

15TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

PRESENT:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.).

His EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

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

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

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

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

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

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. A. W. BREWIN.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils.)

A NEW MEMBER.

The oath was administered to Mr. A. W. BREWIN on his taking his seat as a member of the Council.

FINANCE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table the Financial Minutes (No. 1 to 6) and proposed that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded and the motion was carried.

PAPERS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table "Protest by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead against 'The Summoning of Chinese Ordinance' (No. 40 of 1899), and the Colonial Secretary's Memorandum thereon." "Despatches Relative to the Salaries of Officers in the Government Service." "Report of the Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund for the year 1899." "Report of the Director of the Observatory for 1899." "Report of the Pò Léung Kuk Society for the year ending 31st December, 1899."

THE PROTEST AGAINST "THE SUMMONING
OF CHINESE ORDINANCE."

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I rise to a point of order concerning a "Protest by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead against 'the Summoning of Chinese Ordinance' (No. 40 of 1899) and the Colonial Secretary's memorandum thereon." I presume that the protest has been laid on the table under section 32 of the Standing Orders in Council, but the hon. member not being present at the meeting of the Council to discuss the Bill and to raise any objection to it there, then he is not entitled to have his protest laid

upon the table.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—It is perhaps as well for me to state that the papers were laid upon the table not at my initiative and motion in the matter.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—The position appears to me to be this, that the hon. member being too late for the discussion of the Bill in Council, as it was passed, he sent in a protest to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. The Colonial Secretary suggested, and I think he was right, that that protest should be laid upon the table for the information of the Council, otherwise a very long protest would go forward to the Secretary of State about this Bill which would never have been seen by the Council at all. I think on the whole, that the paper is laid on the table for the information of the Council, and I question whether it is desirable to raise any discussion on the subject.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I do not wish to raise a discussion on the papers, Your Excellency, but I should like to make an explanation being the senior representative of the Chinese on this Council.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—I am sure the council will have no objection to hear any explanation you may care to make as the representative of the Chinese.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I do not wish to raise any discussion or pass any remark on the protest at all, except to say that I had not seen the protest before it was sent in to the Government. A copy was sent to me, I think, on a Friday afternoon, by the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce after he had sent it in to the Colonial Secretary. It is also a known fact that since the passing of the Ordinance, and both before and up to the present moment I have not received any protest from the Chinese community whom I represent on this Council. Nor has my colleague, the Hon. Wei Yuk, who has not even seen the protest. Lastly, the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce, in putting in this protest has not mentioned whether he protests on behalf of the Chinese community or as representing the Chamber of Commerce. If he protests on behalf of the Chinese, I should like to know what section of the Chinese community he represents. Of course he has a perfect right to put in his protest, but as the Bill affects solely the Chinese, my colleague and I, as representing the Chinese on this Council, would have expected the hon. member out of courtesy alone to have consulted with us before doing so.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—May I be permitted to state that I made the protest as a member of this honourable Council, quite a number of leading and substantial Chinese having appealed to me in the matter. I went into the subject, and deemed it my duty to

make the protest in question, which protest speaks for itself.

The matter then dropped.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS laid upon the table reports of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee.

THE COLLECTION OF SHELLS.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I rise to ask. (1.) Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary lay upon the table a copy of the general instructions received from the Secretary of State under which Crown Leases were granted to the Lee Hing Company for the dredging and collection of shells in and around Ping Chau Island in the New Territory as stated by him in Council on 14th December last, and a copy of the said leases?

COOLIES' SHELTER.

(2.) Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works inform the Council of the cause of the prolonged delay in constructing the shelter for the Chinese chair coolies at Victoria Gap—the upper terminus of the Peak Tramway, and whether this urgently needed work cannot be proceeded with without further delay?

JUBILEE ROAD.

