

*19th September, 1929.*

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**PRESENT:—**

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (SIR CECIL CLEMENTI, K.C.M.G.).

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS (MAJOR GENERAL J. W. SANDILANDS, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. MR. W. T. SOUTHORN, C.M.G.).

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (HON. SIR JOSEPH KEMP, K.T., K.C., C.B.E.).

THE SECRETARY FOR CHINESE AFFAIRS (HON. MR. R. A. C. NORTH).

THE COLONIAL TREASURER (HON. MR. M. J. BREEN).

HON. MR. H. T. CREASY, C.B.E. (Director of Public Works).

HON. COMMANDER G. F. HOLE, R.N. (Retired) (Harbour Master).

HON. DR. A. R. WELLINGTON (Director of Medical and Sanitary Services).

HON. MR. T. H. KING, (Captain Superintendent of Police).

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK, K.T., K.C.

HON. SIR SHOU-SON CHOW, K.T.

HON. MR. R. H. KOTEWALL, C.M.G., LL.D.

HON. MR. A. C. HYNES.

HON. MR. W. E. L. SHENTON.

HON. MR. J. P. BRAGA.

HON. MR. S. W. TS'O, C.B.E., LL.D.

HON. MR. B. D. F. BEITH.

MR. E. I. WYNNE-JONES, (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

**MINUTES.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of Council were confirmed.

### PAPERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. The Governor, laid upon the table the following papers:—

Order under Section 230 (1) of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, on 2nd August, 1929.

The Mercantile Marine (Uniform) Order, 1918.

Regulation under Section 3 of the Post Office Ordinance, 1926, on 10th September, 1929.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. The Governor, laid upon the table the report of the Finance Committee, No. 11, of 5th September, 1929, and moved that it be adopted.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and this was agreed to.

### EXCESSES ON SUB-HEADS, 1927.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Sir, In accordance with the maxim *de minimis non curat lex*, it has been the custom of this Government since, I believe, the year 1910, if not earlier, to regard items of \$20, when they constitute an excess over the total of any sub-head in the Estimates, as being matters of such trivial moment as not to deserve or require the attention of this honourable Council. Our lynx-eyed auditors, however, when considering the report of the Colony's accounts for the year 1927, drew our attention to the fact that we were not complying with the strict letter of the Colonial Regulations and requested us to comply with them. That is the cause of the two motions which stand in my name on the Agenda paper. The items, as you will see, are all, with one exception, under \$20, and I have to ask the authority of the Council for passing these excesses on the sub-heads in the Supply Bills for 1927 and 1928.

Honourable members may, perhaps, call my attention to the fact that one item is more than \$20, *viz.*, item 33, in the first motion, of \$756.78, for a one-ton motor lorry specially fitted as a Mobile Wireless Station. This item should not, in my opinion, have appeared in the Colony's accounts at all, except as an advance. It represents that portion of the cost of this motor lorry which was contributed by the Corps funds of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps. The rest of the cost was borne by Government, but when the lorry came to be paid for the whole sum was charged temporarily to the votes of the Colony. The end of the financial year, which falls on the 31st December for all Government accounts, caught this portion of the cost not yet repaid by the Volunteer Defence Corps, and although it was repaid in 1928, the auditors have drawn our attention to the fact that, as it stands, it appears in

our books as a charge against the revenues of the Colony and therefore should receive the approval of this Council. I move, Sir.

"That this Council approves the expenditure of the sums set out in the 3rd column of the schedule appended hereto, being amounts expended in excess of the amounts already approved by this Council for the year 1927 in respect of the sub-heads referred to in the said schedule."

### HONG KONG 1927.

Head of Estimates.	Sub-head.	Amount by which the sub-head was exceeded.
1. H.E. the Governor.....	4. Electric Fans and Light for Public Rooms	\$ 13.58
10. District Office, South.....	1. Personal Emoluments.....	14.71
11. Post Office.....	10. Telegrams.....	5.43
17. Attorney General.....	3. Incidental Expenses.....	18.98
28. Education Department....	6. Electric Fans and Light.....	5.40
32. Kowloon-Canton Railway.....	2. Advertising, E-1-7-2 Advertising.....	16.75
32. Kowloon-Canton Railway.....	13. Incidental Expenses E-1-6 Head Office.	2.73
32. Kowloon-Canton Railway.....	21. Power, Electric Fans and Light. E-1-5-3 Stores.....	0.98
32. Kowloon-Canton Railway.....	22. Printing & Stationery E-1-5-3 Stores.....	0.63
33. Defence. A.—Volunteer Defence Corps.....	15. 1-Ton Motor Lorry specially fitted as Mobile Wireless Station.....	756.78
34. Miscellaneous Services..	11. Grant to Colonial Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee.....	10.00
34. Miscellaneous Services..	20. Grant to Royal Asiatic Society.....	5.32
34. Miscellaneous Services..	22. Grant to Seamen's Hospital Society.....	5.32
34. Miscellaneous Services..	24. Grant to Society of Comparative Legislation.....	0.72

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

### EXCESSES ON SUB-HEADS, 1928.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I beg to move, Sir,

"That this Council approves the expenditure of the sums set out in the 3rd column of the schedule appended hereto, being amounts expended in excess of the amounts already approved by this Council for the year 1928, in respect of the sub-heads referred to in the said schedule."

### HONG KONG 1928.

Head of Estimates.	Sub-head.	Amount by which the sub-head was exceeded.
1. H.E. the Governor.....	6. Incidental Expenses.....	\$ 1.94
8. Audit Department .....	3. Incidental Expenses.....	6.27
8. Audit Department .....	5. Transport and Travelling.....	9.80
9. District Office, North.....	8. Uniforms.....	6.65
25. Medical Department.....	7. Board for 1 House Physician, 1 House Surgeon & 1 House Obstetrician.....	3.00
25. Medical Department.....	39. Fuel and Light, Mortuaries, Victoria and Kowloon.....	4.54
27. Botanical and Forestry Department .....	11. Library.....	11.97
34. Miscellaneous Services	19. Seamen's Hospital Society.....	2.29

The remarks I have just made apply also to this motion.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

**MAINTENANCE ORDERS (FACILITIES FOR ENFORCEMENT)  
ORDINANCE, 1921.**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance, 1921." He said: This Bill, Sir, proposes to make in the principal Ordinance certain technical amendments which experience has shown are necessary and which are fully explained in the Objects and Reasons. I beg to move the first reading.

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

**Objects and Reasons.**

The "Objects and Reasons" for the Bill were stated as follows:—

1. The original Ordinance, No. 9 of 1921, was enacted to make the necessary provision for the enforcement in this Colony of maintenance orders made in England and Ireland, and to obtain reciprocal treatment in England and Ireland for maintenance orders made in this Colony. The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act 1920, was thereupon extended to the Colony of Hong Kong by the Order of His Majesty in Council dated the 11th day of October, 1921. The original Ordinance was amended under instructions from the Secretary of State, a new section 12 being added to the original Ordinance by Ordinance No. 3 of 1923. That section empowers the Governor to extend the original Ordinance to maintenance orders made by courts in any British possession or protectorate if he is satisfied on the point of reciprocity. The amending Ordinance, however, failed to adapt the original Ordinance completely to this new class of case. The main results of this omission are as follows:—

- (a) Certified copies of orders which have to be forwarded must, in general, be forwarded through the Secretary of State, however near to Hong Kong the other British possession may be: see for example section 3 of Ordinance No. 9 of 1921.
- (b) There is no power to make *in absentia* a provisional maintenance order against a person resident anywhere except in England or Ireland: see section 5 (1) of Ordinance No. 9 of 1921.
- (c) There is no provision for the admissibility of depositions taken, or documents signed, anywhere except in England or Ireland: see sections 9 and 10 of Ordinance No. 9 of 1921.

The object of the present bill is to remedy these defects. It proposes to insert in the principal Ordinance in place of the present section 12 a new section which will provide that where the Governor is satisfied that reciprocal provisions have been made by any British possession or protectorate for the enforcement of maintenance orders made in Hong Kong he may extend the principal Ordinance to such possession or protectorate and that thereupon the Ordinance shall apply as though the references to England or Ireland were references to such possession or protectorate and the references to the Secretary of State for the Colonies were references to the Governor of such possession or protectorate. The draft of this part of the new section 12 was supplied by the Secretary of State.

2. Section 3 of this Ordinance is intended to give proclamations already made under the present section 12 the same effect as if they had been made under the new section 12.

### **OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Offences against the Person Ordinance, 1865."

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

Council went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause. No amendment was made in committee, and upon Council resuming,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the third reading.

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

### **ACCESSORIES AND ABETTORS ORDINANCE, 1929.**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to accessories to and abettors of indictable offences."

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

Council went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause. No amendment was made in committee, and upon Council resuming,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the third reading.

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

### THE BUDGET.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the second reading of the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Twenty-two million and thirty-eight thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1930."

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK.—Your Excellency, As the Senior Unofficial Member, I have been asked by my Unofficial colleagues to make the main speech dealing with the Estimates for 1930 on behalf of all the Unofficial Members; after which some of my honourable friends will, in due course, as is customary, make certain observations of their own.

