

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 451.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 3.

THURSDAY, 17TH MAY, 1906.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.).

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General VILLIERS HATTON, C.B.).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (THOMAS SERCOMBE SMITH).

" the Attorney General, (Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, Kt.).

" the Colonial Treasurer, (ALEXANDER MACDONALD THOMSON).

" the Registrar General, (ARTHUR WINBOLT BREWIN).

" the Director of Public Works, (WILLIAM CHATHAM).

" the Harbour Master, (Captain LIONEL AUBREY WALTER BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N.).

" Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

" Mr. WEI YUK.

" Mr. CHARLES WEDDERBURN DICKSON.

" Mr. HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, K.C.

" Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE.

" Mr. EDBERT ANSGER HEWETT.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 22nd February, 1906, were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.—Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE and Mr. EDBERT ANSGER HEWETT took the Oath and assumed their seat as Members of the Council.

COMMITTEES.—His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with the Standing Order No. 47, appointed the Honourable Mr. HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK to be a Member of the Law Committee *vice* Mr. ROBERT GORDON SHEWAN, and the Honourables Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE and Mr. EDBERT ANSGER HEWETT to be Members of the Public Works Committee *vice* Sir C. P. CHATER and Mr. GERSHOM STEWART.

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

1. Jurors List for 1906.
2. Report on the Queen's College, for the year 1905.
3. Financial Returns for the year 1905.
4. City of Victoria and Hill District Water-works. (Water Statistics from 1889-1905.)
5. Report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol, for the year 1905.
6. Report of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, for the year 1905.
7. Report of the Director of the Hongkong Observatory, for the year 1905.
8. Report on the Blue Book for 1905.
9. Research into the Etiology of Beri-beri.
10. Report of the Harbour Master, for the year 1905.
11. Report of the Registrar-General, for the year 1905.
12. Reports on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Colony of Hongkong, for the year 1905.
13. Rules and Regulations made under Section 6 of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873, in relation to Petroleum in Bulk.
14. Rules and Regulations made under Section 6 of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873, in relation to Petroleum in Cases.
15. Rules and Regulations made under Section 6 of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873, in relation to Dangerous Goods in General.
16. Regulation to amend the Regulations made under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873, in relation to Petroleum in Bulk.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following Financial Minutes, (Nos. 7 to 27 excepting No. 15 which was withdrawn), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

M. NATHAN.

No. 1316 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Three thousand Dollars (\$3,000) in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, *G.*—Lighthouses, for the following items:—

<i>Gap Rock Lighthouse, Other Charges.</i>	
Gunpowder Charges and Tubes for Fog Signalling Guns,...	\$1,000
<i>Waglan Island Lighthouse, Other Charges.</i>	
Gunpowder Charges and Tubes for Fog Signalling Guns,...	2,000
Total,	<u>\$3,000</u>

Government House, Hongkong, 23rd February, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 9210 of
1905, C.O.D.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Five hundred Dollars (\$500) in aid of the vote, Education, *A.*—Department of Inspector of Schools, Other Charges, Visual Instruction Expenses.

Government House, Hongkong, 23rd February, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 5610 of
1905, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Fifteen thousand two hundred Dollars (\$15,200) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Communications, Metallic Circuits including New Route to North Point.

Government House, Hongkong, 1st March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 4836 of
1905, Extension.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Six hundred Dollars (\$600) in aid of the vote Registrar General's Department—Other Charges, Language Allowance to Mr. C. CLEMENTI, Assistant Registrar General, who has passed the examination in the Pekingese Colloquial.

Government House, Hongkong, 5th March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 1774 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and twelve Dollars (\$112) in aid of the vote, Post Office, Postal Agencies in China,—Other Charges, Hankow, Incidental Expenses.

Government House, Hongkong, 10th March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 1878 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of One thousand seven hundred and forty Dollars (\$1,740) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, for the following:—

Infectious Hospitals.

Hospital Hulk *Hygeia*:—

<i>Personal Emoluments.</i>	
Temporary Staff, for 3 months,	\$240
<i>Other Charges.</i>	
Provisions, &c.,	1,500
Total,	<u>\$1,740</u>

Government House, Hongkong, 15th March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 2186 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Sixteen thousand Dollars (\$16,000) in aid of the vote—Miscellaneous Services, Refunds of Revenue.

Government House, Hongkong, 23rd March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 2114 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Seventy Dollars (\$70) in aid of the vote, Post Office, B.—Postal Agencies in China—Other Charges, Shanghai, Allowance for attendance on Sundays.

Government House, Hongkong, 24th March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 1313 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Three thousand Dollars (\$3,000) in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, G.—Lighthouses, for the following items :—

Gap Rock Lighthouse, Other Charges.

Gunpowder Charges and Tubes for Fog Signalling Guns, ...\$1,000

Waglan Island Lighthouse, Other Charges.

Gunpowder Charges and Tubes for Fog Signalling Guns, ... 2,000

Total,.....\$3,000

Government House, Hongkong, 27th March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 1624 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Four hundred and eight Dollars (\$408) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, D.—Land Registry Office—Other Charges, for New Territories, Conveyance and hire of Coolies.

Government House, Hongkong, 27th March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 710 of
1903,
Extension.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Four hundred and fifty Dollars and sixty-six Cents (\$450.66) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Resumption of Land for the Sai U Shek Cemetery, near Kowloon City.

