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STANDING ORDERS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
HONG KONG
1929

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 671.

Standing Orders of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong made by the Legislative Council of Hong Kong on the 19th day of December, 1929, in pursuance of the provisions of Clause XXIII of the Instructions of His Majesty the King under His Sign Manual and Signet bearing date the 14th day of February, 1917.

1. Oath of Allegiance.

(1) No member of the Council shall sit or vote therein until he shall have taken and subscribed the oath of allegiance, provided that any person authorised by law to make an affirmation instead of taking an oath shall be permitted to make a solemn affirmation in lieu of the oath of allegiance.

(2) The oath or affirmation shall be administered by the Governor.

2. Language.

(1) The proceedings and debates of the Council shall be in the English language.

(2) A member may present a petition in Chinese, if the petition be accompanied by an English translation certified to be correct by the member who presents it.

3. Sittings of Council.*

(1) The meetings of the Legislative Council shall be held on such day and at such hour as may from time to time be ordered by the Governor.

(2) At the beginning of each meeting, and before proceeding to the despatch of any other business, the President shall, if the minutes of the last preceding meeting have been circulated to the members, propose that they be confirmed. If the said minutes have not been circulated they shall be read by the Clerk and the President shall then propose that they be confirmed. Upon any proposal that the minutes be confirmed no debate shall be allowed except as to the accuracy of the minutes and with reference to an amendment actually proposed.

(3) The President may at any time adjourn or suspend any meeting.

4. Standing Committees.

(1) There shall be the following standing committees of the Council:—

(a) The Finance Committee, which shall consist of the Colonial Secretary (Chairman), the Treasurer, the Director of Public Works and the unofficial members of the Council.

(b) The Public Works Committee, which shall consist of the Director of Public Works (Chairman), the Treasurer, and the unofficial members of the Council.

(c) The Law Committee, which shall consist of the Attorney General (Chairman), and four other members of the Council appointed at the first meeting of the year by the President, who shall have power to fill vacancies arising in the Committee during the course of the year.

*On the subject of the quorum, and of who should preside, see respectively Clauses XIX and XXI of the Royal Instructions of the 14th February, 1917.

(2) Three members shall form a quorum of any standing committee.

(3) The Governor may at any time refer direct to the Finance Committee any proposal concerning additional expenditure not already provided for in the annual estimates.

(4) Any member of the Council shall be entitled to attend any meeting of a standing committee but no member may take any part in the proceedings of a committee of which he is not a member.

5. Select Committees.

(1) Any matter before the Council may be referred by the President, or upon a motion duly passed by the Council, to a select committee.

(2) A select committee shall consist of at least three members who shall be nominated by the President: Provided that any member may move that another member be substituted for any member so nominated, and if the motion be seconded the amendment shall, after debate, be put to the vote, and the question shall be decided accordingly.

(3) The chairman of a select committee shall be appointed by the President.

(4) Three members of a select committee shall form a quorum except when the select committee consists of three members only in which event two shall form a quorum.

(5) In the event of the death, resignation or absence from the Colony of any member of a select committee the President may appoint another member in his place.

6. Procedure on Standing and Select Committees.

(1) In the absence of the chairman of a standing or select committee the senior member present shall act as chairman.

(2) The chairman of a standing or select committee shall have an original vote and shall also have a casting vote if the votes be equal.

(3) The chairman of any committee may require the attendance and services of the Clerk of the Council.

(4) The report of a committee shall be signed, and presented to the Council, by the chairman.

(5) Any member of a committee dissenting from the opinion of the majority may put in a written statement of his reasons for such dissent, and such statement shall be appended to the report of the committee.

7. Duties of the Clerk.

(1) The Clerk shall send to each member written notice of each meeting of the Council, accompanied by a copy of the Order of Business and of any bill which it is proposed to read a first time at the meeting in question, at least two clear days before the day fixed for the meeting, except in case of emergency when such notice shall be given as the circumstances may permit.

(2) The Clerk shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Council, and of committees of the whole Council, and shall send to each member the draft minutes of each meeting so soon as possible after the meeting.

