

PAPERS

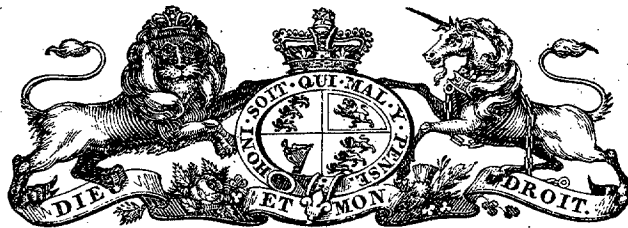
LAI D BEFORE THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

HONGKONG.

DEC., 1884 TO JUNE, 1885.



HONGKONG:

PRINTED BY NORONHA & Co., GOVERNMENT PRINTERS.

1885.

26555
July 28th 1930
30 JAN 1982

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 1.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 1884.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

Pursuant to Proclamation, the Council met.

At 3 o'clock P.M., the Acting Clerk of Councils read the Proclamation convening the Council, as follows:—

No. 16.

PROCLAMATION.

[L.S.] G. F. BOWEN.

By His Excellency Sir GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

Whereas the Legislative Council of Hongkong stands prorogued to Wednesday, the 19th day of November instant, now I, Sir GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, in exercise of the powers in me vested as Governor aforesaid, do hereby proclaim that the said Legislative Council be further prorogued to Wednesday, the 3rd December, 1884, on which day it shall meet for the despatch of business at the hour of 3 o'clock in the afternoon in the Council Chamber, in the City of Victoria in the said Colony; and the Members of the Legislative Council are hereby required to give their attendance at the said time and place accordingly.

Given under my Hand and the public Seal of the Colony, this 12th day of November, 1884.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
for the Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

His Excellency the Governor came into the Council Chamber, and having desired the Honourable Members to be seated, was pleased to speak as follows:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

I have much pleasure in opening this Session, and in inviting your co-operation in its labours and duties.

2. Full information with regard to the Financial position of the Colony at the present time will be laid before you in the Report of the Colonial Secretary and Auditor General. The political and other complications which have now for a considerable period affected generally this quarter of the globe and especially the neighbouring Empire of China, have exercised an injurious influence on trade and commerce, and consequently on the resources of this community. It is, however, believed that this depression will prove to be only temporary, and that the restoration of peace will restore the elasticity of the public revenue. Meanwhile, it will be necessary to practise a prudent economy. A list of the Public Works proposed and commenced will be submitted for your consideration; and I request, that you will report which of those works should, in your opinion, be pushed on and which postponed. Your local knowledge and experience will prove of practical advantage in enabling my Government to arrive at a sound decision on this point. It may become expedient, moreover, to revise the Estimates for 1885.

3. In opening the last Session, I informed you that the necessity of strengthening the Military Defences of this important Naval and Military Station and great mart of commerce had been urgently represented to the Imperial Government. Without referring to the value of the other and manifold interests, both Imperial and Colonial, which are at stake here, I reminded you that Official Statistics show that the tonnage of the shipping entered at the Port of Hongkong in the year 1883, exceeded five millions of tons; that is, it exceeded the tonnage of the shipping entered at the Port of London in 1843, the year in which Hongkong was annexed to the British Crown. At the present day, the shipping of Hongkong exceeds that of all Ports in the United Kingdom with the exception of London and Liverpool. The value of the property of every kind in this community is estimated at not less than twenty millions sterling; and this is without taking into account the Naval and Military Arsenal, Stores, and Barracks. The Imperial Government has determined to proceed with the completion of the four principal Forts which are deemed by the Military Authorities to be necessary for the protection from hostile attack of this City, with its harbour and shipping. Towards the cost of these works, this Colony is expected to contribute the sum of £56,000. The payment of this contribution will be spread over two years; and you will probably agree that it should be ultimately charged against the moderate loan, not exceeding one year's revenue, which you have already sanctioned in principle for the construction of urgently required public works. I recommend this question to your early and favourable consideration.

4. You are already aware, from papers presented during the last Session, that I have strongly pressed the expediency, on sanitary and other grounds, of the junction of the Eastern and Western divisions of this City by means of a continuous Marine Embankment along the sea-frontage of the Military cantonments and of the Royal Naval Yard. The Colonial Office in England supports my recommendation; but I regret to announce that its negotiations with the War Office and Admiralty have not as yet been brought to a successful issue.

5. During the course of the Session, reports and other papers will be laid before you showing the condition of the several Departments of the Public Service; which is generally satisfactory.

6. With regard to Legislation, there will be submitted to you, among other measures, Bills to make certain amendments in the Bankruptcy Law; to regulate Weights and Measures; to codify the law of Bills of Exchange; to amend certain Provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act; to appropriate certain unclaimed balances of Bankrupt and Intestate Estates; and to amend the Building Ordinance.

7. It is hoped, moreover, that the progress in its important work of the Commission appointed to consolidate the laws now in force in this Colony will enable several revised Ordinances to be proposed during the present Session.

8. You will further be requested to consider the propriety of enacting in a permanent form certain provisions of the temporary Peace Preservation Ordinance. On a recent occasion, the precautionary measures promptly adopted by the Civil Government with the support of the Military, speedily repressed the tendency to disorder which for a short period seemed to be threatening among the lower section of the Chinese population. Perfect tranquillity was at once restored. It must always be remembered that the position of the Chinese in Hongkong is essentially different from that of the natives in India, and in other possessions of the Crown acquired by conquest, where British rule has been imposed on peoples with long established institutions of their own. Hongkong, on the other hand, when ceded to the British Crown in 1843, was little more than a barren rock, inhabited only by a few fishermen and pirates. Since the first establishment of our rule here, a Chinese immigration, now amounting to above 150,000, has settled in this British territory of its own free will, and for the sake of its own convenience and profit. It is obvious that this new population, while entitled to the full protection of the English laws, is bound to obey those laws. Moreover, the Government of Hongkong, while expecting the loyal support of all the nationalities dwelling here together under the British flag, has ample strength of itself to enforce obedience, and to brook no interference from the Chinese Secret Societies, or from other illegal or unauthorized associations. It is satisfactory to know that the principal Chinese Merchants, and all other Chinese residents of worth and substance, appreciate the advantages which they enjoy in this community, and are favourable to the adoption of measures required for the maintenance of law and order, and for the protection of industry and property.

9. In conclusion, Honourable Gentlemen, I would express my confident hope that a steady and prudent development of the resources of this Colony, coupled with constant firmness and justice,—not dry but sympathetic justice,—on the part of the Government and Legislature will, by the favour of Divine Providence, secure the general welfare and contentment of all races and classes of our population.

His Excellency the Governor having left the Council Chamber, the chair was taken by the Chief Justice, as Senior Member.

The Colonial Secretary moved that the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to prepare the address in reply to His Excellency's Speech:—

The Honourable THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Honourable THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The Honourable THE COLONIAL TREASURER.

The Honourable P. RYRIE,

and The Honourable W. KESWICK.

Question—put and passed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following papers :—

- (1.) Despatch respecting the Defences of Hongkong.
- (2.) Despatch respecting contribution towards the Eastern Mail Service.
- (3.) Report on the Finances of the Colony.

On the motion of the Colonial Secretary, the Council adjourned till 4 P.M. to enable the Address of the Legislative Council in reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor to be prepared.

The Council re-assembled at 4 P.M.

The Chief Justice took the Chair.

The Acting Clerk of Councils read at the table the following Address to be presented to His Excellency the Governor, in reply to the Speech he had been pleased to deliver to the Council :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. We the members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong, in Council assembled, desire to thank Your Excellency for your speech, and to assure you of our cordial co-operation in the labours and duties of the Session which has now been opened.

2. We regret that the trade and commerce of the Colony have been injuriously affected by the political complications which prevail in this region; but we trust with Your Excellency that the present depression will prove to be only temporary, and that the return of peace at no distant date will restore the elasticity of the public revenue. Meanwhile we acknowledge the necessity for a prudent economy; and in that view we shall carefully consider the list of proposed public works to be submitted to us, so as to report as to which of them should be pushed on and which may be conveniently postponed.

3. We are glad to hear that the Imperial Government has determined to proceed with the measures required for the protection of this City with its harbour and shipping. We doubt not that the Colony will be prepared to contribute its share towards the cost of the Defence works to be undertaken, and we shall carefully consider such propositions for that purpose as may be laid before us. We trust, however, that as soon as the plans of the defences are completed, the valuable lands now reserved, which may not be required for military purposes, will be restored to the Colonial Government, free of all restriction.

4. While thanking Your Excellency for the steps that you have taken to impress upon the Imperial Government the expediency of providing for the junction of the Eastern and Western divisions of this City by means of a continuous marine embankment, we regret that the necessary negotiations with the War Office and the Admiralty have not yet been brought to a successful issue.

5. We are glad to understand that the condition of the several departments of the public service is satisfactory.

6. We shall carefully consider the Legislative measures which are to be introduced in the course of the Session.

7. We look with hope to the results to be obtained by the Commission appointed to revise and consolidate the laws now in force in this Colony.

8. We shall be glad to consider the propriety of enacting in a permanent form some of the provisions of the temporary Peace Preservation Ordinance. It is a cause for thankfulness and satisfaction that on the occasion of the recent disturbances the precautionary measures promptly adopted by the Government, supported by the military, sufficed for the speedy repression of all tendency to disorder and the perfect restoration of tranquillity. While we recognize with pleasure that the Government has ample strength to enforce obedience to law, and will not brook the interference of Chinese Secret Societies, or of other unauthorized associations, we believe with Your Excellency that it will always receive the loyal support of all nationalities dwelling in this Colony under the protection of the British flag.

9. In conclusion, we join with Your Excellency in the sincere hope that, under the favour of Divine Providence, the prudence, firmness and justice of the Government and Legislature will conduce to the general welfare and contentment of all classes and races in the population.

The Honourable P. RYRIE moved that the Address as read be adopted.

The Honourable F. D. SASSOON seconded.

Question—put and passed.

The Colonial Secretary moved;—That the Address in reply be presented to His Excellency by the Honourable P. RYRIE and the Honourable F. D. SASSOON on Friday, the 5th instant.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 5 P.M. until Wednesday, the 10th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 10th day of December, 1884.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 2.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1884.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

- His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)
 The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)
 „ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)
 „ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)
 „ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)
 „ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)
 „ PHINEAS RYRIE.
 „ WILLIAM KESWICK.
 „ THOMAS JACKSON.
 „ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.
 „ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

VOTES PASSED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary moved the following Vote passed by the Finance Committee:—

C.S.O. 2320 of 1884. Repairs to damages caused by the typhoon of the 10th September,\$19,180

Seconded by the Colonial Treasurer.

Question—put and passed.

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor:—

The Council are recommended to vote the sum of £55,625 required for the erection of the additional Colonial defences as explained in the despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies which has already been laid on the table.

In anticipation of a Vote of Council, the Governor has already authorised an expenditure of \$1,255.73 on this account during the month of November. A further sum of about \$2,200 will probably be required during the present month, and, as far as can be foreseen, about \$200,000 will be expended during the course of next year. The remainder of the sum will not be required till 1886.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Colonial Secretary.

C.S.O. 1561 of 1884. Travelling expenses of Cadet (Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH) to Peking,.....\$ 159.70

Treasurer.

Opium Revenue Service,—

C.S.O. 1712 of 1884. Fitting the premises No. 223, Praya West, as an Opium boiling establishment, Rent, &c.,\$ 508.10

C.S.O. 2644 of 1884. Storm damages and other expenses, 500.00

\$ 1,008.10

Postmaster General.

C.S.O. 1983 of 1884. Contingencies at the Ports, excess,\$ 300.00

Registrar General.

C.S.O. 2164 of 1884. Salary of 2 Scavengers for Yaumati Market, at \$5 per month each, from 1st September to 30th November, 1884,.....\$ 30.00

Medical.

C.S.O. 2581 of 1884.	Apothecary and Analyst, annual increase of \$96 per annum, from 12th September to 30th November, 1884,	\$ 21.06
C.S.O. 2934 of 1884.	Care-taker of the Mortuary, salary at \$10 per month, 6 months,	60 00
		<u>\$ 81.06</u>

Police.

C.S.O. 2853 of 1884.	Allowance to Adjutant for 4 Chair Coolies, at \$24 per month, 1 month,.....	\$ 24.00
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SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

Postmaster General.

C.S.O. 1983 of 1884.	Gratuities to Ship Masters for carrying Mails, excess,	\$ 1,000.00
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Ecclesiastical.

C. O. Desp. 150 of 1884.	Grant for the Services of a Roman Catholic Chaplain in the Gaol and the Civil Hospital,	\$ 720.00
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Police.

C.S.O. 2144 of 1884.	Repairs to Police Launch, No. 3,	\$ 550.00
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Works and Buildings.

C.S.O. 1706 of 1884.	Lazaretto, on Stone Cutters' Island, re-vote,	\$ 1,805.00
	Observatory and Time Ball,.....	3,000.00
C.S.O. 1513 of 1884.	Observatory, Turfing the Platform,.....	240.00
		<u>\$ 5,045.00</u>

Roads, Streets and Bridges.

C.S.O. 1414 of 1884.	New Roads near the old Mahomedan Cemetery, (1st instalment),	\$ 5,000.00
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Miscellaneous Services.

