

1956

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

THURSDAY, 3RD MAY, 1956.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. M.S. Porcher (Ag.)
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. C. Wylie, Q.C., E.D.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex.

Nominated Members of Executive Council

The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.
(Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines.)
The Honourable P.A. Cummings
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing.)
The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall
(Member for Communications and Works.)
The Honourable R.B. Gajraj
The Honourable R.C. Tello
The Honourable L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Deputy Speaker

Mr. W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Officials

Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.
Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. W.A. Phang
Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. C.A. Carter
Mr. E.F. Correia
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb
Mr. H. Rahaman
Miss Gertie H. Collins.
Mrs. Esther E. Dey
Dr. H.A. Fraser
Mr. R.B. Jailal
Mr. Sugrim Singh

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent

The Honourable G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.
(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and
Co-operative Development) - On Leave.

Mr. T. Lee.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 27th of April, 1956, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker announced that the Hon. G.A.C. Farnum had been granted leave of absence from that meeting.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The following documents were laid on the table:-

(i) By the Chief Secretary:

Report by the Conference on British Caribbean Federation signed in London on the 23rd of February, 1956, and Report dated 4th April, 1956, by the two British Guiana Observers at that Conference.
(No. S. 320 III)(Circulated).

The Chief Secretary took the opportunity to place on record an expression of Council's appreciation and thanks to the Hon. P.A. Cummings and the Hon. R.B. Gajraj for the able manner in which they presented the Colony's position in their capacity as observers at the recent Conference on Federation in the United Kingdom, and also to the Honourable Attorney General for the valuable advice given to the observers at the Conference.

(ii) By the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines:

The Imperial Forestry Institute, University of Oxford - Thirty-First Annual Report 1954-55.
(FOR. 46/16/3 II).

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

BILLS

The Chief Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PENSIONS ORDINANCE, 1933, TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE PENSIONS OF OFFICERS WHOSE SERVICE HAS BEEN COMBINED WITH SERVICE IN CERTAIN HEALTH SERVICES OR WITH SERVICE IN THE NEW AMSTERDAM FIRE BRIGADE.

(Bill No. 25/1956 published 30.4.56).

The Chief Secretary stated that this Bill was in substitution of Item 5 in the Order of the Day which he would ask leave to withdraw at a later stage.

../ The Attorney General

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (Contd.)

The Attorney General gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL LAW (PROCEDURE) ORDINANCE.
(Bill No. 27/1956 published 5.5.56).

The Financial Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:

- (i) A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE.
(Bill No. 23/1956 published 28.4.56).
- (ii) A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL THE GOVERNMENT CURRENCY NOTES ORDINANCE, AND TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE WINDING UP OF THE NOTE SECURITY FUND ESTABLISHED THEREUNDER.
(Bill No. 24/1956 published 28.4.56).

The Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE BETTER SECURITY OF TENURE FOR TENANT RICE FARMERS; TO LIMIT THE RENT PAYABLE FOR THE LETTING OF RICE LANDS; AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE MATTERS AFORESAID.
(Bill No. 22/1956 published 30.4.56).

The Member intimated that he would allow some time to elapse before proceeding with this Bill.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

BILL

Mr. Sugrim Singh gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN PERSONS AS TRUSTEES OF THE BODY KNOWN AS THE BRITISH GUIANA SEVASTRAM SANGHA; TO VEST IN SUCH PERSONS CERTAIN PROPERTY; AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE MATTERS AFORESAID.

(Bill No. 16/1956 published 14.4.56,
21.4.56 and 28.4.56).

MOTION

Mr. Raatgever gave notice of the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that early steps be taken to improve the Bartica-Potaro Road and its branches.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. Carter gave notice of the following questions:

Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and
Co-operative Development:

1. Is the accommodation for the pilot plant for experimental work in pottery adequate?

If the answer is in the negative, when does Government propose improving the accommodation?

Does Government intend to set up a research centre in the utilisation of local raw materials with a view to the establishment of new industries?

Is it a fact that when Government was operating the pilot plant in Essequibo for the manufacture of Guava Jelly and Jam, the residents of the area were encouraged to increase their cultivation of fruits?

5. Is it a fact that since the plant was sold by Government the purchasers have not expanded production and have now discontinued production ?
6. If the answers to Questions 4 and 5 are in the affirmative, does Government intend to re-establish a fruit processing plant in the area to utilise the fruit now going to waste?

If not, what are Government's plans for relieving the situation?

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. ALFRED ATHIEL THORNE.

Before the Order of the Day was proceeded with, Mr. W.J. Raatgever was granted leave to move the following motion which was seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council records its profound regret at the death of Mr. Alfred Athiel Thorne, a former member of the Legislature of this Colony, and requests that an expression of the Council's sympathy be conveyed to his widow and relatives.

Several members spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Speaker joined in paying tribute to the late Mr. Thorne, and then put the motion which was carried unanimously, all standing.

../ ORDER OF THE DAY

ORDER OF THE DAY
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS - First Reading.

Item 1 - PROMISSORY OATHS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956 -
Bill No. 7/1956.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PROMISSORY OATHS ORDINANCE was read a first time.

Item 2 - ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956 - Bill No.
13/1956.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE ESTATE DUTY ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE REGISTRAR THEREUNDER TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF INLAND REVENUE was read a first time.

Item 3 - DECEASED PERSONS ESTATES' ADMINISTRATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 14/1956.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE DECEASED PERSONS ESTATES' ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE was read a first time.

Item 4 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 15/1956.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE was read a first time.

Item 5 - PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 1956 -
Bill No. 17/1956.

At the request of the Chief Secretary leave was granted to withdraw the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PENSIONS OF OFFICERS WHOSE SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN COMBINED WITH SERVICE IN CERTAIN HEALTH SERVICES OR THE NEW AMSTERDAM FIRE BRIGADE.

Item 6 - MONEYLENDERS BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 11/1956.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO MONEYLENDERS was read a first time.

Item 7 - FISHERIES BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 12/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines seconded by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE FISHING IN THE WATERS OF THE COLONY was read a first time.

Item 8 - ACQUISITION OF LAND LAND SETTLEMENT AMENDMENT
BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 21 1956.

On a motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines seconded by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE FURTHER PROVISIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF LAND SETTLEMENT was read a first time.

Item 9 - PHARMACY AND POISONS BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 2/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE BETTER PROVISION FOR THE CONTROL OF THE PROFESSION OF PHARMACY AND THE TRADE IN DRUGS AND POISONS was read a first time.

Item 10 - OPTICIANS BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 18/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO OPTICIANS was read a first time.

Item 11 - PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 19/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH was read a first time.

Item - FACTORIES REGULATIONS (VALIDATION) (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 20/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FACTORIES REGULATIONS (VALIDATION) ORDINANCE, 1955, was read a first time.

MOTIONS

Item 13 - MOTION RE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR JANUARY TO MARCH, 1956.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for the months of January to March, 1956, totalling \$47,047.85, which have been laid on the table.

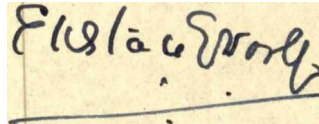
Item 14 - MOTION RE REPORT OF THE LAND TENURE AND
REGISTRATION OF TITLES COMMITTEE.

At the request of the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines and with Council's consent, consideration of this item was deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Speaker, at 3.10 p.m., adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 10th of May, 1956.

Confirmed,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'E. W. ...'.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

10th May, 1956.