

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 29th AUGUST, 1946

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT

The President, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. D. J. Parkinson (Acting).

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. F. W. Holder.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. W. O. Fraser (Acting).

The Hon. E. G. Woolford, O.B.E., K.C., (New Amsterdam).

The Hon. C. V. Wight (Western Essequibo).

The Hon. H. N. Critchlow (Nominated).

The Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo).

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo, O.B.E. (Eastern Berbice).

The Hon. Percy C. Wight, O.B.E. (Georgetown Central).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves, O.B.E. (Georgetown South).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

The Hon. H. C. Humphrys, K.C., (Eastern Demerara).

The Hon. C. R. Jacob (North Western District).

The Hon. A. G. King (Demerara River).

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. A. M. Edun (Nominated).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Hon. T. T. Thompson (Nominated).

The Hon. W. J. Raatgever (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

DEATH OF THE HON. J. W. JACKSON, O.B.E.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting, Mr. Parkinson): Your Excellency, before we proceed to the ordinary business of the day I would like, with your permission to move the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable the Council to pay tribute to the late Hon. J. W. Jackson, Second Nominated Member.

The PRESIDENT: Is it the pleasure of the Council that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended in order that a motion be moved?

Agreed.

Standing Rules and Orders suspended.

The PRESIDENT: I ask the hon. the Colonial Secretary to move the resolution.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Your Excellency, hon. Members! The hon. Mr. Jackson's death last Saturday came with a shocking suddenness, and none of us who saw him take his usual seat at the last meeting of the Council realized that he was doing so for the last time. His vigorous mind and upright figure had seemed to give promise of many more years of distinguished service. That promise has not, alas, been fulfilled; but even so, few men have achieved a longer or finer record of public service.

Mr. Jackson entered the teaching profession in the year 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, nearly sixty years ago; and it was very shortly after this that he made his debut in public

affairs by his active participation in the movement to reform Village Administration, which took place at that time. It was in these two spheres of Education and Local Government that his major interest was to lie throughout his life, though his public activities were by no means confined within these limits. He gave invaluable service to the community in many different ways. He served on numerous official Committees and Boards including, to mention only a few, the Local Government Board, the Board of Education, the Central Board of Health and the Official Board of Visitors to the Prisons; and at the time of his death he had served for over ten years as a Nominated Member of this Council. He took a very active part in the affairs of the Village Chairmen's Conference and was President of the Union of Local Authorities of the West Demerara District.

I have merely recorded some of the facts of his public service in this rather bald manner because, as a newcomer to this Colony and this Council, it would, I feel, be presumption on my part to comment on his achievements. Others will, I know, come after me to do that. However, brief though our personal acquaintance was, it was long enough to enable me to recognise his many excellent qualities, and I shall always regret that I did not have the opportunity of knowing him better.

His death is a grievous loss to the community and to the Government and his place will be hard indeed to fill; but he has left many monuments of his life's work behind him, and his record of public service in this Colony is a splendid example to those who follow after. Your Excellency, I beg to move—

"That this Council records its deep regret at the death of the Honourable Joseph Waterton Jackson, O.B.E., and pays tribute to the long, able and devoted service which he rendered to the Colony and to this Council; and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his relatives."

Mr. WOOLFORD: Sir, it is with feelings of very sincere regret shared, I know, by every Member of this Council, that I have risen to second the resolution

which has been so feelingly and eloquently moved by the hon. the Colonial Secretary. It was at a very early stage in my public life that I met the late Mr. Jackson, and I was at once attracted by his advocacy in the cause of education—patient, quiet, persistent advocacy in promoting the status of the teaching profession of which he was then a member and in endeavouring not politically but persuasively to improve on the conditions under which elementary instruction was being given in our primary schools, and also the status of teachers. That was very many years ago. I know that the late hon. Member, after he retired often told me how greatly he looked back with satisfaction to the very many battles which he had fought and which culminated not only in the status of the teachers being improved but to such an extent that he had never hoped to attain that success of his efforts, but he was glad to know that, before he had finished his active service. He and others I can recall—Mr. Bunyan who is still active although not engaged in teaching, Mr. Bollers who recently died, and others whose names I cannot now recall—often when we met recall those days. But for the stubbornness and support given by Mr. Jackson, I do not think any of those possibilities would have been achieved.

It has been said that to attain worldly success a man must know two things: He must first of all know himself and secondly he must know the spirit of his age. On his retirement Mr. Jackson seemed to have epitomized in his own body and every fibre of that body the wealth of philosophy there is in that injunction. You could see him at almost any hour of the day at the Village Office bettering the instruction, if I may say so, of those whom he had taught, also entering their homes and village life, with a zest which never waned. He continued to do work of the kind I have referred to and, as I happen to know particularly, it was with great hesitancy he accepted nomination to this Council although, of course, he felt it his duty to do so.

It is as a Member of this Council that I would chiefly like to speak of him. He came here with a reputation which

required no recommendation, but from the day he joined this Council to the last time he spoke he was listened to with respect and admiration to a greater degree than almost any Member I have known over a long number of years. His speeches were, if I may be allowed to say so, models of propriety showing in their delivery, manner and eloquence of diction, respect for the best traditions of Parliamentary Assemblies such as ours. They were free from irrelevance, and redolent of matured experience and judgment. His contributions were listened to by everybody in this Chamber, and I regret to think that we shall now hear them no more. I know that he performed those public duties at very great personal sacrifice to himself, and what I feel in all this is that we have lost a fine Member of this Council, its finest acquisition for many a day, an ornament to his race and a man who displayed talents in many directions as a Member of this Council with which both Nature and erudition had so richly endowed him and which at this time of his life he was ready and willing in all circumstances to place at the disposal of the community.

The memory of men like Joseph Waterton Jackson should live. My own experience and observation is that there is some traditional aversion to the names of public men being remembered as they should be. It was a privilege to know him; it was a privilege to be associated with him in this Council, and I do hope, sir, that some tangible proof of that might be given in some way other than the resolution which I am seconding. I know that others would like to make their contributions, but before I resume my seat I can only say that the late Mr. Jackson's disappearance from public life is at this moment a tragedy. "Take him for all in all. We shall not look upon his like again."

Mr. KING : May I be permitted this opportunity, probably the last I shall have in public, to pay honour and tribute to one indeed to whom honour and tribute is due. The late Mr. Jackson was gentle in manner, strong in speech, and an erudite scholar; he was charming in disposition, and I am sure that all of us in this Council and all

those who had the honour and pleasure of knowing and meeting him must feel the loss they have suffered through his death. As the hon. the Colonial Secretary said in his opening remarks, his death is a terrible shock in its suddenness. I had not even heard that Mr. Jackson was unwell when I was told on Saturday at about mid-day that he had died. I had the pleasure for several years of sitting next to him in this Council, and I shall miss his clever and witty aside on various occasions. I shall certainly miss—and I am sure the Council will—his sound judgment in matters pertaining to the Colony as a whole. We shall miss his wealth of experience, which was certainly a great asset in this Council and to the whole Colony. He is one who has done everything within his power to make this world all the better for his having passed through it. Unfortunately we all are aware that nothing lasts forever in this world. The time had to come when Mr. Jackson had to die, and I am sure that the way he died was the way in which he would wish, no long, dreadful, lingering illness that some have to suffer. He was strong in health, one may say, almost to the day of his death.

On the last occasion on which I saw him, which was about two weeks before he died, I never dreamt that his end was so soon. I always looked at him as one so strong in health. He always seemed so full of health and so full of the joy of living, that it seemed incredible that his end was so near. The world, as I say, is all the better for his having passed through it, and I am sure that we are all grateful in this Council, those representing the Colony as a whole, for all he has done both in and out of the Council to better conditions throughout the Colony.

