

THIRD SESSION

1956 - 1957.

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

FRIDAY, 31ST MAY, 1957.

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. A.M.I. Austin.
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 G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.
(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and
Co-operative Development).
The Honourable R.B. Gajraj
The Honourable R.C. Tello.

Nominated Unofficials.

Mr. C.A. Carter
Mr. E.F. Correia
Mr. H. Rahaman
Miss Gertie H. Collins
Mrs. Esther E. Dey
Dr. H.A. Fraser
Mr. R.B. Jailal

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent.

The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall
(Member for Communications and Works).
Mr. J.I. Ramphal.
Mr. T. Lee - on leave.
Mr. W.A. Phang - on leave.
Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C. - on leave.
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb - on leave.
Mr. Sugrim Singh - on leave.
Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 30th of May, 1957, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) The Honourable Chief Secretary (Ag.) - from 1st to 8th June;
- (ii) Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C., - from that day's meeting; and
- (iii) Mr. Sugrim Singh, - from that day's meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Chief Secretary, on behalf of the Member for Communications and Works, gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

ELECTRICITY BILL, 1957.
(Bill No. 20/1957 published 1.6.57).

PUBLIC BUSINESS ORDER OF THE DAY

BILL - First Reading.

Item 1 - ELECTRICITY BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 20/1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CORPORATION TO BE KNOWN AS THE BRITISH GUIANA ELECTRICITY CORPORATION AND FOR THE EXERCISE AND PERFORMANCE BY THE CORPORATION OF FUNCTIONS RELATING TO THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AND CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS, was read a first time.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings.

GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL,
1957 - Bill No. 10/1957

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development, seconded by Mr. Tello, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 3 - DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY PROPERTY BILL, 1957 -
Bill No. 18/1957.

With Council's consent item 3 was taken at this stage.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary, seconded by the Attorney General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO

../ PROVIDE

PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN ENEMY PROPERTY IN THE PAYMENT OF DEBTS INCURRED BY GERMAN PERSONS TO BRITISH PERSONS IN THE COLONY was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment in Committee:-

Clause 2 - Sub-clause (1) - Interpretation.

The word "of" was substituted for the word "or" in the third line of the definition of "German nationals."

BILL - Second Reading and Committee.

Item 2.- PAWNBROKING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 - Bill
No. 14/1957.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary, seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PAWNBROKING ORDINANCE was read a second time .

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 5 - were passed as printed.

New Clause 5A:

The following was inserted as Clause 5A:-

"Amendment of
Section 11
of Cap. 336.

5A. Section 11 of the Principal Ordinance is hereby amended -

(a) by the insertion of the figure "(1)" after the figure "11" therein; and

(b) by the addition of the following paragraph -

(2) The Governor in Council may from time to time, by order, vary the amounts prescribed in the second schedule hereto relating to charges for insurance of pledges."

Clause 6 - was passed as printed.

Clause 7 - The Financial Secretary moved that the words "and charge for insurance of the pledge" be inserted between the words "profit" and "due" in the fifth line of the clause.

After discussion, further consideration was deferred.

Clause 8 - was passed as printed.

../Clause 9

Clause 9 - was amended as under and passed:

The words "that specified in the second schedule hereto" were substituted for the words "the rate prescribed for special contracts by this Ordinance" in the fifth and sixth lines of the Clause.

Clause 10 - was passed as printed.

Clause 11 - The following was substituted for Clause 11:-

"Section 21 of the Principal Ordinance is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor:-

'Liability of pawnbroker in case of fire.

21. Where a pledge is stolen, or is destroyed or damaged as a result of fire, the pawnbroker shall nevertheless be liable on application within the period during which the pledge would have been redeemable to pay the value of the pledge after deducting the amount of the loan and profit, and charge for insurance of the pledge."

Clause 12 - was passed as printed.

Clause 13 - was amended as under and passed:-

The words "and charge for insurance of the pledge" were inserted between the words "profit" and "where" in the fourth line.

Clauses 14 to 18 - were passed as printed.

Clauses 19 and 20 - were deferred.

Clauses 21 and 22 - were passed as printed.

Schedules. - Consideration of the Schedules was deferred.

Council resumed.

At this stage further consideration was deferred.

MOTION

Item 4.- MR. LUCKHOO'S MOTION CONCERNING COMMENDATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NORTH WEST GUIANA MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Consideration of this item was deferred.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

The Chief Secretary moved the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.00 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 6th of June, 1957.

Confirmed,

Enla S. Wingo.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

6th June, 1957.