(3.) Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary lay on the table a copy of the correspondence which has passed since May, 1899, between the Colonial Office and the Hongkong Government, also a copy of the letter, dated 15th September last, from the Jubilee Committee here to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and a copy of the letter's reply thereto, in connection with the road proposed in 1897, to be constructed round the Island to commemorate the 60th year's reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria?

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—In answer to the first question, a copy of the general instructions referred to is laid on the table.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—In reply to question 2 of the hon. member, a vote for the estimated cost of this work will be submitted to-day for the consideration of the Finance Committee. If this vote is passed by the Council, the work will be taken in hand without delay. The work has been delayed owing to the number of other urgent works which had to take precedence of it.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the third question the correspondence asked for is laid on the table. No reply has yet been received from the Secretary of State to the letter of the Jubilee Committee of the 15th September.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In regard to the answer to the first question I asked that a copy of the leases in question should be furnished to the Council. That apparently has been omitted.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—I do not see

anything in the question about a copy of the lease. The question asks for a copy of the general instructions. The hon. member can however see a copy of the lease

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said the question also asked for a copy of the Leases, and that he would be glad to receive a copy.

THE COLONY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE
SOUTH AFRICAN RELIEF FUND.
A VOTE OF \$50,000.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I rise to move that the orders of the day be suspended in order to enable me to move the following resolution:—

"That this Council do vote the sum of \$50,000 as a contribution towards the South African War Fund at present being raised by the Lord Mayor of London, and that the distribution and allocation of the said sum be left wholly to the discretion of the administrators of the fund."

I think, sir, that this motion will receive the cordial support of the hon. members of the Council, inasmuch as I believe that the original suggestion that some such vote might be asked for in this Council emanated from the senior unofficial member, after consultation with his colleagues. I am sure that this vote will be endorsed by the community, who have already so generously subscribed to one of the special funds, the Sailors and Soldiers' Fund—which is also under the care of the Lord Mayor. (Hear, hear).

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.—I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution, and in doing so, I may state that at a time like this when our gallant troops are freely shedding their blood, and when half the families of the United Kingdom and members of those in the Colonies are sending out some representative to take part in the struggle for supremacy in South Africa, Hongkong must not be backward in sending assistance. Its little quota of volunteers freely offered was not needed, it is true, but we can and we will contribute of our substance in helping the families of those who are fighting out our cause on the African veldt. This vote, as the Hon. the Colonial Secretary has said, will have the cordial approval of my unofficial colleagues and I am sure such will be endorsed by the official members of Council, and by the whole community. (Applause).

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I beg to support the vote which has been proposed and seconded. At the present emergency in South Africa I think it is quite right that we should do something to show our active sympathy and practical support. This vote will show the British Government that we in Hongkong are not behind in expressing our feelings in this substantial

way. I am glad to be able to say that not only the British but the Anglo-Chinese community of this colony are well to the front in giving practical expression to their sympathy and loyalty. Therefore I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution. (Applause.)

The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G. — The suggestion my colleague and senior unofficial member of the Council has made is one that will find general approbation in this colony. What he proposes this colony should do has been done in the Straits Settlements, and I am of opinion that though the contribution is a large one the colony can afford it. If the money is to be fairly distributed I fear it will all be needed. The difficulties in the path of our brave soldiers are so exceedingly great, owing to the formation of the country and the mobile character of the enemy's forces, enabling them to move with great rapidity and occupy strategic positions that we have only too much reason to believe that thousands of valuable lives will be sacrificed before peace is attained. Seeing this to be the prospect it behoves us to encourage our soldiers and to stimulate others to join the ranks, and show that the nation in the event of the father falling in the discharge of his duty to his country we will at once protect his wife and little ones. At any rate I am sure of this that the thought that the dear ones at home will be safely provided for will lift a load from the minds of the sick and dying soldier. Therefore I have great pleasure in supporting this motion.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—There are two motions before the Council. The first is that the Orders of the Day be set aside to allow of the second motion being put.

