

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 91.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 1.

THURSDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 1919.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT
(Mr. CLAUD SEVERN, C.M.G.).

His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General FRANCIS VENTRIS).

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (ARTHUR GEORGE MURCHISON FLETCHER).

„ the Attorney General, (JOSEPH HORSFORD KEMP, K.C., C.B.E.).

„ the Colonial Treasurer, (CHARLES McILVAINE MESSER, O.B.E.).

„ the Director of Public Works, (WILLIAM CHATHAM, C.M.G.).

„ the Captain Superintendent of Police, (EDWARD DUDLEY CORSCADEN WOLFE).

„ Mr. DAVID LANDALE.

„ Mr. LAU CHÜ-PAK.

„ Mr. Ho FOOK.

„ Mr. ROBERT GORDON SHEWAN.

ABSENT :

„ the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (EDWIN RICHARD HALLIFAX, O.B.E.).

„ Mr. HENRY EDWARD POLLOCK, K.C.

„ Mr. PERCY HOBSON HOLYOAK.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 30th December, 1918, were confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.—Mr. SHEWAN took the Oath and assumed his seat as a Member of the Council.

STANDING COMMITTEES.—His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government appointed the following Committees for the year 1919 :—

Finance Committee.—All the Members of the Council with the exception of the Governor.

Public Works Committee.—The Director of Public Works (Chairman), the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. HOLYOAK, Mr. Ho FOOK, and Mr. SHEWAN.

Law Committee.—The Attorney General (Chairman), the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, Mr. POLLOCK, Mr. LANDALE, and Mr. LAU CHÜ-PAK.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 1 to 8, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee :—

No. 1.—Harbour Master's Department, Special Expenditure, Acquisition and re-arrangement of moorings in Victoria Harbour,.....\$ 3,500.00

No. 2.—Miscellaneous Services, Rent of Underground Telegraph Lines,	\$ 540.00
No. 3.—Medical Department, A.—Staff, Conveyance Allowances to Matron, Sisters, and Probationers,...	1,170.00
No. 4.—Charitable Services, Charitable allowance to Shin Lok-shang, son of Sin Yau-wai, late of the Education Department,	500.00
No. 5.—Charitable Services, Charitable Pension,	536.64
No. 6.—Royal Observatory, Special Expenditure, Typewriter,	102.00
No. 7.—Public Works, Extraordinary, Kowloon, Miscellaneous, Shelter in Children's Playground, ..	2,200.00
No. 8.—Public Works, Extraordinary, New Territories, Miscellaneous, (47) Miscellaneous Works, ...	10,000.00

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

QUESTIONS.—Mr. LANDALE asked the following questions on behalf of Mr. HOLYOAK :—

1. *What steps has the Government taken and what further steps does the Government propose to take to obtain the prompt release from military service of men sent to India under the "General Military Service Ordinance, 1918"?*
2. *Will the Government arrange for a supply of pneumatic-tyred modern rickshaws for the Colony and state the maximum price in fares it is prepared to allow for a minimum distance?*
3. *What steps have been taken to carry out the wishes of the Unofficial Members expressed during the "Budget Debate" on the 17th October last, to improve the general condition of the Sai Ying Pun School?*
4. *What steps have been taken by the Government to revise the Civil Service salaries and conditions of service?*
5. *Is it not a fact that for some time past, owing to the illness of the "P.C.M.O.", there has been no practicing resident Physician or Surgeon at the Victoria Hospital, Barker Road, and that patients are entirely dependent upon daily visits from another medical officer of the Government, and will the Government state what other duties this Medical Officer has to perform?*
6. *Will the Government state whether there is at present any system for searching passengers and passengers' luggage entering the Colony, whether by boat or train, for arms and ammunition? If not, in view of the numerous outrages and armed thefts which have occurred in this Colony recently, will they take immediate steps to provide for such a search?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

CLAUD SEVERN,
Officer Administering the Government.

Confirmed this 27th day of February, 1919.

A. D. BALL,
Clerk of Councils.