

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Constituted under the British Guiana
(Constitution) (Temporary Provisions)
Order in Council, 1953)

THURSDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 1954.

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C., in the Chair.

PRESENT

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

Ex-Officio Members;—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary,
Mr. T. C. Jerrom (acting).

The Hon. the Attorney General,
Mr. F. W. Holder, Q.C.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary,
Mr. W. O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council :—

The Hon. Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E. (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines).

The Hon. P. A. Cummings (Member for Labour, Health and Housing).

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall (Member for Communications and Works).

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

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

Nominated Officials :—

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

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

Nominated Unofficials :—

Mr. W. A. Phang.

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.

Lt. Col. E. J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D.

Mr. R. B. Jailal.

Mr. Sugrim Singh.

Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. E. V. Viapree (acting).

Absent :—

The Hon. G. H. Smellie—on leave.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

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

Mr. T. Lee.

Mr. L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Mr. W. A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.
—on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 2nd December, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUDGET STATEMENT ON FRIDAY.

The Financial Secretary (Mr. W. O. Fraser): Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I propose to make the Budget Statement tomorrow in moving the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

LEAVE TO LT.-COL. HAYWOOD.

Mr. Speaker: I have to announce that I have granted leave to the hon. Member, Lt-Col. Haywood, as from the 17th to the 21st of December.

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS.

The Financial Secretary laid on the table:

Report of the Commissioner of Income Tax for the year 1953.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

DEVELOPMENT FUND BILL

The Financial Secretary: I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of a Development Fund for the carrying out of works of development in the Colony."

LEGAL TENDER (JAMAICAN CURRENCY NOTES) BILL.

I also beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide that all Government currency notes which are

legal tender in the island of Jamaica shall be legal tender for the payment of any amount in British Guiana."

BRITISH GUIANA RICE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the British Guiana Rice Producers Association (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1953, with respect of the terms of office of members of Committees of District Associations and of the Council of the British Guiana Rice Producers Association, and for purposes connected therewith."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (BUXTON AND FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION AND ACTS) VALIDATION BILL.

Mr. Farnum (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to validate the election of certain councillors of the Buxton and Friendship Village District and all proceedings of the Village Council of that District in which those councillors have acted, and all acts done by such persons as councillors of that Village Council."

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (TEMPORARY REGISTRATION) ORDINANCE.

Mr. Cummings (Member for Labour, Health and Housing) gave notice of the following motions:—

"Whereas the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 24) came into operation on the 26th of July, 1947;

And whereas section 5 of the said Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall continue in force up to and including the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and fifty-one, but that the Legislative Council may, prior to the expiration of this Ordinance, by resolution (which resolution shall be published in the Gazette) declare that it shall continue in force for a further period of one year from the date of that expiration and may from time to time prior to the expiration of that or any further continued operation, similarly declare that it shall continue for a further period of one year:

And whereas by the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) (Extension) Ordinance, 1954 (No. 6), the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, 1947, has been continued in force as though that Ordinance had been continued in force by resolution of the Legislative Council in accordance with the provisions of section 5 thereof for the period commencing on the 1st January, 1954, and ending on the 31st December, 1954;

And whereas it is desirable that the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, 1947, should continue in operation for a further period:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 24), shall continue in force for a further period of one year from the 1st January, 1955."

RENT RESTRICTION ORDINANCE.

"Whereas the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1941 (No. 23 of 1941) came into operation on the 8th day of November, 1941;

And whereas section 16 of the said Ordinance, as amended by section 17 of the Rent Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 13 of 1947) provides that the Ordinance shall continue in force up to and including the 31st day of December, 1951, but that, prior to the expiration thereof, the Legislative Council may, by resolution published in the Gazette, declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation for a further period of one year;

And whereas by annual resolutions the said Ordinance was continued in operation during the years 1952 and 1953;

And whereas by the Rent Restriction (Continuance) Ordinance, 1954 (No. 1 of 1954) the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1941 (No. 23 of 1941) was continued in force and deemed always to have been in force as though that Ordinance as amended had been continued in force by Resolution of the Legislative Council in accordance with the provisions of section 16 of that Ordinance for the period commencing on the 1st January, 1954, and ending on the 31st December, 1954;

And whereas it is expedient that the said Ordinance be continued in operation for a further period of one year;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1941 (No. 23 of 1941) shall continue in force for a further period of one year up to and including the 31st December, 1955."