C. O. Desp. 188 of 1884.	Grant to the City Hall,.....	\$ 1,200.00
C.S.O. 1890 of 1884.	Furniture for Government House,	293.60
		<u>\$ 1,493.60</u>

EXTRAORDINARY WORKS.

C.S.O. 2997 of 1884.	Tytam Water Works, supplementary,.....	\$ 700.00
C.S.O. 1835 of 1884.	Sanitary Works, supplementary,	7,000.00
		<u>\$ 7,700.00</u>

COLONIAL DEFENCES.

	Amount paid in 1884,	\$ 3,464.64
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The Colonial Secretary moved that these papers be referred to the Finance Committee.

Seconded by the Colonial Treasurer.

Question—put and passed.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.—The Colonial Secretary moved the appointment of the following Committees to be empowered to sit during any prorogation or adjournment of Council :—

1. *Finance*, to consist of the whole of the Members of the Legislative Council, with the Colonial Secretary as Chairman.
2. *Law*, to consist of the Honourable the Attorney General, (Chairman), the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer, the Honourable P. RYRIE, the Honourable F. D. SASSOON, and the Honourable WONG SHING.
3. *Public Works*, to consist of the Honourable the Surveyor General (Chairman), the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, the Honourable the Registrar General, the Honourable W. KESWICK, and the Honourable T. JACKSON.

Seconded by the Colonial Treasurer.

Question—put and passed.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary the following Bills were read a first time:—

- (1.) A Bill to amend *The Stamp Ordinance*, 1884.
- (2.) A Bill entitled *The Bankers' Books Evidence Ordinance*, 1884.
- (3.) A Bill entitled *The Weights and Measures Ordinance*, 1884.
- (4.) A Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 7 of 1873*.
- (5.) A Bill entitled *The Merchant Shipping Ordinance, Amendment Ordinance*, 1884.
- (6.) A Bill entitled *The Unclaimed Balances Ordinance*, 1884.

NOTICE OF 2ND READING.—The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would move the second reading of some of the above Bills.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 17th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 17th day of December, 1884.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 3.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1884.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Honourable the Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following Paper :—

Despatches respecting the payment of a Roman Catholic Chaplain for the Gaol and Civil Hospital.

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNOR REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor :—

G. F. BOWEN.

(1.) In the speech at the opening of the Session of the Legislative Council on the 3rd instant, the Governor informed the Council that it might become expedient to revise the Estimates for 1885.

Such revision has now been made, and a revised copy of the Estimates is now ready for consideration by the Council.

It has been deemed prudent to reduce the Estimates of Revenue from the amount originally stated,\$1,212,188 to 1,135,000

that is to say, \$77,188 lower than what was estimated in June last.

As regards the expenditure, it is necessary in the first place to increase the amount by certain items, some of which have been already voted by this Council, whilst the necessity of others has become apparent since the Estimates were framed.

These items added to the original Estimates will bring the total amount up from \$1,150,801 to \$1,173,521.

On the other hand the Council will be invited to consider certain reductions in expenditure, amounting in all to \$82,900, the details of which will be laid before them.

The total amount of expenditure will then be reduced from \$1,173,521 to \$1,085,600 leaving a margin of Revenue to meet unforeseen expenses of about \$45,000.

17th December, 1884.

(2.) On laying the Estimates before the Council in June last, it was stated that the Estimate of Extraordinary Public Works to be defrayed from accumulated balances would be postponed till the present Session of Council.

This Estimate is now laid on the table, and the Council is requested to vote the different items amounting altogether to \$594,700 as shewn in the annexed Schedule.

It is estimated that the amount of accumulated balances on 1st January, 1885 will be \$657,500. The balances will therefore be nearly exhausted by the end of next year. But, before that time, it is proposed that a loan of \$1,000,000 should be sanctioned to continue the Public Works of an extraordinary nature during the following years.

SCHEDULE.

a. Tytam Water-works.—The sooner this work is completed the better; a large sum is therefore set down,.....	\$200,000
b. Military Defences,	200,000
c. Central School transferred from Estimates of ordinary expenditure,.....	50,000
d. Drains and Sea-wall at Lápsápwán, which Government is bound to make, in fulfilment of the agreement with the purchasers of land in that District,	75,000
e. Completion of Steam Dredger and cost of dredging operations,.....	10,000
f. Unspent balance of vote for repairs of Typhoon damages of 1884, <i>re-vote</i> , ...	9,700
g. Sanitary Works, the detail of which will be laid before the Public Works Committee before their execution is sanctioned,	50,000
	\$594,700

17th December, 1884.

The Colonial Secretary moved that these Minutes be referred to the Finance Committee.

Seconded by the Colonial Treasurer.

Question—put and passed.

VOTES PASSED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary moved the following Votes passed by the Finance Committee:—

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Colonial Secretary.

C.S.O. 1561 of 1884. Travelling expenses of Cadet (Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH) to Peking,.....\$ 159.70

Treasurer.

Opium Revenue Service,—

C.S.O. 1712 of 1884. Fitting the premises No. 223, Praya West, as an Opium boiling establishment, Rent, &c.,

\$ 508.10

C.S.O. 2644 of 1884. Storm damages and other expenses,

500.00

\$ 1,008.10

Postmaster General.

C.S.O. 1983 of 1884. Contingencies at the Ports, excess,

\$ 300.00

Registrar General.

C.S.O. 2164 of 1884. Salary of 2 Scavengers for Yaumáti Market, at \$5 per month each, from 1st September to 30th November, 1884,.....

\$ 30.00

Medical.

C.S.O. 2581 of 1884. Apothecary and Analyst, annual increase of \$96 per annum, from 12th September to 30th November, 1884,

\$ 21.06

C.S.O. 2934 of 1884. Care-taker of the Mortuary, salary at \$10 per month, 6 months,

60.00

\$ 81.06

Police.

C.S.O. 2853 of 1884. Allowance to Adjutant for 4 Chair Coolies, at \$24 per month, 1 month,.....

\$ 24.00

SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

Postmaster General.

C.S.O. 1985 of 1884. Gratuities to Ship Masters for carrying Mails, excess,

\$ 1,000.00

Ecclesiastical.

C. O. Desp. 150 of 1884. Grant for the Services of a Roman Catholic Chaplain in the Gaol and the Civil Hospital,\$ 720.00

Police.

C.S.O. 2144 of 1884. Repairs to Police Launch, No. 3,\$ 550.00

Works and Buildings.

C.S.O. 1706 of 1884. Lazaretto, on Stone Cutters' Island, re-vote,\$ 1,805.00
Observatory and Time Ball,..... 3,000.00
C.S.O. 1518 of 1884. Observatory, Turfing the Platform,..... 240.00
\$ 5,045.00

Roads, Streets and Bridges.

C.S.O. 1414 of 1884. New Roads near the old Mahomedan Cemetery, (1st instalment),\$ 5,000.00

Miscellaneous Services.

C. O. Desp. 188 of 1884. Grant to the City Hall,.....\$ 1,200.00
C.S.O. 1880 of 1884. Furniture for Government House, 293.60
\$ 1,493.60

EXTRAORDINARY WORKS.

C.S.O. 2297 of 1884. Tytam Water Works, supplementary,.....\$ 700.00
C.S.O. 1835 of 1884. Sanitary Works, supplementary, 7,000.00
\$ 7,700.00

Seconded by the Colonial Treasurer.

Question—put and passed.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary the following Bills were read a second time:—

- (1.) A Bill to amend *The Stamp Ordinance*, 1884.
- (2.) A Bill entitled *The Bankers' Books Evidence Ordinance*, 1884.
- (3.) A Bill entitled *The Weights and Measures Ordinance*, 1884.
- (4.) A Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 7 of 1873*.
- (5.) A Bill entitled *The Unclaimed Balances Ordinance*, 1884.

BILLS REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE.—The Attorney General moved that Bills (1), (2), (3), and (5) be referred to the Law Committee.

Seconded by the Colonial Secretary.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 24th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 24th day of December, 1884.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 4.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH DECEMBER, 1884.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

,, the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

,, the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

,, the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

,, the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

,, WILLIAM KESWICK.

,, THOMAS JACKSON.

,, FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

,, WONG SHING.

ABSENT:

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable PHINEAS RYRIE.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Honourable the Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following Paper:—

Report on the Finances of the Colony by the Colonial Secretary and Auditor General.

MINUTE OF THE GOVERNOR REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minute by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

Referring to the previous minute of the 17th instant, the Governor now lays on the table a detail of the alterations proposed in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1885, in order to meet the anticipated reductions in the Revenue for that year.

The Estimates of Expenditure laid before Council in June last should be in the first place increased by the following items, some of which have been already sanctioned by the Council, whilst the rest appear to be necessary:—

(a.)	Increases to Police Salaries already voted,	\$ 5,500
(b.)	Other increases shown in Schedule annexed,	780
(c.)	Civil Hospital Extension, <i>re-vote</i> ,	3,300
c.s.o. 2995. (d.)	Further vote recommended for additional story and extension of separate building, on account of necessity for increased accommodation in the Hospital, ...	8,000
(e.)	Repairs to public buildings, increase strongly recommended,	2,000
(f.)	Police Station Hunghom, <i>new</i> ,	3,200
	Total increase,	\$ 22,780
	Original Estimate,	1,150,801

\$1,173,581

The Governor proposes that the following alterations be made in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1885 in order to bring this sum down to about \$1,090,000 :—

(a.) Opium Revenue Department to be abolished from 28th February next, 10 months salaries to be struck out,	\$ 6,900
(b.) Tree planting, to be reduced by	4,000
(c.) New Central School (to be paid for out of balances), to be struck out	50,000
(d.) Draining of Wongneichong, to be reduced by	20,000
(e.) Widening Kennedy Road, to be struck out	2,000
	\$ 82,900

The result of making these alterations will be the reduction of the Estimates of Expenditure to\$1,090,681
which will leave a margin to meet unforeseen Expenditure of 44,319

Estimated Revenue,\$1,135,000

Government House, 24th December, 1884.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE ORDER OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved that the Order of the Day be postponed.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 31st instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 31st day of December, 1884.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 5.

WEDNESDAY, 31ST DECEMBER, 1884.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

ABSENT:

The Honourable WONG SHING (by leave.)

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

VOTES PASSED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary moved the adoption of the following vote arranged by the Finance Committee:—

That the Council now vote the sum of Fifty-five thousand six hundred and twenty-five pounds Sterling required as the contribution of this Colony to the effective defence of Hongkong; it being understood that the armament to be provided by the Imperial Government will be of the best and latest pattern of breech-loading Ordnance, and capable of resisting attacks by the heaviest modern Iron-clads.

The Treasurer seconded the motion.

Mr. KESWICK addressed the Council.

Question—put and passed.

The Governor then addressed the Council, as follows:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—I thank you in the name of the QUEEN for this unanimous vote of the contribution required by Her Majesty's Government from this Colony towards the effective defence of Hongkong. This is,—as we all know,—an object of great Imperial as well as Colonial importance. I entirely agree with you that in the terms of your vote “the armament to be provided by the Imperial Government should “be of the latest and best pattern of breech-loading Ordnance, and capable of resisting attacks “by the heaviest modern Iron-clads.” I shall press this point in the strongest manner possible on the Home Authorities; and General SARGENT has authorized me to say that he will do the same. I have no doubt that we shall be successful; for by the later Parliamentary Papers issued on this subject, I find that the original vote for the armament of the Forts at Hongkong has been already doubled. There is also the subjoined paragraph in an Official letter from the War Office to the Treasury, dated November 1st, 1884;

“At the time the earlier Parliamentary Estimate was framed, it was intended to provide “wrought iron guns as possessing sufficient power for the work they would be likely to be “called upon to perform. The armaments of the Forts, however, are required to resist the “present power of foreign ships which may attack them, and consequently must be of a more “formidable nature than was at first contemplated; therefore, some of the guns have been “chosen from the latest pattern of breech-loading Ordnance; which has greatly increased “the cost.”

Once more, Honourable Gentlemen, in the name of the QUEEN, I thank you for this vote,

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC WORKS.—The Colonial Secretary then reported the following Votes for Extraordinary Public Works, and asked for sanction.

Tytam Water Works,	\$200,000.00
Military Defences,.....	200,000.00
New Central School,	50,000.00
Drains and Sea-wall at Lápsápwán,	75,000.00
Completion of Steam Dredger, and cost of } dredging operations,	10,000.00
Typhoon repairs, unspent balance, <i>re-vote</i> ,...	9,700.00
Drainage and Sewerage,	50,000.00
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	\$594,700.00
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Question—put and carried.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the day.

Question—put and carried.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 7th proximo, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 7th day of January, 1885.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 6.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following Paper:—

The Postmaster General's Report for 1884.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME.—On the motion of the Colonial Secretary seconded by the Colonial Treasurer, a Bill entitled *An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Nine hundred and Forty-nine thousand, and Sixty-one Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1885* was read a first time.

BILL COMMITTED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Treasurer, a Bill entitled *A Bill to amend The Stamp Ordinance, 1884* was committed.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would move the third reading of the Bill.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 14th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 14th day of January, 1885.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 7.

WEDNESDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

" the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

" the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

" the Registrar General, (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

" PHINEAS RYRIE.

" WILLIAM KESWICK.

