to the provisions so re-enacted.

3. An Order of His Majesty in Council is not an Ordinance. Moreover, the reference to the Amending Order in Council of 1914, was inserted in Ordinance No. 1 of 1862 by Ordinance No. 3 of 1915; but since then an amending Order in Council of 1916

was published in the Hong Kong Government Gazette of 12th May, 1916. Such Orders in Council are amended from time to time and occasionally replaced by a consolidation Order.

4. The slight amendment effected in section 6 of the principal Ordinance by this amending Ordinance will, by applying the principle of section 14 of the Interpretation Ordinance, save the necessity of re-amending the principal Ordinance every time the Order in Council is amended or consolidated.

#### **BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1932.**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the Registration of Births and Deaths." He said.—This Bill will facilitate the making of proper corrections in the Register of Births.

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

#### **Objects and Reasons.**

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—

1. Under section 9 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance it is the duty of the father or mother or in the case of death, illness, absence, or inability to attend of the father or mother the occupier of the house in which the child has been born, or any one present at the birth to give the necessary information to the Registrar within 42 days of birth.

2. It has been the custom for midwives to give the necessary information to the Registrar with regard to births where they have been in attendance and this information has been forthwith entered in the register. Sometimes this information is incorrect as to the exact name of the father, the mother or the child. This is an error of fact or substance which can only be corrected at the cost of \$2.50.

3. It often happens that when the child is registered on the information of the midwife (generally one or two days after birth) no name has been given to the infant. The infant is thus registered un-named.

4. There are constantly arising cases where within the 42 days of grace allowed by the Ordinance the father attends in person and offers the requisite information only to be told that the child has already been registered on the information given by the midwife. If the midwife's information is incorrect he must produce \$2.50 and two certificates to have it corrected and he must produce another \$2.50 for inserting the name of the child in the register.

5. In each case the father is penalised for something he is not responsible for and naturally he objects.

6. This amending Ordinance amends section 11 of the principal Ordinance by reducing the certificate fee to one dollar and by abolishing the entry fee where the former is issued or where the latter is made within forty-two days of the birth of the child.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN AT SEA ORDINANCE,, 1932.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to regulate the employment of Young Persons and Children at Sea." He said.—This Bill as explained in the memorandum carries out an International Convention.

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

#### Objects and Reasons.

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—

1. On the 9th July, 1920, a general conference of the International Labour Organization of the League of Nations adopted a Convention fixing fourteen years as the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea, except in school ships and training ships and in vessels upon which only members of the same family are employed, and requiring shipmasters to keep a register of all persons under sixteen years of age.

2. Under Article 421 of the Treaty of Versailles it is necessary to apply the Convention to the Colony subject to such modifications as may be necessary to adapt the Convention to local conditions.

3. Section 2 gives effect to Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention, with a proviso relating to native vessels similar to one enacted or contemplated in East African Dependencies.

4. Section 3 gives effect to Article 4 of the Convention.

5. Section 4 adopts the definition of "vessel" given in Article 1 of the Convention.

6. Section 5 provides the penalties and section 6 is the suspending clause usual in the case of an Ordinance relating to Merchant Shipping.

**IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION ORDINANCE, 1932.**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Importation and Exportation Ordinance 1932." He said.—This is a Bill which will enable the Governor in Council to make regulations, if thought fit, for the prohibition of cargo which is not entered on a ship's manifest.

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

**Objects and Reasons.**

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—

1. The powers of prohibition and regulation of importation and exportation contained in sections 3 and 4 of the principal Ordinance appear to be limited to the prohibition and regulation of specific articles.

2. It is considered desirable to increase these powers to the extent indicated in the new section 4A.

3. Although the enforcement of the revenue laws of foreign countries is not generally a matter which concerns the authorities and courts of any place (See 17 Halsbury para. 846) the activities of smugglers frequently result in the imposition of fines on innocent shipowners, the detention of their ships and the interference with discipline among their crews, besides giving any port from which they operate a bad name and causing the imposition of unnecessary restrictions on its legitimate trade.

