

On the motion of the Attorney General it was agreed that the 12th October should be inserted in sub-section 2 of Clause 8 as the date upon which the Ordinance would come into operation.

On the motion of the Colonial Secretary it was also agreed that sub-section 2 of Clause 8 should be re-numbered Clause 9.

On Council resuming, the Attorney General reported that the Bill had passed through Committee with amendments and moved that it be read a third time.

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

RICE BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved the Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance for the acquisition and disposal of Rice by the Hongkong Government, and for validating acts previously done.

The Attorney General seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council in Committee on the Bill, when Clause 4 and Clause 7 were amended, as printed in italics, and, in Clause 13 “not exceeding” was substituted for “of not less than”.

The Bill was then left in Committee, for the amendments to Clauses 2, 3 and 14 to be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL.—The Colonial Secretary moved the Third reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Five million four hundred and sixty-six thousand three hundred and twenty-seven Dollars and sixty-three Cents to defray the Charges of the year 1918.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT REGULATION BILL.—The Bill intituled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to Places of Public Entertainment, was not proceeded with.

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

CLAUD SEVERN,
Officer Administering the Government.

Confirmed this 18th day of September, 1919.

J A. E. BULLOCK,
Clerk of Councils.

No. 432.—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. 19 of 1919.—An Ordinance to repeal the Sugar Convention Ordinance, 1904.

Ordinance No. 20 of 1919.—An Ordinance for the acquisition and disposal of Rice by the Hongkong Government, and for validating acts previously done.

HONGKONG.

No. 19 OF 1919.

I assent to this Ordinance.

LS

CLAUD SEVERN,
Officer Administering the Government.

19th September, 1919.

An Ordinance to repeal the Sugar Convention Ordinance, 1904.

[19th September, 1919.]

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

Short title. 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Sugar Convention Ordinance, 1919.

Repeal of the Sugar Convention Ordinance 1904. 2. The Sugar Convention Ordinance, 1904, is hereby repealed.

Passed the Legislative Council of Hongkong, this 18th day of September, 1919.

J. A. E. BULLOCK,
Clerk of Councils.

Assented to by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, the 19th day of September, 1919.

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.

HONGKONG.

No. 20 OF 1919.

I assent to this Ordinance.

LS

CLAUD SEVERN,
Officer Administering the Government.

19th September, 1919.

An Ordinance for the acquisition and disposal of Rice by the Hongkong Government, and for validating acts previously done.

[19th September, 1919.]

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

Short title. 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Rice Ordinance, 1919.

Validating of acts previously done and indemnity therefor. 2. All acts heretofore done by the Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong, or by any Officer of the Hongkong Government or by any person acting under the direction of the said Officer Administering the Government or of any Officer of the Hongkong Government in regard to the seizure and taking possession of or the prohibition of the exportation of rice are hereby made and declared to be lawful and are confirmed

as on and from the time of the performance of such acts and the said Officer Administering the Government and every such officer or person as aforesaid are hereby freed acquitted discharged and indemnified, as well against the King's Most Gracious Majesty his heirs and successors as against all and every person and persons whatever, from all legal proceedings of any kind whatever, whether civil or criminal, in respect of any such acts as aforesaid.

3.—(1) The Governor may, at any time when he thinks fit, and in time of peace as well as in time of war, order the seizure and taking possession of any rice within the limits of the Colony, and may sell such rice for consumption in the Colony.

Power to Governor to seize and sell rice.

(2) The Governor shall, out of the public funds of the Colony, pay to every person whose rice shall be taken, by virtue of sub-section (1) of this section, such compensation as shall be agreed on between the Governor and such person, and, in default of agreement, such compensation as shall be awarded by a Board constituted as hereinafter mentioned, whose award shall be final.

Payment of compensation.

(3) For the purpose of determining the amount of compensation payable for any rice taken under sub-section (1) of this section the Governor shall appoint a Board consisting of five persons, of whom one shall be a Judge or Stipendiary Magistrate, two shall be officers either in the Civil Government of the Colony or in His Majesty's naval or military service, and the other two shall be inhabitants of the Colony. All questions referred to the said Board shall, in case of a difference of opinion, be decided by the votes of the majority of the members. The Judge or Stipendiary Magistrate shall be the Chairman of the Board.

Board to fix compensation.