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

PEASANT LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

Mr. Bobb gave notice of the following motions:

"Whereas all necessary steps should be taken to provide opportunities for more gainful employment;

And whereas there is a considerable number of actual and intending peasant livestock rearers who would welcome more remunerative schemes to expand the livestock industry;

And whereas such expansion will materially benefit the economy of the country;

Be it resolved:

That this Honourable Council requests the Governor in Council to examine the possibilities of establishing on some suitable site on the East Coast of Demerara a Peasant Livestock Development Scheme."

PAINTS AND BY-PRODUCTS FACTORY.

"Whereas more opportunities for gainful employment are urgently needed in the country at present;

And whereas the number of persons now not gainfully employed is likely to be substantially increased as a result of the regular stream of school-leavers;

Mr. Bobb]

And whereas certain concerns outside the country have signified their desire to invest capital which will accelerate the development of the country:

Be it resolved:

That this Council respectfully recommends that the Governor in Council investigate the possibilities of establishing in the Colony a factory for the manufacture of paints and by-products; and, if such investigation is favourable, to approach the Trade Commissioners for the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras in the United Kingdom and Canada with a view to their interesting persons or concerns in establishing such a factory in the Colony."

ORDER OF THE DAY.

POUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL DEFERRED.

The first item on the Order of the Day was the first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Pounds Ordinance with respect to the publication of lists of impounded strays."

The Chief Secretary (Mr. T. C. Ferron, acting): Sir, I ask that the first reading of this Bill be deferred to the present. Certain representations have been made by two hon. Members of Council which will require detailed examination before the Bill is proceeded with.

Bill deferred.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (DECLARATION OF AREA AND VALIDATION OF ACTS) BILL.

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of a certain Drainage and Irrigation Area, the validation of the construction of certain works and for purposes connected therewith."

Mr. Cummings seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE SESSION

Mr. Speaker: Items 3, 4, 5 and 6 on the Order Paper will not be taken today. I would be glad if hon. Members would co-operate with a view of disposing of all business on the Order Paper, if possible, in order to conclude our First Session. It is desirable that there should be an end of this session this year. We must therefore endeavour to do as much business as we can before the year ends. We will try at any rate.

BRITISH GUIANA SANATAN DHARMA MAHA SABHA (INCORPORATION OF TRUSTEES BILL)

Mr. Sugrim Singh: I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to incorporate certain persons as Trustees of the body known as the British Guiana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha; to vest in such persons certain property; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

In moving the second reading of this Bill I wish to say that, as indicated in the Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, the organisation known as the British Guiana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha, which has been operating in this Colony for about 20 years, has increased its work and now owns quite a few properties in the Colony. It has therefore become necessary to incorporate certain persons as Trustees so that the organisation can properly hold those properties. The organisation now controls 30 schools in the Colony and has distributed over \$2,750 provided by Government. There

are also about 57 Temples in respect of which some of the lands have been donated to the organisation which desires to hold them properly. I formally move that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. Correia seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, and approved of the Bill as printed without discussion.

Council resumed.

Mr. Sugrim Singh : I move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

Mr. Correia seconded.

Mr. Speaker: The Bill has been published a long time. Has anyone any objection to the third reading being taken today? I will put the question "That the Bill be read a third time and passed."

Agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker : After tomorrow we must arrange the business of the Council, as it is desirable to conclude the session this year.

The Attorney General : As far as is practicable I do not know if it is necessary to conclude the session in the current year. We have had in the past to continue a few months after the close of the year in order to conclude essential business.

Sir Frank McDavid : Do I understand we are about to close the present session?

Mr. Speaker : It all depends on what Members wish.

Sir Frank McDavid : I know it is impractical to conclude the business of the session this year. The Budget is to be presented tomorrow, and that cannot be completed until about the second month in next year.

Mr. Speaker : In speaking I am referring to other Bills. The Budget has to be deferred.

The Chief Secretary: I feel it may be possible to dispose of some of these Bills outstanding, and so we must endeavour to deal with them as early as possible this year.

The Financial Secretary : I have two Bills which I hope to conclude on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: Council is adjourned until tomorrow at 2 o'clock.