In the matter of the Saikung Road only, my honourable friend Mr. Braga does not see eye to eye with the rest of us, and he will doubtless indicate, in due course, his reasons for that dissent.

At the outset, Sir, we have to confess that we find the Budget for 1930 somewhat uninspiring and disappointing.

In his remarks on the first reading of the Appropriation Bill for 1930, the Honourable Colonial Secretary admitted in effect that the Government had not adopted a forward policy in material works, and this is obviously so when one comes to consider some of the Colony's pressing needs which still await fulfilment.

#### *Government Civil Hospital and Asylum.*

One of the foremost of such needs is a new Government Civil Hospital.

Our Government Civil Hospital is hopelessly out of date. It goes back to the early days of the Colony and an entirely new structure is one of our most pressing needs. It is difficult to keep clean and is unhygienic according to modern ideas. It is also at times very overcrowded. There is no isolation block—the maternity wing is inadequate—the X-ray room is damp and unsuitably located.

In his speech on the Budget for 1929 (see Hong Kong Hansard for 1928, at page 74) the Honourable Mr. E. R. Hallifax, then acting Colonial Secretary, after stating that expenditure for a new Government Civil Hospital must be faced in the near future, said that "expenditure for beginning the Government Civil Hospital, at least will, I expect, be asked in the Estimates for 1930," and it is very disappointing to the Unofficial members to see that no

provision for the long-promised up-to-date Hospital is contained in the Estimates now being presented to us.

Moreover the accommodation in the Asylum, which is now grandiloquently described in the Estimates as a Mental Hospital, is most defective; the quarters being cramped and there being no proper exercise ground for the inmates.

In connexion with the Hospital we desire also to suggest that there should be two resident Doctors, and that more Chinese Probationer Nurses should be trained, if possible.

We should like to add a few remarks, on subjects cognate to the Hospital, namely, dispensaries and clinics.

In his interesting Report on Malaya, Ceylon and Java, which was presented to Parliament in December, 1928, the Right Honourable Mr. Ormsby Gore referred to the excellent work which was being done in the Federated Malay States by travelling dispensaries, which "quite apart from their value to the sick population, have a tremendous propaganda value in inducing villagers to have recourse to diagnosis and treatment."

We note with pleasure that this principle has been recognised on a small scale in the provision of a Harbour Dispensary launch; Item No. 50 on page 48 of the Estimates. This principle might be extended with advantage to outlying districts of the New Territories.

Mr. Ormsby Gore also mentions the numerous clinics which have been established in Singapore—8 for men and 3 for women—for dealing with venereal disease and the extensive instruction which is given there for combating that dread complaint. In this matter of the provision of clinics and instruction this Colony appears to be behind Singapore.

#### *The Prison.*

Our prison accommodation is very insufficient. A few years ago, we thought that we were well on the way to better times but the fine new edifice which we had visualised crumpled like the walls of Jericho at the first trumpet-blast of financial depression, and we are left with \$300,000 worth of foundations now buried under the sands of Kai Tak.

We are glad to note that the Government is providing in item 21 on page 45 for dentistry in the Gaol, and we hope that the prisoners will also receive the benefit of the services of the new dental surgeon, who is now being budgeted for, for the first time, and, in passing, we should like to be informed what are the duties of such dental surgeon and to what classes of Government Servants he is intended to give his services.



We welcome the initiation of a specially trained Gaol Hospital Staff; a measure which is aptly described by the Honourable Colonial Secretary as a "long delayed reform."

*Printing In The Gaol.*

Whilst conceding that printing is a suitable occupation for certain classes of prisoners, we are opposed to the enlargement of the printing appliances in the present Gaol for the following reasons:

The prison is overcrowded, and the proposal to erect a printing shop within the prison at a cost of \$100,000 will make congestion even worse. On this ground alone the unofficial members are unanimously opposed to the printing scheme.

Moreover to sink at the present time \$100,000 into a building that may before long be demolished with the removal of the Gaol to a larger and more suitable site is a waste of public money for the sanction of the expenditure of which the Unofficial members feel they are constrained to withhold their approval.

*Water.*

Another pressing need is an adequate water-supply.

It seems most regrettable that your Excellency is not even now able to lay before us definite waterworks extension proposals under the second section of the Shing Mun scheme, seeing that the full needs of Hong Kong Island are not (as we gather from Mr. Henderson's Reports) met, under present arrangements, and even with the pipe-line across the Harbour and the building of the Aberdeen Reservoir, up to a later period than the year 1932.

Also it must be borne in mind that the construction of the big Shing Mun dam, which apparently is the corner-stone of the second section scheme, will take many years to complete even after the plans for it have been drawn up and decided on.

We consider it a matter for grave criticism that the Government in connexion with our water supply disregarded the unanimous advice of the Unofficial members, given in this Council on the 4th November 1926, urging the Government to bring the pipe-line across the Harbour.

On that occasion, I, speaking on behalf of all the Unofficial members of this Council, said as follows:—

"As regards the Water Supply, we notice that the Estimates for 1927 do not provide for the bringing of the water from the Shing Mun Valley across the Harbour as was originally

intended; and we are disappointed to find that the Colonial Secretary's remarks, in introducing the Budget, contain no reference whatever to so important a matter as the securing of an adequate water supply for the Island of Hong Kong. It is good news to hear that the first portion of the Shing Mun Valley scheme will place the water supply of Kowloon and of our shipping beyond any probability of shortage for an indefinite period; but we think that steps should promptly be taken to put the Island of Hong Kong in an equally satisfactory position; for, as you, Sir, are well aware, we have, notwithstanding repeated increases in our water supply on the Island during the past 25 years, constantly found ourselves under the necessity (in some cases for periods of several weeks at a time) of having a restricted water-supply in certain districts of this Colony—a procedure which is not only inconvenient but also contrary to the interests of public health. We, therefore, consider it of vital importance that the original intention to carry the pipe-line across the Harbour should be proceeded with forthwith."

All those remarks were made by me on behalf of the whole body of the Unofficial members, but the matter of bringing the pipe-line across the Harbour was then viewed as being of such urgency and importance by my Unofficial colleagues that my honourable friend Sir Shou-son Chow (speaking on behalf of himself and his Chinese colleague, Dr. Kotewall) referred to the matter again in his speech (see Hansard 1926, at page 78), in the course of which, after referring to the hardships which the Chinese suffered from a policy of water restriction, Sir Shou-son Chow said:

"We, therefore, urge no matter what other minor plans the Government may have in mind for increasing the water supply on the Island, no matter what reasons the Government may have for not proceeding with the Shing Mun scheme, some scheme for bringing water across the Harbour should be carried out as soon as possible."

The Government, however, thought fit to disregard the united advice of the Unofficial members of this Council in the matter with the result that more than eighteen months of valuable time were wasted, in failing to take steps to bring the water across the Harbour, and indeed the pipe-line will, apparently, in all probability not be completed for several months.

Passing on, we note from your summary of the cost of our waterworks and their maintenance that you do not consider that the receipts from water services give a reasonable return on our past expenditure and you hint that in a year or two we shall accordingly have to pay extra taxation in respect of water.

But, Sir, we do not see why the present residents of this Colony should be saddled with long past expenditure upon waterworks which

has been paid from time to time out of revenue, nor can we agree with the principle that all Government expenditure ought to produce a revenue which will give a reasonable rate of interest on the capital expended.

In the course of your speech, Sir, at the last meeting of this Council you said:

"The aim of the Government is to give every house connected with the waterworks, both on Hong Kong Island and the mainland, a full supply of filtered water throughout the year."

We venture, however, to express grave doubts whether, unless the Government very speedily indeed gets on with the construction of the big dam at Shing Mun, it will be reasonably practicable for the Government for some years to come to discard the rider-main system.

We would, therefore, most strongly urge the Government to press on with the plans for the construction of the big dam in the Shing Mun gorge and with the building of the dam itself.

We do not know whether the present position of uncertainty is due to divided opinion within the Government or not, but what we do suggest is that your Excellency might appoint an advisory Committee from the residents of the Colony with technical knowledge, who, we feel certain, will be able to assist in arriving at definite recommendations and whose advice will, we believe, be of great assistance to the Government.

#### *Public Health.*

##### *An Anti-Malarial Campaign and Board of Health Wanted.*

Next we turn to the question of malaria. We note with pleasure the advent to this Colony of the Honourable Dr. Wellington, one of the experts on this subject, who, we understand, has been working on a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the Public Health of the Colony, and whose recommendations we hope to see shortly laid upon the table of this Council.

In the meantime we heartily approve of the new staff to assist him in his labours which is proposed in the Estimates for 1930, for hitherto Dr. Wellington has been rather in the position of a General without an army.

There can be no doubt that it is necessary to wage war upon the malaria-bearing kinds of mosquito, especially at Repulse Bay, Stanley and Taipo and in the Kowloon foothills.