In every sphere of life, in every walk of life Mr. Jackson was respected and listened to, I am sure, with respect by very many in this Council. He was certainly loved by some and, I am sure, he was a friend to most. No greater tribute could have been paid to his memory than the one that was paid to him on Sunday when he was buried. With the exception of one funeral within my knowledge in the last

forty years, I have never known one which was attended by so many people of all classes of the community. From the highest to the lowest in this land attended Mr. Jackson's funeral as a mark of respect and as a tribute to one who they feel deserves honour. I can only say in the words of Pope in paying him the last homage I can : "It is true, it is a pity. The pity is, it is true."

Mr. GONSALVES : I would like to join in the expressions of sympathy today on the loss of the deceased Member. I have been associated with the late Member for quite some time, and I have had the privilege of sitting with him on various Committees and in doing work for the community as a whole. I have sat for quite a long time with him on the Education Committee and on the Education Advisory Committee, and I know I can speak of the very sound and good work that he did on those Committees, and I feel certain that by his death the teaching fraternity have lost a friend and one on whom they could have relied for justice and help in anything relating to education and to the teachers themselves. He has always been able to show both sides of every question and to convince the Committee as to the correct course which should be adopted. I have served with him also in connection with the Mitchell Trust. In fact we were the first Members of this Council who were appointed under the new arrangements of a Committee of Trustees to determine the persons' children to whom the benefit of that Trust should be given. For the period that I served there with him I can speak of his fairness to everyone whose application had to be considered, and on the last occasion, not very long ago, when there was a Bill brought forward for the amendment of the original Ordinance with the view of extending the number of beneficiaries under that will, he spoke then as to the necessity for that amendment, and when he spoke he did so with the full knowledge of what the conditions were in regard to that matter.

On Village questions, it has been said, this Council has always had the benefit of his views, and he has always, I know, given

that help and advice expected of him. Mr. Jackson at his age was active and virile, and I remember the occasion when this Council was discussing the motion relating to the new Post Office, I observed that perhaps it might be useful to have installed there a lift for those Members of this Council who were at the age at which they might not be able to go up and down the stairs of that Office. When the Council adjourned that afternoon the hon. Member said to me "What do you think about my age? Do you think I cannot climb up three flights of stairs and go back down? Why do you want a lift?" That was the character of the person Mr. Jackson was. He felt he was still active, that he still possessed that energy which he had in his younger days. His thoughts showed that he was still fully possessed of an active mind and was quite capable of not only defending himself if it came to that but advancing anything against something that may be put up in opposition to him, and he did so always with success.

I would like to say this of the late hon. Member, that he was indeed a true gentleman and a good friend to everyone with whom he came into contact. I personally know of his kindness to many people and of the good he has done. I am pleased to know that, although he has gone, he has left behind him two sons of whom I am a personal friend, whose achievements I have admired and whose further success I hope for, if only for the name of Jackson, the name of their father.

Mr. EDUN : As I listened to the moving tributes paid by hon. Members to the late Hon. J. W. Jackson, I was reminded of those immortal lines of the Bard of Avon which read thus :

"The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is often interred with their bones."

Sir, I feel confident that the people of this country would have nothing else to remember about the late Member but the good he has done. When I came into the precincts of the Public Buildings and saw the flag at half-mast, I considered that a fine and befitting tribute to his memory.

Sir, we, Indians, have always cherished a reverence for our preceptors. The Hon. J. W. Jackson was a teacher by profession. While some hon. Members have stated that they were associated with him for years and years, I would say that I was born in this Colony and saw him from my earliest childhood until the day he left this Council three weeks ago. As a teacher, I revered him always. Often in this hon. Council we have had clashes, but those were simply the clashes of ideologies—not personal wranglings—and as soon as I met him outside this Council Chamber afterwards—sometimes on the Ferry Steamer—I would say “Hello ! Teacher”, and he would reply “Hello ! Edun”. Nothing bitter was ever remembered, and even if we did not agree in Council I agreed that he was the tutor and I was the student. I sometimes wonder whether the villages would still be able to breed and produce intellectual stalwarts like him. As I look around, I see a void, and I hardly think that he can be replaced from the villages—at least from the villages of West Demarara.

The late Hon. Mr. Jackson was a man who was always in favour of bringing forward ideas for the development of this Colony. At times one would think that he was a reactionary, but that was not so. He always endeavoured to give us in this Council the other side of the picture to examine, and I will always remember that whenever I spoke on certain subjects I would see the other side from him as he rose just beside me here, on my right. He has gone—never to return—but his memory shall always live with us. I would suggest to every young man in the villages especially not to matter very much about their origin — whether they have been working in the fields or not—but to endeavour to aspire as the late hon. Member has done — from the lowest rung of the ladder—giving service to his country, sometimes at considerable personal sacrifice. I know of his sacrifices myself, because we often discussed them and, I think, I should say at this juncture that this hon. Council will always remember the service with which they were associated. There is no hope of giving him a posthumous reward, he was the type that would give and ask nothing in return—as a father would give

to a son—and so he gave to the youth and the people of this Colony service all his life. He died in harness and, I think, the Colony as a whole would agree that his loss is irrcparable.

Mr. RAATGEVER : I, too, would like to add my humble tribute to the memory of one for whom I had the highest regard. Mr. Jackson and I were very closely associated in the work of our church for a long number of years. We learnt to respect each other and we became very good friends—a friendship which I valued very much. He was one of the most unselfish men I knew, being always ready and willing to help others and often depriving himself in order to do so. His integrity was of the highest, while his advice was always sound and acceptable. He was also a humble man—very humble and unassuming. In short, he was a good man—a worthy son of Guiana—and, as the hon. the Colonial Secretary has stated, his place would be very difficult to fill. Indeed, I go further and say that his place in this Council can never be filled.

Mr. JACOB : I rise, Your Excellency, to pay my very humble tribute to the memory of the Hon. Joseph Waterton Jackson, not only as a Member of this Council but as a friend whom I knew for quite a long time. When I joined this Council in 1935, the late Hon. Mr. Jackson was sitting on my left and for the whole period of his membership here we sat near each other all the time, except for a brief period. I will miss his noble figure from near to me, and I shall also miss his very sane counsel on all occasions. We always discussed matters while we sat here, and during his very regular attendance at this Council, I think, he has given very excellent service to the Colony as a whole. Much has already been said, and all I wish to say now is to endorse the very nice things that have been spoken of him and to hope that British Guiana will produce many more Joseph Waterton Jacksons.

Dr. SINGH : Sir, it was a shock to me when I heard of the death of the Hon. J. W. Jackson, and I regret to say that when I was ready to pay my last tribute to him by attending his funeral I was unavoidably called away. My sincere

condolence goes out to his sons and other relatives. The first time I met the Hon. Mr. Jackson was in the month of June, 1921, when I was appointed Government Medical Officer of the Leonora District. He was then a schoolmaster at Den Amstel and was also Registrar of Births and Deaths in the district. Through the latter appointment we had cause to meet often in order to check up vital statistics and like that a friendship was engendered between us—a friendship which has lasted all these years. Later, when he was appointed a Nominated Member of this Council, we met as we were appointed on several committees, and as colleagues we showed the greatest co-operation and goodwill towards each other. His death is a loss to the Colony as a whole and I, personally, feel it very much indeed.