" THOMAS JACKSON.

" FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

" WONG SHING.

ABSENT:

The Honourable the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.—Read the following Minute by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Legislative Council to take into consideration the question of the Mail subsidy, to which the Secretary of State for the Colonies has drawn attention in the despatch No. 174 of the 25th July ultimo, this day laid before this Council herewith, and to which the Postmaster General (Mr. LISTER) has referred in his Annual Report for 1884, already presented to the Council.

Government House, 14th January, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that this question be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following Papers:—

9. The Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886, (Papers respecting.)
10. Correspondence respecting the Eastern Mail Service.
11. Report for 1884 from the Government Astronomer.
12. Report for 1884 of the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department.

AMENDED APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, committed, read a third time, and passed.—On the motion of the Colonial Secretary, seconded by the Colonial Treasurer, a Bill entitled *An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Nine hundred and Forty-nine thousand, and Sixty-one Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1885* was committed and read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

STAMP ORDINANCE, read a third time, and passed.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Treasurer, a Bill entitled *The Stamp Ordinance, 1884* was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

BANKERS' BOOKS EVIDENCE ORDINANCE. Committed. Notice of third reading. —On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Bankers' Books Evidence Ordinance, 1884* was committed.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would move the third reading of the Bill.

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.—The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move the introduction of a Bill to amend *Ordinance 14 of 1870*.

BILL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 8 OF 1882.—Read a first time.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 8 of 1882* was read a first time.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 21st instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 21st day of January, 1885.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 8.

WEDNESDAY, 21ST JANUARY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

- His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)
- The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)
- „ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)
- „ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)
- „ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)
- „ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)
- „ PHINEAS RYRIE.
- „ WILLIAM KESWICK.
- „ THOMAS JACKSON.
- „ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.
- „ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.—The Honourable T. JACKSON gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would ask if it is true that the funds of this Colony are at present being spent upon the construction of a fort at the Liümún Pass, covering the proposed minefield, upon which it is intended to mount old 40-pounder guns, which have been obsolete for nearly twenty-years, and which would prove utterly useless against modern ordnance.

PETITION.—The Honourable W. KESWICK brought up a Petition from the Solicitors of the Colony, praying for legislation to improve the land laws at present in force in Hongkong, and moved, that it be received.

Question—put and passed.

The Honourable W. KESWICK moved that the Petition and draft Bill accompanying it be printed and circulated.

The Honourable T. JACKSON seconded.

Question—put and passed.

BANKERS' BOOKS EVIDENCE ORDINANCE.—READ A THIRD TIME. On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Bankers' Books Evidence Ordinance, 1885* was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

A BILL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 14 OF 1870.—READ A FIRST TIME. NOTICE OF SECOND READING. On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill to amend Ordinance 14 of 1870 was read a first time.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would move that the Bill be read a second time.

A BILL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 8 OF 1882.—READ A SECOND TIME. NOTICE OF GOING INTO COMMITTEE. On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 8 of 1882* was read a second time.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move that the Council go into Committee on the Bill.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 28th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 28th day of January, 1885.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 9.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

" the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

" the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

" the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

" the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

" PHINEAS RYRIE.

" WILLIAM KESWICK.

" THOMAS JACKSON.

" FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

" WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

(1)

Supplementary Vote for 1884.

C.S.O. 1504 of 1884.	Increase to the Salary of the Matron of the Lock Hospital, from \$30 to \$40 per month, from 1st July to 30th November, 1884,	\$ 50.00
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Supplementary Vote for 1885.

C.S.O. 1504 of 1884.	Increase to the Salary of the Matron of the Lock Hospital, as above, for 12 months,	\$ 120.00
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(2)

\$815.53 being the balance to the Debit of the Lock Hospital's Account for the year ended 1884, as per account annexed,	\$ 815.53
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C.S.O. 3121 of 1884.	Re-vote of \$820.30 being amount due to those members of the Police Force, who have accepted the increase of pay under the new Regulations,	\$ 820.30
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Arrears of pay for 1884 to be paid in 1885.

(3)

C.S.O. 3252 of 1884.	Building a Dwelling House for the First Assistant at the Kaulung Observatory,	\$ 500.00
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The Government is at present paying \$30 per month for his quarters at Kaulung. It will therefore be more economical to build a dwelling for him.

Government House, 28th January, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that these Minutes be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

ASSENT TO ORDINANCES.—The Acting Clerk of Councils announced His Excellency the Governor's assent to the following Ordinances :—

Ordinance No. 1 of 1885.—*An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Nine hundred and Forty-nine thousand, and Sixty-one Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1885.*

Ordinance No. 2 of 1885.—*An Ordinance to amend The Stamp Ordinance, 1884.*

QUESTION.—The Honourable T. JACKSON, pursuant to notice, asked if it is true that the funds of this Colony are at present being spent upon the construction of a fort in the Liimun Pass, covering the proposed minefield, upon which it is intended to mount old 40-pounder guns, which have been obsolete for nearly twenty years, and which would prove utterly useless against modern ordnance.

His Excellency the Governor replied as follows :—

“With reference to the question of the Honourable Gentleman, I desire, in the first place, to take this opportunity of informing the Council that, on the 2nd instant, I forwarded by telegraph to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the vote passed unanimously, on the 31st ultimo, viz. :—

‘This Council now vote unanimously the sum of fifty-five thousand six hundred and twenty-five pounds sterling (£55,625), required as the contribution of this Colony to the effective defence of Hongkong; it being understood that the armament to be provided by the Imperial Government will be of the best and latest pattern of breech-loading ordnance, capable of resisting attacks by the heaviest modern ironclads.’ To this I have received the following reply :

‘Referring to your telegram of the 2nd January, new guns are being provided at the cost of more than eighty thousand pounds sterling (£80,000).’ It will be remembered that this is more than double the cost (viz. £37,500) of the guns originally proposed for the new Forts at Hongkong.

“With regard to the terms of the Honourable Gentleman's question, I am unable to say, if ‘the Funds of the Colony are at present being spent upon the construction of a Fort in the Liimun Pass.’ I have ascertained that the military works here are being carried out under the immediate direction of the War Office in England, and that it is not known as yet whether the cost of the battery at the Liimun Pass, which will not exceed one thousand pounds sterling, (£1,000), will be set down to Imperial Funds, or to the Colonial contribution. Of course, if it is so desired, I will forward the question of my Honourable Friend to the Secretary of State.

“With respect to the other points of the Honourable Gentleman's question, I am informed that heavy ordnance will probably be mounted at the Liimun Pass so soon as it can be procured; but that the primary object of the new work there is to protect the Submarine minefield against the attack of armed boats and steam-launches; and that for this purpose lighter and rapidly firing guns are indispensable; such as breech-loading 40-pounder guns, which the Military authorities declare are not obsolete, or ineffective.”

A BILL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 14 OF 1870.—READ A SECOND TIME. COMMITTED. NOTICE OF THIRD READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill to amend Ordinance 14 of 1870 was read a second time and committed.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move the third reading of this Bill.

A BILL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 8 OF 1882.—COMMITTED. NOTICE OF THIRD READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill to amend Ordinance 8 of 1882 was committed.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move the third reading of this Bill.

A BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 7 OF 1873.—COMMITTED. NOTICE OF THIRD READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 7 of 1873* was committed.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move the third reading of this Bill.

THE UNCLAIMED BALANCES ORDINANCE, 1885.—WITHDRAWN. AMENDED BILL READ A FIRST TIME.—The Attorney General asked leave to withdraw this Bill, and to introduce an amended Bill in its stead.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Amended Bill was read a first time.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the Day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 4th proximo, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 4th day of February, 1885.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 10.

WEDNESDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

- His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)
- The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)
- „ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)
- „ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)
- „ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)
- „ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)
- „ PHINEAS RYRIE.
- „ WILLIAM KESWICK.
- „ THOMAS JACKSON.
- „ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.
- „ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minute by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sum:—

Increase to the Salary of the Steward and Storekeeper at the Civil Hospital,—

For 1884,.....	\$ 30.00
For 1885,.....	\$150.00
	\$180.00

Government House, 4th February, 1885.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, 1885.—COMMITTED. NOTICE OF THIRD READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1885* was committed.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move that the Bill be read a third time.

THE UNCLAIMED BALANCES ORDINANCE, 1885.—READ A SECOND TIME. NOTICE OF GOING INTO COMMITTEE.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Unclaimed Balances Ordinance, 1885* was read a second time.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move that the Council go into Committee on the Bill.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 8 OF 1882.—RE-COMMITTED. READ A THIRD TIME. PASSED.—On the motion of the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 8 of 1882* was re-committed, read a third time, and passed.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 7 OF 1873.—READ A THIRD TIME. PASSED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 7 of 1873* was read a third time, and passed.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 14 OF 1870.—READ A THIRD TIME. PASSED. On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 14 of 1870* was read a third time, and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 11th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 11th day of February, 1885.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No 11.

WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)
 The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)
 „ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)
 „ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)
 „ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)
 „ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)
 „ PHINEAS RYRIE.
 „ WILLIAM KESWICK.
 „ THOMAS JACKSON.
 „ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.
 „ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Correspondence relative to the renewal of the Postal Contract and the question of Mail subsidy.

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minute by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

For surface scavenging the City of Victoria, and the Villages, for 12 months,
 commencing from 1st January, 1885,.....\$18,570.00

Although this sum will be amply covered by the receipts for the privilege of removing excretal matters, see annexed Memorandum, the Treasury instructions require all Expenditure to be voted.

Statement regarding the removal of Excretal Matters, and General Surface Scavenging.

REVENUE.

For the privilege of removing Night-soil from the City of Victoria, for 12 months,
 from 1st January, 1885, the Contractor Ko I, will pay,.....\$18,600.00

EXPENDITURE.

For scavenging the City of Victoria, for 12 months, from 1st January, 1885,
 the Government to pay to LIN SHAN,.....\$17,760.00

For scavenging the Villages of Yaumáti, Hunghóm, Shaukiwán, Stanley,
 Aberdeen, and Aplichau, with privilege of removing all Night-soil, the
 Government to pay to Ko I,..... 810.00

Total,.....\$18,570.00

Government House, 11th February, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that this Minute be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

VOTES PASSED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary moved the following Votes passed by the Finance Committee:—

(Finance Committee, 10th February, 1885.)

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Civil Hospital.

C.S.O. 1904 of 1883.	Increase to the Salary of the Steward and Storekeeper (\$10 per month after first year, and \$20 per month after second year), from 1st September to 30th November, 1884, at \$10 per month,	\$ 30.00
C.S.O. 1904 of 1883.	Increase to the salary of the Steward and Storekeeper (\$10 per month after first year, and \$20 per month after second year), from 1st December, 1884, to 31st August, 1885, at \$10 per month,	\$ 90.00
	And from 1st September to 30th November, 1885, at \$20 per month,	60.00
		<u>\$ 180.00</u>

DEPOSITS NOT AVAILABLE.

C.S.O. 1904 of 1883.	Increase to the Salary of the Matron of the Lock Hospital, from \$30 to \$40 per month, from 1st July to 30th November, 1884,	\$ 50.00
C.S.O. 1904 of 1883.	Increase to the Salary of the Matron of the Lock Hospital, from \$30 to \$40 per month, from 1st December, 1884 to 30th November, 1885,	\$ 120.00

Police.

C.S.O. 3121 of 1884.	Amount due to those Members of the Police Force, who have accepted the increase of pay under the new regulations as to term of service for pension and remittances to England, arrears of pay for 1884 to be paid in 1885, re-vote,	\$ 820.30
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SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

Medical.

C.S.O. 204 of 1883.	Balance to the debit of the Lock Hospital's Account, for the year ended 1884,	\$ 815.53
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Works and Buildings.

C.S.O. 2254 of 1884.	Building Quarters at Kaulung, for the First Assistant at the Observatory,	\$ 500.00
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Seconded by the Colonial Treasurer.

Question—put and passed.

THE UNCLAIMED BALANCES ORDINANCE, 1885.—COMMITTED. NOTICE OF THIRD READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Unclaimed Balances Ordinance*, 1885, was committed.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move the third reading of the Bill.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE ORDINANCE.—READ A FIRST TIME.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Bills of Exchange Ordinance*, 1885, was read a first time.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move the second reading of this Bill.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the Day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 18th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 18th day of February, 1885.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 12.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

THE UNCLAIMED BALANCES ORDINANCE, 1885.—READ A THIRD TIME. PASSED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Unclaimed Balances Ordinance, 1885*, was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, 1885.—RE-COMMITTED. READ A THIRD TIME. PASSED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1885*, was re-committed and read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

THE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ORDINANCE, 1885.—READ A SECOND TIME. NOTICE OF GOING INTO COMMITTEE.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1885*, was read a second time.

The Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council, he would move that the Council go into Committee on this Bill.

The Council adjourned until Tuesday, the 24th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 4th day of March, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 13.

TUESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

The draft Jury List for the year 1885, was considered with closed doors.

The List was finally adopted, after having been revised and amended, and the Special Jurors having been designated.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 4th proximo, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 4th day of March, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 14.

WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

" the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

" the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

" the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

" PHINEAS RYRIE.

" WILLIAM KESWICK.

" THOMAS JACKSON.

" FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

" WONG SHING.

