

22ND DECEMBER, 1898.

PRESENT:—

His EXCELLENCY Major-General Black, C.B.,  
Officer Commanding the Troops.

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Acting Colonial  
Secretary).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent  
of Police).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

On taking the chair in the absence through  
indisposition of His Excellency the Governor (Sir  
Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.),

His EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL BLACK  
remarked—Good afternoon, gentlemen. This is really  
the final appearance.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read  
and adopted as a correct record.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

His EXCELLENCY — The following standing  
committees are appointed in the ensuing order:—

Finance. — The Hon. the Colonial Secretary  
(chairman), and the whole of the rest of the Council,  
with the exception of the Governor (members).

Law. — The Hon. Attorney-General (chairman),  
the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, and  
Hon. Wei A Yuk (members).

Public Works. — The Hon. Director of Public  
Works (chairman), the Hon. Colonial Treasurer, the  
Hon. C. P. Chater, and the Hon. T. H. Whitehead  
(members).

THE RECENT EPIDEMIC OF BUBONIC PLAGUE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table  
a report on the recent epidemic of bubonic plague in  
Hongkong.

FINANCIAL.

Financial minute No. 23 was submitted, and on the  
motion of the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY,  
seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER, the  
same was referred to the Finance Committee.

The report (No. 8) of the Finance Committee was  
submitted, and on the motion of the ACTING  
COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the ACTING  
COLONIAL TREASURER, the same was adopted.

AMENDING THE WATERWORKS ORDINANCE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—In the absence  
of the Hon. Attorney-General I beg to move the first  
reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the  
Waterworks Ordinance, 1890 to 1897.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded, and the  
motion was carried.

NATURALIZATION.

On the motion of the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY,  
seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER, the  
first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the  
naturalization of Wong Shu Tong alias Wong Ka Yau  
alais Wong Wing Kwan was passed.

His EXCELLENCY — A meeting of the Finance  
Committee will now take place. I wish you every  
success in your labours.

The Council then adjourned.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THE EXPENSES OF THE POST OFFICE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee then took  
place, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—The Governor  
recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$29,150 to  
meet the expenses of the Post Office for 1898. I will  
enter upon detail a little in regard to the various items  
included in this vote. The first item is personal  
emoluments paid for branch offices \$1,110. Second,  
incidental assistances in Hongkong — two extra  
sorters from military—\$208. Incidental expenses at  
Hongkong—cost of altering branch post offices, cost  
of altering registration office, rent for branch offices,  
ferry tickets—\$1,900. Incidental expenses at agencies  
\$200. Coals for launch \$200. Repairs to launch \$232  
in excess, the amount in the estimates this year being  
\$600. Transit charges \$23,000. Share of mail subsidy  
\$3,500, this amount being under-estimated. Cost of  
stamps \$2,000. This gives a total of \$32,350,  
estimated saving \$3,200, in other items, making the  
total amount required \$29,150.

The vote was agreed to.

This ended the business.