Mr. LEE : I desire to add my quota to the tributes paid to the memory of the late Hon. J. W. Jackson, and to emphasize that the Colony has suffered a loss in his death. I think I was associated with the late Mr. Jackson longer than most hon. Members of this Council, since I remember that when I was a mere child he and my schoolmaster—Mr. Boston—paid visits to my father's home on the West Coast, Demerara, and there I would see the three men discussing Primary Education and other things. At that time teachers were being paid by results and I could not help noticing then that head teachers especially did a good deal of social work in the country districts, encouraging the people to send their children to school regularly. Perhaps I should say that the late Mr. Jackson made such a name for himself in the district in which he lived, that in cases of contested elections—village elections or otherwise—the candidate who could persuade him to appear on his platform and at the polling booth was assured of victory. If a voter went to the polling booth to exercise his vote and Mr. Jackson only looked at him, one could rest assured that he would vote for the candidate Mr. Jackson was supporting, so great was the love and the respect which the people of the district had for the deceased gentleman. I noticed that myself during the course of several elections in the district, even in

the days when I was a novice in electioneering campaign. Similarly, I found during my travels on the West Coast, Demerara, that all children had a profound respect for him and, even though he had retired as a schoolmaster, they would stand or remain quiet as he passed along with his noble figure, showing the love and respect they had for a man who had been good and kind to all. I feel his death keenly, because the roads along which he walked in the country district were once part of my playground as a child, and as children we always tried to avoid the occurrence of certain things so as not to be reported to him. He often instilled in parents the fact that children should respect their elders, and out of that same respect which I learnt to show to him I desire to pay tribute to his memory not only as a Member of this Council where he gave of the wide experience gained in several walks of life, but as one who has given valuable service to the Colony as a whole.

Mr. ROTH : I, like other hon. Members of this Council, desire to pay tribute to the late Mr. Jackson. My personal acquaintance with the deceased gentleman dates back to 20 years only, when I met him in an organisation which is neither educational nor political. During the intervening period the late Mr. Jackson and myself became personal friends, and I know that he also won the respect and affection of all those with whom he came into contact. I wish to associate myself with the resolution.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : On looking around the Council Chamber and seeing the vacant chair of the late Hon. Mr. Jackson, I, like all hon. Members realise that we shall no longer hear his resonant voice—a voice of clear thought, logical reasoning and sane criticism for which the late hon. Member was so well noted. His impersonal criticism found favour with all and was of the type that should be emulated not only by hon. Members of the present Council, but by those of any future Council. The late Hon. Mr. Jackson undoubtedly brought to this Council a full and clear understanding and a dignity which all hon. Members should endeavour to uphold

because of its tradition, constitutional and otherwise, and because it is dear to those who have the honour to serve under a Flag so well furled and unfurled throughout this world. I can add little more to what has been already said by way of tribute to the late hon. Member. His body has been laid to rest, but his spirit still liveth, as stated by one hon. Member in this Council, and I feel sure that in the days to come when this Colony will face—as it is bound to face—more trying ordeals, the spirit of the late hon. Member will help to lead Guiana forward—that spirit which he displayed while sitting around this Council, and also as a member of the Franchise Commission.

The late Mr. Jackson has left among his relatives two sons whom I have the privilege of knowing and with whom I have been in intimate contact since the days of my childhood. Both of them, I feel sure, will live up to the high traditions which the late hon. Member has followed and, as one hon. Member has stated, I wish them further success and happiness of feeling on hearing of the tributes which have been paid to him. While I, personally, have not been so well acquainted with the late hon. Member, I can say that I am very intimately connected and acquainted with those whom he has left behind. My earliest recollection of the late hon. Member dates back to some years ago when I was a young man—I am beginning to feel old now—and he asked me to speak at an Empire Day function at Den Amstel where he worked and lived for many years. I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution.

Mr. THOMPSON : In endorsing the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers, I have very little if anything to add. The sudden collapse of the late hon. J. W. Jackson has left a void which will not be easy to fill. We shall miss his personality, we shall miss his fine diction, we shall miss his generosity towards all. With his mailed fists he always brought good dividends in tackling any subject he attempted. At a very tender age—I think it was at the age of 20 years—he set out to mould the nation, and so well has he done that in all walks of life his work is reflected. Let us hope that another doughty cham-

pion in the cause of education will be found to take his place. His work is ended and on behalf of the rural areas I extend to his sorrowing relatives unqualified sympathy. May light perpetual shine on him.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT : I think I will be lacking in my public duty if I did not join my brother Members of this Council in sympathising with the relatives of the late Hon. J. W. Jackson in the loss they have sustained. It has been stated that it was with some difficulty that the late Mr. Jackson agreed after nomination to sit in this Council, and I can vouch for that statement. I, personally, feel that if I can emulate the qualities of the late hon. Member I would be very happy before I depart this world. I think the greatest tribute paid to the late Mr. Jackson was paid in the church last Sunday, when it was stated of him that he never took opportunity to do harm to anyone. I, personally, can mention a case — and it will never get to the public except I repeat it—when that noble spirit of his refused to allow him to make a complaint that would have been to the detriment of someone. I think that is one of the greatest tributes that could be paid to anyone. I confess that I have never seen a greater public demonstration of respect than the one I saw at his funeral last Sunday afternoon, and I speak regardless of religion, race, or anything else. The street corners were simply packed with sympathisers from every walk of life and, I think, no better tribute could have been paid to anyone else. I join heartily in support of the motion, and I certainly feel that an expression of sympathy should be sent from this Council to the relatives of the late hon. Member.

Mr. HUMPHRYS : I desire to join with the hon. Members who have spoken with regard to the death of the Hon. Mr. Jackson. I may say that the late hon. Member will greatly be missed not only by this Council but by the Colony as a whole. Throughout his career he did everything within his power to bring about progress and advancement in the Colony, and he was greatly respected by all—by people of every colour, creed and race. I have never heard a single word but good

spoken of him, and it is with the deepest regret that I mourn his death. With a feeling of absolute sincerity I associate myself with the remarks that have been made, and I feel that this Council should convey to his relatives a message of deepest condolence. Like the hon. Mr. Thompson, I hope that another champion of education will arise, but I think it is going to be quite a long time before we find one of similar calibre to that of the late hon. Member. The late Mr. Jackson had no feeling of envy or hatred towards anyone, and whenever the opportunity arose he endeavoured to do his best for the Colony irrespective of any race or creed. As I look around this table I recall that certain other persons who were Members in his time are also not present with us, but I know that every single one of them has also had the deepest respect for him. As I have already stated, the late Mr. Jackson will be greatly missed and I think that his death is the greatest calamity we have had for a long time. I beg to associate myself with the motion.

Mr. CRITCHLOW: I desire to associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers. I can assure hon. Members that I have been associated with the late Mr. Jackson since the year 1929 when he gave me some valuable advice in connection with the formation of the British Guiana Labour Union. I am also well acquainted with his two sons having played cricket with them many years ago, and I can assure them that if they follow in the footsteps of their father they will have done well indeed. I beg to join in support of the motion.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I should like to associate myself most cordially with the resolution of sympathy which has been moved by the hon. the Colonial Secretary. I have no desire to make a speech on this occasion, but I can assure Your Excellency that there have been various expressions of regret even in the County of Berbice over the passing of such a distinguished son of the soil.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: There is no doubt about it, sir, that this Council should unite in paying tribute to the late Hon.

Mr. Jackson. It is deserving tribute to the late Member. I happen to have been sitting just two seats away from him—the hon. Member for North Western District being the person who sat between myself and him—and I can vouch for the fact that he always gave valuable counsel to that hon. Member. Whether his advice was always accepted I do not know—I think it was sometimes rejected—but I know that it was always given willingly by the late hon. Member. One could always find the hon. Member offering his good and sound advice, and whenever necessary he was always willing to render assistance to any junior or to anyone who sought his assistance. I think, sir, there can be no more fitting tribute paid to him than the unanimous feeling of this Council towards the late Mr. Jackson.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Holder): Your Excellency, I wish to be associated with the expressions of regret which hon. Members have made in connection with the death of the late Mr. Jackson. We are all familiar with the words "There are those who have made a name for themselves and their deeds are recorded of men." It cannot be denied that the late Mr. Jackson has made a name for himself and his deeds will always be remembered and recorded. On Sunday afternoon all classes paid their tribute to this fine figure, to the fine, solid contributions which he made to the life and to the development of this Colony, and today this honourable Council places on record its appreciation of one of its Members, who is no longer with us and whose place will know him no more. As has been said, we shall miss his strong stalwart figure, his cheery and almost boyish smile, his kindness, his calm and dignified manner, and his sound and wise counsel.