ABSENT:

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.), by leave.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.—The Honourable WONG SHING gave notice that, at the next meeting of Council, he would ask whether an apology or explanation has been received from the French Authorities for the reported outrage committed on board a Coal barge in this Harbour on the 19th February last, while the barge was being employed to supply Coal to the French Man-of-war *Duguay Trouin*.

His Excellency the Governor spoke as follows:—With reference to the question of which the Honourable Gentleman has given notice, I may mention now that the important matter to which he refers has not escaped my attention. A report on the subject was addressed to the Government by the Police, when I caused an official letter to be addressed to the French Consul. That gentleman has replied that he will make enquiry forthwith, and state the result. Accordingly, when the Honourable Gentleman asks the question of which he has given notice at the next meeting of this Council, I shall probably be in a position to afford him further information.

MARRIED WOMEN'S DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY ORDINANCE.—READ A FIRST TIME.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Treasurer, a Bill entitled *The Married Women's Disposition of Property Ordinance, 1885*, was read a first time.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next meeting of Council, he would move the second reading of this Bill.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDER OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved that the other Order of the Day be postponed.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 11th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 11th day of March, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 15.

WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

,, the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

,, the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

,, the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

,, the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

,, PHINEAS RYRIE.

,, WILLIAM KESWICK.

,, THOMAS JACKSON.

,, FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

,, WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

(1.)

Supplementary Vote for 1885.

C.S.O.
202 of 1885. Cost of a suitable house on piles for the proper working of the Automatic Tide-gauge recently received from England,\$ 200.00

(2.)

C.S.O.
305 of 1885. Increase to the Allowance to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, from \$8 to \$20 per month, from 1st April to 30th November, 1885,\$ 96.00

The new Ordinance (No. 8 of 1885) does away with the system of paying a share of the fines to the Inspector, and the whole of the fines will in future be paid into the Treasury.

(3.)

C.S.O.
344 of 1885. Increase to the salary of the Clerk of the Government Civil Hospital, from \$20 to \$30 per month, rising to \$40 a month by an annual increment of \$2 a month, 9 months=\$ 90.00

This increase has been strongly recommended by both the Colonial Surgeon and the Superintendent of the Civil Hospital, as the pay is at present too low to induce any competent person to accept the post.

(4.)

C.S.O.
404 of 1885. For restoring to their original condition the two shops on the Praya West, recently used in connexion with the Opium boiling factory,\$ 200.00

Government House, 11th March, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that these Minutes be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

QUESTION.—The Honourable WONG SHING, pursuant to notice, asked whether any apology or explanation has been received from the French Authorities for the reported outrage committed on board a Coal barge in this Harbour on the 19th February last, while the barge was being employed to supply Coal to the French Man-of-war *Duguay Trouin*.

His Excellency the Governor replied as follows:—I am glad to be enabled to reply to the Honourable gentleman who so worthily represents in this Council his Chinese countrymen in a manner which I believe he cannot fail to consider satisfactory. When at the last meeting of Council my Honourable friend gave notice of his question, I observed as follows:—

“With reference to the question of which the Honourable gentleman has given notice, I may mention now that the important matter to which he refers has not escaped my attention. A report on the subject was addressed to the Government by the Police, when I caused an official letter to be addressed to the French Consul. That gentleman has replied that he will make enquiry forthwith, and state the result. Accordingly, when the Honourable gentleman asks the question of which he has given notice at the next meeting of this Council, I shall probably be in a position to afford him further information.”

I have since received a letter from the French Consul containing a full explanation and expression of regret for the occurrence in question. He states that a misunderstanding arose between the French officers and the European contractor respecting the quality of the coal supplied to the French cruiser *Duguay Trouin*, for as a very limited quantity of coal is, in accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, permitted to be supplied to the men-of-war of the belligerent powers it is necessary to test the quality of the article furnished. Further, the Consul states that he regrets that any incident should have happened in consequence of this misunderstanding to give ground of complaint, and that he has written to the French naval authorities, so as to prevent a recurrence of any incident of a similar nature. He adds that the officer commanding the *Duguay Trouin* and the officers of the French navy generally fully recognise the necessity of avoiding all cause of dispute between the French seamen and the Chinese resident in this Colony, and of observing more faithfully than ever, under existing circumstances, the respect due to British sovereignty in the waters of Hongkong.

A BILL ENTITLED THE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ORDINANCE, 1885.—COMMITTED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1885*, was committed.

The Council went into Committee.

Progress reported at clause 48.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDER OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved that the other Order of the Day be postponed.

The Colonial Secretary seconded:

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 18th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 18th day of March, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 16.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

ABSENT:

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.—The Colonial Secretary moved the adoption of the following resolution of the Finance Committee of the 10th ultimo:—

“That as the sections of the Community which are most interested in the question of the conveyance of mails are represented by the Chamber of Commerce, the recommendations of that Chamber, which have been made with only one dissentient vote, should, in the opinion of the Committee, be recommended for adoption.”

The Colonial Secretary also read the following rider to the above resolution:—

“The Committee trust that, in any new arrangements, the distribution of the amount of contribution towards the paying of the subsidy will be favourably considered as far as this Colony is concerned, and recommend that the papers on this subject which have not already been printed should be printed forthwith.”

The Honourable W. KESWICK seconded.

Question—put and passed.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Governor moved that the other Orders of the Day be postponed.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 25th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 25th day of March, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 17.

WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1885.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

,, the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

,, the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

,, the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILL PRICE.)

,, the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

,, PHINEAS RYRIE.

,, WILLIAM KESWICK.

,, THOMAS JACKSON.

,, FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

,, WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

VOTE OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minute by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sum:—

^{C.S.O.}
541 of 1885. Arrears of pay for 1884, due to Inspector LINDSAY, who has just returned from leave and accepted the increase of pay under the new regulations as to term of service for pension and remittances to England,.....\$ 81.28

Government House, 25th March, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that this Minute be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

ASSENT TO ORDINANCES.—The Clerk of Councils announced His Excellency the Governor's assent to the following Ordinances:—

No. 3 of 1885.—*The Bankers' Books Evidence Ordinance*, 1885.No. 4 of 1885.—*An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 8 of 1882.*No. 5 of 1885.—*An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 7 of 1873.*No. 6 of 1885.—*An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 14 of 1870.*No. 7 of 1885.—*The Unclaimed Balances Ordinance*, 1885.No. 8 of 1885.—*The Weights and Measures Ordinance*, 1885.

ORDINANCES CONFIRMED BY THE QUEEN.—The Clerk of Councils announced Her Majesty's confirmation of the following Ordinances:—

No. 1 of 1884, entitled.—*The Opium Ordinance*, 1884.No. 2 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance for the naturalisation of WILLIAM DOBERCK.*No. 3 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 3 of 1862.*No. 5 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance for the naturalisation of TSÉUNG SZ-KÁI.*No. 6 of 1884, entitled.—*The Medical Registration Ordinance*, 1884.No. 7 of 1884, entitled.—*The Dangerous Goods Ordinance, Amendment Ordinance*, 1884.

- No. 8 of 1884, entitled.—*The Criminal Procedure Amendment Ordinance, 1884.*
- No. 9 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 3 of 1881.*
- No. 11 of 1884, entitled.—*The French Mail Steamers Ordinance continuation Ordinance, 1884.*
- No. 13 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 3 of 1871.*
- No. 14 of 1884, entitled.—*The Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1879, Amendment Ordinance, 1884.*
- No. 15 of 1884, entitled.—*The Stamp Ordinance, 1884.*
- No. 16 of 1884, entitled.—*The Preservation of Birds Ordinance 1870, Amendment Ordinance 1884.*
- No. 17 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance to make provision for certain duties formerly attaching to the Office of Sheriff.*
- No. 18 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance to authorise FRANCIS BULKELEY JOHNSON to construct piers and wharves in the harbour of Victoria, and to confer upon the said FRANCIS BULKELEY JOHNSON certain other powers and privileges.*
- No. 19 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance to authorise CATCHICK PAUL CHATER, to construct piers and wharves in the harbour of Victoria, and to confer upon the said CATCHICK PAUL CHATER certain other powers and privileges.*
- No. 20 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Two hundred and Thirty-five thousand Three hundred and Forty-five Dollars and Twenty-six Cents to defray the Charges of the Year 1883.*
- No. 21 of 1884, entitled.—*An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding One million and Six thousand, Eight hundred and Eighty-one Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1885.*
- No. 22 of 1884, entitled.—*The Peace Preservation Ordinance, 1884.*

THE LATE SIR HARRY PARKES.—The Honourable P. RYRIE addressed the Council with reference to the death of the late Sir HARRY S. PARKES, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking, and moved that this Council pass a resolution of condolence with the family of the deceased.

The Honourable T. JACKSON seconded the motion.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council, expressing his entire concurrence with the motion, and read the following despatch which he had addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
HONGKONG, March 24th, 1885.

My LORD,—I have the honour to report that the telegraphic intelligence of the death of Sir HARRY PARKES on the 22nd instant, of remittent typhoid fever, after three days' illness, has caused much sorrow in Hongkong, where he had formerly resided for several years. This feeling will be general throughout the English communities in China and Japan, with which he has been connected as Consul and Minister for above a quarter of a century. Even those who differed from some parts of Sir HARRY PARKES' policy always admired his many high qualities,—his courage, his energy, his unselfish devotion to the public service. To myself he is a great loss. Our relations, both official and personal, have always been most cordial; he deplored that I had been obliged to seek, on medical certificate, the leave of absence which was so kindly granted by your Lordship; and he rejoiced and applauded when I decided, at whatever risk of health and sacrifice of personal convenience, to remain at my post during the present crisis in the affairs of this quarter of the globe. The feeling of Sir HARRY PARKES on this point was identical with my own. He had been for some time in failing health, and he felt severely the weight of work and responsibility pressing upon him, as upon me, at the present juncture. But he declined to listen to the advice given him to seek at least temporary rest and relaxation. Recently he wrote to a friend as follows:—“Where I may fail is in physical health, which warns me that the present strain will have its limits, and that some relief,—even if it be for a short period,—will become indispensable. I shall do my best, however, to hold on till the end of this year.” His friends knew, and Sir HARRY PARKES himself knew, that his impaired strength would yield altogether to any severe attack of illness, if he should determine to remain at Peking. He did so determine, and thus this able and gallant servant of his Queen and country has died by the most enviable of all deaths, at the post of honour and duty.

I have, &c.,

G. F. BOWEN.

Question—put and passed.

BILL READ A SECOND TIME.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled *The Married Women's Disposition of Property Ordinance, 1885*, was read a second time.

PRIVATE BILL.—FIRST READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, *A Bill for the Incorporation of the Roman Catholic Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong*, was read a first time.

A BILL ENTITLED THE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ORDINANCE, 1885, IN COMMITTEE.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Council resumed consideration, in Committee, of the Bill entitled *The Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1885*.

Progress reported at clause 82.

On the motion of the Colonial Secretary, the Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 1st proximo, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 1st day of April, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 18.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST APRIL, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, I.L.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

The Council met in pursuance of adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Telegrams and Correspondence respecting the Armament of the Forts of Hongkong.

DIRECT TELEGRAPH LINE TO SINGAPORE.—TORPEDO LAUNCHES.—The Honourable THOMAS JACKSON, pursuant to notice, moved the following resolution:—

“That in the Opinion of this Council, there ought to be direct Telegraphic Communication between Hongkong and Singapore, the nearest British Settlement; and that immediate steps be taken to supplement the defences of Hongkong, by obtaining with the least possible delay a flotilla of Torpedo Launches fully equipped.”

The Honourable P. RYRIE seconded, and addressed the Council.

The Honourable W. KESWICK addressed the Council.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council, and spoke as follows:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—I am very glad indeed that my Honourable friend who so worthily represents in this Council the Chamber of Commerce, has brought forward this most important resolution; and I thank him and I thank the two Honourable members who supported him for the way in which they have spoken of myself and of the Executive of this Colony. I hope that this resolution will be carried unanimously. As the Honourable member said, it is owing to my exertions that the Un-official element in this Council was increased from two to five, and that the Chamber of Commerce was invited to nominate its own representative. I am sure from the able speeches my Honourable friend has made on this and other occasions, and from his high character and position, that the Chamber of Commerce could not have made a better choice. In fact I look upon my Honourable friend as a living, and I am happy to add, flourishing, proof of the success of my policy. I said just now that I hoped that this resolution would be passed unanimously, and I said so because it would give great strength to recommendations I have already made on the same subject to Her Majesty's Government. The fact is, gentlemen, that a truly paternal Governor on this as on other occasions has anticipated the wishes of his children. A great English statesman some years ago—I refer to Sir ROBERT PEEL—said it was the first duty of a statesman to be a little, but not too much, in advance of the people over whom he rules. Now it can be proved by documentary evidence that I have been in this question of defence twelve months at least in advance, not of the Royal Engineer Officers, and others to whom my Honourable friend on my left (Honourable W. KESWICK) referred just now as having given special attention to the subject, but of general opinion in this community. I can only say that when I came here there was no general agitation on the subject of defences, and it was I who then first raised the question with the Imperial Government. I have prepared a minute showing exactly what has been done, and quoting from various documents, and with the permission of the Council I will now read that minute:—

"I arrived at Hongkong on March 30th, 1883; and six weeks afterwards, after careful study of the subject, I opened the question of the Defences of this Colony by an elaborate despatch to the Secretary of State (Lord DERBY), dated May 12th, 1883. In that Despatch, after entering fully into details, I concluded as follows:—

I submit that your Lordship should move the War Office to prepare a full and final plan for the defences of Hongkong, and that such plan should be transmitted by Her Majesty's Government to both the Governor and the General Commanding the troops, with instructions to use all the authority and influence of their respective offices in assisting in carrying it into execution. The Major-General Commanding has read this despatch, and authorises me to state that he cordially agrees with my views in every respect. He fully concurs as to the urgent necessity of the War Office finally deciding on a complete plan of defence, and of that plan being carried into execution without unavoidable delay.