In this connexion the following quotation from the Report, already referred to, of the Right Honourable Mr. Ormsby Gore seems worth attention:—

"The importance of adequate training in hygiene and preventive medicine can hardly be overstated. Every practitioner in a tropical climate should be a sanitarian. The value of measures for the protection of the health of the individual and the community is well-recognised in Malaya, where so many successful pioneer workers in the field of sanitation and anti-malaria measures have set an example throughout the East. It is remarkable, therefore, that a Chair of Public Health has not so far been regarded as essential in the College of Medicine. A strong and vigorous department organised for research and experiment, for post-graduate studies and refresher courses in conjunction with the departments of bacteriology, pathology and tropical medicine, for additional trainings of the assistant surgeons, and for instruction to Sanitary Inspectors in close association with the Singapore Municipal Health Department is urgently required."

In Hong Kong there is at present no Board of Health whatever, but the question seems well worth consideration whether it would not be advisable for the Government to establish such a Board, under the presidency of the Honourable Dr. Wellington, for preventive and research work, seeing that the present powers of the Sanitary Board in regard to Public Health are very ill-defined.

The question also arises whether this Colony ought not to contribute more than it does now to schools for research into tropical diseases.

*Education, Agriculture and Otherwise.*

Instruction in agriculture ought to form one branch of the Government's education curriculum and to be taught in the Government and Vernacular Schools.

In Ceylon, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies much has been accomplished, the rice-crops having been very largely increased per acre by scientific means alone, and many new cereals and plants have been introduced.

The Right Honourable Mr. Ormsby Gore in his above mentioned Report, when dealing with Ceylon, at page 74, points out the proved utility in Canada and other parts of the Empire of cinema films as a means of disseminating instruction regarding the best agricultural practices, the result of experimental work and research, and the prevention of insect-pests and plant diseases, and he also points out that the Films Committee of the Empire Marketing Board is now engaged in formulating plans for an interchange of instructional films between different parts of the Empire.

Mr. Ormsby Gore also points out (on page 123), when dealing with Java that, in that Island, the best method of reaching the agricultural peasant has been found to be by means of a staff of trained native lecturers.

Also we suggest that instruction be given in the above mentioned schools in sanitation, hygiene and anti-malaria measures and that endeavours be made to instruct the peasants in the outlying districts of the New Territories in the above subjects by means of trained native lecturers.

Likewise, under the heading of Education, we suggest that the curriculum of the University and of all other teaching institutions where English is taught should include a review of the progress of this Colony from 1841 up to to-day, upon similar lines to your Excellency's interesting review of the progress of the Colony from 1896 till 1926, as reported in the Hong Kong Hansard for 1927, at pages 58 to 65.

#### *Markets.*

The cost of living tends steadily upwards and we require markets and yet more markets to be built in order conveniently to serve the different districts of this Colony, and incidentally it may be remarked that markets produce considerable revenue.

In our opinion a small market which was unanimously recommended at a meeting of all the members of the Sanitary Board and which need only cost about \$10,000 should be erected in Kowloon Tong, because that settlement is a long distance from any existing market.

We note with regret that, owing to shortage of staff and pressure of other work, little progress has been made this year with the Sai Ying Pun new market, only \$20,000 being spent out of a vote of \$200,000. We especially urge that this building be vigorously proceeded with during the coming year, and that the full proposed allocation of \$200,000 for 1930 be spent during the coming year.

#### *Port Facilities.*

Hong Kong's one great asset is the Harbour; almost everything which produces prosperity is ranged round it. Hong Kong without her Harbour, her shipping, her godowns and her docks might as well not exist.

There are great developments in front of us—bigger ships, many bigger ships than have ever before entered our Harbour, will be running to this Port in the near future—bigger possibly than we are at the moment able to deal with.

Is the Government sufficiently providing beforehand for the new conditions as regards dredging and buoy accommodation?

The Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Company is, we know, notwithstanding the difficult times through which the Colony has passed, making gallant efforts to keep pace with the rapidly changing conditions of the port by widening the entrance to their big Dock in order to accommodate the biggest class of ship at present

contemplated, whilst the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company is keenly alive to the necessity of increasing its wharf accommodation and negotiations to this end are now in progress with the Authorities concerned. It is to be hoped that the Government will do all within its power to assist these negotiations to a successful conclusion. The cost to the Godown Company of the necessary extensions to cope with the situation in the future will be considerable but it is regarded as essential in the interests of a Port of the size and importance of Hong Kong.

*Statistics of the Port.*

We have noted with pleasure on pages 24 and 26 the provision in the Estimates for re-establishing a statistical department under the aegis of the Import and Export Office. We agree that these statistics ought to embrace all phases of Hong Kong's trade and thus give a clear indication of Hong Kong's commercial position.

*Playing Grounds.*

Another of our pressing local needs is the provision of adequate and sufficient recreation grounds. This Colony has arrived at a stage in its development when this matter has to be faced fairly and squarely, seeing that it is part of the curriculum of every school in this Colony to instil into every scholar the value of outdoor exercises and physical culture. One has only to read the Report of the Director of Education in order to appreciate this, and on any day and at any time one has only to wander through any part of the Colony to get an idea of what a hold the love of sport is getting on all and sundry. It ranges from the small boy who plays with a shuttlecock in the streets or kicks a ball about in Statue Square to the vast crowds who attend football and other matches.

Your Excellency has appointed a Committee to go into the question of providing more playing-grounds, and no doubt we shall receive many valuable recommendations from them, but we most strongly urge on the Government the conversion of certain large areas into what we would like to describe for want of a better term, as "Municipal Recreation Areas," and in particular we have in mind the low level area between Aberdeen and Deep Water Bay, and the area round the foot-hills of Kowloon known as "The Park," and the Shatin Valley.

In a cosmopolitan Colony like Hong Kong it is desirable to encourage the coming together of the various nationalities in friendly intercourse. What better means can there be to assist this than in the field of sport and on the public recreation grounds of the Colony?

Whilst dealing with the subject of recreation grounds, we desire to draw attention to the fact that the recommendations of the Kowloon Residents' Association regarding the making and equipping of sufficient playing-grounds for the children of Kowloon have not

yet been carried out by the Government, and in particular we desire to ask why no provision has been made in the Estimates for 1930 for the promised children's playground between Salisbury Road and Middle Road. We would also inquire why sufficient fencing has not yet been put round the children's playground in Chatham Road, as has been repeatedly urged upon the Government.

*Open Spaces.*

There is also the vital question of earmarking unbuilt-on spaces as lungs for the Colony; open spaces for dwellers in the congested districts.

*Aviation.*

We now turn to aviation. Following as we must, the general trend of events in China we cannot help being struck by the keen interest taken by the Chinese in aviation and the efforts being made by them to create a net-work of services in various parts of the country.

When one considers the difficulties of communication, the distance to be travelled and the general want of modern facilities, and when one realises that we are by air travel only about six hours from Hankow, two hours from Wuchow, two and a half hours from Kweilin and ten hours from Shanghai, one can get some conception of the great possibilities of aviation.

We have an aerodrome in the course of construction; but aviation is still backward in this Colony. Singapore has its flying club financially supported by the Straits Settlements Government and a club at Colombo is under consideration, whilst in India there are about 12 similar associations. Flying clubs, such as we refer to, can provide an arm to the volunteers and the police in case of trouble and at the same time those who are prepared to take up aviation on a more permanent basis are given an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the science in its early stages.

Mr. Vaughan Fowler, the representative of the Far East Aviation Company, has laid before your Excellency a detailed scheme for a flying club similar to those I have already mentioned and we are glad to note that you have given it the Colony's financial support in the Budget for 1930. The very substantial provision appearing on page 32 of the Estimates is indicative of your Excellency's belief, which we share, in this means of communication in the future and of its practical application to this part of the world and in particular of Hong Kong's vital interest in it.

At the same time we hope that the new Labour Government, which is obviously anxious to promote the interest of the Colonies to the utmost of its power, will see the reasonableness of the Imperial Government making a larger contribution than £100,000 towards our aerodrome.

We feel that this matter of a much larger contribution being made by the Imperial Government is of so much importance that we make no apology for quoting the following extract from the speech made by my honourable friend, Sir Shou-son Chow, voicing the collective views of the Unofficial members of this Council, in his budget speech of the 4th October, 1928 (see Hong Kong Hansard of 1928 at page 85):

"The inability of His Majesty's Government to contribute more than £100,000 towards the cost of the Aerodrome instead of paying three-fourths of the total cost is very disappointing to the community, after it had been told that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had actually proposed to the Imperial Treasury three-fourths of the cost as being its equitable share of the outlay. Feeling that the Secretary of State would not have accepted this proportion as representing the Imperial Government's just obligation unless it had appealed to him as eminently fair, as I may say it does to us, we earnestly hope that further strong representations will be made to the Imperial Government to increase its contribution to the full three-fourths. The Aerodrome, while it will be a valuable local asset, will be a still more valuable Imperial asset as a vital link in the communications of the Empire."

The present Unofficial members of this Council, who now number eight against six a year ago, unanimously endorse the above view expressed by all the Unofficial members last year.

*Broadcasting.*

Broadcasting is an important modern method of communication, of which this Colony has not availed itself to any considerable extent.

We are not here referring to the transmission of musical programmes for "bright young people," but to something far more important; things that are likely to contribute to make Hong Kong the commercial centre of a large area—that is to say, the distribution of all kinds of market quotations, shipping news, news of the world, in short everything that is likely to be of interest or value to commerce and shipping.