To me, during the two years I have been in this Colony, he was a friend. I have met him inside this Council Chamber and it was also my privilege to have met him outside and over on the West Coast, Demerara in connection with his devotion to the church over there. I say that this Council, this community, this Colony, is the poorer for

his passing. He was indeed a counsellor, a guide and a friend. We shall honour his memory by following his example of service and sacrifice — sacrifice in the interest of the people of this land—and by inculcating in others and particularly in the younger generation the fine example of splendid citizenship which was shown by our friend who is no longer here.

The PRESIDENT: I would just like to associate myself with the motion and with the very appropriate expressions of regret and tributes which have been paid by Members this afternoon. I heard the news of Mr. Jackson's death at Mackenzie and I was very sorry indeed that I was not in a position to pay my own personal tribute to him by attending his funeral. Like the hon. the Colonial Secretary and the hon. the Attorney-General, all three of us are newcomers here, but since I have sat in this Council I have listened with increasing admiration to Mr. Jackson's speeches. He always spoke with the authority born of long experience. He always said—and that is what I admired of him so much—exactly what he thought was correct and true. He never hedged. He was forthright. He was very dignified and indeed, I think, we can aptly describe him as "The Grand Old Man." I, like all of you, will miss him very much. I ask Members in putting this resolution to signify their unanimous agreement by standing.

Resolution put, and carried with the Members standing with bowed heads.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 8th August, 1946, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed

ANNOUNCEMENT

HISTORY OF INDIANS IN B.G.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY communicated the following Message:—

MESSAGE No. 7

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The approval of Honourable Members is sought for the publication at Government's expense of a book en-

titled "A History of Indians in British Guiana" which has been written by Mr. Dwarka Nauth, an officer of the Local Government Department. The book is a fair and accurate presentation and will, it is felt, constitute a valuable record.

2. Government proposes to have the book printed in the United Kingdom as an official publication, and on the basis of a quotation by the Oxford University Press it is estimated that the cost of 2,000 copies, of which 1,000 are to be bound in the first instance, will be \$2,250. It is intended that the colonial revenue should be refunded this amount from sales of the book and that the proceeds from any further sales after deduction of the publishers' fees should go to the Author. The sale price of the book will be \$3.00 per copy.
3. It is also proposed to pay Mr. Nauth an honorarium of \$200. It is considered that efforts such as Mr. Nauth's should receive the utmost encouragement, and with the advice of the Executive Council I now invite Honourable Members to approve of the provision on Supplementary Estimate of \$2,450 to enable publication of Mr. Nauth's book and the payment to him of an honorarium.

W. L. HEAPE,
Officer Administering the
Government.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
British Guiana,
15th August, 1946.

PAPER LAID.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following document:—

Annual Report of the Imperial Institute for 1945.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice of introduction and first reading of the following Bill intituled:—

"An Ordinance to make provision for the election of a Mayor of New Amsterdam for the remainder of the current year and for matters in connection therewith."

HISTORY OF INDIANS IN B.G.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motion :—

“That, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 7 dated 15th August, 1946, this Council approves of the provision on Supplementary Estimate of \$2,450 to give effect to the proposal set out in the Message.”

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice that he would move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders in order that the Council should proceed in all their stages with the Trades Unions (Amendment) Bill and the Mayor of New Amsterdam (Election) Bill.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS.

GOLD AND DIAMOND INDUSTRIES

Mr. ROTH gave notice of the following questions :—

1. How much Royalty has Government collected on gold during the past forty years ?
2. How much Royalty has Government collected on diamonds during the past forty years ?
3. How much Export Tax has Government collected on gold during the past forty years ?
4. How much Export Tax has Government collected on diamonds during the past forty years ?
5. How much fees has Government collected on gold and diamond Mining Titles during the past forty years ?
6. How much has Government spent on the encouragement and development of the gold and diamond mining industries during the past forty years ?
7. Is Government aware of the deplorable condition of the Bartica-Potaro and Issano Roads ?
8. Is Government aware that it may be cheaper to concentrate on the proper maintenance of these roads than on the lorries running thereon—i.e.—that it would be cheaper to spend more money on the former with a consequent cheapening of upkeep of the latter ?

9. What steps, if any, is Government taking with regard to the construction of a road to the Cuyuni gold-fields ?

ORDER OF THE DAY

WORKING HOURS OF WATCHMEN.

Mr. CRITCHLOW asked and the COLONIAL SECRETARY replied to the following questions :—

- Q. 1. Is Government aware of the fact that watchmen are working about 136½ hours per week at business places which close at 3.30 p.m. on Fridays and open at 8 a.m. on Mondays; and about 117 hours per week at business places which close at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and open at 8 a.m. on Mondays; and about 105 hours per week at business places which close at 4 p.m. and open at 7 a.m.; and about 174½ hours per week during Easter Holidays ?
 - A. Government is aware that the hours of work of most watchmen are from 100 per week and in a number of cases between 120 and 130 hours per week.
- Q. 2. Is Government not aware of the fact that an organised section of watchmen has made representations to Private Commercial Employers and to Government for a reduction in these hours of work, and have not had satisfactory results in the majority of cases ?
 - A. Government is aware that the British Guiana Labour Union has made representations to commercial employers and to Government for a reduction in the hours of work of watchmen and that agreement has not yet been reached between all the parties concerned.
- Q. 3. Would Government consider the appointment of an Advisory Committee, under the Labour Ordinance, to go into this matter and make recommendations to Government limiting the daily hours of work to 8 ?
 - A. Government proposes to appoint an Advisory Committee under section 6 of the Labour Ordinance to investigate the hours of work of watchmen and to make recommendations in regard thereto.

Q. 4. Would Government be prepared to make legislation on the recommendations of the said Advisory Committee?

A. A decision as to whether legislation is required and, if so, to what effect must await the receipt and consideration by Government of the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1946.

Council resumes consideration in Committee of the following Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Ordinance, 1946, to provide for the grant of licences to use hire cars and goods vehicles on a road and otherwise to regulate the operation of such vehicles in any prescribed area."

The PRESIDENT: With regard to this item I have been asked to allow a postponement of consideration of this Bill. As hon. Members are aware, a Committee has been sitting in connection with this Bill and amendments have been drafted along the lines indicated by that Committee and are being submitted to Members of the Committee with the draft report which it is hoped to place before this Council. I would ask the Attorney-General whether he would be in a position to be ready next Thursday. The amendments are already completed and will be sent to the Committee. We have met today really with the view of getting on with the Bill, but it will be appreciated that the last meeting took place on Tuesday morning and, in accordance with the views of the Committee, the amendments had to be drafted and seen by them before their consideration in this Council. That is not absolutely essential as all the members of the Committee are here with the exception of Mr. De Aguiar who is sick. I leave it to hon. Members.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: We will be ready by Thursday. I do not think there is anything which is controversial. Hon. Members have expressed the view that they should see these matters and they are being supplied them before the official report is placed before the Council.

The PRESIDENT: Hon. Members, we will proceed with the Bill next Thursday. If there is no serious disagreement on the draft report when we see it, we may be able to get through the Bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: We had almost reached finality last Tuesday except that it was not in actual writing. They would like to see that. That is the difficulty, as I see it.

The PRESIDENT: I suggest that you do get it. I hope you will have it ready on Thursday. I will send a special messenger around to each Member. We want to get on. We will leave the matter over until next Thursday.

Consideration of Bill deferred.

TRADES UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL,
1946.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that a Bill intituled—

"An Ordinance further to amend the Trades Unions Ordinance, Chapter 57, with respect to the fees payable thereunder to Auditors"

be read a first time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: If hon. Members are agreeable I would ask leave to move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to enable me to proceed with this Bill through all its stages today.