I may here observe that in the phrase "full and final plan," I referred to those various and conflicting schemes to which my honourable friend alluded just now. I knew, of course, that various Engineer Officers had proposed various plans, but none had been adopted, and the great point was that a full and final plan should be decided upon.

"After several detailed statements and arguments, I proceeded as follows:—

It has been frequently shown that Hongkong commands our Trade Routes in the Far East; that shipping to the amount of above five millions of tons (a larger tonnage than that which entered the port of London 40 years ago) yearly enters this port; and that it is of paramount importance not to suffer any nation, or any possible confederacy of nations, to destroy or lessen the prestige and influence of Great Britain with China and Japan, those rich and vast countries which have in all human probability a great future before them in the history of the world.

"Such, Honourable gentlemen, was the language in which I opened the question of our defences just six weeks after my first arrival here. And I have followed up this opening by a long series of official despatches and (what has proved still more effective), of private letters to my personal friends among English statesmen and among the chief Military Authorities at the War Office. I cannot, of course, publish correspondence much of which is of a confidential character; but I am ready to show it to any member of this Council. I know that you, Honourable gentlemen, like myself, deprecate any 'irresponsible chatter' (as one of you has truly called it), which could have no other result but to point out any weak point in the armour of our country to our possible enemies—to all who fear or who envy the greatness of England. A perusal of my correspondence on this subject will show that what has been done, and is doing, for the defences of this Colony, is due mainly to my constant and persistent representations, aided, of course, by General Sargent, and by the other naval and military authorities. I am in cordial co-operation with Admiral Sir W. DOWELL, and with General CAMERON, who possess the entire confidence of the Admiralty and of the War Office; and this community can place full reliance on their prudence and energy. Sir W. DOWELL is now temporarily absent in the execution of measures which, if they could be divulged, would be regarded by all of you as the best calculated alike for the protection of our trade and of English interests generally in this quarter of the globe, and also for the protection of Hongkong. The Admiral has authorised me to state, moreover, that there will remain *permanently* in this harbour the formidable ironclad *Wivern*—now fully manned and equipped—and five other men-of-war, together with four torpedo boats, and a large provision of submarine mines. I may add that I have recently received a letter from the highest official military authority in England, in which he writes that with the 'defensive power' of various kinds already provided, or which will shortly be provided for this harbour, 'you should laugh to scorn the possible attacks of the ships of all other nations now in the China seas.'

"I am sorry to be obliged to detain you so long; but I must now tell you precisely what has already been done with regard to the two subjects referred to in the Resolution proposed by my Honourable friend.

"(1.) The Government entirely agree that 'there ought to be direct Telegraphic Communication between Hongkong and Singapore.' I have already communicated with the Imperial Government on this subject, both by telegraph and by despatch. I also brought it before the Executive Council, which, after full consideration, passed the following Minute:—

The Council advise that, in the present depressed state of the Colonial Revenue, it is impossible that this Colony should give any substantial contribution towards a direct telegraphic cable to Singapore, which is desirable for Imperial rather than for Colonial, for naval and military rather than for commercial interests.

"I have communicated on this point also with the Acting Governor of the Straits Settlements, who informs me that his Government, like that of Hongkong, is unable to give any substantial aid to the proposed scheme.

I was informed by the Manager of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company that a direct Telegraph cable to Singapore would cost about £400,000, that is, about twice the total annual revenue of this Colony; but I have been informed since that that is probably an extravagant estimate. It appears that the Company would require a guarantee of £20,000 yearly for twenty years. It is possible that the Imperial Government might be inclined to give a guarantee, or to aid in some other way.

“(2.) With regard to the second point of the Resolution now before the Council, viz., the provision of a ‘flotilla of torpedo boats,’ I have already stated that Admiral Sir W. DOWELL has informed me that four torpedo boats, fully equipped, are attached to this harbour. After consultation with him, I have asked the Imperial Government, both by telegraph and despatch, to provide four more torpedo-boats, making eight in all, which the naval authorities consider amply sufficient. I may here add that the naval authorities believe that the Auxiliary Flotilla, formed of six of the steam-launches belonging to the Colonial Government, will afford very valuable aid. At my request, the Imperial Government has provided the Colony with a full equipment for this Flotilla of 7-pounder guns and Nordenfeldt machine-guns, and of rifles and revolvers for the crews, together with a large supply of ammunition. I am informed that two of the Government steam-launches can be fitted for torpedos.

“There are several other points connected with the subject of our Defences to which I should like to refer, if this Minute were not already longer than I intended. I should not omit, however, to mention that, more than a year ago, I strongly recommended the increase of the Garrison by a considerable force of Artillery and another regiment of the line. As you are aware, a second battery of the Royal Artillery was sent out at once. It is impossible that, at the present crisis, a second battalion of English infantry should be spared; but I have been assured that arrangements have been made for sending here as soon as possible at least one regiment of Indian troops and two more batteries of Artillery, making four batteries in all.

“In conclusion, I would observe that nothing can be further from my intention, in writing this Minute, than to claim any special credit for the constant, zealous, and successful efforts which I have made during the last two years for the improvement of our Defences. I feel that I have only discharged what is one of the first duties of the Governor of this Colony at the existing crisis.”

If no other Honourable gentleman wishes to address the Council I will now put the resolution to the vote, and I repeat that I hope it will be carried unanimously, for it is calculated to add force to the recommendations I have already made to the Imperial Government on the subjects of which it treats.

Question—put and passed.

THE BILL ENTITLED THE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ORDINANCE, 1885, IN COMMITTEE.—On the motion of the Attorney General, the Council resumed consideration, in Committee, of the Bill entitled *The Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1885.*

Progress reported at the Schedule.

PRIVATE BILL.—SECOND READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the *Bill for the Incorporation of the Roman Catholic Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong*, was read a second time.

A BILL TO AMEND THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE.—NOTICE OF FIRST READING.—The Attorney General gave notice that at the next Meeting of Council he would move the first reading of this Bill.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OTHER ORDER OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Order of the day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 8th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 8th day of April, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 19.

WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1885.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

" the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

" the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

" the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

" the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

" PHINEAS RYRIE.

" WILLIAM KESWICK.

" THOMAS JACKSON.

" FREDERICK·DAVID SASSOON.

" WONG SHING.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Despatches respecting the question of Quarantine.

VOTE OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minute by His Excellency the Governor :—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sum :—

C.S.O. 688 of 1885. For the construction of new Roads near the Mahomedan Cemetery, (second instalment),\$2,500.00

Government House, 8th April, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that this paper be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

VOTES PASSED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary moved the following Votes passed by the Finance Committee :—

(Finance Committee, 7th April, 1885.)

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Medical.

C.S.O. 344 of 1885. Increase to the salary of the Clerk of the Civil Hospital, from \$20 to \$30 per month, rising to \$40 a month by an annual increment of \$2 a month, 9 months @ \$10—\$ 90.00

Police Magistrates.

C.S.O. 305 of 1885. Increase to the Allowance to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, from \$8 to \$20 per month, from 1st April to 30th November, 1885, in lieu of receiving a portion of the fines,\$ 96.00

SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

Treasury.

C.S.O. 404 of 1885. For restoring to their original condition the two shops in Praya West, recently used in connection with the Opium boiling Factory,\$ 200.00

Observatory.

C.S.O. 202 of 1885. For the erection of a suitable house on piles for the proper working of the Automatic Tide-gauge, recently received from England,\$ 200.00

Miscellaneous Services.

C.S.O. 650 of 1885. For surface scavenging the City of Victoria and the Villages, for 12 months,.....\$18,570.00

PETITION.—The Honourable WONG SHING brought up a Petition from certain Chinese Merchants, praying for leave to use the *Kau-ny* Chek or the Custom House Standard Chek in Hongkong instead of the *Chek* (foot) as described in Ordinance 8 of 1885, and moved that it be received.

Question—put and passed.

QUESTIONS.—The Honourable T. JACKSON, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

- 1st. Has the Blockade of Pakhoi been legally notified?
- 2nd. Is it an effective blockade?
- 3rd. Can your Excellency suggest any remedies for the existing evils under which the trade of this Colony with Pakhoi, and the surrounding district is at present suffering, in consequence of the reported blockade?

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council as follows:—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—My Honourable friend who represents the Chamber of Commerce has, in the exercise of his undoubted privilege as a Member of this Council, put questions to the Government on a subject of the gravest importance to the interests of this community. I am very glad indeed that my Honourable friend has taken this course, because it enables me to lay before the Council a Minute giving the fullest information which I have been able to collect on all the subjects connected with the matter to which he refers. Before reading that minute I will, with the permission of the Council, inform you of a telegram which I have during the last half hour received from Her Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking:—

H.B.M. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES AT PEKING TO THE GOVERNOR OF HONGKONG.

(Received 8th April at 3.30 p.m.)

Protocol restoring peace between France and China has been signed in Paris, and would probably be submitted to the French Legislative Chambers on the 7th April.

Armistice with prohibition of contraband of war continues till definitive signature of Treaty. Please communicate to Admiral in command.

This, of course, I at once did. Favourable as is the prospect of peace, still as the present state of affairs seems likely to continue for a short time, I think it better that I should read to the Council the Minute to which I have referred:—

When the French Consul announced to me the blockade of Pakhoi and of the neighbouring Coast, I immediately (on the 6th March ultimo), telegraphed this intelligence to Her Majesty's Government, and on the following day (March 7th), I addressed to Lord DERBY the subjoined despatch:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
HONGKONG, 7th March, 1885.

“MY LORD,—I have the honour to report that I yesterday telegraphed to your Lordship in the following terms:—

‘The French Consul informs me that a blockade will be established from March the 7th on Pakhoi and the neighbouring coast of China, from the frontier of Tonquin to the 107th meridian of longitude.’

2. This blockade was announced to the French Consul at Hongkong by a telegram from Captain DE BEAUMONT, commanding the French Naval Forces in Tonquin, dated at Haiphong on the 5th instant. It was added that no notice of the blockade could be given to the Foreign Consuls at Pakhoi, as no communications were possible between the French Naval Forces and that port. Consequently, I telegraphed to the above effect to the British Consul at Pakhoi (Mr. ALLEN).

3. It appears that the longitude referred to is reckoned by the French from Paris; and therefore, the blockade would seem to extend from the Frontier of Tonquin to a short distance to the East of the Treaty Port of Pakhoi; which contains about 25,000 inhabitants and is the outlet of a large district.—Public Notice (By Proclamation in the *Hongkong Government Gazette* of March 7th 1885) of the blockade has been given at Hongkong, which carries on a considerable trade with Pakhoi; and Admiral Sir W. DOWELL has despatched thither the British Gun-boat *Espoir*.

4. It will be understood that the French are now blockading parts of the coast of China both to the North and to the South of Hongkong.”

As is mentioned in this despatch, I lost no time in causing public notice of the blockade to be given in the *Hongkong Government Gazette* of March 7th, and there was a further notice in the *Gazette* of March 28th, when the British Consul at Pakhoi had sent me, under flying seal, a letter addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, to the effect that the blockade was then in active operation, being carried on by two French Men-of-war. This is all that I know concerning the blockade of Pakhoi.

The Council is, of course, aware (as the Honourable Gentlemen stated,) that all questions of the nature of that now under consideration should properly be addressed to the British Minister at Peking, who is *ex-Officio* Superintendent of Trade in China, and not to the Governor of Hongkong, whose jurisdiction is limited by law to the waters of this Colony. And it will be recollected that the Chamber of Commerce has hitherto acted on this principle, and has addressed its correspondence on matters affecting the trade of this community direct to the Minister, without even transmitting the letters through the Governor. The Honourable Member has, I think, given reasons which will be deemed sufficient by the British Legation in China, for treating the present case as an exception to the general rule of the Chamber. Moreover, I have always considered myself justified in addressing both Her Majesty's Government and my late lamented friend, Sir HARRY PARKES, on all matters affecting the commercial and general interests of this Colony. Thus I have reported, both by telegraph and by despatch, all the French blockades and other proceedings which can affect, directly or indirectly, the trade of this community; such as the stopping and search of the *Glenroy*, and of other British Merchant vessels, and of one of the P. & O. steamers; and the declaration of the French that they will treat rice as contraband of war. My instructions from the Imperial Authorities on this subject are to the effect that they recognise the exercise by the French of the customary rights of Belligerent nations, and that the legality of any seizure of a British ship by French cruizers "must depend, in the first instance, on the decision of the Prize Court, subject to ulterior diplomatic action."

