

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF HONGKONG.

No. 2 OF 1867.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH MAY, 1867.

PRESENT:

His Excellency Governor SIR RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, C.B.
The Honorable the Chief Justice (JOHN SMALE.)
The Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary (HENRY JOHN BALL.)
The Honorable the Attorney General (JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.)
The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer (F. H. A. FORTH.)
The Honorable the Auditor General (W. H. RENNIE.)
The Honorable JAMES WHITTALL.
The Honorable JOHN DENT.

ABSENT:

The Honorable H. B. GIBB, on leave to Shanghai.

The Council meets this day, by special Summons, at half-past 2 P.M.

The Minutes of the Council held on the 25th February last, are read and confirmed.

His Excellency then lays on the Table the following Bills, and the same are read a first time; namely:—

A Bill "*for embodying in One Ordinance the Definition of Words and Expressions ordinarily adopted in different Ordinances.*"

A Bill "*to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum not exceeding One hundred and Twenty-five thousand Dollars to defray the Charges of the Year 1866.*"

A Bill "*to regulate the Importation and Storage of Gunpowder.*"

A Bill "*for better securing the Health of Emigrants in Chinese Passenger Ships clearing from Hongkong.*"

A Bill "*for the Establishment and Regulation of a Naval Yard Police Force.*"

A Bill "*to amend Ordinance No. 9 of 1858.*"

A Bill "*to amend the Law of Partnership.*"

A Bill "*for enabling Her Majesty to resume Possession of the Mahomedan Cemetery.*"

A Bill "*to amend the Police and Lighting Rate Ordinance, 1863.*"

A Bill "*for checking the Spread of certain Contagious Diseases within the Colony.*"

In reply to questions put, with leave of His Excellency, by the Honorable JAMES WHITTALL, His Excellency states that there was no truth whatever in an assertion repeatedly made some time back by the daily Press, that Her Majesty's Government had remitted the Military Contribution of the Colony. That assertion had been contradicted "on authority," but the contradiction only led to a reiteration of the untruth with insinuations that he, the Governor, was denying

what he knew to be the fact. Such conduct on the part of the Press was wholly indefensible, but, as it had taken place under different management and was extremely unlikely to be repeated—and moreover, had since been contradicted, he should say nothing more on the subject.

2ndly.—In reply to Mr. Whittall's 2nd question, His Excellency states that he had no intention, and had received no instructions to pass any Ordinance imposing fresh restrictions on Gambling.

His Excellency then adjourns the Council at half-past 4 o'clock, to Wednesday the 22nd Instant, at 2.30 P.M.

RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Governor.

Read and confirmed, this 22nd Day of May, 1867.

L. D'ALMADA E CASTRO,
Clerk of Councils.