Mr. LEE: I do not agree with this Bill being proceeded with today. The Trades Unions have to be consulted first on this matter. I do not think they have had sufficient time to consider it. I feel that if the Bill is proceeded with today it would be breaking one of the promises made to the Trades Unions.

Mr. CRITCHLOW: We have discussed it and I have obtained information to convey to Government regarding this Bill. I think the Bill can be proceeded with, and I will then be able to say what

are the Trades Unions' views on the Bill. The hon. Member, Mr. Lee, was not present at the meeting when those views were expressed, and so he does not know about it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The two hon. Members want to put forward certain representations from the Trades Unions. That is the position as I understand it.

Mr. LEE: Not necessarily so; it is more than that. I feel that Government having given an undertaking to the Trades Unions in this matter, by introducing this Bill is breaking its promise. I feel that at the present moment all the Trades Unions are not cognizant of the fact that this Bill is on for consideration. I ask Government not to proceed with it today.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. Member should know that this Bill has been published since the 3rd August.

Mr. LEE: I would like my protest to be recorded.

The PRESIDENT: I think the Council ought to be unanimous.

Mr. EDUN: I had discussed this matter with the hon. the Attorney-General and pointed out to him certain defects in this Bill, and he assured me that he would meet the Trades Unions. I was expecting that meeting with him on the Bill. I also discussed the matter with the Labour Commissioner and he told me that he was not aware of the provisions of the Bill and was not even consulted. I think the best thing is that the Labour Department, the hon. the Attorney-General and the Trades Unions should meet and confer on this Bill.

Mr. CRITCHLOW: All the objections by the Trades Unions follow the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission, paragraph 10 (a) on page 15.

Mr. GONSALVES: May I make a suggestion? If the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) would agree, allow the hon. the Attorney-General to proceed with the second reading and if the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Critchlow,

desires to say anything expressing the views of the Trades Unions it might help us to make some progress.

Mr. CRITCHLOW: I am speaking with authority from the Trades Union Council.

Mr. LEE: I would like to point out to the Government that the Trades Union Council have not met to discuss this Bill.

Mr. CRITCHLOW: I am saying that they met and asked me to put strongly to you the recommendation of the Royal Commission, in paragraph 10 (a).

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The only point I see is this: As the hon. Member said, by going to the second reading you agree in principle that the Auditors' fees which appear in the Third Schedule to the Ordinance should be changed. The question as to the method, as to the amount to be paid, can be dealt with when we come to deal with the clause in Committee stage. As Your Excellency has said, if the hon. Member for Essequibo River is averse to proceeding with the second reading then consideration of the Bill should be deferred.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to say this. It has been my custom and experience when asked for the suspension of Standing Rules that it be unanimous. If one Member does not want it then I do not think the Standing Rules should be suspended. I have no objection to holding the Bill over to next Thursday. I think, however, it would be stupid to do so, but if the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) would not agree then we should not proceed.

Mr. LEE: I do not like the remark that it is stupid to do so. I resent that remark. I am saying—I am sorry I have to repeat it—the Trades Union Council have not met to discuss this Bill and no Member of this Council can say they have met. I am a member of the Trades Union Council and I have not been invited to have any discussion in respect of this Bill. I feel they should meet and discuss it. There are certain members of the Executive who, because the Rules give them power, are doing things which are not

correct in procedure. I feel as an Elected Member of this Council that Government having given the Trades Unions an undertaking or promise this Bill should be passed in accordance with that promise. If Government wants to break it, I feel it is my duty to delay the passage of the Bill as long as possible so that the Trades Unions should see the Bill and protest against it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I do not propose to proceed with this Bill.

Mr. JACOB: I think there should be some method of procedure in this Council. I am very glad to hear Your Excellency state that immediately one Member objects to the suspension of the Standing Rules it should not be done. I am happy to know that, because I have said that in this Council repeated times and the President never paid any attention to it. In fact the President thought it was perfectly correct in having it done by a majority vote. For instance, a majority of Members in this Council can move and do anything they wish, whether it is against the Standing Rules or not.

The PRESIDENT: On the other hand no one Member can stop the business of the Council forever. The hon. Member for Essequibo River has given good reasons. He has urged that the parties concerned have not considered the Bill in all its aspects and as a matter of course consideration should be deferred. It is deferred to next Thursday.

MAYOR OF NEW AMSTERDAM (ELECTION)
BILL, 1946.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: This is a Bill with regard to which I am asking the indulgence of hon. Members to enable me to proceed with it through all its stages.

Mr. GONSALVES: If I object what will be the position? I have a right to object.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: You have a perfect right!

Mr. GONSALVES: But that will not be unanimous. I am not objecting. I am quite willing to help the Town Council of New Amsterdam out of its difficulty.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I take it that no Member objects, and so I move that a Bill intituled—

“An Ordinance to make provision for the election of a Mayor of New Amsterdam for the remainder of the current year and for matters in connection therewith.”

be read a first time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

The PRESIDENT: If hon. Members agree we would go on with the second reading.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Your Excellency, the objects and reasons of this Bill are sufficiently clear from the long title and preamble. This Bill seeks to make provision for the election of a Mayor of New Amsterdam for the remainder of the current year and matters in connection therewith. As it appears from the preamble, subsection (5) of section 6 of the New Amsterdam Town Council Ordinance, Chapter 87, provides:

“If a vacancy is occasioned in the office of mayor during the year by reason of anyone who has been elected to that office not accepting it, or by reason of his dying or resigning or becoming incapable to hold that office, the Council shall, within ten days after the vacancy, elect out of the councillors another fit and proper person to be mayor for the remainder of the then current year, but no one shall be eligible to fill the office of mayor for more than two consecutive years unless a period of one year at least intervenes after the expiration of his last year of service.”

The Bill is self-explanatory, and I do not think it is necessary for me to go into the matter further. New Amsterdam must have a Mayor. At the present time they are carrying on with some difficulty. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time. I may mention that when we come to deal with the clauses, if the second reading is agreed to, the dates will have to be changed in subclause (1) of clause 2.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Mr. JACOB: I am opposed to this Bill. I think the Council should have looked after this matter quite a long time ago. The matter I want to raise does not come within 100 per cent. of the objects of this Bill, but I think I am within my right if I raise the entire question of municipal government.

The PRESIDENT: I'd rather you do not now. It is such a big subject.

Mr. JACOB: This is the only opportunity I have, and I feel so strongly about the matter that I think a motion should be moved in this Council asking what this Government intends to do about it. There had been strong public feelings in this Colony in regard to local government, municipal government and central government with the result that a West India Royal Commission was appointed. A local Franchise Commission was appointed in 1941, and associated with the hon. Members for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) and for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh) I asked Government to extend the terms of reference of that Commission so that municipal and local government franchise might be considered. Government stated then by letter that it was always the intention of Government to appoint Commissions for local government and municipal government. That was in 1941, and since then representations have been made in one form or another to Government to do so, but Government has not yet done so with the result that you have this fiasco. Whose responsibility it is? Is it the responsibility of this Legislature, or is it the responsibility of the New Amsterdam Municipality? So far as I am concerned I am not going to be a party to passing this Bill today. The Municipality of New Amsterdam must accept its responsibility. I trust that the Georgetown Municipality will find itself in a similar position. Why should not the franchise of these places be reduced? Why should not the laws be amended? Whose responsibility it is? I think the Councillors of New Amsterdam are to be blamed entirely for the situation. This Council should not have been asked

to waste its time to do a thing like this. What is the Municipality doing? I think the whole system of municipal government should be changed, and the sooner Government takes the initiative to go into the whole question of local and municipal government the better it will be for all concerned. The question of municipal government here is a very burning one. We have the town of New Amsterdam in a very serious mess. It is the most insanitary place and is worse than some of the villages of the Colony. There is great dissatisfaction over Georgetown also. While there has been some kind of progress, the whole place is being run by a clique. Is this Government going to lend itself to that? I am opposed to this Bill and will vote against it. I am doing that with the object that Government will appoint a Commission to go into the question of local government and municipal franchise as recommended by the West India Royal Commission in their interim report.