These instructions confirm in principle the opinion given two months ago by my responsible Legal Adviser (the Attorney General), when one of the leading Mercantile Firms here asked a question of the Government as to whether coal would be regarded by the French as contraband of war; and suggested that the Home Government should be consulted on this point. I was then advised that "Neither the Imperial Government, nor the Colonial Government can give an authoritative opinion on questions of this nature, nor should any such application as that suggested be made to the Home Government."

Whatever cargo private firms carry in their ships on the China Seas under present circumstances, they carry entirely at their own risk."

I was further advised in connexion with this question that "it is of the utmost importance that the Colonial Government should not give any legal opinion upon matters of this kind; for otherwise it may find itself involved in dangerous responsibilities,

- (1.) To the Belligerents; for acts which, though harmless from an international point of view so long as they are distinctly the acts of private persons only, and done without the sanction or connivance of the Government, might, if they were done under the positive sanction or advice of the Government, form a proper subject of complaint by the Belligerents.
- (2.) To the Mercantile Firms, or other persons obtaining the opinion; who, if any harm should happen to them, would say that they were acting in accordance with the authoritative opinion of the Government, and were entitled to be either supported by the Government or compensated by it for loss incurred while acting within its advice."

Having thus stated as briefly as possible what has already taken place respecting this important subject, and the broad principles applicable to cases of this nature, I will now reply to the special questions put by my Honourable friend.

With regard to the 1st question, viz.: "Has the blockade of Pakhoi been legally notified?" I am advised that the notifications made to the Government and published in the *Gazette* of the 7th and 28th March (as stated above,) would be regarded as sufficient "to affect all merchants in this Colony with notice of the existence of an actual blockade, and with an obligation to observe it."

With regard to the 2nd question, viz.: "Whether the blockade is effective?" I am advised that this is a question, the reply to which must depend on facts of which the Colonial Government has no precise knowledge.

With regard to the 3rd question, I must, of course, in the first instance, communicate respecting it with Her Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking, who has already expressed his desire to co-operate with me as heartily as did Sir HARRY PARKES. Meanwhile, I will remark that, while there is no doubt but that the place where the legality of any seizures of ships must be tested is the Prize Court of the captors, still, at the same time, if under pretence of seizing vessels for breach of blockade, or for other similar offences, any Belligerent Power were to pursue any system clearly in violation of the rights of neutrals, as recognised by international law, the Government of the neutral Power would interfere on behalf of its subjects. I shall not fail, whenever circumstances seem to require it, to invoke energetically that "ulterior diplomatic action" which has been referred to above.

In conclusion, I would observe that, after the persevering efforts which I have made during the two years of my administration here, to procure the strengthening of the Defences, and to promote the general interests of this Colony, I need hardly assure this Council that I sympathize deeply with the grave inconveniences to which our Mercantile community have been subjected for some time past in consequence of the protracted Franco-Chinese complications. The general depression of trade has, moreover, led to a serious depression in the public revenue. But I have entire confidence in the elasticity of our resources, and in the energy and enterprise of this community; and I hope that the return of peace will soon restore the former prosperity and progress of Hongkong.

THE BILL ENTITLED THE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ORDINANCE, 1885, IN COMMITTEE.—REPORTED.—NOTICE OF THIRD READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, the Council resumed consideration, in Committee, of the Bill entitled *The Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1885*.

The Bill was reported with amendments.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next Meeting of Council, he would move that the Bill be read a third time.

THE BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC VICAR APOSTOLIC OF HONGKONG.—COMMITTED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled *an Ordinance for the Incorporation of the Roman Catholic Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong*, was Committed.

A BILL ENTITLED THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE, 1884, AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1885.—FIRST READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, a Bill entitled *The Post Office Ordinance, 1884, Amendment Ordinance, 1885*, was read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OTHER ORDER OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Order of the Day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 15th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 15th day of April, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 20.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

" the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

" the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

" the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

" the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

" PHINEAS RYRIE.

" WILLIAM KESWICK.

" THOMAS JACKSON.

" FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

" WONG SHING.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—

(1.) The Colonial Surgeon's Report for 1884.

(2.) Despatches respecting the proposed Incorporation of the Vicar Apostolic of the Roman Catholic Church in Hongkong.

QUESTION.—The Honourable P. RYRIE, pursuant to notice, asked, with reference to the resolution passed at the Meeting of Council on 1st April, what replies, if any, have been received from the Home Government?

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council as follows:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—As I have already intimated to my Honourable Friend, I have not as yet received the reply of the Imperial Authorities with reference to the subjects of the Resolution passed by this Council on the 1st April. The Council may rest assured that I will always communicate to them forthwith every decision of the Imperial Government affecting the interests of this Colony. I am glad, however, that the Honourable Gentleman has asked this question, for it gives me an opportunity of laying before you a further official statement on the matters to which it refers. As you, Honourable Gentlemen, are already aware, a paternal Governor had anticipated your wishes in the matters referred to in the Resolution of the 1st April, as also with regard to the fortification of Hongkong generally; and what has been done already, and is now doing for our Defences, is mainly due (as there is abundant documentary evidence to prove), to my constant and urgent representations during the two years of my administration here, both in official despatches, and in private letters to my personal friends among English Statesmen and among the chief Military Authorities in England. It was very satisfactory to me to observe that all the speakers at the recent discussion in this Council fully recognised my foresight, energy, and perseverance in promoting the true interests of this Colony in these and in all other matters; and to hear the Honourable Gentleman who represents the Chamber of Commerce declare that "a time of emergency has now arisen, and it is in times of emergency that we should all act together and rally round the Governor for the common good."

It will be recollected that I expressed a hope that the Resolution of the 1st April would be passed unanimously, because it would add force to the representations which I had already made to the Imperial Authorities on the subjects of which it treated. Accordingly, on the 2nd April, I telegraphed to the Secretary of State that the Legislative Council, as well as the Admiral and General Commanding Her Majesty's Forces on this Station, concurred with me on the points in question. As I said just now, I have not as yet received any reply

to my telegram of the 2nd instant. I must here remark that if Honourable Gentlemen knew, as well as I do, through my experience as Governor for above a quarter of a century, the length of time required for official correspondence between the different departments of the Imperial Administration, they would not be so sanguine in the expectation of speedy answers in matters of this nature. From the official papers which I laid before you a fortnight ago (No. 14), you will have perceived that it required nineteen days to receive a reply on the much simpler matter of the *calibre* of the Ordnance to be mounted on the new Forts. Now the questions treated of in the Resolution of the 1st April, viz.: (1) the provision of direct telegraphic communication between Hongkong and Singapore, and (2) the provision of "a Flotilla of Torpedo-boats, fully equipped,"—would require an exchange of official correspondence between the Colonial Office, the War Office, the Admiralty, the Directors of the Telegraph Company, and, above all, the Imperial Treasury, the approval of which is necessary for the expenditure of public money in each and all of the public Departments. However, I yesterday telegraphed once more, urging an early reply showing the decision of Her Majesty's Government concerning direct telegraphic communication, and a further supply of Torpedo-boats; and also asking when the heavy Ordnance for the new Forts may be expected to arrive.

I will now make some further observations on each of the two matters treated of in the Resolution:—

(1.) With regard to the proposed Telegraph to Singapore, I have been in correspondence respecting it with the Manager, and find that the Eastern Extension Company would require a guarantee of £20,000 a year, for twenty years, before undertaking to lay a direct cable. You already know that the Executive Council of Hongkong, while agreeing with me and with this Council as to the importance of a direct cable, has advised that, especially in the present condition of our revenue, this Colony is wholly unable to offer any substantial aid to this project. I have already stated, moreover, that the Acting Governor of the Straits Settlements has informed me that the view of his Government is similar, and that it would not be prepared to give material assistance. It remains to be seen what will be the decision of the Imperial Government on my strong representations, afterwards supported by this Council.

(2.) I now come to the second proposal, which I, and most others who have given thought and attention to the matter, consider to be more likely to prove feasible, viz., the provision of a Flotilla of eight Torpedo-boats, which the Naval Authorities consider to be amply sufficient. As I have already informed you, Admiral Sir W. DOWELL has left the four Torpedo-boats now on this station to strengthen the Naval defence of our harbour. I have, as you know, asked that four more Torpedo-boats may be sent out; but, though I have not as yet received the decision of the Imperial Government, I learn from other sources that it is very improbable that any more Torpedo-boats can be spared for this Colony, while many of the chief ports of the United Kingdom, and of the other Colonies, remain wholly unprotected; and that, at all events, no more boats of this kind could reach us for many months to come. I am strongly of opinion that we should prefer to look to our own resources on the spot, which (as I am assured), could be made available in a few weeks, and at a very small cost. I have ascertained that two of the Steam-launches belonging to the Civil Government, and two of the Steam-launches belonging to the Military Departments, could be easily and speedily fitted for Spar and Whitehead Torpedoes. I have been in correspondence on this head with Commodore MORANT, who has written to me as follows:—"I have the honour to inform your Excellency that these fittings could be made and fitted to the launches in question at a cost of about fifty-five pounds (£55) each; and that there are in store torpedoes which, with the Commander-in-Chief (Admiral DOWELL'S) sanction, could be supplied, should your Excellency determine to have these boats so fitted."

I have already informed Commander RUMSEY, R.N., the Commandant of our Auxiliary Flotilla, that two of our steam-launches will be used for Torpedoes, so soon as the crews are sufficiently drilled; and I have assured the Military Authorities that the Colonial Government will be ready to pay also for the fittings of their two launches. It will thus be seen that a valuable addition to the Torpedo Flotilla can be secured at a cost to this Colony of about £250.

In conclusion, I would repeat that, on the completion of the works now in hand, and with the great "defensive power" in Ships, Torpedoes, and Submarine Mines, permanently attached to the harbour, one of the highest Official Military Authorities in England has recently assured me that "you (at Hongkong) should laugh to scorn the possible attacks of all the ships now in the China Seas." One word more, and I have done. I am confident that I interpret rightly the mind of every member of this Council when I say that nothing can be further from your wish and intention than to countenance any feeling of panic at the present moment. I believe that, like myself, you simply desire to see this first-class Naval and Military Station and great Mart of Commerce, placed, once for all, in a condition of practical and permanent security;—and that on the principle of the old Roman Maxim, *Si vis pacem, para bellum*.

THE BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC VICAR APOSTOLIC OF HONGKONG.—On the motion of the Attorney General the Council went into Committee on this Bill.

CLAUSE 1.

The Attorney General moved, and the Colonial Secretary seconded, that after the words Vicar Apostolic the words “of Hongkong” be struck out, and the words “of the Roman Catholic Church in Hongkong” be inserted in lieu thereof.

The Honourable W. KESWICK, seconded by the Honourable P. RYRIE, moved as an amendment, that the first six lines be struck out and that there be substituted in place thereof the words “The Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith shall be a body Corporate in Hongkong.”

THE COUNCIL DIVIDED.

<i>For.</i>	<i>Against.</i>
The Honourable WONG SHING,	THE REGISTRAR GENERAL,
” F. D. SASSOON,	THE SURVEYOR GENERAL,
” W. KESWICK,	THE COLONIAL TREASURER,
” P. RYRIE.	THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
	THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
	THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

The Honourable T. JACKSON did not vote.

For, 4; Against, 6; Majority, 2.—Motion lost.

The original motion was then put to the vote.

THE COUNCIL DIVIDED.

<i>For.</i>	<i>Against.</i>
THE REGISTRAR GENERAL,	The Honourable F. D. SASSOON,
THE SURVEYOR GENERAL,	” W. KESWICK,
THE COLONIAL TREASURER,	” P. RYRIE.
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,	
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,	
THE CHIEF JUSTICE.	

The Honourable T. JACKSON and the Honourable WONG SHING did not vote.

For, 6; Against, 3; Majority, 3.—Motion carried.

A few verbal amendments were also made.

The Bill having been reported as amended, the Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that the Bill be read a third time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 16 OF 1873, (TRADE MARKS).—FIRST READING.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Wednesday, the 22nd instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 22nd day of April, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 21.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND APRIL, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—

(1.) The Harbour Master's Report for 1884. (No. 19).

(2.) Correspondence respecting Rifle Practice by the Police. (No. 20).

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN,

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

C.S.O.
864 of 1885. (1.) Supplementary vote for Afforestation, being amount required to carry out certain contracts to which the Government is already pledged for this year,\$3,000.00

C.S.O.
888 of 1885. (2.) For the supply of 300,510 rounds of MARTINI-HENRY Ammunition required for the use of the Police and Volunteers, under the circumstances stated in the annexed correspondence (printed paper No. 20),.....\$6,998.11

The proceeds of the 50,000 rounds to be supplied to the Shanghai Volunteers will be credited to this account in due course.

C.S.O.
941 of 1885. (3.) The equivalent of £220, @ 3/8 per dollar, which Commodore MORANT has stated will be the approximate cost of fitting for torpedoes four Steam-launches,.....\$1,200.00

Government House, Hongkong, 22nd April, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that these Minutes be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

QUESTION.—The Honourable P. RYRIE pursuant to notice asked the following question:—

In regard to a Bill styled *A Bill to incorporate the Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong*, (that being the name originally given to the Bill), is the Attorney General acting as a Public Servant, or as a legal practitioner in the Colony?"

The Attorney General replied that he was acting as a Public Servant, and not as a legal practitioner.