4. Although the new section covers all unmanifested or unauthorised cargo it is aimed rather more at the "pidgin" cargo carried by members of a crew than at the contents of passengers' luggage which can be examined with ease by the proper authorities. A power to exempt from prohibition cargo carried in passengers' luggage is therefore included among the powers conferred by the section.

**UNITED KINGDOM DESIGNS (PROTECTION)  
AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1932.**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Ordinance, 1928." He said.—The amendments in the principal Ordinance effected by this Bill have been suggested by the Secretary of State.

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

**Objects and Reasons.**

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—

This Ordinance amends section 4 of Ordinance No. 18 of 1928, by the addition of certain words suggested by the Secretary of State in his circular despatch of the 27th February, 1932, addressed to all Colonies and Protectorates where legislation based on the same model obtains. The amendment includes the publication of a design in Hong Kong prior to the date of the registration thereof in the United Kingdom among the grounds upon which the court is empowered, upon the application of any person who alleges that his interests have been prejudicially affected, to declare that exclusive privileges and rights in a design have not been acquired in this Colony under the provisions of the principal Ordinance.

**CHINESE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
ORDINANCE, 1932.**

HON. MR. S. W. TS'O moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the incorporation of the Directors of the Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong." He said.—The Chinese Young Men's Christian Association in Hong Kong was formed in 1901 under the management of the Directors of the Association with the object of promoting the formation of Christian character, and the cultivation of Christian spirit of service among Chinese young men. As the Association developed, the Directors obtained from the Government the grant of two several pieces of land respectively registered in the Land Office as Inland Lot No. 1757 and Inland Lot No. 2048 upon which the present Chinese Y.M.C.A. building at Bridges Street now stands. These two lots of land are held by the International Committee of Y.M.C.A.'s as Trustees for the Chinese branch of the Y.M.C.A. of Hong Kong, and this Committee has signified its desire to hand over these properties to the local Directors when they are incorporated as a corporation. In order to secure perpetual succession it is proposed that the Directors of the Chinese Y.M.C.A. shall be incorporated as a Corporation *sole* under the management of the Directors and the Bill now proposed follows, in its main lines, other incorporating ordinances which have been passed from time to time.

HON. MR. R. H. KOTEWALL seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

**Objects and Reasons.**

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—



1. The Chinese Young Men's Christian Association in Hong Kong was formed in 1901 under the management of the Directors of the Association with the object of promoting the formation of Christian character and the cultivation of Christian spirit of service among Chinese young men.

2. As the Association developed the directors obtained from the Government the grant of two several pieces of land respectively registered in the Land Office as Inland Lot No. 1757 and Inland Lot No. 2048 upon which the present Chinese Young Men's Christian Association Building at Bridges Street now stands.

3. These two lots of land are held by the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations as Trustees for the Chinese Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong and this committee has signified its desire to hand over these properties to the local Directors when they are incorporated as a corporation.

4. In order to secure perpetual succession it is proposed that the Directors of the Chinese Young Men's Christian Association shall be incorporated as a Corporation *sole* under the management of the Directors and the Bill now proposed follows in its main lines other incorporating Ordinances which have been passed from time to time.

#### ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE INCORPORATION ORDINANCE.

HON. MR. S. W. TS'O moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the incorporation of St. Stephen's College." He said.—This Bill is framed upon the lines which are usual in the case of institutions desiring to be converted into corporate bodies for convenience in dealing with their property and funds. Clause 1 gives the short title. Clause 2, which is founded upon the provisions of the document laid down by the Founders of St. Stephen's College when it first started, states the constitution of the Council of the College and provides for the filing of the names of members of Council with the Registrar of Companies, and for the incorporation of the Council of the College under the name of "St. Stephen's College" and includes the usual power to sue and liability to be sued and the right to use a common seal.