Mr. LEE: I beg to support the views of the hon. Member for North Western District. Government had promised that as soon as the Franchise Commission for the Legislative Council had concluded its work something would be done towards municipal franchise, but Government has done nothing about it. The excuse is—and it is on record—that we cannot get sufficient printing done in order to get through the Ordinance. The Ordinance cannot be printed to enable the poor man to vote, but the elections are due to take place in November and I suppose they will be carried out under the old franchise.

The PRESIDENT: We are, at the moment, talking about New Amsterdam.

Mr. LEE: Yes, but the hon. Member stated that the New Amsterdam Town Council wants remodelling. The people living in New Amsterdam as tenants have not got the right to vote. I am appealing to Government that those people be given the right to exercise the franchise. It is an inherent right and privilege—not because they do not own property—and I hope Government would proceed to pass this Bill as early as possible

The PRESIDENT: The provisions of this Bill do not actually deal with franchise.

Mr. LEE: But we have only got the opportunity to deal with it now that this Bill has come up.

The PRESIDENT: I appreciate that fact; it does give you the opportunity to speak on another question, but I will ask you not to vote against this Bill for that reason. Does any other Member wish to speak on the principle of this Bill?

Mr. GONSALVES: I would just like to point out to the hon. Member for North Western District that in referring to the Georgetown Town Council he ought to have been fair enough to say that the Georgetown Town Council sent up to Government certain amendments to their Ordinance with a view to reducing their franchise and giving tenants a better opportunity to vote. Those draft amendments were sent up since 1934 when I was in the Chair but Government, as we all know, was busy with other legislation and that is the reason why they have not appeared before this Council as yet. So far as I know, however, they will come before this Council shortly. I support the amendment suggested as regards the right of a tenant to vote—that there should be a reduction of the rent paid and that it should be fixed at \$8 instead of \$15.

Mr. JACOB: That's not good enough.

Mr. GONSALVES: I do not think my hon. friend—the Member for North Western District—wants to pass this Bill. I do not see how he can say so if he wants to do something for the New Amsterdam Town Council. I think we should do all we can to help that Body to get out of their difficulty.

Mr. EDUN: I am prepared to assist the Town Council of New Amsterdam to get out of this mess, but I am wondering whether it can be done by August 31.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I said that that will be amended when we come to deal with the Bill clause by clause.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: The hon. Member for North Western District has spoken about the Georgetown Town Council and its affairs. He reminded me of something that happened when I was playing cricket, and that is, a certain batsman went to the wickets five times in succession and could not make a run. It also reminds me that the hon. Member has faced the Georgetown electorate on several occasions without success, but I hope he will not be rejected on the next occasion and that he will get the kind of clique he wants to run the Georgetown Town Council.

Mr. JACOB: That is the kind of thing we get here when one expresses his views fearlessly.

Motion put, the Council dividing and voting as follows:—

For: Messrs. Raatgever, Thompson, Roth, Edun, Peer Bacchus, Gonsalves, Percy C. Wight, Luckhoo, Dr. Singh, Critchlow, C. V. Wight, Woolford, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Secretary—15.

Against: Mr. Jacob—1.

Did not Vote: Mr. Lee—1.

Motion carried.

Bill read a second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Council in Committee.

Clause 1—*Short Title*.

Mr. JACOB: I should like to take this opportunity to inform the hon. Member for Georgetown South that while the Georgetown Town Council has agreed to a reduction of the franchise from \$15 to \$8 per month as regards payment of rent, in the United Kingdom—even under Local Government franchise—every man and woman 21 years of age who has been living in any part of the country is entitled to vote just as in Parliamentary elections. The idea in this Colony of reducing the franchise by stages is a most deplorable

one, and the sooner we get it out of our heads the better it will be for all concerned. We have got to follow modern democratic tendencies and allow every man and woman who has a right to vote to say who should run this country. It is true that in Georgetown where there are a couple hundred voters one could control them—and that would also happen in New Amsterdam—but I urge upon this Government to follow modern principles and give to every man and woman entitled to vote the right to run the country. Then, if one is able to form a clique it would be a far better one than in the present conditions, but I am sure that cliques would be all broken up and we would get on better.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : I speak subject to correction, but I think every Ward in the City of Georgetown has more voters on its list than the North Western District for which the hon. Member has the privilege of speaking. The hon. Member speaks of Councillors in the Georgetown Town Council being able to control the voters in their Wards, but if each of these Wards has more voters than the district which the hon. Member represents surely it means that he can control the voters in the North Western District much more successfully by the same methods which he suggests are being used in Georgetown.

Mr. GONSALVES : I would suggest to the hon. Member for North Western District that Bill has to come before this Council and when it does he will have all the opportunity he wants to speak on it. When it comes he can speak for the whole day.

The CHAIRMAN : Are you suggesting that anybody can speak for a whole day ?

Mr. JACOB : The object is to have proper representation and not to have a clique to decide what to do in the matter.

Clause put, and agreed to.

Clause 2—*Mayor to be elected between the 20th and 31st August, 1946.*

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : When the Bill was prepared the date inserted was “between the 20th and 31st August,

1946”, but I would ask leave now to amend that date by inserting the words “between the 2nd and 12th September, 1946.”

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Council resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : I now beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

“INDIANS IN B.G.” PUBLICATION

The PRESIDENT : The next item on the Order of the Day is a motion by the Colonial Secretary.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : I rise to move the following motion standing in my name in the second schedule of the Order Paper :—

“That, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government’s message No. 7 dated 15th August, 1946, this Council approves of the provision Supplementary Estimate of \$2,450 to give effect to the proposal set out in the message.”

This motion relates to payments to be made in connection with the publication of a book by Mr. Dwarka Nauth on “Indians in British Guiana”. Hon. Members will have read Your Excellency’s Message in which this proposal is fully explained, but I would like to say one word on the underlying principle. When an officer has produced a work of technical, scientific, historical or some other serious interest—a work which makes a valuable and substantial contribution to the records on the subject—and it is in a form suitable for publication, then I think it is undoubtedly reasonable and desirable that Government should assist in the publication of such a work so as to ensure that it remains on record in a readable and easily accessible form. It would be very difficult, however, for the officer himself to meet the cost of publication whenever publication of such a book is desired. It has never

been the intention of Government to enter the publicity business in a big way, neither is it the intention to encourage officers to devote their time to literary efforts to the detriment of their ordinary duties. Assistance can only be given where Government is satisfied about the conditions I have referred to—*inter alia*, where the capital cost of publication is normally beyond the means of the officer himself, whatever the financial prospects of the work—and in this case Government has every reason to believe that those conditions have been satisfied.

Sir Gordon himself read Mr. Nauth's book before he went on leave and recorded the opinion that it was an excellent piece of work, giving a fair and accurate account of its subject and constituting a most valuable record. As regards the arrangements for publication, hon. Members will observe that this is to be undertaken by the Oxford University Press—one of the best known and most reputable firms in the United Kingdom which has branches in India through which the book would be sold and where there is a wide and substantial field for its sale. I would emphasise that the book is to be a Government publication and that the cost of publication will be a first charge on the proceeds of the sale. Any surplus revenue will go to the author who will also receive an honorarium of \$200 which is regarded as a fair reward for his able efforts.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Mr. ROTH: I do not know whether hon. Members are aware that there is a 20-year-old precedent for seeking permission to publish a book of this nature at Government's expense. I refer to the publication of the translation of Schomburgk's "Travels in British Guiana", but I cannot remember whether there was any honorarium paid in that case. I know that the typing expenses were \$50.

