9th October, 1941.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Council Chamber, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. Mr. N. L. Smith, C.M.C.) presiding.

**ALSO PRESENT: —**

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (HON. MR. R. R. TODD, Acting).

HON. MR. A. B. PURVES (Director of Public Works).

HON. MR. J. J. PATERSON.

HON. MR. LO MAN-KAM, C.B.E.

HON. MR. A. L. SHIELDS.

HON. MR. W. N. T. TAM.

HON. MR. T. E. PEARCE.

HON. MR. LI TSE-FONG.

HON. MR. E. DAVIDSON.

Mr. R. EDWARDS (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

**ABSENT: —**

HON. MR. LEO D’ALMADA E CASTRO, JNR.

Votes totalling, $973,616 under Estimates 1941-42, contained in Message No. 3 from His Excellency the Governor, were considered.

Item 78. — 17, Miscellaneous Services: — Award for Invention of a Reinforced Concrete Pile Head, $6,500.

HON. MR. PATERSON. — What is the actual invention.

THE CHAIRMAN. — It says here concrete pile head.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. — It is a specially designed type of pile head.

HON. MR. TAM. — What are the advantages of such a pile head?
THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. — It is more economical.

THE CHAIRMAN. — An invention by a Government servant has to go through a good many channels before it finally gets an award.

HON. MR. PATERSON. — I remember that and I remember the last one. They sent us details of the Board's findings.

HON. MR. SHIELDS. — That was the Garland Buoy.

THE CHAIRMAN. — If members are interested to see it we can have it sent round.

HON. MR. PATERSON. — It doesn't matter.

THE CHAIRMAN. — I will have it circulated.


HON. MR. SHIELDS. — It seems a very expensive cash register ($15,181).

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY. — It is a very complicated piece of apparatus. We have several of these in the Treasury already.

HON. MR. SHIELDS. — One thing the old system did not . . . .

THE CHAIRMAN. — It was introduced by Mr. Taylor.

HON. MR. LI. — Is this only one or several registers?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY. — It is one apparatus. The Treasury have several of the same type already.


HON. MR. LI. — How does this affect the existing bathing sheds at North Point?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. — It is not quite so far along yet. It is only an extension of about 800 feet of sea wall. It does not affect the bathing sheds.

HON. MR. LI. — Is there any question of the sheds being removed to other places?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. — Not yet.
THE CHAIRMAN. — This is a long term programme which has been facilitated by the spoil from the tunnels.

HON. MR. PATERSON. — What depth of water do you contemplate at the sea wall.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. — It is fairly deep.

HON. MR. LI. — I notice the will is getting quite close to some of the bathing sheds there, and I wondered if there was any question of the removal of these sheds.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. — There is a beacon which marks the end of the project.

HON. MR. SHIELDS. — Is it designed to take ships alongside the wall or is it intended to have piers jutting from the wall?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. — Ships can lie lengthwise beside the wall.

HON. MR. PATERSON. — There are objections to the piers because, if there is a strong wind, ships will have to turn pretty close to the fairway to get in.

All the votes were approved.