

WAR TAXATION

Scale of Depreciation Approved

COUNCIL MEETING

The scale of depreciation made by the Board of War Taxation was approved at yesterday's meeting of the Legislative Council, on the motion of the Financial Secretary (the Hon. Mr. H. R. Butters).

His Excellency the Acting Governor, Lieut.-General E. F. Norton presided, and others present at the meeting were His Excellency Major-General A. E. Grasett, the Hon. Mr. N. L. Smith (Colonial Secretary), the Hon. Mr. C. G. Alabaster (Attorney General), the Hon. Mr. R. A. C. North (Secretary for Chinese Affairs), the Hon. Mr. H. R. Butters (Financial Secretary), the Hon. Dr. P. S. Selwyn-Clarke (Director of Medical Services), the Hon. Comdr. G. F. Hole (Harbour Master), the Hon. Mr. T. H. King (Commissioner of Police), the Hon. Mr. H. J. Pearce (Director of Public Works), the Hon. Sir Henry Pollock, the Hon. Mr. J. J. Paterson, the Hon. Mr. M. K. Lo, the Hon. Mr. S. H. Dodwell, the Hon. Dr. Li Shu-fan, the Hon. Mr. A. L. Shields, the Hon. Mr. W. N. T. Tam, and Mr. C. B. Burgess (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

After the Report of the Finance Committee, (No. 7), dated August 29, had been adopted, the Financial Secretary moved that Rule III made by the Board of War Taxation under section 58 (1) of the War Revenue Ordinance, 1940, on September 3, 1940, be approved.

He said: The scale of depreciation laid down by the Rule was fixed by the Board after they had had the benefit of the views of a special Committee appointed by the Hong-kong General Chamber of Commerce to confer with the Commissioner of War Taxation on the subject.

The Colonial Secretary seconded, and the motion was carried.

Scale of Depreciation

The following is the scale of depreciation as laid down by Rule III:

General rate, where no special rate is prescribed, 7½% written down value; aircraft, 30%; bar syphon apparatus, 25%; bicycles, 20%; brewing P/M., 7½%; boilers, 7½%; buildings on Prime Cost—First Class 2½%, Less Substantial 5%, Wooden Structures 10%; cinema and photographic processing equipment, 15%; copper stills—distillery, 12½%; concrete pipe moulds, 12½%; fixtures, 7½%; foundry plant, 10%; furniture, 10%; grill equipment, 5%; iron safes, 5%; linotype machinery, 10%; lighters, 10%; motor vehicles, 25%; motor launches, 15%; office equipment, 12%; oil tanks, 6%; pumps and motors, 10%; pipe lines, 10%; refrigerating plant, 12%; sailing vessels, 3% on prime cost; scales and gears, 6% written down value; show cases, 7½%; ships, 4% on prime cost; sprinklers, 5% written down value; steam launches, 10%; steam winches, 7½%; tank lorries, 25%; tractors, 25%; trailers, 5%; tugs, 4% on prime cost; type casting machinery, 10% written down value; type and blocks, 25%.

Except with the permission of the Commissioner, who shall, in special cases allow such greater depreciation as he thinks fit, no depreciation shall be allowed in excess of that specified in the scale.

OTHER BUSINESS

On the motion of the Attorney General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the following Bill was read a first time: "A Bill to regulate the pension rights of officers in the public service released for service with His Majesty's Forces in time of war."

The following Bills were read a third time and passed: "A Bill to amend the Buildings Ordinance, 1935"; "A Bill to amend the Public Lighting Ordinance, 1914"; and "A Bill to amend further the War Revenue Ordinance, 1940."

Council was adjourned *sine die*.