

11TH MAY, 1911.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK J. DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL C. A. ANDERSON, C.B. (THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS).

HON. MR. C. CLEMENTI (Colonial Secretary).

HON. MR. C. G. ALABASTER (Attorney-General).

HON. MR. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. MR. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

HON. MR. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

HON. CAPTAIN F. W. LYONS (Captain-Superintendent of Police).

HON. DR. HO KAI, M.B., C.M.G.

HON. MR. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

HON. MR. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

HON. MR. E. A. HEWETT.

HON. MR. C. MONTAGUE EDE

HON. MR. C. H. ROSS.

MR. R. H. CROFTON (Clerk of Councils).

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Member

Mr. C. H. Ross took the oath and assumed his seat as a member of Council in the absence of Hon. Mr. H. Keswick.

Papers

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:— Report on the New Territories; Report of the Superintendent of the Prison; and Report of the Botanical and Forestry Department.

Financial Minutes

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 27 and 28), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

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

Financial

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 7), and moved its adoption.

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

Public Works Committee Report

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Public Works Committee (No. 1).

Revenue and Expenditure

HON. DR. HO KAI, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

Will the Government lay on the table at the next meeting of this Council a return showing

- (1) The total amount of revenue
- (2) The total amount of expenditure
- (3) The amount of margin (if any)
- (4) The amount of military contribution
- (5) Total amount spent on Public Works extraordinary

for the years 1896 to 1910 inclusive?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied— On the assumption that the word "Margin" is used as defined by His Excellency the Governor in his speech on September 24th, 1908 (Hansard, page 128), to which presumably the honourable member's question refers, I have the honour to lay upon the table a Statement containing the figures asked for:

Year.	Revenue.		Ordinary.	Expenditure.		Margin, i.e., Excess of Ordinary Revenue over Ordinary Expenditure exclusive of Military Contribution and Volunteers.	Amount of Military Contribution.	Total Expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary.
	Gross.	Extraordinary, viz., not assessed for Military Contribution.		Gross.	Extraordinary.			
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1896	2,609,878	359,699	2,250,179	2,182,401	69,510	367,907	509,679	300,129
1897	2,686,914	334,548	2,352,366	2,486,245	127,716	315,542	449,421	460,378
1898	2,918,159	246,052	2,672,107	2,458,376	234,381	583,957	503,305	3,702,26
1899	3,610,143	744,384	2,865,759	2,634,644	131,660	484,015	252,900	252,900
1900	4,202,587	967,258	3,235,329	2,972,761	473,205	735,773	616,889	473,205
1901	4,213,893	240,315	3,973,578	3,260,622	388,473	110,142	846,275	388,473
1902	4,901,073	571,361	4,329,712	4,954,366	1,157,104	532,450	914,038	1,157,104
1903	5,238,857	510,165	4,728,692	4,397,295	649,831	981,228	961,408	649,831
1904	6,809,047	486,098	6,322,949	5,061,462	1,382,814	2,644,301	12,707,41	1,382,814
1905	6,918,403	392,259	6,526,144	5,530,314	1,673,440	2,669,271	13,626,50	1,673,440
1906	7,035,011	412,941	6,622,070	5,480,073	1,503,789	2,645,787	13,051,85	1,503,789
1907	6,602,280	159,750	6,442,529	4,497,609	728,650	2,673,570	1,214,340	728,650
1908	6,104,207	693,58	6,034,849	6,633,754	*792,242	1,744,435	12,501,68	2,343,340
1909	6,822,966	536,134	6,286,832	5,277,502	*1,159,923	2,238,782	12,264,41	1,229,452
1910	6,960,869	332,686	6,628,183	5,499,882	*1,176,437	2,333,125	1,372,486	1,204,823

1. Military Contribution fixed at 1% of gross revenue, exclusive of "Extraordinary." * cost of new Barrack Works and total cost of new Defence Works.
 2. Military Contribution fixed at 20% of gross revenue, exclusive of "Extraordinary." * Expenditure "Extraordinary" does not include Railway and Harbour of Refuge.