THE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ORDINANCE, 1885.—THIRD READING.—PASSED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, this Bill was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

BILL TO AMEND THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE.—SECOND READING.—NOTICE OF GOING INTO COMMITTEE.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, this Bill was read a second time.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next Meeting of Council, he would move that the Council go into Committee on the Bill.

BILL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 16 OF 1873, (TRADE MARKS).—SECOND READING.—NOTICE OF GOING INTO COMMITTEE.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, this Bill was read a second time.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next Meeting of Council, he would move that the Council go into Committee on the Bill.

BILL FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE VICAR APOSTOLIC OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HONGKONG.—RE-COMMITTED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, this Bill was re-committed.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1. The Attorney General moved, and the Colonial Secretary seconded, the following amendments:—

In the second line, after the word *and*, and before the word *Vicar*, insert the words *holding the Ecclesiastical appointment of*.

In the third line, strike out the words *successors in Office*, and insert in lieu thereof, the words *holding the said appointment*.

In the seventh line, insert between the words *and* and *have*, the words *shall for the purposes of this Ordinance*.

Question—put and passed, the Honourable P. RYRIE dissenting.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next Meeting of Council, he would move the third reading of the Bill.

BILL FOR THE PREVENTION OF ABUSES CONNECTED WITH CHILD ADOPTION AND DOMESTIC SERVICE.—FIRST READING.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the Day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Friday, the 1st May, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 1st day of May, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 22.

FRIDAY, 1ST MAY, 1885.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ WILLIAM KESWICK.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

DEFENCES OF THE COLONY.—His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council as follows :—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—Before proceeding to the order of the day, I desire to inform you that I have now received from the Secretary of State a reply to my telegrams respecting the subject of the resolution adopted by this Council on the 1st April in favour of a direct telegraphic cable between Hongkong and Singapore and the provision of a flotilla of torpedo-boats for this harbour. No reference is made to the question of a direct telegraph, which, it is to be presumed, is still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. With regard to the torpedoes, Lord DERBY's telegram is to the following effect :—

The Admiralty cannot promise more torpedo-boats; but, after consulting with the Naval Commander-in-Chief, they are satisfied that the Colony under your Government is quite safe in the event of apprehended war. And they are thoroughly aware of what is necessary for the defence of the Colony.

I stated to the Council, on the 15th April, that I had learned from other sources that it was very improbable that any torpedo-boats, beyond the four already here, could be spared for this Colony at the present crisis. I added that, in my opinion, we should prefer to look to our own resources on the spot, which can be made available in a very short time and at a very small cost. Directions have already been given that four of the steam-launches belonging to the Imperial and Colonial Governments shall be fitted forthwith for torpedoes, thus making a flotilla of eight torpedo-boats, which, as you are already aware, the Naval Authorities consider amply sufficient. I had also telegraphed asking when the heavy guns for the new forts may be expected to arrive. On this point the telegram is to this effect :—

The new heavy guns will be sent as soon as practicable, though there will be some delay, owing to an alteration in the design of the gun-carriages. The rest of the heavy guns will be sent out sooner.

I am informed by a high military authority here that the words in the telegram “an alteration in the design of the gun-carriages,” probably refer to the substitution of what are called “disappearing carriages,” which are considered necessary for the protection of the artillerymen while reloading.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—

- (1.) Correspondence respecting the Armaments of the Forts at Hongkong, (in continuation of No. 14), (No. 14B.).
- (2.) Correspondence respecting Fees charged for issuing Bills of Health. (No. 21).
- (3.) Statement showing the total Receipts and Payments in the Year 1884, together with a Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the Years 1883 and 1884. (No. 22).
- (4.) Report on the Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year 1884, by the Colonial Secretary and Auditor General. (No. 23).

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

C.S.O. 849 of 1885.	(1.) Cost of apparatus for testing Coal-Gas,	\$ 500.00
C.S.O. 927 of 1885.	(2.) Honorarium, sanctioned by the Secretary of State, to Mr. W. C. HILLIER, Acting Chinese Secretary at the British Legation, for superintending Chinese studies of two Cadets in Peking,	£100 @ 3/8, = \$ 545.45
C.S.O. 930 of 1885.	(3.) Arrears of pay for 1884, due to four Police Constables who have accepted the increase of pay under the new regulations as to term of Service for pension and remittance to England, at \$60 each,	\$ 240.00
C.S.O. 978 of 1885.	(4.) Increase to the salary of the Student Apothecary in Civil Hospital, from \$16 to \$30 per month, from the 1st January, 1885,	\$ 168.00

Government House, Hongkong, 1st May, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that these Minutes be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

QUESTION.—The Honourable T. JACKSON, by permission, asked whether there is any objection to state the grounds on which the prisoner LEE LUM KWAI has been released from custody.

The Colonial Secretary replied as follows:—

In reply to the question of my Honourable friend, I am directed by the Governor to state that the facts of the case to which he refers are very simple. LEE LUM KWAI was released from custody on the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of the Gaol, of the Colonial Surgeon, and of the English and Roman Catholic Chaplains, on the ground of his good conduct during his imprisonment, and of his bad health, said by the Colonial Surgeon to endanger his life. Dr. AYRES also certified that an amelioration of his sentence had been promised by the late Governor.

Dr. AYRES further stated that “the petitioner has been of the greatest service to the Medical Department of the Gaol as interpreter and attendant; and his conduct has been very good.”

Both the Chaplains strongly supported the prayer of the petition, as did the Acting Superintendent, who added as follows:—

“From enquiries made I find that five (5) prisoners who had received death sentences, afterwards commuted to penal servitude for life, were released after three (3) years' imprisonment; and that three (3) prisoners, who had been sentenced to penal servitude for life, were released after terms of imprisonment not exceeding six (6) years.”

LEE LUM KWAI was sentenced to penal servitude for life in 1874, and has been in Gaol for eleven (11) years. Now it is the practice in many other Colonies to consider that fifteen (15) years' imprisonment is equivalent to a life sentence, especially in cases where the health of the prisoner has been seriously affected; and that good conduct in Gaol should procure a remission of one-third of that period. On this system, LEE LUM KWAI would, under ordinary circumstances, have been released a year ago.

However, looking to the peculiar circumstances of this case, it has been determined to banish LEE LUM KWAI from the Colony, on a report from the Captain Superintendent of Police to the effect that he is a person dangerous to the peace and good order of the Colony.

PETITION RESPECTING THE CHINESE FOOT-MEASURE KNOWN AS THE KAU-NG CHEK.—The Honourable WONG SHING, pursuant to notice, moved that the Petition of KO LUNG-TAI, WO LUN and others be read, in order to obtain the opinion of the Council in the matter of the Custom House Standard Chek.

The Honourable W. KESWICK seconded.

The Colonial Treasurer, seconded by the Registrar General, moved, as an Amendment, that the Petition do lie on the table, and addressed the Council at length on the subject.

The Amendment was put to the vote.

THE COUNCIL DIVIDED.

<i>For.</i>	<i>Against.</i>
The Honourable F. D. SASSOON,	The Honourable WONG SHING,
" T. JACKSON,	P. RYRIE,
" W. KESWICK,	" THE CHIEF JUSTICE.
THE REGISTRAR GENERAL,	
THE SURVEYOR GENERAL,	
THE COLONIAL TREASURER,	
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,	
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.	

For, 8; Against, 3; Majority, 5.—Motion carried.

The original motion was lost.

BILL FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE VICAR APOSTOLIC OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HONGKONG.—THIRD READING.—PASSED.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, this Bill was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

The Honourable P. RYRIE expressed his dissent.

Bill passed.

BILL ENTITLED THE MARRIED WOMEN'S DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY ORDINANCE, 1885.—COMMITTED.—NOTICE OF THIRD READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Council went into Committee on this Bill.

The Bill was reported with a few verbal amendments.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next Meeting of Council, he would move the third reading of this Bill.

BILL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 16 OF 1873, (TRADE MARKS).—COMMITTED.—NOTICE OF THIRD READING.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Council went into Committee on the Bill.

The Bill was reported with some verbal amendments.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next meeting of Council, he would move the third reading of this Bill.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDERS OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Orders of the Day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Friday, the 8th May, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 8th day of May, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 23.

FRIDAY, 8TH MAY, 1885.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

" the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

" the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

" the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

" the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

" PHINEAS RYRIE.

" THOMAS JACKSON.

" FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

" WONG SHING.

ABSENT :

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.), (on leave).

The Honourable WILLIAM KESWICK, (on leave).

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor :—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

<small>C.S.O. 3119 of 1884.</small>	Increase to the salary of the Chinese Clerk and Shroff of the Supreme Court, from \$40 to \$50 per month, from 1st April to 30th November, 1885,	\$ 80.00
<small>C.S.O. 1014 of 1885.</small>	Allowance to a Seaman Gunnery Instructor for the Hongkong Auxiliary Flotilla, @ £50 per annum (\$272.72), from 1st April to 30th November, 1885,	\$ 181.80

Government House, Hongkong, 6th May, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary said that as these Minutes had already, by His Excellency's permission, been referred to the Finance Committee, there was no necessity for any further action being taken in the matter.

VOTES PASSED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary moved the following votes passed by the Finance Committee :—

(Finance Committee, 7th May, 1885.)

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Cadets.

<small>C.S.O. 927 of 1885.</small>	Honorarium, sanctioned by the Secretary of State, to Mr. HILLIER, Acting Chinese Secretary at the British Legation, for Superintending Chinese Studies of two Cadets in Peking,	£100 @ 3/8=\$ 545.45
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Judicial.

C.S.O. 3119 of 1884. Increase to the Salary of Chinese Clerk and Shroff of Supreme Court, from \$40 to \$50 per month, from 1st April to 30th November, 1885,.....\$ 80.00

Police.

C.S.O. 541 of 1885. Arrears of pay for 1884 due to Inspector LINDSAY who has just returned from leave, and accepted the increase of pay under the new regulations,.....\$ 81.28

C.S.O. 837 of 1885. Arrears of pay for 1884 due to four Police Constables who have accepted the increase of pay under the new regulations, 240.00

\$ 321.28

SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

Government Gardens and Plantations.

C.S.O. 864 of 1885. Supplementary vote for Afforestation being amount required to carry out certain contracts to which the Government is already pledged for this year,\$ 3,000.00

Police.

C.S.O. 888 of 1885. For the supply of 300,510 rounds of MARTINI-HENRY Ammunition required for the use of the Police and Volunteers,\$ 6,998.11

Roads, Streets and Bridges.

C.S.O. 688 of 1885. New Roads near the old Mahomedan Cemetery, 2nd instalment,.....\$ 2,500.00

Miscellaneous Services.

C.S.O. 849 of 1885. Cost of apparatus for testing of Coal-Gas,\$ 500 00

Colonial Defences.

C.S.O. 941 of 1885. Approximate cost of fitting for torpedoes, four Steam-launches,£220 @ 3/8=\$ 1,200.00

C.S.O. 1014 of 1885. Allowance to a Seaman Gunnery Instructor for the Hongkong Auxiliary Flotilla, @ £50 per annum (\$272.72), from 1st April to 30th November,\$ 181.80

\$ 1,381.80

Seconded by the Colonial Treasurer.

Question—put and passed.

DIRECT TELEGRAPH LINE TO SINGAPORE.—His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council as follows:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—Before proceeding to the order of the day I desire to inform you that I have now received a reply to my telegrams respecting that part of your resolution of the 1st April ultimo which advocated a direct telegraphic cable between Hongkong and Singapore. Lord DERBY's telegram states as follows:—

“Her Majesty's Government consider that there would be no advantage gained by a direct submarine cable, in the present emergency, commensurate with the heavy expenditure of the annual payment required.”

However, I have submitted for favourable consideration a suggestion on this subject by a high military authority, which, if feasible, and if approved, would secure the desired object at a comparatively small cost.

BILL TO AMEND THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE.—On the motion of the Attorney General, the Council went into Committee on this Bill.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Bill was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

BILL ENTITLED THE MARRIED WOMEN'S DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY ORDINANCE, 1885.—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, this Bill was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

BILL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 16 OF 1873, (TRADE MARKS).—On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, this Bill was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

BILL FOR THE PREVENTION OF ABUSES CONNECTED WITH CHILD ADOPTION AND DOMESTIC SERVICE.—On the motion of the Attorney General, the order for the second reading of this Bill was discharged.

BILL ENTITLED THE FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS ORDINANCE CONTINUATION ORDINANCE, 1885. The Attorney General moved the first reading of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

The Council adjourned until Friday, the 15th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 15th day of May, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 24.

FRIDAY, 15TH MAY, 1885.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)
 „ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)
 „ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)
 „ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILLE PRICE.)
 „ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)
 „ PHINEAS RYRIE.
 „ THOMAS JACKSON.
 „ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.
 „ WONG SHING.

ABSENT :

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.), (on leave).
 The Honourable WILLIAM KESWICK, (on leave).

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

C. O. Desp.
67 of 1885.

Referring to the despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 67, of 1885, the Governor requests the Legislative Council to consider the amount of the personal allowance to be paid to Dr. AYRES and to Dr. ADAMS, respectively, in lieu of the fees received by them for issuing Bills of Health.

It is proposed that henceforward Bills of Health shall be issued by the Health Officer *ex-officio* for a fee of \$3 (three dollars), to be paid into the Colonial Treasury. It will be necessary to recoup the amount of the personal allowances to Dr. AYRES and Dr. ADAMS; but when this object has been attained, it is proposed to reduce the fees to a still lower amount, covering only the necessary expense to the Government.