To-day our range is about fifty miles but with an expenditure of about \$200,000 and an annual contribution of about \$80,000 we could have an effective range of 400 miles.

Consider, for a moment, the man in Foochow whose news from here is always four days old or the merchant at a place like Wuchow. What a boon an effective broadcasting system from Hong Kong would be!

On the value of broadcasting for propaganda purposes we need not dwell, for that is  
a p p a r e n t . T h e R i g h t H o n o u r a b l e M r . O r m s b y



Gore, in his Report already referred to, after pointing out that considerable progress had been made in Ceylon in the development of a broadcasting service, says, on page 129, in regard to Java: "There are no less than six broadcasting transmitting stations in Java. News, information, entertainment and education are transmitted to listeners in different parts of the Island. In wireless telegraphy there is the very large high-power long and short wave station at Malabar and a newer short wave station nearer Bandoeng. These communicate direct with Europe and with the United States of America;" and lower down he says:—"Such developments are far ahead of anything yet accomplished in the British Colonial Dependencies."

*Military Contribution.*

On page 12, item 33 of the Estimates and on page 100 we notice some rather puzzling figures regarding Military Contribution.

For instance, the revised estimate for 1929, \$3,321,768 on page 12, is not repeated on page 100.

Are we to understand that this latter figure and not the approved estimate for 1929, which appears as \$3,988,388 on both pages 12 and 100 is being paid for Military Contribution this year?

In connexion with Military Contribution, we should also like to know whether such Contribution is paid upon profits from the Colony's sales of investments. We submit that it is seriously open to question whether such profits ought to be subjected to Military Contribution.

*Seventy Foot Road Between Causeway Bay and Quarry Bay.*

Seventy Foot Road Between Causeway Bay and Quarry Bay.— We see from the Estimates for Public Works Extraordinary (Item No. 18 on page 84) that a sum of \$15,000.00 is budgeted for in connexion with a small portion of this road.

The portion of the road from Ah King's Slipway to the South China Athletic Association Bathing House is one of the most difficult and dangerous roads in this Colony, and we consider that the continuation and completion of this road for the full distance between Causeway Bay and Quarry Bay should not only be taken in hand, but should be completed without further delay. In fact we regard it as most unfortunate that the work on this road should have been delayed for so long.

*Sai Kung Road.*

We notice on page 88 of the Estimates (Item 110) that it is proposed to construct a new road from Kowloon City to Sai Kung at an estimated cost of about \$1,170,000.

Whilst we are of the opinion, that having regard to the great rapidity with which the Kowloon Peninsula is developing it is desirable to provide facilities for further development and expansion, we are of the opinion that there are a number of schemes far more pressing than the proposed Saikung Road, and which need putting in hand and completion before this proposed road is brought under consideration. Many of those schemes we are indicating to-day. For the above reasons, we are of the opinion that it is premature to proceed with the proposed Sai Kung Road.

It seems to us a complete fallacy to suppose that the opening up of motor-roads, with pleasant building-sites on them, must necessarily lead to building development, and in this connexion we need only point to the Tai Po Road, built thirty years ago, the Castle Peak Road, the short road over the hill to Repulse Bay and the Shek O Road.

*Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.*

We see, from page 100 of the Estimates, that it is suggested that a Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve should be created in this Colony and that in the coming year a sum of \$28,265 is there budgeted for as the first year's expenditure.

We are of opinion that the formation of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve may to a certain extent detrimentally affect the Volunteer Defence Corps, and that that Corps serves a far more useful and practical purpose.

We consider that the Royal Naval Reserve is unnecessary here and that naval work should be left to the Navy; and we shall vote against the item for its establishment in the Appropriation Bill for 1930. This item, apparently through inadvertence, does not include the sum of \$2,832, mentioned on page 100 of the Estimates, for the proposed personnel of that Reserve.

The sum now budgeted for is only a beginning, and doubtless a larger annual grant would be required in the not distant future.

*Canton-Kowloon Railway.*

Our railway to the border shows a better return than before, but it can hardly be regarded as a successful venture until such time as the Hankow-Canton Railway is completed and the loop-line at Canton is built.

We desire to take this opportunity of assuring your Excellency that all sections of this community most heartily support you in your untiring efforts to maintain the most friendly relations with the Chinese Authorities in the neighbouring provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi and also with the Chinese Central Government at Nanking.

We also trust that the rumoured negotiations for connecting Canton with Hong Kong by telephone will prove successful, because every link which joins Hong Kong to Canton is of mutual benefit to both places.

*Loans.*

It may well be asked how are all these schemes to be financed. We are of opinion that, much as we may regret it, we have now arrived at the parting of the ways—we cannot continue to pay for the permanent works out of current revenue—posterity must contribute to the benefits posterity will receive. We are of opinion that although it may be possible to make economies in many directions, nevertheless current revenue is obviously insufficient and a carefully considered policy of municipal loans must be resorted to.

*Treasurer's Memorandum on Revenue.*

We notice a paragraph in the Treasurer's Memorandum on Revenue, which states that arrears of premia are due from the Kowloon Tong Estate and the Praya East Marine Lot Holders: and we should be glad to be informed what is the amount of the arrears of premia which is due from each of those bodies respectively.

In connexion with the Praya East Reclamation, we should like to know when the Government proposes to put up lights along Lockhart Road on that Reclamation, so as to enable motor vehicles to use that road at night as well as by day, between Arsenal Street and Percival Street, and thus to avoid entirely the tram route at night for that distance.

*Remarks on Various Items In the Estimates.*

I will now bring this long speech to an end in the orthodox fashion, by firing off at the Government, on behalf of myself and my Unofficial colleagues, a broadside of remarks and questions in regard to various items in the Estimates which have not yet been dealt with by me.

(1) On page 6 we notice an item "Carriage, Chair, etc., Licences \$230,000," and would suggest that, in future Estimates, it would be interesting to have a separate heading for motor vehicle licences instead of lumping them together with chair and ricksha licences.

(2) On page 9, in connexion with the item "Public Schools Fees," we would ask the Government to consider whether the fees charged in public schools ought not to be reduced.

(3) On page 9 we notice the item "Message Fees \$160,000." Does this mean wireless message fees, and, if so, why are the estimated receipts for 1930 less than those for 1929?

(4) On pages 19 and 20 we notice the items of \$2,000 and \$500 respectively for Afforestation in the Northern and Southern Districts of the New Territories respectively, and would suggest that in future years that expenditure might be doubled.

(5) In connexion with the Post Office (page 21) we suggest that the accommodation on the ground floor and in the basement is insufficient for its requirements.

(6) On page 27 what is the meaning of the sudden appearance of two items:—19—Coal for Offices, \$5,000; 20—Rent, light and water allowances for Slipway staff, \$2,934?

(7) On page 27 we notice that, although the Government Marine Surveyor's Department already has 4 launches, namely one steam-driven, H. D. 3 and three motor-driven, H. D. 6, 7, and 8, the Harbour Department is asking in addition to the new motor-launch for the G.M.S. Department, now under construction, an additional motor-launch for this Department and also a new launch for the carriage of Stores and Relief.

In view of the fact that every shipyard in the Colony can now be reached by bus or tram, with a considerable saving of time over travelling by launch, and also that (see page 27) the Marine Surveyor and his 13 Assistant Surveyors receive conveyance allowance, the necessity for the use of launches by the G.M.S. Department is limited to the inspection of vessels lying afloat in the Harbour which are not numerous enough to warrant any increase in the number of launches allotted to the G.M.S. Office beyond the four completed launches above referred to.

In these circumstances we suggest that the unfinished new motor-launch be utilized for other purposes to be determined later and that the second new motor-launch and the new steam-launch be not built at all, seeing that the *Kau Sing*, which (we understand) is capable of steaming at 9½ knots on one boiler, seems to be eminently suitable for stores and relief work.

We would add that other sub-departments of the Harbour Department seem to have numerous launches under their control and that if, by chance, an additional launch is occasionally required by the G.M.S. Department, that Department ought to be able to obtain it for the special occasion by applying to another sub-department in the Harbour Office.

Incidentally we are informed that the staff of Government Marine Surveyors has grown to such dimensions that it seems doubtful whether there is sufficient ship-building and ship repairing work now going on in the Colony to keep them all fully employed.

(8) On the same page 27 we notice the item "Training expenses of G.M.S. in England \$20,945."

We should like to know why the Government is to be held responsible for the training of the Government Marine Surveyors in England and also why the amount for such training has increased from \$7,200 in 1929 to \$20,945 in 1930.

(9) On page 30, we would ask for an explanation of the new item "Allowances to 17 Diesel Engineers at \$120 each."

(10) In connexion with the new item on page 34 "Inspection Officer (Fire Brigade) \$5,400," we should like to be informed as to the necessity for such an Inspection Officer and what duties he is to perform.

(11) With regard to the item on page 58 "Launch to replace S.D.3, \$30,600," we understand that this launch was wrecked near the Futau Mun in returning from a picnic excursion, at Shek O—a very unusual route—and we should be glad to learn whether the Government has given instructions in order to prevent a repetition of such costly picnic proceedings at the expense of the revenue of this Colony.

(12) We should like particulars of the "Building grants \$60,000" (Item 28 on page 63).