(3) The minutes of the proceedings of the Council shall record the names of the members attending and all decisions of the Council, and shall, when confirmed at the next following meeting of the Council, be signed by the President.

(4) In the case of divisions of the Council or committee of the whole Council, the minutes shall include the numbers voting for and against the question, and the names of the members so voting.

(5) The Clerk shall be responsible for the custody of the votes, records, bills, and other documents laid before the Council, which shall be open to inspection by members of the Council and other persons under such arrangements as may be sanctioned by the President.

8. Order of Business.

Unless the Council otherwise direct, the business of each sitting day shall be transacted in the following order:—

1. Confirmation of minutes of last preceding meeting.
2. Oath or affirmation of allegiance of a new member.
3. Announcements.
4. Papers, including any reports of standing or select committees which are laid upon the table by order of the Governor and which are not the subject of any motion.
5. Petitions.
6. Questions.
7. Government business.
8. Unofficial members' motions.

Government business shall be set down in such order as the President may direct, and unofficial members' motions shall be set down in the order in which notice of each motion was given.

9. Petitions.

(1) Every petition intended to be presented to the Council must conclude with a prayer setting forth the general object of the petitioner.

(2) A petition shall not be presented to the Council unless it be in accordance with the rules then in force in regard to petitions.

(3) The member presenting a petition may state concisely the purport of the petition.

(4) All petitions shall be ordered to lie upon the table without question put unless a member when presenting a petition move for it to be read, printed or referred to a select committee.

(5) The Council will not receive any petition—

- (a) which is not addressed to the Council;
- (b) which is not properly and respectfully worded;
- (c) which has not at least one signature on the sheet on which the prayer of the petition appears;
- (d) which has not at least the prayer at the head of each subsequent sheet of signatures;
- (e) which asks for a grant of public money or the release of a debt to public funds unless the recommendation of the Governor thereto has been signified; or
- (f) which does not conform with such rules as may from time to time be prescribed by the Council.

10. Papers.

(1) All papers shall be presented by an official member of the Council and their presentation shall be entered upon the minutes.

(2) A member presenting a paper may make a short explanatory statement of its contents.

(3) All papers shall be ordered to lie upon the table without question put and any motion for the printing thereof shall be determined without amendment or debate.

(4) All Rules and Orders made by the Governor in Executive Council under the authority of an Ordinance, which do not require the approval of the Legislative Council, shall be laid on the table as soon as may be after being made.

11. Questions to Members.

(1) Questions may be put to official members relative to public affairs with which they are officially connected, proceedings pending in the Council, or any matter of administration for which such members are responsible.

(2) Questions may also be put to other members, relating to a bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the Council for which such members are responsible.

(3) A question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets, ironical expressions, or hypothetical cases.

(4) A question shall not include the names of persons, or statements, not strictly necessary to render the question intelligible, nor contain charges which the member, who asks the question, is not prepared to substantiate.

(5) A question must not be asked for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion, the solution of an abstract legal case, or the answer to a hypothetical proposition.

(6) A question shall not be asked without written notice unless it is of an urgent character and the member has obtained the leave of the President so to ask it.

(7) A question must not be made the pretext for a debate, nor can a question fully answered be asked again without the leave of the President.

(8) A member may ask a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given; but a supplementary question must not be used to introduce matter not included in the original question.

12. Messages from the Governor and Address by the Governor.

A message from the Governor, if presented to the Council by an official member, may be brought up at any time before the commencement or at the close of public business, and shall be considered forthwith or ordered to be considered upon a future day as the member presenting it may appoint. The Governor may address the Council at any time.

13. Manner of giving Notices.

(1) Where under any Standing Order (or the practice of the Council) notice is required, such notice shall be given by being handed in at the Table during the sitting of the Council or by delivery at the office of the Clerk or other place appointed by Standing Order (or the President) within the hours prescribed for the purpose.

