

# Legislative Council

Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 1878.

Present. His Excellency Governor Callaghan, C. M. G., President  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> G. M. Dean and G. Travis Esquires

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Governor informed the Council that he had received a Despatch from the Secretary of State calling attention to the necessity of carrying out a suggestion made in a letter from the Board of Trade, dated the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1873, which was enclosed in a Despatch No 24 of the 19<sup>th</sup> August 1873, from Lord Kimberley to Governor W. Arey. This suggestion was to the effect that every vessel anchoring in Stanley Harbour should be made to pay the necessary dues without requiring the Master to put her in charge of a Pilot.

The Governor then laid upon the table a draft Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make further provision regarding the Harbour Regulations of the Port of Stanley."

Some discussion arose regarding the provisions of the Bill, after which the Governor moved that the Standing Orders be suspended, and that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make further provision regarding the Harbour Regulations of the Port of Stanley," do, at this sitting pass through all its stages.

Mr. Dean seconded this motion, and the Ordinance was then passed accordingly.

His Excellency then adjourned the Council, sine die

(Signed) George Travis  
Clerk to the Council

## Legislative Council

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1878.

Present

His Excellency Governor Ballaghan B. M. G., President  
The Honbles G. M. Dran and G. Travis Esquires

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The Council met pursuant to summons

The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1878 were read and confirmed.

The Governor informed the Council that he had received instructions from the Secretary of State regarding the necessity of introducing some measures of additional taxation; amongst these measures he enumerated, assessing a rate upon the real property of the Colony, imposing a house tax, a tax upon horses, increasing the Port Dues, increasing the duties on Spirits and Wine, and imposing an Import Duty on Tobacco. The Governor said that having given the matter his best consideration he had come to the conclusion that the best course to adopt under the circumstances and that least likely to encounter the opposition of the public, would be to pass an Ordinance imposing a duty on Cigars, cigarettes and Tobacco, imported into the Colony, and an Ordinance increasing the duty on Spirits and Wine imported into the Colony.

The Governor observed that he was exceedingly glad to be able to state that Mr. Dran, a member of the Legislative Council, whom he had consulted on the subject, as well as Mr. Cobb, the Agent of the Falkland Islands Company were of the same opinion. Both these gentlemen also promised to do all in their power to co-operate with the Government in giving due effect to these measures.

With reference to the duty on tobacco the Governor observed that he thought it would be most injurious to impose any duty upon that imported for sheep washing purposes. He also referred to the facilities for smuggling which would exist in the case of such a portable article as tobacco, but trusted that with

the aid of the trading merchants in the settlement who had hitherto rendered very valuable assistance to the Government with regard to the Spirit Duties, the smuggling in tobacco would not assume any serious dimensions.

Mr. Dran said that he concurred in the views expressed by the Governor, and promised to give the measures in question his cordial support, and stated that he had recently spoken to Mr. Cobb, who would be happy to do the same. He also observed that he had sounded the people of the settlement with regard to the two measures, and that although no taxes are likely to be popular with them, nevertheless when he explained to them that other measures were in contemplation which would hit them harder, they were on the whole as satisfied as they could be under the circumstances.

Mr. Dran deprecated the idea of urging the present financial embarrassment of the Colony as a reason for imposing additional taxation, and said that he would like to see the proceeds of the two measures proposed, if possible, applied for the general benefit of the Colony.

The Governor said that he could give no undertaking on this point, but would not fail to mention the matter to the Secretary of State. He was himself of opinion that it would be for the best interests of the Colony to have it extricated as soon as possible from its present embarrassment, and that a strong effort ought to be made by all parties interested in its welfare to produce such a desirable result.

In reply to the Governor, Mr. Dran said he thought that the quantity of tobacco imported by his establishment for smoking purposes averaged a ton (2240 lbs) per annum. He thought that the Falkland Islands Company imported for the same purpose about one and a half tons, and all the other traders together he thought one ton. The above include cigars and cigarettes.

The Governor asked would it not be safer to put down the amount of tobacco imported at an average of three tons per annum?

Mr. Dran concurred in this view.