This was agreed to.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—Now with regard to the motion that you have heard read I think it only fair that the public should know that the generosity of the unofficial members representing various sections of this community has gone even beyond the handsome vote of \$50,000. The first proposal made to me by the senior unofficial member, with I believe the concurrence of his colleagues, was that this Council should vote a sum equal to the entire sum subscribed by the colony for this purpose. That sum, as you are aware, has reached \$98,000. Still I need hardly say I was obliged to ask for the concurrence of the Secretary of State in this matter, and on thinking it over I came to the conclusion that this vote of \$50,000 would be very handsome indeed. I suggested that to the Secretary of State, who however, authorised a vote of \$30,000. I replied that the unofficial members of this Council would be very much disappointed if they were not permitted to vote \$50,000, to which the Secretary of State then gave his authority. I think it

well that the public should know that the unofficial members of this Council did not limit their generosity to the very munificent amount now to be voted but were quite prepared to vote a sum equal to that provided by all sections of the British and Chinese communities of this Colony. You will understand that the amount of money subscribed by the colony up to the present has been devoted exclusively to one fund—the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association branch of the Relief Fund. The Lord Mayor has pointed out that there are other funds. That particular fund has been very well looked after in England and elsewhere, and there are other funds which equally call for assistance. He suggests in case of further contributions which may be sent that it should be left to the discretion of the Lord Mayor to devote it to any particular fund that seems in most need of assistance. Therefore it will be left to the discretion of the Lord Mayor and his Committee to devote the money to what purpose he thinks necessary. (Applause).

The motion was then carried unanimously.

The Council then returned to the Orders of the Day.

POST OFFICE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Post Office Ordinance, 1887, was passed.

NATURALISATION.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalization of Wan Kam Tsung, alias Wan Tsing Kai, alias Wan Ming Kap, which was passed.

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend The Public Health Ordinance, 1887, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL was read a first time.

IMPOSITION OF FEES BILL.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorize the imposition of fees for the issue by the Government of Hongkong of certain certificates to certain Chinese, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL was read a first time.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL BILL.

The first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the establishment of a Hospital for infectious diseases in connection with the Tung Wa Hospital. was passed on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

This being all the business the Council adjourned till the 1st of March.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding.

CHAIR SHELTER.

The CHAIRMAN—The first vote is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of four thousand and three hundred dollars (\$4,300) to meet the expenditure for the erection of a Chair Shelter at the Peak.

This was passed.

The CHAIRMAN—The next vote is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to re-vote the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in aid of the vote "Public Latrines."

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS pointed out that this had apparently been duplicated in Financial Minute No. 4.

The minute was then withdrawn.

WORKS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

The CHAIRMAN—The next is that the Governor recommends the Council to re-vote the sum of eighteen thousand five hundred and twenty-five dollars and fifty-two cents (\$18,525.52) to cover the expenses incurred by the Public Works Department in connection with the works, &c., in the New Territory.

The above being the unexpended balance of the sum previously voted.

This was passed.

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC WORKS.

The CHAIRMAN—The Governor recommends the Council to re-vote the following sums being unexpended balances of the votes for 1899 under the heading "Extraordinary Public Works:—

1—Public Works Department Store —	\$ 4,064.86
2—Disinfector Station, &c. —————	1,597.84
3—Public Latrines —————	5,000.00
4—City of Victoria, Water Works, &c. -	19,637.26
5—Quarters for Gaol Staff —————	4,000.00
6—Electric Lighting Government House —————	685.50
7—Pokfulum Conduit Road —————	3,768.76
	—————
Total —————	\$38,754.20

This was passed.

STORM WATER NULLAH.

The CHAIRMAN—The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of eight thousand and two hundred dollars (\$8,200) to meet the expenditure for extending the large storm-water nullah at Yaumati, north of the Pumping Station.

This was carried.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

The CHAIRMAN — The money voted being insufficient this is now asked for. It does not exceed the original estimate. The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) to cover expenses incurred in the New Territory for the current year.

This was passed, and concluded the business.