(4) The said Board, in fixing the price to be paid for rice taken under sub-section (1) of this section, shall not make any addition on account of the purchase being compulsory.

No addition for compulsory purchase.

(5) Every person who refuses or neglects to obey or comply with any order made under this section or does anything whereby the execution of any such order is prevented or hindered, or with intent to prevent or hinder the execution of any such order, shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

Prohibition of non-compliance with order.

4. If any person by having obeyed any direction made under Section 2 or by obeying any order made under sub-section (1) of Section 3, has been or shall be prevented from fulfilling any contract, such person shall not be deemed to have thereby committed a breach of contract, but such contract shall be deemed to have been or to be cancelled so far as its fulfilment has been or may be prevented by any such direction or order.

The effect of a direction or order on prior contracts.

5. The total proceeds of all sales of rice for consumption in the Colony shall not recoup to the Government more than the total cost of purchasing the same together with the expenses incidental to such purchase and sale.

Prohibition of profit by Government on total proceeds of sales of rice.

6. No person shall take or cause or permit to be taken out of the Northern District of the New Territories any rice hulled or unhulled or in any form whatsoever without the permission in writing of the District Officer.

Prohibition against export of rice from Northern District.

7. The Governor may from time to time and so often as occasion may require by Proclamation prescribe

Power to Governor to fix retail

- (a) the price for which rice or any particular standard Government quality, as defined by section 8,
- (b) the maximum price for which any particular quality of rice, other than a standard Government quality,

price of rice and prohibition of sale except at such price.

may be sold by retail in any particular district of the Colony, and any person who in breach of any such Proclamation shall sell any such standard Government quality of rice at a price other than the price so prescribed or shall sell any such other quality of rice at a price higher than the maximum price so prescribed shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

Determination of standard Government qualities of rice. 8. The qualities of rice for which a price is fixed in any particular district of the Colony shall be determined by persons to be appointed for the purpose by the Governor. Samples of the qualities so determined shall be kept at all Police Stations and shall be open to inspection. Such samples shall conform to sealed samples kept in the offices of the Superintendent of Imports and Exports and the District Officer, and such sealed samples shall be known as standard Government qualities.

Prohibition of selling rice of inferior quality. 9. Any person who sells rice purporting to be of one of the standard Government qualities which differs from such quality to the prejudice of the purchaser shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

Prohibition on sale of Government rice. 10. Any person who sells any rice supplied by the Government except under licence issued by an Officer appointed by the Governor for that purpose shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

Prohibition against mixing rice with other qualities or with foreign substance. 11. No person who is authorised to sell rice supplied by the Government shall mix one standard Government quality of such rice with any other standard Government quality of such rice or with any rice not supplied by the Government or with any foreign substance.

Power of entry and inspection and taking samples. 12. Any person authorised by the Governor in writing in that behalf may enter upon and into any land, house, or other building in the Colony, for the purpose of inspecting the stock of rice therein, and of taking samples thereof, and, in case of opposition or obstruction, may use force to effect such entry and inspection, and shall not be liable for any damage directly or indirectly occasioned by such forcible entry.

Penalty. 13. Every person who is guilty of an offence against this Ordinance or of a breach of any of the provisions thereof or of any of the regulations made thereunder shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding \$500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months and any rice in connection with which any such offence has been committed shall be forfeited.

Saving of other powers. 14. Any powers conferred by this Ordinance shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any powers possessed by the Governor of this Colony either under the Order in Council of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria dated the 26th day of October, 1896, as amended by the Order in Council of His Majesty King George V dated the 21st day of March, 1916, or under any other instrument or writing.

Power to suspend or revive operation of Ordinance or part thereof. 15. In view of this Ordinance being an emergency measure it shall be lawful for the Legislative Council at any time after the commencement of this Ordinance, and from time to time and so often as occasion may require, to pass a Resolution suspending the operation of this Ordinance or of any section or sections thereof either for a definite period or until the Legislative Council shall make a further resolution reviving the operation of the said Ordinance or of any section or sections thereof.

Passed the Legislative Council of Hongkong, this 18th day of September, 1919.

J. A. E. BULLOCK,
Clerk of Councils.

Assented to by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, the 19th day of September, 1919.

A. G. M. FLETCHER,
Colonial Secretary.