(2) Except with the permission of the President, no notice shall be valid for any particular meeting of Council unless it shall have been so handed in or delivered at least three clear days before such meeting of Council. Sundays and holidays shall not be included in the computation of the said period of three days.

(3) Any such notice shall be printed and shall be circulated to members of the Council, if possible not less than two clear days before the next meeting of the Council for which it is valid.

(4) Any such notice shall be printed in the form in which it is handed in or delivered.

(5) Motions or amendments sent to the Clerk shall be printed and circulated by him, even if they be matters notice of which is not required, and in the case of amendments to bills shall be arranged so far as may be in the order in which they will be proposed.

(6) A notice given orally in Council, shall not have any force after that sitting of the Council unless it be supplemented by a notice given in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Order.

14. Notice of Motions.

Unless the Standing Orders otherwise direct, notice shall be given of any motion which it is proposed to make with the exception of the following:—

1. A motion for the confirmation or correction of the minutes of the Council.
2. A motion made in committee of the whole Council.
3. A motion for the adjournment of the Council or of any debate.
4. A motion that a petition be read, printed or referred to a select committee.
5. A motion that the report of a standing committee be adopted.
6. A motion that the report of a select committee be referred to a committee of the whole Council or be printed.
7. A motion for the withdrawal of strangers.
8. A motion for the suspension of a member.
9. A motion for the withdrawal or postponement of any item in the Order of Business.
10. A motion for the substitution of another member for a member nominated to a select committee.
11. A motion for the reference of any matter to a committee.
12. A motion for the suspension of any Standing Order.

15. Dispensing with Notice.

Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a motion or in respect of any other proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of the President.

16. Rules of Debate.

(1) A member desiring to speak in Council shall rise in his place and address his observations to the President.

(2) A member desiring to speak in committee shall address his observations to the Chairman.

(3) If two or more members offer at the same time to speak, the President or Chairman shall call on the member who first catches his eye.

(4) A member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion.

(5) Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending, in such a way as may prejudice the interests of parties thereto.

(6) No member shall impute improper motives to any other member.

(7) Except when the Council be in committee no member shall speak more than once on any proposition before the Council except in explanation (as provided in paragraph 8 of this Order), or to a point of order, or, in the case of the mover of a substantive motion, in reply, but any member may second a motion or amendment by rising in his place and bowing to the chair without prejudice to his right to speak at a later period of the debate.

(8) A member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to offer explanation of some material part of his speech which has been misunderstood, but he must not introduce new matter.

(9) A member who has spoken may speak again when a new Question has been proposed from the chair such as a proposed amendment.

(10) Any member who dissents from the opinion of the majority may, if he give notice forthwith of his intention to do so, lay upon the table a statement of the grounds of his dissent, either at the same or a subsequent meeting of the Council.

(11) His Majesty's name shall not be used to influence the Council.

(12) The conduct of His Majesty, members of the Royal Family, the Governor or Administrator, members of the Council, and judges or other persons engaged in the administration of justice, shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion; and in any amendment, question to a member, or remarks in a debate on a motion dealing with any other subject, any reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order.

17. Relevancy in Debate.

(1) Debate upon any motion, bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, bill or amendment.

(2) Where an amendment proposes to leave out words and insert other words instead of them, debate upon the first question proposed on the amendment may include both the words proposed to be left out and those proposed to be inserted.

(3) On an amendment proposing to leave out words or to insert words debate shall be confined to the omission or insertion of such words respectively.

18. Anticipation.

(1) It shall be out of order to make a motion or move an amendment dealing in anticipation with the subject of a bill or other matter appointed in the Order of Business for consideration: and an amendment shall also be out of order if it deal in anticipation with the subject matter of a motion of which notice has been given.

(2) A matter appointed in the Order of Business, or a motion or amendment of which notice has been given, shall not be anticipated in any other debate.

19. Termination of Debate.

(1) No member may speak to any question after the same has been fully put by the President or Chairman.

(2) A question is fully put, when the President or Chairman has collected the voices both of the ayes and of the noes.