Clause 3 provides for the mode of appointment of the Warden and members of Council, while clauses 4 and 5 set out respectively the powers of the Corporation and the execution of deeds and documents by the Corporation.

Clause 6 provides for the vesting in the Corporation of properties already vested in the Council or Trustees and for the taking over by the Corporation of all existing debts and liabilities of the Council or Trustees on the coming into operation of this Ordinance.

Clause 7 of the Bill empowers the Council to make regulations and provides for the filing of same with the Registrar of Companies. Subject to the exercise of such powers the regulations contained in the schedule of this Ordinance shall be in force from the commencement of this Ordinance and shall be deemed to have been made under this Ordinance.

Clause 8 is the usual saving clause of the rights of the Crown and of certain other persons.

HON. MR. W. E. L. SHENTON seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

#### **MEDICAL REGISTRATION AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1931.**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend further the Medical Registration Ordinance, 1884."

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

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

Upon Council resuming,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through the Committee without amendment and moved the third reading.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT.**

H.E. THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.—  
Council stands adjourned to May 26.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Council Chamber, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

Votes totalling \$11,979 contained in Message No. 6 from H.E. The Officer Administering the Government, were considered.

Item No. 30:—Treasury.—Special Expenditure. Steel Filing Cabinets, \$994.

HON. MR. KOTEWALL.—Can the Colonial Treasurer say for how many years the stubs are to be preserved. I mean to say that if they are to be preserved for two or three years probably more filing cabinets may be required.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER.—We shall preserve them for two years and we shall probably want one more set of filing cabinets next year. After that, this year's lot will be put away in brown paper.

HON. MR. KOTEWALL.—This may be a good opportunity for the Colonial Treasurer to tell us whether the new cash registers are working satisfactorily.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER.—Yes, I can assure you they are working extremely satisfactorily, and at present the staff has been reduced by three. In a month's time a further two clerks will be dispensed with. That is reducing the staff in the revenue branch to 16 as against 21 at the beginning of the year. There is also a large saving in forms. This year the reduction, it is estimated, will amount to over a quarter of a million. This reduction in the cost of clerical assistance at approximately \$1,000 per man per annum, amounts to \$5,000 per annum and the saving in cost of paper is roughly \$1,000 per year making a total of \$6,000 a year, so the machines should pay for themselves in four years. From the public side there is a saving in time with no waiting for the receipts. Up to eleven o'clock this morning 314 receipts were issued.

HON. MR. KOTEWALL.—It is very satisfactory and I congratulate the Colonial Treasurer on the introduction of these registers.

HON. MR. BRAGA.—I beg to differ from the Senior Unofficial Chinese Member on his congratulations, because, apparently, this is one of the policies by which the "small fry" are made to suffer.

HON. MR. SHENTON.—I beg to move a point of order. Has this anything to do with the minute we have before us?

HON. MR. BRAGA.—The remark has been elicited by the remarks of the Honourable Senior Unofficial Chinese Member. I think it is very unfortunate that the "small fry" are to pay in this policy of economy.

HON. MR. SHENTON.—I must object on a point of order.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I think you are out of order, Mr. Braga. I think, also, the previous discussion was out of order.

**WATER PROBLEM.**

THE CHAIRMAN.—There is one further matter for the Committee. You heard the scheme outlined by the Honourable Director of Public Works for a better distributed supply. It will involve a cost of \$25,000, it is estimated, and as the Government has approved of this scheme we would like to proceed at once with it so that the Director of Public Works can have the whole scheme in working order within the time that he mentioned, a few days—seven to ten days I think. There has been no time to put the formal vote before you this afternoon, but we want the informal approval of the Committee to proceed with the work at once.

HON. MR. TS'O.—Will the present supply be disturbed during the time the improvements are being made?

THE CHAIRMAN.—In no way. I take it this is informally approved and awaits only the formal vote.

The Committee agreed.

All the votes were approved.

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