

16TH JULY, 1907.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER
ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Hon. Mr. F.
H. MAY, C.M.G.

MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B.,
A.C.D.

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial
Secretary).

Hon. Mr. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(Attorney-General)

Hon. Mr. C. Mcl. MESSER (Colonial
Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of
Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY
(Captain-superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were
read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of
His Excellency the Officer Administering the
Government, laid on the table Financial
Minutes Nos. 26 to 30, and moved that they be
referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the
motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of
His Excellency the Officer Administering the
Government, laid on the table the following
papers:—Despatch from the Secretary of State
for the Colonies with regard to Sir Matthew
Nathan's departure; Report on the health and
sanitary condition of the Colony for the year
1906; Report of the Inspector of Schools for the
year 1906; Despatch from the Secretary of State
regarding the Typhoon Relief Fund Committee;
Correspondence on the subject of salaries of
European Civil Servants.

CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARIES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the
honour to move the following resolution:
"resolved that the principle of the payment of
salaries of European Civil Servants contained in
Lord Elgin's despatch No. 122 of the 11th June,
1907, be approved."

I move this resolution, Sir, *pro forma*, leaving
it to the unofficial members of the Council to
express their opinions on the subject. The extra
amount required for the first six months of this
year will be about \$44,000. As regards the
remainder of the year, and in fact for the whole
year, the total amount has already been voted, as
the estimates were taken at the rate of 2/-.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I have much pleasure in
seconding the resolution which has just been
proposed by the hon. gentleman opposite. The
hon. Colonial Secretary said he proposed this
pro forma, and I can quite appreciate his
position inasmuch as it is a resolution dealing
with salaries of members of the public service,
of which service he is a member. The question
arose eighteen months ago, and at one time it
excited a good deal of comment both in the
public press and in private conversation, and
culminated in May last in a series of petitions
being sent home to the Secretary of State
regarding the unfortunate position of members
of the Civil Service on account of the rise in
value of the dollar, thus placing them all in a
position to lose a number of dollars, while at the
same time the cost of living and other expenses
did not decrease in proportion to the rise in
value of the dollar. Unfortunately the Secretary
of State did not see fit in the first instance to
grant their prayer, but as is seen in Despatch 122,
dated 11th June, 1907, the Secretary of State,
Lord Elgin, has at last consented, with the
approval of this Council, to a certain
arrangement which, I am sure, will give to
members of the Civil Service in this Colony
adequate compensation for their losses. As I
said, Sir, the subject was brought prominently
before the public some time ago, and I must say
that most members of this Council, and also the
public, sympathised a very great deal with the
members of the Civil Service, and we think an
arrangement of this sort in fixing

the dollar at 2/- is a fair settlement of the question. We feel, however, having regard to the increased value of the dollar, that, if there should be any loss, the Colony as a whole should bear it rather than the different members of the Civil Service. I go upon the principle, Sir, in supporting the resolution, that the Colony has a right to expect good and faithful service from its Civil Servants, and on their part they have a right to look to the Colony to give them an amount commensurate with their services, also to enable them to maintain their position in the Colony with some degree of comfort. I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution, and I am sure my unofficial colleagues will unanimously support it (applause).

HIS EXCELLENCY—I gather from the silence which has fallen on the Council after the remarks of the senior unofficial member that the hon. unofficial members are in favour of this resolution (applause). Members of the Government will, of course, not vote on the resolution, and all I can say is, that after this resolution is passed the Civil Servants will feel that they have been liberally treated in this matter, and I have not the slightest doubt that they will, one and all, properly appreciate that liberality (applause).

INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance relating to Life, Fire, and Marine Insurance Companies."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FACILITIES FOR A FOREIGN COMPANY.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance for giving to a Foreign Company, called the Nederlandsche Handel-maatschappij, certain facilities for carrying on its business in the Colony."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

His EXCELLENCY—The Council stands

adjourned till this day week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council—the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:

EDUCATIONAL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five thousand five hundred Dollars (\$5,500) in aid of the vote Education, Other Charges, Grants Building Grants.

HARBOUR MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to revote a sum of one thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars (\$1,716) in aid of the vote Harbour Master's Department, Harbour Office—Special Expenditure, Purchase of 3 Fairway Lights and Buoys.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand nine hundred Dollars (\$1,900) in aid of the vote Public Works Recurrent, Maintenance of Lighthouses.

JUDICIAL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two hundred and seventy-five Dollars (\$275) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, A.—Supreme Court, Other Charges, for the following items:—

Electric Fans and Light.....	\$ 75
Incidental Expenses	200
Total.....	\$275

PUBLIC CEMETERY.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred and fifty Dollars (\$350) in aid of the vote, Public Works Recurrent, Miscellaneous, Maintenance of Public Cemetery.