Government House, Hongkong, 11th May, 1885.

G. F. BOWEN,

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

C.S.O.
1089 of 1885. Re-construction of Hospital Matsheds at Stone Cutters' Island for Quarantine purposes,\$ 500.00

C.S.O.
1099 of 1885. Supplementary vote for renewing the decayed portions of Murray Pier, and for extending it out into deep water, so that it may be approached by Steam-launches when the tide is ebbing,\$3,500.00

This is the Pier at which nearly all strangers of distinction and Officers of the Army and Navy land.

C.S.O.
1113 of 1885. For fitting a Nordenfeldt Gun on board the Police Steam-launch *Charles May*,£58.5.10 @ 3/6½=\$ 329.18

Government House, Hongkong, 15th May, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that these Minutes be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

BILL ENTITLED THE FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS ORDINANCE CONTINUATION ORDINANCE, 1885.—The Attorney General moved the second reading of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

The Honourable P. RYRIE observed that a very great privilege was conferred by this Ordinance on the French Mail Steamers, and that some assurance should be received from the French Government that they will not interfere with vessels carrying Her Majesty's Mails coming to this port.

His Excellency the Governor said that, in sending home the Bill, he would ask the Home Government to take this question into consideration.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next Meeting of Council, he would move that the Council go into Committee on the Bill.

BILL ENTITLED THE PRESERVATION OF WILD BIRDS AND GAME ORDINANCE.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

The Attorney General gave notice that, at the next Meeting of Council, he would move the second reading of this Bill.

The Council adjourned until Friday, the 22nd instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 22nd day of May, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 25.

FRIDAY, 22ND MAY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

,, the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

,, the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

,, the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

,, the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

,, PHINEAS RYRIE.

,, THOMAS JACKSON.

,, FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

,, WONG SHING.

ABSENT:

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.), (on leave).

The Honourable WILLIAM KESWICK, (on leave).

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PAPERS.—The Colonial Secretary, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—

(1.) Educational Reports for 1884. (No. 24).

(2.) Report on the subject of Destitutes. (No. 25).

VOTES OF MONEY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Read the following Minute by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sums:—

<small>C.S.O. 1125 of 1885.</small>	Refund to the Police Fine Fund of the amount disbursed last year from that Fund for legal expenses incurred in the defence of Sergeant BUTLIN,	\$ 414.25
<small>C.S.O. 1166 of 1885.</small>	Personal Allowances, in lieu of Fees for issuing Bills of Health, to the Colonial Surgeon, per annum,	\$ 200.00
	Health Officer, per annum,	1,200.00
		<u>\$ 1,400.00</u>

Government House, Hongkong, 18th May, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary stated that these votes had already been approved by the Finance Committee.

PEDDER'S WHARF.—Read the following Minute by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

C.S.O.
1221 of 1885. The Governor informs the Council that a sum for the renewal and extension of Pedder's Wharf will be placed on the Estimates for 1886; and in the meantime he recommends that the Public Works Committee shall consider and report whether the new Wharf should be of wood, or iron, or stone.

Government House, Hongkong, 20th May, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary moved that this Minute be referred to the Public Works Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

VOTES PASSED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary moved the following votes passed by the Finance Committee :—

(Finance Committee, 18th May, 1885.)

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Medical.

S. of S. Desp. 67 of 1885.	Personal allowance to Colonial Surgeon in lieu of fees for issuing Bills of Health, at the rate of \$200 per annum, from 1st June to 30th November, 1885, 6 months,...	\$ 100.00
Do.	Personal allowance to Health Officer in lieu of fees for issuing Bills of Health, at the rate of \$1,200 per annum, from 1st June to 30th November, 1885, 6 months, ...	600.00
		<u>\$ 700.00</u>

SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

Works and Buildings.

C.S.O. 1089 of 1885.	Reconstruction and repairs of Hospital Matsheds at Stone 'Cutters' Island for Quarantine purposes,	\$ 500.00
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Roads, Streets and Bridges.

C.S.O. 1099 of 1885.	Renewing and extending Murray Pier,.....	\$3,500.00
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Miscellaneous Services.

C.S.O. 1125 of 1885.	Refund to the Police Fine Fund of the amount disbursed last year from that Fund for legal expenses incurred in the defence of Sergeant BUTLIN,	\$ 414.25
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Colonial Defences.

C.S.O. 1113 of 1885.	Expenses for fitting a Nordenfeldt Gun on board the Police Steam-launch <i>Charles May</i> , £58.5.10 @ 3/6½,	\$ 329.18
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Seconded by the Colonial Treasurer.

Question—put and passed.

The Honourable P. RYRIE remarked with reference to the vote for Murray Pier, that Pedder's Wharf also needed repairs and extensions, and that the public were dissatisfied that the repairs and extensions of Murray Pier should take precedence of those to Pedder's Wharf.

The Honourable T. JACKSON addressed the Council in support of Mr. RYRIE's remarks.

The Colonial Secretary replied that the question of Pedder's Wharf was under consideration as would appear by His Excellency the Governor's Minute just read; and that Murray Pier was in a dilapidated state, and needed immediate repairs.

BILL ENTITLED THE FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS ORDINANCE CONTINUATION ORDINANCE, 1885.—On the motion of the Attorney General, the Council went into Committee on this Bill.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Bill was read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDER OF THE DAY.—The Attorney General moved the postponement of the other Order of the Day.

Question—put and passed.

The Council adjourned until Friday, the 29th instant, at 4 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 29th day of May, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 26.

FRIDAY, 29TH MAY, 1885.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

,, the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

,, the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

,, the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

,, the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

,, PHINEAS RYRIE.

,, THOMAS JACKSON.

,, FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

,, WONG SHING.

ABSENT:

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.), (on leave).

The Honourable WILLIAM KESWICK, (on leave).

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

PEDDER'S WHARF.—The Surveyor General, as Chairman of the Public Works Committee, reported to the Council that the Committee had considered His Excellency the Governor's Minute of the 20th instant, respecting the renewal and extension of Pedder's Wharf, and recommended that a new Wooden Pier be erected at the foot of Pedder's Street without delay, at a cost of not exceeding \$10,000, \$5,000 of which to be voted this year, and the balance to be placed on the Estimates for 1886.

VOTES OF MONEY.—Read the following Minutes by His Excellency the Governor:—

G. F. BOWEN.

^{C.S.O.}
_{1221 of 1885.} In pursuance of the recommendation of the Public Works Committee, the Governor recommends the Council to vote \$5,000 to be expended during the current year on the erection of a new and enlarged Wooden Pier at Pedder's Wharf, the cost of which is estimated at \$10,000. The balance of this sum will be provided in next year's Estimates.

Government House, May 29th, 1885.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote the following sum:—

^{C.S.O.}
_{1168 of 1885.} For the construction of 3 trucks to hold the Nordenfeldt Guns belonging to the Auxiliary Flotilla when not required for use,.....\$ 120.00

Government House, May 29th, 1885.

The Colonial Secretary stated, with reference to the first Minute, that as the matter had been considered by the Public Works Committee, the Members of which are also members of the Finance Committee, there was no necessity to refer it to the latter Committee. He therefore moved that the vote be passed.

With reference to the second Minute, he also moved that, considering that the item is small, and that this is the last Meeting of the present Session of the Council, the amount be voted without reference to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

BILL ENTITLED THE PRESERVATION OF WILD BIRDS AND GAME ORDINANCE.—The Attorney General moved the second reading of this Bill.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of the Attorney General, the Council went into Committee on the Bill.

The Bill was reported with one amendment.

The Attorney General moved that the Standing Orders be suspended, and the Bill read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—that this Bill do pass.

Bill passed.

The Council adjourned until Monday, the 1st proximo, at 5.30 P.M.

G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 1st day of June, 1885.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL No. 27.

MONDAY, 1ST JUNE, 1885.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, G.C.M.G.)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (WILLIAM HENRY MARSH, C.M.G.)

„ the Attorney General, (EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY.)

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (ALFRED LISTER.)

„ the Surveyor General, (JOHN MACNEILE PRICE.)

„ the Registrar General (FREDERICK STEWART, LL.D.)

„ PHINEAS RYRIE.

„ THOMAS JACKSON.

„ FREDERICK DAVID SASSOON.

„ WONG SHING.

ABSENT :

His Honour the Chief Justice, (SIR GEORGE PHILLIPPO, Knt.), (on leave).

The Honourable WILLIAM KESWICK, (on leave).

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and confirmed.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION.—His Excellency the Governor closed the Session with the following Speech:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

1. The satisfactory conclusion to which you have carried no small amount of public business enables me now to close this Session.

2. Several measures of importance will be prepared by my Government during the recess for your consideration at your next Meeting. As I have stated on a previous occasion, I understand it to be generally agreed that the public convenience will be best consulted by opening the Annual Session of the Council in the month of November of each year. But it will be necessary to have a Special Meeting in next September to consider the Estimates for 1886. It has been found to be practically impossible to calculate accurately at an earlier period the probable revenue and expenditure of the ensuing year.

3. I will now proceed, according to the practice established in all Colonies, to lay before the Legislature a brief summary of the present condition of Hongkong, with regard to Finance, Legislation, Public Works, Education, the Public Institutions, and the Police.

4. With regard to Finance;—I thank you, in the name of the QUEEN, for the supplies which you have voted for Her Majesty's service in this Colony, and as a contribution to the cost of the Defence Works. The Report of the Colonial Secretary and Auditor General shows that the probable assets of the Colony on the 31st of next December will amount to nearly two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000). It will not, therefore, be necessary to raise during the present year any portion of the Loan proposed for the completion of the Extraordinary Works connected with Sanitation, Water Supply, and Defence.

5. With regard to Legislation;—fifteen Bills have become law during the Session; the more important being the Ordinances regulating Weights and Measures, Bills of Exchange, the Disposition of Property by Married Women, and Amending the Post Office Ordinance.

6. With regard to Public Works;—the depression of the Public Revenue; consequent on the unsettled state of political affairs in this quarter of the globe, has rendered necessary some temporary reduction and postponement in several of the principal undertakings contemplated last year. Steady progress has, however, been made with the Tytam Water Works; with the Victoria College; and with the general plan of Sanitation approved, in 1883, by Her Majesty's Government, on the recommendation of Mr. CHADWICK. In connection with the last-mentioned subject, the details of the proposed new Building Ordinance will be carefully considered during the recess by the Public Works Committee.

7. With regard to Education ;——the Annual Report of the Government Inspector shows very satisfactory progress, for ‘both the number of Schools under Government supervision in the Colony, and also the number of Scholars attending those Schools have been doubled within the last ten years.’ Moreover, from paragraph 13 of the same Report, it will be seen that the changes recently introduced into the Education Code have proved completely successful, and have already resulted in decreased expense coupled with increased efficiency. Again, it is remarked by the Head Master in his Report that the past was an eventful year for the Central School, for the erection of the Victoria College was then commenced. It is believed that this new College will become the principal place of education not only for this Island, but also for many of the future leading men of the vast neighbouring Empire of China ; and that this will prove a powerful, legitimate, and honourable method of extending British influence throughout this quarter of the globe. Already indeed, several men holding high positions in the service of the Chinese Government owe their education to the schools established in Hongkong under British auspices.

8. With regard to the Public Institutions and the Police ;——I have satisfied myself by several personal inspections that they are in a generally satisfactory condition. Further, from papers recently laid before the Council, it will have been seen that Major-General CAMERON, Commanding the Troops on this Station, has borne his testimony to the efficiency of the English and Sikh portion of the Police Corps in their rifle practice. A force of 300 men, equal to one fourth of the whole, has thus practically been added, in the event of war, or of serious internal disturbance, to the garrison. At the same time, the Police fully understand that their military drill must not be allowed to interfere with their civil duties in time of peace.

9. Having thus glanced at the internal affairs of this Colony, I will remind you, Honourable Gentlemen, of what I stated in my Prorogation Speech last year, viz.: that the foremost statesmen of England attach greater importance to this Colony than to other Colonies of far larger territorial extent ; for Hongkong is the centre of British power and commerce in this part of the world. As you are already aware, one of my first acts after my assumption of this Government, was to call the attention of the Imperial Authorities to the comparatively unprotected state of this first-class Naval and Military Station, and great Mart of Trade, and thus to procure the commencement of the Defence Works which are now in progress. I know that you all entirely agree with me in the opinion that the present favourable prospect of peace should not be allowed to cause any relaxation in the efforts in this direction. It is a wise maxim that preparation for War is the surest guarantee for Peace. And, as you know already, the highest Naval and Military Authorities in the Empire believe that the completion of the Defences which are now being vigorously pushed forward by General CAMERON, will place this Colony in safety against foreign attack.

10. In conclusion, I desire to thank you, Honourable Gentlemen, once more, for your valuable advice and assistance during the past Session, and for the constant and loyal support which you afford on all occasions to the Representative of the Queen. I trust that the return of peace will soon remove the temporary depression in our trade and revenue ; and that, through the blessing of Almighty God on the energy and industry of all classes in this community, the general progress and prosperity of Hongkong will be increased and consolidated.

11. I now prorogue this Council to the 15th day of next September.