The Governor observed that leaving out for the moment

moment that cigars and cigarettes will bear a higher duty, and calculating the duty on these three tons at  $\frac{1}{2}$  a pound, it ought to yield per annum £672, however as the foregoing estimate of the quantity imported and sold per annum may possibly be over the mark, and in view of the smuggling which would be likely to take place, His Excellency thought it would be better to estimate the yield of the tax at £600 a year. He also observed that from what he could learn there was probably at present a stock in the Colony amounting to a ton and a half, as this would be exempt from duty the yield of the tax for the next twelve months could not be calculated as high as it would be hereafter.

The Governor then laid upon the table a draft Bill entitled "Tobacco Duties Ordinance" No 2 of 1878.

He then moved that the standing Orders be suspended and that the Bill entitled "Tobacco Duties Ordinance" do at this sitting pass through all its stages.

Mr. Dray seconded the motion.

The Governor gave his assent to the passing of the Ordinance. The Ordinance was then passed accordingly.

A discussion arose as to the probable yield per annum of the increased import duty on Spirits and Wines. It was stated that hitherto the Spirit Duties averaged £740 a year. It was calculated that doubling the duty would diminish the consumption of spirits to a certain extent. Mr. Dray seemed to think however that the consumption would be pretty much the same as hitherto and that the increased duty on this article would yield an addition to the Revenue of at least from £400 to £500 a year.

It was stated that the duty on wine has hitherto yielded on an average £42 per annum and the opinion of the Council seemed to be that doubling the duty would not affect the quantity consumed. Adding this to the increase received from the duty on Spirits, it was thought that the total addition to the revenue from both these articles

might be safely estimated at £500 per annum.

In reply to the Governor, Mr. Dray said he thought there was a large stock of wines and spirits in the Colony but he did not consider that the increase of the duty would cause any diminution in the quantity of these articles imported during the year.

The Governor then laid upon the table a draft Bill entitled "Spirit Duties Amendment Ordinance, No 3 of 1878."

His Excellency moved that the Standing Orders be suspended, and that the Bill entitled "Spirit Duties Amendment Ordinance", do at this sitting pass through all its stages.

Mr. Dray seconded the motion and the Governor gave his assent to the passing of the Ordinance.

The Ordinance was then passed accordingly.

His Excellency then adjourned the Council

sine die

(Signed) George Harris  
Clerk to the Council

Legislative Council

Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1878

Present His Excellency Governor Callaghan, C. M. G., President  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> G. M. Dran and G. Travis Esquires

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The Council Met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of last meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1878, were read and confirmed.

The Governor stated that in order to strengthen the hands of the Government in carrying out the "Spirit Duties Amendment and the Tobacco Duties Ordinances" recently passed he had prepared a Draft Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to make further provision for carrying out the Customs Duties Ordinances" and asked the Clerk of the Council to be good enough to read it to the Council. Upon its being read the Council were unanimously of opinion it was desirable that the Ordinance should pass without delay.

Accordingly the Governor then laid upon the table a draft Bill, entitled "An Ordinance to make further provision for carrying out the Customs Duties Ordinances" N<sup>o</sup> 4 of 1878.

His Excellency then moved that the Standing Orders be suspended and that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make further provision for carrying out the Customs Duties Ordinances", N<sup>o</sup> 4 of 1878, do at this sitting pass through all its stages.

Mr. Dran seconded the motion and the Governor gave his assent to the passing of the Ordinance.

The Ordinance was then passed accordingly.

The Governor then stated that he had prepared a draft of an Ordinance entitled "Tobacco Licence Ordinance" N<sup>o</sup> 5 of 1878, which he considered it desirable should be passed on similar grounds to those already stated with regard to the Ordinance just passed.

He then called upon the Clerk of the Council to read the draft Ordinance.

The Council unanimously approved of its provisions and were of opinion that it should be passed without delay.

His Excellency then moved that the Standing Orders be suspended and that the Bill entitled "Tobacco Licence Ordinance", No 5 of 1878, do at this sitting pass through all its stages.

Mr Dran seconded the motion and the Governor gave his assent to the passing of the Ordinance.

The Ordinance was then passed accordingly.

His Excellency then adjourned the Council

sine die

J. F. Callaghan  
Governor.