20. Personal Explanation.

By the indulgence of the Council, a member may make a personal explanation, although there be no question before the Council, but no debatable matter may be brought forward, or debate arise, upon the explanation.

21. President to be heard without interruption.

Whenever the President; or the Chairman, rises during a debate, any member then speaking, or offering to speak, must if standing sit down, and must in any case refrain from speaking, and the Council or committee is to be silent so that the President, or the Chairman, may be heard without interruption.

22. Responsibility for Order.

The President in Council, and the Chairman in any committee, shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the Council and committee respectively and their decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the Council except upon a substantive motion made after notice.

23. Breaches of Order.

(1) If a Member show disregard for the authority of the chair, or abuse the rules of the Council by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the Council, or otherwise, the President shall direct the attention of the Council to the incident, mentioning by name the member concerned. A motion may then be made upon which the President shall forthwith put the question, no amendment, adjournment, or debate being allowed, "That such member be suspended from the service of the Council". If such an offence shall have been committed in a committee of the whole Council, the Chairman shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the committee and report the circumstances to the Council; and the President shall on a motion being made thereupon put the same question, without amendment, adjournment or debate, as if the offence had been committed in the Council itself.

(2) Not more than one member shall be named at the same time, unless several members present together have jointly disregarded the authority of the chair.

(3) If a member be suspended under the provisions of this order his suspension shall last until determined by the Council.

(4) The President or Chairman, after having called the attention of the Council or committee to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other members in debate, may direct the member to discontinue his speech.

(5) The President or Chairman shall order members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Council Chamber during the remainder of the day's sitting.

(6) If a direction to withdraw under paragraph (5) of this order be not complied with at once or if on any occasion the President or Chairman deem that his powers under that paragraph are inadequate, he may name such member or members in pursuance of paragraph (1) of this order.

(7) The President or Chairman whether acting under paragraph (1) or (5) of this order may direct such steps to be taken, as are required to enforce his order.

(8) Members who are suspended under paragraph (1) of this order or are directed to withdraw under paragraph (5), shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the Council Chamber.

(9) Nothing in this order shall be deemed to prevent the Council from proceeding against any member for any breach of order not specified herein or from proceeding in any other way it thinks fit in dealing with the breaches of order herein mentioned.

24. Voting.*

(1) All questions shall be decided by a majority of votes, including the vote of the President, or in any committee the Chairman, and whenever the votes are equal the President, or in any committee the Chairman, shall have a casting vote.

(2) At the conclusion of a debate the question shall be put by the President, or in any committee by the Chairman, and the votes may be taken by voices aye and no and the result shall be declared by the President or Chairman, but any member may claim a division when the votes shall be taken by the Clerk asking each member separately how he desires to vote and recording the votes accordingly.

(3) In taking the division the names of all the unofficial members shall be called before the names or official titles of any of the official members. In both cases the names, or official titles as the case may be, shall be called in order, beginning with the senior member, provided that the President, or in any committee the Chairman, shall vote last.

(4) When a division is claimed either in Council or in any committee every member present shall, unless he expressly state that he declines to vote, record his vote either for the ayes or noes. The Clerk shall enter on the minutes the record of each member's vote and shall add a statement of the names of members who declined to vote.

(5) As soon as the Clerk has collected the votes the President, or in any committee the Chairman, shall state the numbers voting for the ayes and the noes respectively and shall then declare the result of the division or give his casting vote as the case may be.

(6) If a member state that he voted in error or that his vote has been counted wrongly, he may claim to have his vote altered, provided that such request is made as soon as the President has announced the numbers and before he shall have declared the result of the division.

(7) A member shall not vote on any subject in which he has a direct personal pecuniary interest, but a motion to disallow a member's vote on this ground shall be made only as soon as the numbers of the members voting on the question shall have been declared. If the motion for the disallowance of a member's vote shall be agreed to, the President, or in committee the Chairman, shall direct the Clerk to correct the numbers voting in the division accordingly. In deciding whether a motion for the disallowance of a member's vote shall be proposed from the chair, the President, or, in any committee the Chairman, shall have regard to the character of the question upon which the division was taken and to the consideration whether the interest therein of the member whose vote is challenged is direct and pecuniary and not an interest in common with the rest of His Majesty's subjects and whether his vote was given on a matter of state policy.