Mr. EDUN: I want to take this opportunity of congratulating this officer for his effort, especially when we had the remark made here that we only have officers of mediocre ability in this Colony.

Here, I think, is an instance where we ought to congratulate ourselves. I feel, however, that this publication should be scrutinised by the Indian Advisory Committee before it is actually put into print. The reason for that suggestion is that I am not quite satisfied that Government or the Immigration Office is competent to declare or determine what is an accurate and fair presentation of a history of Indians in this Colony. Not that it is desired that the trend of the book should be changed, but there might be something in it which might not be in the best interest of the Indians and which Government itself might not see in the publication. For that reason, I think that even at this juncture the Indian Advisory Committee ought to be given an opportunity to scrutinize the manuscript. I think Government has done very well on this occasion and I quite agree with the mover of the motion when he said that Government does not want to encourage officers to leave off their ordinary duties and take up literary work, because you cannot have a thing both ways. That is, I think, a fair indication of what is passing through Government's mind. If an officer during his spare time can do some literary work—especially work that constitutes a record—he should be rewarded for it and in this case I do not think we should be so cheese-paring. If the cost of printing is to be taken out of the proceeds from the publication, then I think the honorarium ought to be £100 instead of \$200. If we want to give encouragement it should be something substantial. I do not think the book would be ready within a year and for that reason I think the officer should be given something more tangible. With those remarks I wholeheartedly agree with the motion.

Dr. SINGH: At this moment we cannot think of the Indian Advisory Committee because that Committee has just been started whereas this matter is one of long standing. I think this officer should be complimented. It has taken a good deal of his time and energy to produce this book, and rather than allowing it to be published by an outside source—outside the British Empire—it is right that it be taken up by this Government. I am glad that Government is taking the opportunity

to publish this book and, I think, it is a book that will have a good sale. I am sure Government will recover the amount paid for publication. I think that Indians in this Colony will subscribe freely to the purchase of this book and that there will be a field for it in Trinidad also. Indians all over the world will be glad to learn about their people in these parts.

Mr. GONSALVES : I myself wanted to suggest whether the honorarium for this officer should not have been £50, but in view of what the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. EDUN, has stated—he seems to question the quality of the book and to suggest that the Indian Advisory Committee should see it before it is printed—I wonder whether the suggestion would find much favour. The hon. Member (Mr. EDUN) does not seem to be giving it 100 per cent. of his blessing, but my idea was to increase the honorarium to £50. If he agrees that the book is good in quality and that it will be a valuable work, I will suggest that the honorarium be so increased. I am not aware of the size of the book—whether it is as big as "London's Heart Probe" of which the hon. Member is the author and which is being sold at \$3 per copy. If the book is a good one—and His Excellency Sir Gordon Lethem has read the manuscript and I suggest that he would not have allowed a bad thing to go through—then I would support the increase of the honorarium.

The PRESIDENT : I have no objection to increasing it, but I have not read the book.

Mr. EDUN : I too have not seen it.

Mr. LEE : Hon. Members are accepting Government's opinion. If Government feels that the book should be printed and is willing to advance the money, then we agree. We have not read it.

The PRESIDENT : It was read by Sir Gordon and by Mr. Laing.

Mr. LEE : Those are two members of Government in whom we have the fullest confidence. If hon. Members feel that the honorarium should be increased, I would support it.

Mr. JACOB : I do not like the remarks of the hon. Member for Georgetown South.

Mr. GONSALVES : Do you mean as regards increasing the honorarium? If you do not agree you need not support it.

Mr. JACOB : I do not think the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. EDUN, intended to cast any aspersion when he suggested that the manuscript should be read by the Indian Advisory Committee. There may be certain verbal corrections which may be desirable before the book is printed and, therefore, I am in favour of the suggestion. As regards the question of honorarium, I am in favour of the officer getting £100 and the surplus from the sales should also go to him—the author. I have no objection to Government paying what it considers fair and reasonable by way of an honorarium, but I am most anxious that a proper record of the history of Indians in the Colony should be presented to the public. If His Excellency and Mr. Laing feel that the book is quite all right then it should be well and good, but there could be no harm in the manuscript being seen by the Indian Advisory Committee.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : I cannot understand what the hon. Member means. The Oxford University Press is a most responsible body and, perhaps, the hon. Member who has just taken his seat has heard about them. I do not know what he means by "verbal corrections" but I know that they are not going to publish anything under their name with typographical or verbal errors. Why must the manuscript be submitted to a body to edit what this author has produced?

Mr. EDUN : That was not indicated at all. It is just a question of giving the book the blessing of a responsible body. This book would be coming out of the Immigration Agent's Department and it might have something in it that might not appeal to Indian sentiment. It might have the word "coolie" in it—something which every Indian resents. This Government says the book is O.K., but that is not the viewpoint of every Member of this Council.

The PRESIDENT : I think the hon. Member is under a misapprehension. That is not Government's view; it is the author's view—it is his own book.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : The hon. Member seems to think that the book is something he can challenge Government upon. This is the author's view and, if the author has put anything on record that the Indian Advisory Committee does not like or may like to change, it would amount to editing the author's views should that be done.

Mr. JACOB : I never suggested that. I have read several Indian books sponsored by the Indian Government. The minute I see that, I put a certain amount of discount on that book. If this book goes forward as being sponsored by the British Guiana Government it loses some of its force and value. The idea of the Indian Advisory Committee is to raise the status and value of the publication and to say that it is a fair opinion of the Indians of this Colony.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : All I am suggesting is that the author has expressed his views and if the author had never come to the Government for assistance and had gone about the publication on his own, would the Indian Advisory Committee have come into the picture? Has the author asked for the blessing of the Indian Advisory Committee? The hon. Member has suggested that the book has the blessing of this Government. Is it the blessing of a responsible body?

Mr. JACOB : This Council is voting the money and I am anxious that the money should be recovered from the proceeds of the sale of the book. I am here representing the taxpayers. If the money is not to be voted by this Council I would have nothing to say.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : I must ask the hon. Member to stop interrupting me. It is not going to throw me off my legs. If the position is that Government is voting the money, then let this Government look at the book and give it its blessing. Why go to the Indian Advisory Committee who are not providing the money but who must have the sole right to edit it? Why this

Body should like to have a say in the matter? Whether it has the blessing or not of that Body, why should we be deprived of saying whether we consider this book is a fair and correct account? I think His Excellency Sir Gordon Lethem is fully competent to comprehend what is a fair and correct report of the position of the Indians in this Colony. I think he has an intimate grasp of the problems of the Indian community. Mr. Laing is also competent and able to say whether the views expressed by the author are fair and correct. It is the author's view, and the Government is only assisting the author to put it on the market. That is the position.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS : I am not in a position like the other Members to congratulate the author of this book, as I will be congratulating him on something I have neither seen nor read. It is stated here that it is on the history of Indians in British Guiana. I quite appreciate this history has been written by the author, and he is seeking Government's assistance for its publication. I have no reason to doubt that Sir Gordon and Mr. Laing went thoroughly into this matter and found that what it contains is correct. That is the reason why this Council's permission is being sought to vote this money. If Sir Gordon and Mr. Laing were not satisfied that it was a correct account of the history of Indians in this Colony we would not have seen a motion of this kind introduced into this Council. I think what the two hon. Members want to suggest is that as a concession the manuscript be submitted to the Indian Advisory Committee but I take it that may be done through the courtesy of the author himself. I do not think Government should be brought into it, as to whether the author should be courteous enough to submit his manuscript to the Indian Advisory Committee for perusal and approval of it or not. I know the author very well, but I do not know whether the views he has expressed are correct. The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Edun, said it is a record of the Immigration Department. If it is, then, I take it, it is just a transcription of the records of the Immigration Department put in book form. But I do not think that is so. If it is a history of

Indian affairs in this Colony—I know the author is a young man—there might be a slip here and there if he has trusted to his memory or has been given the information by some members of the community.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : Is the hon. Member suggesting that an old man does not make a slip here and there? He says the author is a young man and there may be a slip here and there.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS : When I referred to the author being a young man I did so in the sense that he was not born when immigration of Indians began and, therefore, he had to get the information about that from other people. If he collected information from other people, one is likely to doubt whether that information is correct. I see no harm in it. It is just a suggestion—not that I would like the project to be delayed—that the manuscript be submitted to the Indian Advisory Committee. If Government thinks otherwise, if the facts produced in the book are not correct, we may have the criticism afterwards that public funds have been contributed to a book that does not contain the true facts of the Indians of this Colony.