Government House, Hongkong, 28th March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 2240 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Forty-two thousand Dollars (\$42,000) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, 19, Forming and Kerbing Streets.

Government House, Hongkong, 29th March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 9662 of
1905, C.O.D.
Miscellaneous.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a further sum of Four thousand four hundred and fifty-five Dollars and fifty-nine Cents (\$4,455.59) in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Connaught Reception.

Government House, Hongkong, 31st March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 7365 of
1905,
Extension.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and twenty Dollars (\$120) in aid of the vote, Treasury, A.—Treasurer's Office—Other Charges, New Territory, Conveyance Allowance to Clerk and Shroff.

Government House, Hongkong, 31st March, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 3470 of
1905, C.O.D.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of One thousand eight hundred taels (taels 1,800) in aid of the vote, Post Office, B.—Postal Agencies in China, Other Charges, Shanghai, Rent of the British Post Office Extension site from 1st July, 1905, to 31st December, 1906.

Government House, Hongkong, 10th April, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 2791 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred and fifty thousand Dollars (\$350,000) in aid of the vote Public Works Extraordinary, Kowloon-Canton Railway.

Government House, Hongkong, 25th April, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 2992 of
1906, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Six hundred and eighty-five Dollars (\$685) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, A.—Supreme Court, Other Charges, Safe for Original Wills.

Government House, Hongkong, 2nd May, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 586 of
1905, C.S.O.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred and seventy-two Dollars and thirty Cents (\$372.30) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments—Other Charges, A.—Staff, Health Officer of Port, Repairs to Launch.

Government House, Hongkong, 5th May, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 3271 of
1904, C.O.D.

The Governor recommends the Council to revote a sum of One hundred and seventy-two Dollars and eighty Cents (\$172.80 @ 2s. 1d. = £18) in aid of the vote, Military Expenditure, B.—Volunteers—Other Charges, Contribution towards Sergeant Major's Army Pension.

Government House, Hongkong, 5th May, 1906.

M. NATHAN.

No. 3470 of
1905, C.O.D.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Four hundred and fifty Dollars (\$450) in aid of the vote, Post Office, B.—Postal Agencies in China—Other Charges, Shanghai, Rates and Taxes.

Government House, Hongkong, 5th May, 1906.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the Council.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee, dated the 22nd February, 1906, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

AMENDMENT OF THE SCAVENGING AND CONSERVANCY BYE-LAWS.—The Colonial Secretary moved an amendment to the Scavenging and Conservancy Bye-laws.

The Attorney General seconded, and the motion was carried.

MOTION.—REGISTRATION OF PARTNERSHIPS.—Mr. POLLOCK addressed the Council, and moved :—

That it is desirable that legislation for the registration of partners, with limited liability, should be introduced into this Colony.

Dr. HO KAI addressed the Council, and seconded the motion.

Mr. HEWETT and the Attorney General addressed the Council.

After some discussion the motion was withdrawn.

QUESTIONS.— Mr. POLLOCK, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions :—

1. *Have the experiments in wood-paving proved sufficiently satisfactory to warrant an extension of this method of road-making being taken into consideration?*
2. *With reference to the leading article, which appeared in the "South China Morning Post" of the 19th April, 1906, will the Government state why the notification as to dead rats therein referred to was not promptly attended to by the Sanitary Authorities, and will the Government also state what steps are being taken to prevent the recurrence of such delays in future?*
3. *Will the Government consider the advisability of granting to those Civil Servants who are drawing their pay on a Sterling basis the privilege of drawing half of their pay at the rate of 1s. 8d. to the dollar, or will the Government grant some other relief by way of compensation to such Civil Servants?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the Property of Married Women.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

DENTISTS REGISTRATION BILL.—The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to regulate the qualifications and to provide for the Registration of Dentists.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

SUMMARY OFFENCES (FURTHER AMENDMENT) BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council, and moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Summary Offences (Amendment) Ordinance, 1905.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed, and Bill reported without amendment.

MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council, and moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance further to amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed, and Bill reported with one amendment.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS BILL.—The Attorney General moved that the order relating to the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of Lunatic Asylums and to provide for the custody and care therein of persons of unsound mind, be withdrawn.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill withdrawn.

LUNACY BILL.—The Attorney General addressed the Council, and moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance relating to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court with respect to the care and commitment of the custody of the persons and estates of Lunatics.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned until Thursday, the 31st May, 1906.

M. NATHAN,
Governor.

Read and confirmed this 31st day of May, 1906.

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Clerk of Councils.

No. 452.—The following Bill was read a first time at a Meeting of the Council held on the 31st May, 1906:—

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Two hundred and seventy-eight thousand four hundred and twelve Dollars and eight Cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1905.

WHEREAS it has become necessary to make further provision for the public service of the Colony for the year 1905, in addition to the charge upon the revenue of the Colony for the service of the said year already provided for:

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. A sum of Two hundred and seventy-eight thousand four hundred and twelve Dollars and eight Cents is hereby charged upon the revenue of the Colony for the service of the year 1905, the said sum so charged being expended as hereinafter specified; that is to say:—

Post Office,-	-	-	-	-	\$197,562.25
Judicial and Legal Departments,	-	-	-	-	3,596.10
Miscellaneous Services,	-	-	-	-	59,455.55
Military Expenditure—Volunteers,	-	-	-	-	14,500.12
Public Works Recurrent,	-	-	-	-	3,298.06

Total Supplementary Votes, - \$278,412.08