25. First Reading of a Bill.

(1) The mover of a bill, on moving the first reading thereof, shall state the object and intention of the measure and the reasons on which it is founded.

(2) After such motion has been seconded by another member, and has been adopted, the bill shall be read a first time. The President may address the Council on the first reading of a bill should he desire to do so, but no further discussion shall be permitted.

(3) Except as provided for in paragraph (2) of Standing Order 29, every bill shall be published in the Gazette after having been read a first time and before it is read a second time.

*On the subject of decision by the majority, and on the Governor's original and casting vote, See Clause XXII of the Royal Instructions of the 14th February, 1917.

26. Second Reading of a Bill.

When a motion for a second reading of a bill shall have been made and seconded, a debate may be taken only upon the general merits and principles of the bill.

27. Committee Stage of a Bill.

(1) When a bill has been read the second time the Council may, at the same or any subsequent meeting, upon motion made and seconded, resolve itself into a committee of the whole Council to consider the bill clause by clause, or may refer the bill to a standing committee or to a select committee.

(2) The principle of a bill shall not be discussed in committee but only its details.

(3) In committee the Clerk shall read the marginal notes to the bill, clause by clause, unless the Chairman directs him to read the clauses, or any particular clause, in full.

(4) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (5) of this Order, the committee may make in the bill such amendments as they shall think fit, provided that the amendments are in the opinion of the Chairman relevant to the subject matter of the bill, and provided that if any amendments are in the opinion of the Chairman not within the title of the bill the committee shall amend the title accordingly.

(5) No amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with any clause already agreed upon or with any decision already come to by the committee, and the Chairman may at any time during the discussion of a proposed amendment withdraw it from the consideration of the committee if in his opinion the amendment violates the provisions of this paragraph.

(6) The Chairman may require any proposed amendment to be handed to the Clerk in writing.

(7) If no amendment be proposed to any particular clause when the marginal note has been read by the Clerk, or when all the proposed amendments shall have been disposed of, the Chairman shall put the question "That the clause (or the clause as amended) stand part of the bill." If any amendment is proposed which the Chairman considers need not be disposed of separately he may put the question "That the clause, amended as proposed, stand part of the bill".

(8) If a new clause or a new schedule be proposed the Chairman may put the question "That the proposed clause (or schedule) stand part of the bill", and if the question is agreed to the clause (or schedule) shall thereupon stand part of the bill. A new clause or a new schedule may be proposed at any time which seems convenient to the Chairman.

(9) On consideration of the schedules the Clerk shall call out the word "Schedule" if there is only one schedule, or shall read out the ordinal numbers of the schedules if there are more schedules than one, unless the Chairman directs him to read the schedules or any particular schedule in full, or to proceed in any other manner, and the Chairman may thereupon put the question "That this schedule stand part of the bill".

(10) Any clause or schedule may be postponed for consideration at a later stage of the same meeting or for consideration at some future meeting of the committee. The whole bill may be left in committee for consideration at some future meeting of the committee.

(11) When all the clauses and schedules of the bill have been disposed of the Chairman shall put the question "That the enacting clause and title stand part of the bill." If the bill contains a preamble the above question shall be preceded by the question "That the preamble stand part of the bill".

(12) When the bill has been entirely disposed of the Council may upon motion made and seconded resume and proceed with the remaining business of the day.

(13) A bill may be referred to a standing committee or to a select committee at any stage of its progress prior to the third reading.

(14) If any standing committee or select committee to which a bill has been referred reports that it recommends any material amendment therein, the bill may be printed with such amendment and, after publication in the Gazette, may with the permission of the Council be substituted for the bill as read a second time. Every bill so reported shall be considered in the committee of the whole Council.