(13) On page 85, item 51 "Kowloon British School," we regret to see that the Government only proposes to spend in 1930 \$60,000 on this work out of a total sum of \$725,000 required to complete the school. Why is this?

(14) In connexion with item 57 on page 86 "Port works \$2,000," this suggested expenditure seems to us to be wholly inadequate in view of the need which has existed for many years past for the building of an arm to the Typhoon Refuge at Yaumati, in order to ward off the damaging effects of a typhoon wind from the South. We venture to hope that this work will, therefore, receive the early attention of the Government.

(15) In connexion with the Grants-in-aid, on page 101, my honourable friend, Dr. Tso, desires us to draw attention to the fact that a grant-in-aid is urgently needed by the Mun Sang College which is the only Anglo-Chinese Middle School in Kowloon City.

#### *Conclusion.*

We have not attempted to deal with the recommendations of the Salaries Commission, which are not included in the figures of the present Budget, because we presume that those recommendations will be later on brought before us by the Government in due form, by motion.

The European Members of this Council consider that the time has now arrived when an area of land should be set apart by the Government

for the making of golf-links by members of the Chinese community. They understand that this will be one of the points referred to by the Senior Chinese Unofficial Member in his speech.

Before I resume my seat I would like to express my great gratitude to my honourable friend, Mr. Shenton, who has supplied me with a very large portion of the material for the speech which I have just given. (Applause).

HON. SIR SHOU-SON CHOW.—Sir, The views I am expressing, with the exception of one given by way of personal explanation are the joint views of the three Chinese members. The Honourable Senior Unofficial Member having so fully and ably represented the collective opinion of the unofficial members, it only remains for me to touch upon a few points affecting the Chinese principally.

In the Estimates of Revenue, we desire to call attention to the increase of \$400,000 in the item "Tobacco Duties" over the approved Estimates for 1929. We assume that the increase is due to the new scale of duties introduced in February last under the Tobacco Amendment Ordinance of 1929; and we hope—though we are by no means sanguine—that the anticipated revenue will be realised.

Representations have been made to us by the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Chinese tobacco trade, that under the amended scale of duties 75 cents per pound is now imposed on tobacco, irrespective of the quality, and that consequently the lower-grade Chinese tobacco cannot stand the competition of the higher grade tobacco, resulting in smuggling of the former on an extensive scale. The effect of this would be a loss of legitimate trade in the lower-grade tobacco, with the loss of revenue to the Government.

In order to counteract this adverse factor we suggest that the Superintendent of Imports and Exports may make a thorough investigation into the matter in co-operation with the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce who would, I am sure, be found only too willing to assist in every way they could.

Turning now to the Estimates of Expenditure, we express gratification at the provision of \$50,000 for a Harbour Dispensary Launch. The boon to the large boat-population must be inestimable, particularly in the treatment of communicable diseases. It is a matter of common knowledge that the boat people are either indifferent to medical treatment, or unable to leave their craft and go ashore for treatment, in cases in which immediate medical attention is an urgent necessity. The floating population come into the scheme of things to a far greater extent than can be imagined from the angle of public health; and since the mountain cannot go to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain. The new scheme is therefore one that must have the support of all classes of the community.

The two items "Subsidies to Schools in the New Territories" and "Subsidies to the Elementary Vernacular Schools in Hong Kong" in the Education Estimates show a decrease of \$5,000 each; and no explanation is given for the reduction. In the absence of any explanation we are unable to offer any intelligent comment on the matter, but speaking generally we consider that the subsidies hitherto provided are by no means too large.

We also note that on page 102 of the Estimates the grant in aid of the University School of Chinese is reduced from \$46,000 to \$40,000; but, again, no explanation is given. It would be interesting to know what has happened since the 1929 Estimates were framed to account for this reduction.

The Honourable Senior Unofficial member has given the reasons for the unofficials' attitude in opposing the creation of a Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. These reasons are that the Reserve may, to a certain extent, detrimentally affect the Volunteer Defence Corps; that the Reserve is unnecessary here; and that naval work should be left to His Majesty's Navy.

In addition to these arguments, the Chinese members also consider it impolitic to embark on further military or naval expenditure, albeit such is specifically for defence purposes. At a time when the thoughts of all are concentrating on Universal Peace, it is somewhat disconcerting to find in the Estimates a comparatively large vote for the creation of a Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. This, it seems to us, is a retrograde step: it is entirely alien to the spirit of international concord and fraternity, which is rapidly gathering weight and momentum. The clarion call is for the total abolition of war, and for the reduction of the weapons of destruction to a bare minimum required for police and defence purposes.

Would it not be a happy gesture for the Government, in this public manner, to abandon this Reserve Force, and thus demonstrate that even such a comparatively small, though important, British Colony as Hong Kong is completely at one with the British Empire in advancing by every means possible the works of peace—in the genuine and noble resolve to hasten the coming of that day when "Man to man the World o'er shall brothers be"?

The Honourable Senior Unofficial member having already commented upon the overcrowded state of the Prisons, I need only say a few words on the Female Prison. I am told that the accommodation is unsatisfactory, and that the lot of the female prisoners can be made less hard. Since Mrs. Southorn and her helpers have undertaken the work of visiting this section of the Gaol, some improvement has been effected, and it is sincerely hoped that they will continue this good work, for which the Chinese community feel very grateful.

While we endorse the policy of the Government in developing the preventive side of the Medical Department's work, may we respect-fully ask that that policy may be carried out in a liberal and sympathetic spirit, and with due regard to the susceptibilities of the people? Some medical men who may be highly qualified in their profession, and who may have the best intentions in the world, may be led by their enthusiasm and zeal into the introduction of measures that are totally unsuitable for local conditions.

The Tung Wah Eastern Hospital is ready to be opened this year: but the Government, in the belief that it could not be for want of funds, has made no provision in the Estimates for 1930. We are happy to say that arrangements have been made whereby the maintenance of the Hospital is assured for two years, thus enabling it to be opened at the end of November next; and we therefore ask that the Government will be so good as to make a substantial grant to this most deserving and much needed institution. If it be inconvenient to make provision in the Estimates now, perhaps a supplementary vote could be taken when the time comes.

The Honourable Senior Unofficial member has asked for the provision of more recreation grounds and open spaces. We strongly endorse this recommendation, because in the past this very necessary provision has unfortunately been neglected, particularly in the heart of the city.

Before the era of town-planning very little thought was taken by successive Administrations for the days when unhealthy congestion in the heart of the city would be severely and sorely felt as it is to-day. What has occurred on the Island should be made impossible on the mainland where rapid development is going on almost from day to day. The Government would do well to earmark specific sites for the provision of these "lungs" which are so essential to the health of the people.

We are aware of Your Excellency's personal sympathy with the need for recreation among all classes of the population, and we trust that you will see fit to instruct the Public Works Department to allot a piece of ground to the Chinese community for a golf-link; and, pending such allotment and completion of the link, to set aside certain days of the week for the playing of golf by Chinese on some of the existing recreation grounds.

The recent development in the realm of sport by the Chinese has been well described as nothing short of marvellous. A well-developed body makes for greater efficiency in work, and experience has proven that the best workers among the young Chinese are those who have taken up sport of one kind or another with zest. To-day golf is not, as in time gone past, a luxury for the few, as witness the growth of municipal golf-courses throughout Great Britain. That example can well be adopted for the requirements



of the population in which the Chinese element predominates to the extent of over 95 per cent.

Although the Honourable Senior Unofficial member has dealt with the all-important question of waterworks at some length, we make no apology for expressing the views of the Chinese by way of amplification and emphasis.

When the 1929 Estimates were before this Council the Hon. Dr. Kotewall, speaking on behalf of the Chinese Unofficials, offered some pertinent comments on the subject. I feel that I cannot do better than repeat some of his words. "The complaints we have heard this year," he said, "have been particularly bitter. While one may regret such bitterness, one cannot help sympathising with the distress that evokes it. The more intelligent classes know that there are things which are beyond human control. They also know the efforts made by the Government to secure a permanent augmentation of our water supply. But the people bearing the actual hardship cannot be expected to make fine distinctions. All that they know is that year after year, for many years, and sometimes more than once in the short period of a few months, they have to endure a restricted supply; and that, so far, no tangible evidence of the Government's endeavour to find a permanent remedy is in sight."

No one, Sir, has challenged the accuracy or fairness of this statement; and since then the water situation has become worse—at least it became worse for a few months. The Government has on more than one occasion during the last two months expressed admiration and appreciation of the fortitude and patience shown by the Chinese community, and it is with pride that we share this sentiment. But patient though the people had been, I shudder to think what the consequence would have been, had not the rain come in such a timely way—just when the situation had become so bad, and the people's patience was on the verge of exhaustion. That rain was providential. Had the drought continued a few more months the Colony's surplus balance which is so much needed for constructive and productive public works, would have been largely consumed by the emergency measures.

Sir, we cannot afford a recurrence of that most distressing condition. It must be prevented with all the means and energy at the command of the Government. All the permanent schemes should be decided upon, and then pressed on, with the greatest possible speed, without a single day's avoidable delay. Any such delay would have an unfortunate reaction on the minds of the people and I know that Your Excellency will not permit it.

