

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Draft Bill.

No. S. 459.—The following bill is published for general information:—

[No. 10:—6.4.33.—2.]

A BILL

INTITULED

An Ordinance to amend the law relating to Merchant Shipping.

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hong Kong with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Short title. 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance, 1933.

New sub-section (3A) of Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, s. 4. 2. Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, is amended by the insertion of the following sub-section after sub-section (3) thereof.

Local Steam or Motor Ferry vessels. (3A) Every steam or motor vessel which plies as a ferry between two or more points within the Colony shall comply with the regulations contained in Table E in the Schedule (as amended by the Governor in Council and for the time being in force) and shall be provided with a master who possesses a local certificate of competency from the Harbour Master and also with an engineer who possesses a like certificate.

Amendment of Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, s. 10 (1). 3. Section 10 (1) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, is amended by the addition of the following words after the word "Colony" at the end thereof:

"except steam or motor-vessels which ply solely as ferries between two or more points within the Colony".

Amendment of Ordinance No. 10 of 1899, s. 37 and headings. 4.—(1) Section 37 (1) is amended by the insertion of the following paragraph at the end thereof:—

(c) "Ferry vessel" means any steam or motor vessel which plies regularly for the conveyance of persons, or of persons and things, between two or more points within the Colony.

Ordinance No. 23 of 1932. (2) The words "ferry vessels" are added after the word "launches" wherever that word occurs in the headings to section 37 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, and in sub-sections (2), (2A), (15) and (16) of that section as amended by the Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance, 1932.

Ordinance No. 23 of 1932. (3) The words "ferry vessel" are added after word "launch" wherever that word occurs in sub-sections (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) and (14) of section 37 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, as amended by the Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance, 1932.

Objects and Reasons.

1. The proviso added to section 4 (2) of Ordinance No. 10 of 1899 by section 2 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1931 permitted the Governor in Council to grant special exemption from the requirements of that section in the case of ships which regularly ply between the Colony and certain neighbouring non-treaty ports. Those vessels were virtually ferry vessels.

2. The ferry vessels which regularly ply between two or more points within the Colony and do not proceed beyond its waters have hitherto been vessels not exceeding sixty tons register and have therefore been treated as launches under section 37 of Ordinance No. 10 of 1899.

3. Now that a ferry for the carriage of motor cars and other vehicles as well as passengers has been established, vessels exceeding sixty tons register are necessary. Indeed even the capacity of the ordinary passenger ferry vessels is becoming increasingly taxed by the growth of the population in outlying residential districts which are separated by water from the city of Victoria.

4. This Ordinance therefore amends sections 4, 10, and 37 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, so as to subject all local ferry vessels to the launch regulations contained in Table E of the Schedule as amended by the Governor in Council and for the time being in force.

5. These regulations in Table E have been amended from time to time by the Governor in Council under sections 37 (2) and 43 (3) of the principal Ordinance. If this amending Ordinance is approved it is proposed to consolidate them in a new Table in which ferry vessels will be mentioned expressly in the heading and in the regulations applicable to them and licence fees for ferry vessels exceeding sixty tons will be included in regulation 12 as enacted by Government Notification No. 77 of the Hong Kong Government Gazette of the 5th February, 1924.

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April, 1933.