28. Third Reading of a Bill.

(1) When a bill has passed through committee the member in charge of the bill may at the same or any subsequent meeting report to the Council that the bill has passed through committee and may at the same time move that the bill be read a third time, provided that if in the opinion of the President any material amendment of the bill shall have been made in committee the bill shall not be read a third time at the same meeting except after the suspension of the Standing Orders. If the third reading of any bill is for this reason postponed to a subsequent meeting of the Council the bill shall be published in the Gazette as amended before it is read a third time.

(2) If upon the third reading of a bill being proposed and seconded any member desires to omit or amend any provision contained in the bill, or to introduce any fresh provision into it, the bill may upon motion made and seconded be re-committed, and thereafter the Council shall again resolve itself into a committee of the whole Council for the consideration of the proposed amendment, but no bill shall be re-committed after it shall have been read a third time.

(3) When a bill has been read a third time it shall be deemed to have been passed.

29. General Provisions relating to Bills.

(1) On each reading of a bill the Clerk shall read only the long title of the bill.

(2) If at any stage in the progress of a bill the President declares that in his opinion an emergency exists and that it is desirable in the public interest that the Standing Orders should be suspended in order to enable the bill to pass through all its stages, or all its remaining stages, at that meeting of Council, it may be moved and seconded that the Standing Orders be suspended accordingly, and if the motion be adopted the bill may be carried through all its stages, or all its remaining stages, at that meeting.

30. Bills affecting Private Rights.

(1) Where any bill shall be proposed which is intended to affect or benefit some particular person, association, or corporate body, notice of the bill shall be given by the promoters, by two advertisements some daily newspaper published in the Colony, and, if any of the persons likely to be benefited or prejudiced may be Chinese, by two additional advertisements in some Chinese newspaper published in the Colony, and in any case by two successive publications of the bill in the Gazette, as required by Clause XXVII of the Royal Instructions of the 14th February, 1917: provided that, as laid down in the said Clause XXVII this paragraph shall not apply to any such bill which is a Government measure.

(2) If any person considers that his individual rights or interests would be affected by the provisions of any such bill, he may petition to be heard on the bill either in person or by counsel, and he shall be heard accordingly, either upon

motion made, seconded and adopted, or by order of the President. The President shall direct whether the person in question or his counsel shall be heard before the Council, or before a committee of the whole Council, or before a standing committee or a select committee.

(3) On any such petition the petitioner, or any member, shall, upon motion made, seconded and adopted, or by order of the President, be entitled to call and examine witnesses on oath or affirmation, provided that a list containing the names, residences and occupations of the witnesses shall have been delivered to the Clerk at least two clear days before the meeting of the Council or committee as the case may be. Any such witness if called by the petitioner may be cross-examined by any member, and if called by any member may be cross-examined by any other member or by the petitioner. The oath or affirmation shall be tendered by the Clerk, or, in any committee, by the Chairman.

(4) Every bill intended to affect, or benefit some particular person, association or corporate body shall in accordance with Clause XXVII of the Royal Instructions of the 14th February, 1917, contain a section saving the rights of His Majesty the King, His Heirs and Successors, all bodies politic and corporate, and all others except such as are mentioned in the bill, and those claiming by, from, and under them

31. Relevancy of Amendments.

(1) When any bill, or clause of a bill, or motion, is under consideration in the Council or a committee thereof, an amendment may be proposed to such bill, clause or motion if it be relevant to the bill, clause or motion to which it is proposed.

(2) An amendment may be proposed to any amendment proposed from the chair if it be relevant to the original amendment.

(3) In committee on a bill a new clause or schedule may be proposed if it be relevant to the subject matter of the bill, and an amendment may be proposed to it if the amendment be relevant to the new clause or schedule.

(4) An amendment, or a new clause or schedule, shall not require notice.

(5) The President, or the Chairman as the case may be, may require any proposed amendment to be handed to the Clerk in writing.

32. Seconding of Motions and Amendments.

A motion or amendment shall not be proposed from the chair in Council unless it shall have received a seconder, but in committee a seconder shall not be required for any amendment or for any new clause or schedule.