Until these schemes are completed, and until an adequate water supply is assured to the Colony, we ask that Your Excellency's policy in regard to wells may be interpreted in a liberal

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the departments concerned. The wells opened during the recent crisis have yielded results both material and psychological, which fully justified that policy.

Your Excellency, in your masterly review of the Colony's Waterworks, mentioned the possibility of abolishing the Rider-main system. If we do not take up this question to-day, we hope that it will not be thought that we acquiesce in the abolition. As a matter of fact, our mind is not made up, because we have not the facts before us to enable us to do so. We would like to have time to ascertain public opinion, and we ask that before the Government actually makes its decision it will give us full opportunity to debate the matter.

From individual items I now turn to certain general features of the draft Estimates—the financial side of the Budget, and the method of its preparation. In making our remarks we do so in no carping spirit, but with the sole object of assisting the Government with some constructive suggestions.

In the draft Estimates the totals of Other Charges and Special Expenditure are not shown separately, as they had been invariably shown until a few years ago. If anyone now desires to ascertain this information, he will have to make the calculation himself.

Again, until a few years ago, each department showed its own expenditure in a comprehensive form, that is, all expenditure appertaining to any one department was shown under that department. In the Estimates of the last two or three years this has not been the case. For example, if we turn to the first department under Estimates of Expenditure—the Colonial Secretary's Office—we find that the salaries of the Assistant Colonial Secretaries and of the junior clerks are not given under that head but are placed under "Cadet Service," "Senior Clerical and Accounting Staff," and "Junior Clerical Service." This means that if one desires to find the total expenditure of a given department one has to look up no fewer than four different heads and two appendices, before one can arrive at the result.

We remember that when the 1926 Estimates were introduced, His Excellency Sir Edward Stubbs gave explanations for grouping all clerks under one head (see page 80 of Hansard 1925); but the unofficial members, not being quite enamoured of the innovation, expressed the following views (to be found on page 91 of the same Hansard) through their spokesman the late Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak: "We note for the first time that all junior clerks now come under the definite heading of Junior Clerical Service. Whilst appreciating the explanation that this has been done for the sake of economy in time and labour, we are not fully satisfied that it is not preferable to debit these salaries to the various departments concerned,

so that we may arrive at definite knowledge of the cost of running each department."

The Government and the public have had four years practical experience of this change, and in our view the result justifies the doubt entertained by the unofficial members at the time. We respectfully submit that for the reason we have given, public interests would be better served by a reversion to the old system of grouping all expenditure under each department concerned, even were a little more time and labour entailed thereby.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary, in his speech introducing the Estimates now before us, said that "the notes in the draft Estimates will afford members of the Council much information on points of detail."

The notes are very scanty, and in some departments are almost entirely absent. Reference to the Estimates of the Sanitary Department and the Public Works Department will bear out my statement. It is true that some notes are given in the "Abstract," but in order to facilitate reference such notes—and they should be fuller than they are in many cases—should also be shown in the body of the Estimates. If they are considered unnecessary as foot-notes in the Estimates, then they should not be given in some departments such as the Botanical and Forestry Department which rightly furnishes notes for every item showing a difference, however small. There should be uniformity in the method of presenting these Estimates which are presented to the public as one indivisible whole.

It is now my ungrateful task to offer a few remarks on the ever increasing expenses of the Colony's administration. Last year, as the spokesman for the unofficial members of this Council, I had the honour to draw attention to expenditure increasing at what we called an alarming rate. The same comment seems to be more than ever called for. We feel that we would be failing in our duty as representatives of the Chinese who form the bulk of the population, if we were to let this matter pass without calling attention to it.

The unofficials pointed out in 1928 that Personal Emoluments alone showed the enormous increase of \$843,134 in the draft Estimates for 1929.

In the Estimates now under consideration the net increase in Personal Emoluments, including Rent Allowances and High Cost of Living Allowances under Miscellaneous Services, is \$680,543. Of this amount the item "New Posts" accounts for \$396,520, after savings in the abolition of posts have been allowed for.

Sir, this expenditure seems far too large, following as it does the enormous increases sanctioned for 1929. Even taking into account

the increases necessitated by the addition to the staff of the Medical and Police Departments, we have the feeling that expenditure has been increasing at a rate not altogether commensurate with the increase in the work of administration.

If expenditure continued at the present rate, the Government would very soon have to resort to additional taxation which, to repeat the words of the unofficial members uttered through me last year, is a contingency "which the Colony is not in a position to stand without the most serious effects on its trade—effects which would have immediate reaction on the public finances as well as on the general prosperity of the Colony."

In making these remarks I desire to offer an explanation of my own position. It may be asked why, while on the one hand, as a member of the Salaries Commission, I have made recommendations for an increase of salaries, etc., which would amount to about \$1,300,000 a year, I am, on the other hand, unfavourably commenting on the Government expenditure. My position would be clear, if a little thought were given to it. I maintain that it is one thing to pay an employee well, whether he is serving the Government or a private concern, and quite another to increase the personnel when it may not be justified by the volume of work performed.

Having discharged our duty as representatives of the largest section of the tax-payers, I have pleasure in tendering to the Government the thanks of the Chinese community for the sympathy, energy and promptitude with which it adopted measures to deal with the recent water situation.

We are under a special debt of gratitude to your Excellency for the very ready manner in which you met the appeals of the community, and for the solicitous regard you evinced for the sufferings of the poor in those trying days. The public is no less grateful to you, Sir, for the statesmanlike and marvellously successful way in which you have preserved the friendly relations with our great neighbour, notwithstanding the change of administration that has recently taken place in Canton. Your Excellency has, indeed, passed through another year of extremely arduous work and great anxiety, and I know that I am voicing the sentiments of all sections of the community when I express the wish that the short holiday which your Excellency is about to take may give you renewed health and reinforced vigour. (Applause).

HON. MR. W. E. L. SHENTON.—Your Excellency, I have listened with great interest to the Honourable Colonial Secretary's review of the Colony's finances. Hong Kong, the great Emporium of the Far East, has, as it were, completed its annual stock-taking, and is now able to take a review of the past, consider its present financial position and enter into arrangements for its future.

A surplus of \$7,712,265 assets over liabilities is, on the face of it, a most satisfactory position, and one with which any Board of

Directors would go before their shareholders with unmixed feelings of pride and confidence.

On the spur of the moment I have similar feelings, but will they stand searching inquiries—can we go before the tax-payers of the Colony and say "the finances of the Colony have in the past been administered to the best advantage," or is the Colony rather in the position of one who has year by year sold his wares, spent most of his profits, and kept the balance, but is without sufficient wares to do future successful trading—in other words, have the Government in the past so operated the Colony's finances as to keep up with the times and the progress of the Colony or are we now faced with large capital expenditure which we shall have difficulty in meeting; is our stock in trade or some of it either out of date or beyond repair?

On a careful retrospect of the position I am convinced that the matter is one for most serious consideration—in fact I go so far as to say that to bring our stock in trade up-to-date will require the expenditure of very large sums. How are we going to provide for this?

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary tells us that the Government has adopted a forward policy in its Budget for 1930, admittedly, he says, in services rather than in material works. I have scanned the draft Estimates and the Public Works Extraordinary Report for support of this forward policy and can only say I can find little support for his statement. Taking the draft Estimates as a whole, I describe the general position to be that nothing more than ordinary current expenditure and usual development work has been provided for—nothing more than one would ordinarily expect to see in any normal year. Certain minor public works are provided for, but they would occur in any normal year.

Many of the great crying needs of the Colony are not even mentioned; in fact, I find, in the words of the Honourable Colonial Secretary, that none of "my favourite schemes" have been included. I omit, of course, the water question because that is a matter which must be put in a category by itself and has already been fully dealt with.

It needs no further comment from me, save that no effort can be too great to avert a recurrence of the crisis we experienced this year.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary consoles us with the fact that we can finance the contemplated increases in the Estimates without recourse to increased taxation, a very satisfactory state of affairs, but it certainly appears to me having regard to the general tenor of the Estimates that such cannot be the position much longer.

I will not dwell on the water question, Government Civil Hospital, the Gaol, the Playing Grounds, Port Facilities, markets, the uncompleted part of the 70 feet road between Causeway  
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Sugar Factory, Aviation and Broadcasting; they have already been dealt with by the honourable the senior member, but I have in addition a number of my favourite schemes, and I will now deal with what I regard as some of our most pressing needs in "this, the most progressive and up-to-date Colony of the British Empire."

*Our City Hall.*

Are we proud of our City Hall? True it was an appropriate building 40 to 50 years ago and the Colony must still be grateful to a generous Government and public men who provided the site and building. Is it at all in keeping with the present requirements of the Colony? Recently His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester visited the Colony and the Theatre being the most central position was chosen for his official reception—unfortunately the space is so limited that many were unable to receive invitations, almost to the extent of causing general dissatisfaction on such an auspicious occasion.

The floors of the reception halls have to be shored up whenever a public reception or entertainment is given—the public library and museum must be the cause of disappointment to any visitor who happens to be passing through the Colony.

The late Sir C. P. Chater, for many years a member of this Council, left a very interesting and valuable collection of pictures depicting the Colony's history from the earliest times, and also a collection of china representing a life work, but we have nowhere to house these generous gifts. Surely the time has come when a suitable City Hall, Theatre, and Assembly Rooms, must be provided?