Mr. GONSALVES : I think the hon. Member will have to concede that the pushing on of the publication of this book will have to be postponed until the arrival of Sir Gordon, because the hon. Member is not going to say that this Advisory Committee must revise the book when the Governor has already seen and approved of it. I hope he is not suggesting that. It is a case of the Indian Advisory Committee desiring to revise what the Head of the Government, in whom the public has so much confidence, has already passed and given his blessing. If the hon. Member does not appreciate what is said he had better—

The PRESIDENT: Hon. Members, the position is simply this. Here you have the author who owns the manuscript. None of us sitting here can tell him what to do with it even if you want to. If you persuade him to make alterations Government would not publish it. It is as the hon. Member for Georgetown South said.

If you vote the money without a tag on it the printing of the book will be started. If you put a tag the printing will be delayed. If you vote the money on the condition that the author be asked to show the manuscript to another Body, then, I say, I have no objection but if that Body substitutes or makes changes Sir Gordon and Mr. Laing must see it again.

Mr. JACOB : Mr. Laing is Chairman of the Indian Advisory Committee!

The PRESIDENT : I have no objection to the Advisory Committee seeing it.

Mr. JACOB : Perhaps the Advisory Committee may think that Mr. Laing should write a foreword to the book and thus give it greater prestige and enhance the value of the book.

The PRESIDENT: I have no objection to that, but understand it will delay the process of printing.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I would rather not speak on a matter of this kind because formally I am in favour of this vote. After all the author has the copyright for this publication. From what I know of Sir Gordon he is quite competent to express an opinion on the historical accuracy of that book. I do not know whether hon. Members are aware that His Excellency is himself an author and knows fairly such a subject as this book contains, and that he will not allow an expression of opinion in that book which will be disconcerting to the Indians in this Colony. If the fear in the minds of Members is that there might be some expression of opinion by the author on the wisdom of the introduction of Indians into this Colony, or the future introduction, then I suggest they should not see it without his permission. Then there is the danger of the manuscript being torn, as I cannot conceive that the Indian Advisory Committee will have someone to read every page to that Committee. The hon. Nominated member, Mr. Edun, referred to the possible quality of the book. I do not think he means that. He also spoke of verbal errors. The Oxford University Press has proof-readers who will correct that, as it will destroy the value

of the publication and limit the author's copyright. To submit the manuscript to review as suggested, it might get into other persons' hands and some of the information in that book may be used otherwise and so destroy the author's copyright. I think that the vote should be passed without any limitation at all.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I do not think there should be very much debate over this question. I do not think the author will publish anything derogatory of Indians of this Colony if the publication has the blessing of his Excellency Sir Gordon and Mr. Laing. It is a question of principle. Should we debate the principle of making ourselves liable for this amount? I think it would be well for the outer world to know who are the East Indians of this Colony, what is their position, how they have risen to prominence, the industry they have shown and the thrift they have so far exercised during their stay in this Colony. All true lovers of the race would wish for this race a wider sphere of usefulness and larger prosperity. The publication will do a great deal to enhance their status. I would suggest that this motion be approved without a tag on it.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: May I suggest in the interest of the learned author that the hon. the Attorney-General's advice be obtained. The author has a copyright in that book, and no information contained in that book can be used without his permission. There can be no plagiarism arising from what has been suggested. The minute anyone reads that document with the author's permission, he can use the information contained therein as he likes without the author having any protection. I would suggest in the author's interest that before the document is shown to anyone else but the printers the author, especially as he has got the Governor's sanction, should be advised by the hon. the Attorney-General or some lawyer with regard to his rights under any copyright he may have.

Mr. EDUN: I ask permission to make an observation. I am in a responsible position. We are voting funds from the Colony's exchequer for the publication of

this book. Supposing when the book is published some paragraph or something is seen that does not tend to be in the interest of the Indian community, having voted for the amount to print the book I would have done a wrong indeed. That is why I want to protect the Indian community, to protect this Government and to protect the author himself. This book is not on a par with other publications. This is a Government sponsored publication. If it is a question of the Immigration Department treating it as an official record, that would be all right, but it is a book. I do not question the quality of the publication at all, but because it has been stated here that it is a correct presentation of records it has given me the impression that something may be published there that may not be accurate.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I think some Members seem to have gone a bit off the mark. The whole point is this: This Council is being asked to assist an author who has done research and as a result of that research has written a book, to which he has copyright and which he now seeks to publish. The author has not apparently the funds to enable him to publish the book. He is a member of the Government Service and so he goes to Government and says "Will you assist me in the publication of my book? When the book is published and sold, the cost of the publication will be repaid." That is the clear position. Instead of coming to this Council he might have found a sufficiently generous and liberal gentleman in the community to support him with the funds. The whole idea is, Sir Gordon has read the manuscript and is satisfied as to the standard the author has reached, because not everyone who comes along and says I have written a book can obtain assistance from Government to publish it. It must reach a certain standard of literary attainment and also accuracy with regard to the matters dealt with. I do not think any hon. Member has read the book but, as a Council, we are saying that as a gesture and for the purpose of assisting an officer of our own in the Colony, who has the ambition and literary ability to produce this work, give him the assistance without collaring the book to see what is in it.

Some Members take up the attitude that the book must be seen by a Committee so as to see whether it conforms to their particular idea as to accuracy or historical fact. I take it, what may be correct in so far as an expression of opinion may not be satisfactory from one's point of view. What may be considered sentiment may be a hard historical fact. Let me take the point raised by the hon. the Fourth Nominated Member. Suppose for the sake of argument there are words used in the manuscript such as "coolie". I am aware of the fact that the term is regarded as an insult. The fact is, it may be used and it may be in keeping with an historical fact at the time of which the author is speaking. We have to take a very cold and dispassionate view of the product of a person who makes a research and records the result of that research in a manuscript and publishes it. You may not agree with the term used, but if it is in keeping with an historical fact you cannot quarrel.

Mr. JACOB : Let us take that particular reference. The term has been changed and it should be there, if it is not in the book !

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : What I am saying is that although certain Members may disagree with the term, that does not alter the fact that it may be true as an historical fact in the text and circumstances in which the term is used. The whole point, I may suggest, is this : This Council desires to assist in the publication of a book which is a product of one of its

officers. This Council desires to show its appreciation of the efforts made by this officer or any officer likeminded to devote the time and industry in producing any such work, which is a fairly correct record of what is past in the Colony. That being so this Council, I suggest, should vote the money and give the book and publication its blessing.

The COLONIAL TREASURER : The amount which this Council is being asked to provide is in the nature of an advance which will be recovered from the proceeds of the sale of the book. It only becomes a liability where the Colony is concerned, if the books are not sold. It is a contingent liability.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS : Also the \$200 honorarium ?

The COLONIAL TREASURER : That is not included in the amount to be recovered.

The PRESIDENT : I will put the motion, and in doing so I want hon. Members to understand that if the amount is approved Government is in no way committed to any suggestion of submitting the book to any Committee.

Question put, and agreed to with the honorarium, as amended from \$200 to \$240.

The PRESIDENT : I declare the motion carried without any tag on it. I adjourn the Council to Thursday, 5th September, at 2 p.m.