

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

No. 212.—It is hereby notified that the following club has been exempted by the Officer Administering the Government in Council from registration under the Societies Ordinance, 1911, Ordinance No. 47 of 1911, and its name is hereby added to the List of Exempted Societies, published in Government Notification No. 184 of 1919, under the following heading:—

Sport (Non-Chinese).
Kowloon Chess Club.

8th May, 1919.

No. 213.

Order made by the Officer Administering the Government in Council under sections 3 and 4 of the Importation and Exportation Ordinance, 1915, Ordinance No. 32 of 1915, on the 15th day of May, 1919.

Rule 41 of the rules made by the Governor in Council under the above Ordinance and subsequently amended is further amended by the transfer of the headings "Manganese Ore" and "Rattan" in the Schedule to the rule from Class (B) to Class (C).

A. D. BALL,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
15th May, 1919.

NOTE.—Rule 41 was published in the *Gazette* of the 31st January, 1919, and was amended in the following *Gazettes*:—

14th February, 1919.	14th April, 1919.
11th April, 1919.	25th April, 1919.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 214.—The Honourable Mr. Ho Fook gave notice, on the 2nd May, 1919, of the following questions:—

Will the Government state

- (a) Whether the terms and conditions attached to the letting of the piece of Crown land north of the Central Market have been varied or modified since the highest tender was accepted: And, if so, what are the variations or modifications and the reasons therefor?
- (b) What was the amount of the second highest tender?

The replies thereto are as follows:—

- (a) A disagreement occurred between the Government and the lessee regarding the proper interpretation of one of the conditions of the lease, and the lessee refused to sign the lease agreement.

The Government was advised that the lessee was bound by his contract, but the condition in question was admittedly worded in an unsatisfactory manner, and it was considered advisable to settle the matter by negotiation rather than to bring it before the Courts. The lessee was very willing to meet the Government in the matter and terms were forthwith arranged, to the effect that the monthly rent should be reduced from \$2,520 to \$2,100 and that the lessee should have an option to continue the lease, which was due to expire on the 28th January, 1920, until the 31st December, 1921, subject to one month's notice if at any time after the 28th January, 1920, the Government should require the site for its own use.

In making this compromise the Government was guided by the following considerations. A dispute had occurred between the outgoing and the incoming lessee, with the result that the former had removed all the buildings that were on the site. It would take time and money to erect new buildings and the Government was not prepared to grant a long lease, as it would soon require the land for its own purposes. It seemed probable in the circumstances that, if the site was put up to tender again, the rental would be much reduced, and at the same time it was desired to avoid the expensive legal proceedings of uncertain result which would be necessary in order to enforce the contract which had been made.

- (b) The amount of the second highest tender was \$2,370 a month.

A. D. BALL,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
10th May, 1919.

No. 215.—The Honourable Mr. Ho Fook gave notice, on the 2nd April, 1919, of the following questions:—

Will the Government state

- (a) Whether the terms and conditions attached to the Kowloon Ferry Service have been varied or modified since the highest tender was accepted? And, if so, what are the variations or modifications and the reasons therefor?
(b) What was the amount of the second highest tender?

The replies thereto are as follows:—

- (a) The Government is negotiating with the Ferry Company with regard to substantial modifications in the terms and conditions attached to the Yaumati and Shamshuipo Ferry Service.

It is considered to be in the public interest that all possible facilities should be given to the Chinese population in order to induce them to live on the north side of the harbour and so to relieve the congestion in Victoria; and to this end a cheap ferry service is essential. The Government does not wish to make a profit out of the service and and it has suggested to the Company that it should reduce the fares which it is entitled under its lease to charge, on condition that a reduction is made in the monthly payment of \$9,900 due to the Government. An agreement has not yet been reached.

- (b) The amount of the second highest tender was \$6,000 a month.

A. D. BALL,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
15th May, 1919.

No. 216.—His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to the following Ordinance:—

Ordinance No. 15 of 1918.—An Ordinance to amend further the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1900.

A. D. BALL,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
12th May, 1919.