33. Method of Putting the Question on Amendments.

Subject to the provisions of paragraph (7) of Standing Order 27, upon an amendment to leave out words and insert other words instead of them a question shall first be proposed from the chair "that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question", and if that question be negatived, the question for the insertion of the alternative words shall then be proposed, provided that on consideration of a bill in committee the Chairman shall if possible put as the test question on an amendment only such words as will not prevent a subsequent amendment which is in order from being moved. If the question so proposed be negatived the words proposed by the amendment to be left out shall be deemed to be left out without further question.

34. Withdrawal of Motions or Amendments.

When any motion or amendment has been proposed from the chair, it may be withdrawn at the request of the mover if, on the President, or in committee the Chairman, asking whether it be the pleasure of the Council or committee that the motion or amendment be withdrawn, a dissenting voice be not raised thereto.

35. Publication of Evidence.

The evidence taken before any committee of the Council and any documents presented to such committee which have not been reported to the Council shall not be published by any member of such committee or by any other person, except with the permission of the President.

36. Practice of Parliament.

(1) In cases of doubt the Standing Orders of this Council shall be interpreted in the light of the relevant practice of the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(2) In any matter for which these Standing Orders do not provide the said practice shall be followed, but no restrictions which the House of Commons has introduced by Standing Order shall be deemed to extend to the Council or its members until the Council has provided by Standing Order for such restriction.

37. Suspension of Standing Orders.

A question the object or effect of which may be to suspend any Standing Order of the Council shall not be proposed except with the consent of the President.

38. Absence of Members.

Any member who is prevented from attending a meeting of the Council shall acquaint the Clerk as early as possible of his inability to attend.

39. Employment of Members in Professional Capacity.

No member of the Council shall appear before the Council or any committee thereof as counsel or solicitor for any party, or in any capacity for which he is to receive a fee or reward.

40. Strangers.

Strangers shall be admitted to debates in the Council Chamber subject to such rules as the President may make from time to time for that purpose, provided that if any member take notice that strangers be present, the President, or in committee the Chairman, shall put forthwith the question "That strangers be ordered to withdraw."

41. Press.

The President may grant a general permission to the representative of any journal to attend the sittings of the Council provided that, if the journal publish a report of the proceedings which the President considers unfair, such permission may be revoked.

E X T R A C T S

from the

Royal Instructions

of the 14th February, 1917.

Council may
transact
business not-
withstanding
vacancies.

Quorum.

XIX. The Legislative Council shall not be disqualified from the trans-
action of business on account of any vacancies among the Members thereof;
but the said Council shall not be competent to act in any case unless (in-
cluding the Governor or the Member presiding) there be present at and
throughout the meeting of the Council five Members at the least.

* * * * *

Who to
preside.

XXI. The Governor shall attend and preside in the Legislative Coun-
cil, unless prevented by illness or other grave cause; and in his absence any
Member appointed by him in writing shall preside, or in default of such
Member, the Member who is first in precedence of those present shall
preside.

Questions to
be decided by
a majority.

Governor to
have original
and casting
vote.

XXII. All questions proposed for debate in the Legislative Council shall
be decided by the majority of votes, and the Governor or the Member
presiding shall have an original vote in common with the other Members
of the Council, and also a casting vote, if upon any question the votes
shall be equal.

Rules and
Orders to
be made.

XXIII. The Legislative Council may from time to time make standing
rules and orders for the regulation of their own proceedings; provided such
rules and orders be not repugnant to Our said recited Letters Patent, or to
these Our Instructions, or to any other Instructions from Us under Our Sign
Manual and Signet.

Questions, &c
for debate.

XXIV. It shall be competent for any Member of the Legislative Coun-
cil to propose any question for debate therein; and such question, if second-
ed by any other Member, shall be debated and disposed of according to
the standing rules and orders. Provided always that every ordinance, vote,
resolution, or question, the object or effect of which may be to dispose of
or charge any part of Our revenue arising within the Colony, shall be
proposed by the Governor, unless the proposal of the same shall have been
expressly allowed or directed by him.