

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 100.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, No. 2.

THURSDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 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 Secretary for Chinese Affairs, (EDWIN RICHARD HALLIFAX, O.B.E.).

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

„ Mr. HERNY EDWARD POLLOCK, K.C.

„ Mr. DAVID LANDALE.

„ Mr. LAU CHÜ-PAK.

„ Mr. PERCY HOBSON HOLYOAK.

„ Mr. Ho Fook.

„ Mr. ROBERT GORDON SHEWAN.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 30th January, 1919, were confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 9 and 10, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee:—

No. 9.—Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, Miscellaneous, (24) Miscellaneous Works, .....\$ 15,000.00

No. 10.—Miscellaneous Services, Language Study Allowances, ..... 600.00

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 1), dated the 30th January, 1919, and moved its adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

JURORS LIST FOR 1919.—The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the Jurors List for 1919 and moved that it be considered in private later.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

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

(1) *With reference to the following Resolution unanimously passed at a crowded Public Meeting in the Theatre Royal on the 7th November last:—*

*“ That the Government be asked to appoint a Commission to enquire into the Housing Problem and transit questions in connection with the same.”*

*and submitted to the Government in a covering letter from the Constitutional Reform Association on the 8th November to which the Government replied on the 15th November that*

*“ the Resolution quoted therein will be laid before His Excellency the Governor on his return to the Colony ”*

*in view of the resignation of His Excellency Sir Henry May will the Government state what measures it now proposes to take to give prompt effect to the wishes of the Colony?*

(2) *With reference to the following telegrams despatched by Reuter's Agent to Reuter's head office in London*

*on the 8th November:—*

*“ Large Public Meeting resolved unanimously that Germans deported from the Colony to Australia should at the conclusion of the War not be permitted to return to Hongkong or China but be repatriated to Germany. The Meeting re-affirmed the unaltered conviction that no German subject be allowed to reside in the Colony or trade here for a period of years.”*

*on the 9th January:—*

*“ At a Public Meeting it was unanimously resolved, to telegraph the Secretary of State for the Colonies asking for reform in the Constitution of the Legislative Council to secure the increase from 6 to 9 of unofficial members thus giving a majority of the unofficial.”*

*Will the Government state whether these telegrams were suppressed or not by the Cable Censor, under instruction from the Government, and if so why?*

(3) *Will the Government state when the censorship of commercial, private and press telegrams is likely to cease?*

(4) *Will the Government take steps to urge the Admiralty to include Hongkong in the tour of the Grand Fleet which it has been announced will be sent to Australia, New Zealand, and India?*

(5) *Will the Government take steps to secure for Hongkong, as public War Souvenirs, some of the Guns captured from the Germans?*

(6) *What was the date of the last Census and when does the Government propose to take the next one?*

The Colonial Secretary replied.

NON-FERROUS METAL INDUSTRY BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to restrict temporarily the persons who may engage in business connected with certain non-ferrous metals and metallic ores.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BANKING BUSINESS (PROHIBITED CONTROL) BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to prohibit the carrying on of banking business for the benefit of or under the control of certain persons.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

SUMMARY OFFENCES BILL.—The Attorney General moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Summary Offences Amendment Ordinance, 1918.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON LIMITED (CAPITAL CONVERSION) BILL.—Mr. HOLYOAK moved the First reading of a Bill intituled An Ordinance to authorise the Union Insurance Society of Canton Limited to convert its silver capital into gold.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council then adjourned until after the meeting of the Finance Committee.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—On Council resuming, the Colonial Secretary reported that the Finance Committee had approved Financial Minutes Nos. 9 and 10, and he moved their adoption.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

JURORS LIST FOR 1919.—The Council went into Committee to consider the Jurors List *in camera*.

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

CLAUD SEVERN,  
*Officer Administering the Government.*

Confirmed this 6th day of March, 1919.

A. D. BALL,  
*Clerk of Councils.*

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No. 101.—His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—

Ordinance No. 1 of 1919.—An Ordinance to restrict temporarily the persons who may engage in business connected with certain non-ferrous metals and metallic ores.

Ordinance No. 2 of 1919.—An Ordinance to prohibit the carrying on of banking business for the benefit of or under the control of certain persons.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1919.—An Ordinance to amend the Summary Offences Amendment Ordinance, 1918.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1919.—An Ordinance to authorise the Union Insurance Society of Canton Limited to convert its silver capital into gold.