Kowloon-Canton Railway

His EXCELLENCY — Gentlemen, —
 With your permission I rise to make a personal correction of an error in the speech which I delivered at the Council meeting

before last regarding the Railway. I said that no provision had been made for a sinking fund in the estimates for the current year, and I intended to correct that statement at the last meeting, but it slipped my memory. You will find that on page 100 of the estimates a sum of \$65,371, being 1% on the Wuchang Loan of (E02)1,144,000 for half a year, is provided to meet the sinking fund.

Military Contribution

HON. MR. EDE—Your Excellency, I rise to give notice of the following question: "With reference to the remarks of the honourable Mr. Slade in the debate of the 8th October, 1908, will the Government lay upon the table some papers embodying the views and calculations of His Excellency the Governor upon the subject of the Military Contribution?"

The Statute Laws (New Revised Edition) Ordinance

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to authorise the publication of a Newly Revised Edition of the Revised Edition of the Statute Laws of the Colony prepared in virtue of Ordinance No. 12 of 1900."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The Money-Lenders' Ordinance

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Law with respect to Persons carrying on business as Moneylenders."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The objects and reasons state that this Bill introduces in the Colony the principal provisions of the Imperial Moneylenders' Act, 1900.

Census Amendment Ordinance

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Census Ordinance, 1881."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I beg to move that the Standing Orders be suspended in order that this Bill may pass through all its stages at this meeting of the Council. Standing Order 31 provides that after the first reading of a Bill it shall be published in the *Gazette* for general information. Standing Order 13D provides that any motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders can be made without notice. This Ordinance was suggested by the editor who is revising the new edition of the Ordinances. It is considered that these amendments to the Census Ordinance are very necessary, and it is also necessary that the Bill should be put through speedily, as I believe the Census is to be taken on the 20th of this month.

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

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL then moved the second reading of the Bill. In doing so he said — The Bill is, I think, sufficiently explained in the objects and reasons attached to it by its draftsman, Sir Francis Piggott, who suggested these amendments while going through the old Ordinances in course of revision. They read as follows; This Ordinance is introduced in order to supplement some omissions in the Census Ordinance, discovered during the progress of the revision, and which are sufficiently serious to require legislation in view of the coming Census. The amendments concern chiefly the status of the enumerators, and their powers in connection with collecting information, neither of which points is at all clear in the existing Ordinance. In ordinary circumstances, the amendments being numerous, the Ordinance should have been recast, but this would have disarranged the work of the reviser. It is intended, however, to publish the Ordinance as amended in the *Gazette* for general information.

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

Council then resolved itself into a committee of the whole Council to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On resuming,

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through its committee stages without amendment, and moved that it be read a third time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

University Amendment Ordinance

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the University Ordinance, 1911."

The objects and reasons attached to the Bill are as follows:—

Section 2.—It is proposed to abolish the words limiting the choice of these two members to representatives of Asiatic races other than Chinese.

Section 3. — The Senate cannot be constituted until the academic staff of the University has been selected; but in the meantime it is desirable that a member of the Senate of the Hongkong College of Medicine should have a seat in the Council of the University.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

Sale of Food and Drugs Amendment Ordinance

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1896."

This Bill introduces two important provisions of the Imperial Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, 1899, the introduction of which has been strongly urged by the Government medical advisers.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The Electricity Bill

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move that the Council go into Committee to consider the report of the Public Works Committee on the Bill entitled, "An Ordinance for regulating the supply of Electricity for Lighting and other purposes within the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies."

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

Council then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole Council to consider the Bill clause by clause: and upon the motion of the Attorney-General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Standing Orders were suspended in order that although one member of the Standing Public Works Committee had been absent during the consideration of the Bill by that Committee the Bill might, notwithstanding the provisions of rule No. 40 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Council, be dealt with by the Council in the same manner as a Bill reported on by a Committee of the whole Council. No member objected, and the several amendments suggested by the Public Works Committee were approved.

Council then resumed.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council will adjourn until next Thursday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

—
A meeting of the Finance Committee was held afterwards, the Colonial Secretary in the chair. The following votes were passed.—

Public Works Extraordinary

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of two thousand nine hundred dollars (\$2,900) in aid of the vote Public Works. Extraordinary, Buildings, additions to No. 2 Police Station.

Judicial and Legal

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Ninety-five Dollars and eighty-one Cents (\$95.81) in aid of the vote Judicial and Legal Departments, *E.*—Land Registry Office. Other Charges. Official Receiver and Registrar of Trade Marks, Incidental Expenses.