I notice that we contribute the sum of \$1,200 per annum to the City Hall (item 211 on page 101), a very small contribution.

*Vehicular Ferry.*

Year after year, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce refer in their annual report to the need of a Vehicular Ferry between the Island and Kowloon. The Public Press constantly refer to it. Are we any nearer the acquisition of such a means of communication which appears to be only too obvious and which must have a most beneficial effect on the whole Peninsula? What is our position? It appears to me to be a disgrace to the community that it is impossible to get motor vehicles from the Island to the mainland or *vice versa* between the hours of 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. and then only by very antiquated means and laborious methods—a mere sop to the public.

Sessional papers have been issued but we seem no nearer a solution. Is it that Government's terms are too exacting or is it that no cut and dried policy has yet been formulated? Is it a Government obligation like a road or is it a matter for private enterprise?

*Road to Canton.*

How many more years shall we be talking of the motor road to Canton? Rumour has it that the contract for the construction of the motor road in Chinese Territory to our boundary has already been given out and I have myself seen the pegging out, close to our own boundary. We are, however, almost entirely in the dark as to the position.

*Home For The Infirm.*

Hong Kong is a great international port and as such there is a constant stream of individuals looking for employment. Some are attracted by the prospects of possible work, some because they are unable to get work elsewhere. There is also another class, who cease to become employable. The able bodied are found employment by the General Charities Organisation, the Hong Kong Benevolent Association and other charities but it is of the last class I now speak. It is impossible to find work for them. They wander between the Sailors' Home and the Hong Kong Benevolent Association and often through no fault of their own become a charge on the Colony. They are of various nationalities and, as far as possible, they should be repatriated, but there is still a residue for whom a refuge should be provided. We have no old age pensions or insurance. They are nevertheless an obligation of the Colony.

*Factory Legislation.*

The Colony is slowly but surely becoming, for various reasons, a manufacturing centre. The probabilities are that it will substantially increase in the not distant future. This carries with it in these days certain Government obligations to see that the factories are conducted according to modern hygienic methods and operated on proper lines. The Report of the Inspector of Factories (Annex B) to the Report of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs for last year is illuminating and clearly indicates a case for further investigation. The time is not far off when more advanced factory legislation and largely increased factory inspection will have to be taken in hand, but this possibly has already received your Excellency's consideration.

*Widows and Orphans Pensions.*

I cannot help mentioning the financial position of the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund.

As far as I can find no fund has been set apart to meet these liabilities. We collect the subscriptions and pay them into our current account and use them as the revenue of the Colony. I find on page 11 of the Estimates the sum of \$190,000 is expected to be received next year.

A provident fund of this nature should, in my opinion, be absolutely secure and should  
b e k e p t s e p a r a t e a n d a p a r t a s a T r u s t

Account. I believe there was a time when there was a separate fund for widows and orphans but this has long since been merged in the Colony's general funds.

The Colony may at some future time be called upon to make a capital provision for these liabilities.

*University.*

I see there are two grants to the University, one of \$50,000 and the other of \$40,000, (items 25 and 26 on page 102 of the Estimates). The University serves a most useful purpose not only as an educating factor but in providing the Colony with useful citizens. I am sometimes inclined to wonder whether either this Government or the commercial concerns of this Colony avail themselves sufficiently of the facilities which our University provides. It appears to me there must be many positions which our University graduates could fill with ease and possibly distinction.

My personal opinion is that our contribution to the University is wholly insufficient.

The conception that the University is a luxurious appendage to the ordinary educational course still lingers here, though it has been entirely abandoned in England. Universities are no longer the preserves of the intellectual rich but are accepted as an integral part of the community's life. They are expected to perform a social service for the whole surrounding district by maintaining and improving the cultural standards, by providing a steady stream of highly educated men and women for the various professions and commerce and by increasing the sum of human knowledge.

There also seems to be an impression abroad that because a University accepts Government assistance it must of necessity sacrifice its dignity and lose its independence. If that were so, then there is not a University in Great Britain that can command respect. They have had to ask for a substantial dole which has been the more readily granted because of the very important part the modern University must play. This Government aid too has been given without imperilling the autonomy of these institutions in England for there has been no interference of any kind on the part of the Government as appears from the very interesting speech of the Right Honourable H. A. L. Fisher in his centenary address at University College, London, in April 1927.

Up to the conclusion of the Great War, the Oxford and Cambridge Universities did not require Government financial assistance, but at the conclusion of the War it was found that they would not be able to continue their activities as in the past unless substantial Government financial assistance was granted, and this applied even more to the other Universities.



A Royal Commission was appointed presided over by the Right Honourable Mr. Asquith in the year 1919, as a result of which very large Government grants were made, and to-day, roughly, the Government provides, either direct or through local authorities, 50% of the revenue of Oxford University, 45% of the revenue of Cambridge University, 50% of the revenue of Birmingham University, 70% of the revenue of Bristol University, and 60% of the revenue of Leeds University. In fact out of the total income of the Universities of Great Britain about 50% is contributed by either Government or local authorities.

The conclusion that follows from an examination of these facts is that this Colony must accept the Hong Kong University as an integral and essential part of its education scheme and must give it that adequate support which would justify us in continuing to call it a University on the English model. The minimum annual sum which the Government should contribute to the University is \$200,000.

I hope your Excellency's efforts on behalf of the University to obtain an allocation of part of the Boxer Indemnity moneys may yet be successful. In the field of education what better cause could be found?

*Conclusion.*

Such being the vista we have before us, can it be wondered that one is appalled at the large expenditure of money that lies before us? "*Nil mortalibus ardui est.*" Some of the propositions call for immediate adoption. They can no longer be delayed. Some may possibly be held in abeyance for a little longer but as surely as night follows day all must eventually be taken in hand. (Applause).

HON. MR. J. P. BRAGA.—Your Excellency, My remarks on the Budget will be limited almost exclusively to matters concerning Kowloon. They are not intended to dilate upon the numerous subjects involving heavy expenditure making up the Budget for 1930. That ground has been very fully and very ably covered by the Honourable Senior Unofficial Member as the Unofficial spokesman on this occasion. It is matters of so-called municipal interest with which I am at the moment principally concerned.

Conspicuous among the omissions from the list of Public Works Extraordinary—which the Honourable Colonial Secretary in his Budget speech described as "that very popular vote to which members of the public are inclined to turn first to see whether their own favourite schemes have been included"—is any reference to the Kowloon Tong market. This omission has been alluded to by the Senior Unofficial Member this afternoon. Permit me, Sir, to point out that the failure to include the Kowloon Tong Market in the list of public works may be regarded as a slight on, and scant consideration for, the gentlemen who have the honour of representation on the Sanitary Board. Moreover, provision for a market in Kowloon Tong was forcefully urged in this Council in a speech last year by the Hon. Mr. Shenton. Hope was raised that Kowloon Tong residents

would soon be given their market when reference was made to the subject by the Colonial Secretary in his Budget speech last year. This is what the official spokesman said:—"In New Kowloon, market extensions hold a prominent place, Shamshuipo, Kowloon City, and Kowloon Tong all receiving an allocation." And the result is like unto the answer of St. James: "It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away."

The Estimates Sub-Committee of the Sanitary Board, on which I was privileged to serve this year, recommended to the Government the erection of a public market within the Kowloon Tong Estate. Later, at a meeting of the Full Board on the 23rd July, 1929, a motion was unanimously adopted approving the proposal. When it is remembered that the question of public markets is peculiarly within the province of the Sanitary Board to consider, the rejection of the Board's recommendation to the Government is difficult of satisfactory explanation to those outside the secret councils of the Government.

In the opinion of residents of Tsim Sha Tsui, another matter of more or less urgency calls for immediate attention on the part of the Government. I refer to the children's playground. This also has been sympathetically touched upon by the Senior Unofficial Member. Residents of Kowloon begin almost to despair that children across the harbour will ever be considered worthy of the solicitude of Government in the provision of a suitable ground in a convenient locality where children could run and play about within an area free from the objectionable features to be found in the railed-in portion of the railway ground on Chatham Road dignified with the name of a "Children's Playground."

In the senior morning newspaper of the 10th September will be found a plaintive appeal on behalf of the children of Kowloon. I should not be surprised if it be that of some British mother vainly pleading for an amelioration of a condition not too creditable to the Colony in the matter of playgrounds at Kowloon. A brief extract from that letter may serve some useful purpose if, perchance, it escaped notice from those to whom the letter was designed to appeal. The writer condemned last year's saving of \$22,000 on the proposed children's playground as "an eloquent and practical comment on the 'high falutin' sentiments expressed at the last Legislative Council meeting." The writer describes the Chatham Road playground as "drab, dusty and in the evening a coolies' spittoon; it is positively dangerous. It fronts a long stretch of straight road which offers a temptation to motorists, which, as a whole, they do not and cannot be expected to resist. The railings are about a couple of feet high, and take an active child of four some five seconds to scale. It is easy to 'save' money by allowing such a wretched place to go unimproved."

