

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF HONGKONG.

No. 1 OF 1864.

MONDAY, 4TH JANUARY, 1864.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the ACTING GOVERNOR and all the Members, except the Surveyor General, absent in consequence of indisposition.

The Council met to-day by Special Summons.

The Minutes of the Council held on the 22nd ultimo, were read and approved.

On the "Mint Bill" being brought forward for the second reading, The ACTING GOVERNOR in answer to questions put by Mr. MURRAY stated, (1) that he understood it to be the intention of Her Majesty's Government that the cost of the Mint should be defrayed out of the Revenues of the Colony; (2) that no Official Estimate had been framed of the cost of erecting a Mint, or of the whole annual charge for working it; and (3) that all the Official Correspondence in his possession had been submitted to the Council, and would be placed more fully before the Public in the next *Government Gazette*.

Debate ensued; and it was resolved that fuller information was required, and that, before proceeding with the second reading, the arrival of SIR HERCULES ROBINSON should be awaited who was expected to return within the current month.

The ACTING GOVERNOR mentioned the arrival by the British Ship *Louisa* of the Silver and Bronze Coins which had been struck in England under the supervision of the Royal Mint for the use of this Government, and moved the first reading of a Bill, entitled "An Ordinance to provide under the new currency of this Colony for conversion of British currency into Dollars in all payments by or to the Government."

Question put and carried.

Bill read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

His Excellency then moved the first reading of a Bill, entitled "An Ordinance to prevent the defacing of the current coin of this Colony."

Question put and carried.

Bill read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

The Council adjourned to Saturday, the 16th Instant, at noon.

W. T. MERCER,
Acting Governor.

Read and approved, this 16th Day of January, 1864.

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