A cognate subject is that of open spaces. Realising the interest which your Excellency has taken in the rapid growth of Kowloon,

it must be apparent how intensively building operations are proceeding especially at Kowloon Point. At the present building rate the few remaining open spaces will have disappeared within the next few months, and the mistake which is apparent in the congested districts of the Island will be perpetuated in Kowloon.

While on the subject of sanitation it becomes my duty respectfully to invite your Excellency's attention to the serious obstruction of public thoroughfares at Kowloon—and the same may be said of similar conditions obtaining on the Island—by licensed stallholders for the sale of food-stuffs that should be kept within the limits of the markets or shops especially licensed for the purpose. There is flagrant abuse of the conditions attached to these licences. A drive any afternoon through the thickly inhabited districts will convince the most unobservant that certain roadways on the Peninsula as well as on the Island have been converted into open market places by the advantage taken by permittees in exceeding the privileges conceded under the terms of their licences. This abuse of privilege makes it difficult for sanitary regulations to be enforced, not to speak of the serious obstructions to traffic.

Pursuing further the subject of sanitation, I must once again urge upon the attention of Government the intolerable nuisance created by market gardeners in various localities in New Kowloon. Again and again have I been approached to make representations to the Sanitary Authorities for the abatement of the very objectionable practise of the use of human manure by market gardeners in the vicinity of dwelling houses. I must not, however, fail in my appreciation of the successful efforts exerted by the officers of the Sanitary Department, under the direction of the Head of the Department, in mitigating the nuisance in some cases, especially a recent one at Shamshuipo. But the persistence of permittees in reverting to the insanitary and offensive practice when vigilance is slightly relaxed calls for the immediate cancellation of the permits. Notorious offenders can be found any day within the Kowloon Tong Estate.

Much disappointment has been felt with the recent statement from the Honourable Colonial Secretary in this Council that unattended cars and motor-cycles will not be permitted in future within the square outside the Star Ferry Pier. On behalf of motorists I am appealing to your Excellency for a reconsideration of the projected scheme of arrangement whereby the privileges now enjoyed by them will be completely removed. One of the great advantages enjoyed by Kowloon motorists is the ability to reside in suburban areas away from the congested districts in the City. A contributory factor of that advantage is the ownership of a car in the case of a family man and of a motor-cycle in the case of a bachelor. Under the new parking scheme forecasted by the Government it will become difficult for owner-drivers to enjoy the benefit of suburban residence unless at an increased expenditure, and it must be remembered that many men with families and young men in this Colony are not blessed with too much of this world's riches. With many, despite appearance,

which must be maintained, it is a real struggle for existence. The railway land near the Ferry Pier could be applied to better use and for the benefit of a larger number than the concessions presently enjoyed for a consideration which may or may not outweigh the larger benefits claimed for motorists.

The presence of disorderly houses on Nathan Road in the very heart of the residential district calls for attention. They were permitted at a time when family residences did not exist in such large numbers in Kowloon and at Yaumati. Young women of these houses sit on the window sills and obtrude themselves on the public gaze in a main thoroughfare every evening, and from midnight onwards the noise from what may be termed the "red-light" district of Yaumati deprives residents of the rest which they look for in undisturbed sleep.

The hills of Kowloon have a very bare appearance especially that portion above the railway cutting and on the heights of Hung Hom. The expenditure of a couple of thousand dollars for a couple of years may alter the bareness of Kowloon hills and the effect of the landscape.

Kowloon residents are still cherishing the hope for the fulfilment of the promise of afternoon open-air band concerts. The Shanghai Municipal Council provides music of a high order for the benefit of the public throughout the year during afternoons and in the evenings. Hong Kong continues to live under the reproach of being behind the Model Settlement in this respect.

In the matter of school fees I wonder if Government can effect a revision so as to reduce the cost of fees which are a heavy drain on the residents of this Colony. A fortnight ago, the Honourable Colonial Secretary spoke of next year's Budget as one of "a forward policy in services rather than in material works." What more tangible proof can there be as a practical demonstration of the Government's earnestness than by beginning in a small way to reduce the cost of living to residents in Hong Kong? Reduction of school fees is something to start with. After all, it is by contentment with the common lot that one gauges the success of any administration, and "contentment" has been described by a great English essayist as the "Philosopher's Stone."

It is on the question of the Saikung Road that I am afraid I must sound the discordant note where the considered opinions of Unofficial members are concerned. There is no comparison between the districts, *viz.*, those embraced within the Circular Road out to Saikung curving round to Shatin and those districts mentioned by the Senior Unofficial Member. On the first section of the projected Circular Road within not more than about twenty minutes drive when the road is completed by motor-car to the Ferry wharf will be found beautiful undulating land in some places and in another a plateau available for building sites that will outrival any in the Colony, the

Peak not excepted. As an added attraction to tourists visiting Hong Kong the Circular Road will be an eloquent appeal for those whose business it is to attract and will be benefited by the tourist trade. Nature has gifted this Colony with much that is beautiful and compelling admiration; it is the backwardness of our enterprise that is so behindhand with our advertising literature and the judicious use of publicity that has not made known to the world at large the beauties of the Island and on the mainland so as to attract a larger number of visitors to these shores. It is the exalting of Hong Kong's natural beauties that I would commend to the notice of our business men—shipowners, hotel proprietors and the numerous shopkeepers all of whom stand to gain by more visitors coming to Hong Kong. The Saikung Road will play its part in the way of an added attraction. If it does not at first pay for itself from the proceeds of land sales, the indirect profits to Hong Kong cannot be ignored in the whole scheme of things for the Colony. I do not, therefore, share in the Unofficial condemnation of the Saikung Road. (Applause.)

H.E. THE GOVERNOR.—I have listened with very great interest to the speeches made this afternoon by unofficial members with reference to the Budget, and I wish to take them into careful consideration. I suggest, therefore, the most convenient course will be to adjourn the Council at this stage and meet again on Monday afternoon at 2.30 p.m., when the official replies to the speeches of the unofficial members will be made. If that suits the convenience of all members, we will proceed accordingly.

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK:—The unofficial members are in agreement with that course.

#### **THE ADJOURNMENT.**

H.E. THE GOVERNOR:—The Council will adjourn until Monday, September 23rd.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

Following the Council, a meeting of the Finance Committee was held, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

Votes totalling \$211,534, contained in Message No. 12 from H.E. The Governor, were considered.

Item No. 73: Public Works, Extraordinary:—Communications New Territories, Circular Road, Ngau Tau Kok to Shatin *via* Sai Kung, Preliminary Works, \$5,000.

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK.—I should like to ask that this vote be further adjourned.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I have no objection.

Item No. 75: Public Works, Extraordinary:—Hong Kong, General Works, Waterworks (Consulting Engineers Fee incurred), \$1,534.

HON. SIR HENRY POLLOCK.—I should like to ask what this is for?

THE CHAIRMAN.—One of our Engineers went home to consult the Consulting Engineers on the water supply for Shek O district. The fee was not charged for a long time and now has come to hand. We shall have to pay it.

Item No. 77: Public Works, Extraordinary:—Hong Kong, Miscellaneous, Purchase of M.L. 187A and payment in reference to Kowloon site, \$180,000.

HON. MR. A. C. HYNES.—The total payment, I take it, is \$900,000, including the \$100,000 for the Kowloon site?

THE CHAIRMAN.—In case Hon. Members do not remember the facts of this case—they go back for very many years—I should like to remark that I think I am right in saying that it was in 1923 and 1924 that an agreement was reached between the Government and the Trustees of the Sailors' Home which was submitted to the Secretary of State, approved by him, and I believe approved by the then members of the Finance Committee, by which the Government was to purchase the Sailors' Home at West Point for \$800,000 and the provision of a site in Kowloon. The whole thing went into abeyance in 1925. Neither the Trustees nor the Government were in a position to go on, and it was only six months or so ago that serious steps were taken to reopen negotiations. The Government was then asked if it stood by its promise, and naturally it said "Yes." The Trustees put a new suggestion to the Government that they should amalgamate with the Seamen's Institute at Wanchai and, instead of building a new place in Kowloon, should build a combined Institute on the Praya East. The Kowloon site, therefore, became useless to them and they offered to sell it back to the Government for \$100,000. The Government agreed that their proposals were sound and, with the approval of the Secretary of State and I think, if I remember rightly, the approval of the Finance Committee as well, the scheme was settled on those lines. The Government will pay \$900,000 altogether, for which it will get the present Sailors' Home at West Point and the site in Kowloon, and the Sailors' Home will be amalgamated with the Missions to Seamen and the new site will be on the Praya.

HON. DR. R. H. KOTEWALL.—May I ask to what use it is proposed to put this site?

THE CHAIRMAN.—Which site?

HON. DR. R. H. KOTEWALL.—The \$800,000 site.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I think the present idea is that a police station should be built for that part of Hong Kong on part of the site. Hon. Members will probably remember it includes the Church as well, and some day we shall have to redeem our promise of \$50,000 for the Church.

HON. DR. R. H. KOTEWALL.—Will you make a note that Unofficial members be given an opportunity of studying the scheme when it is formulated? We should like to know how it is proposed to utilise such an expensive site.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I do not think anything will be done for some time. I will make a note of it.

Item No. 73 was deferred for further consideration.

All the other items were approved.

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