

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, 4TH JUNE, 1948

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., President, in the Chair.

### PRESENT.

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Campbell Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G.

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

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. E. F. McDavid, C.B.E.

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

The Hon. Dr. J. A. Nicholson (Georgetown North).

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Hon. C. P. Ferreira (Berbice River).

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

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

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum (Nominated).

The Hon. Capt. J. P. Coghlan (Demerara River).

The Hon. D. P. Debidin (Eastern Demerara).

The Hon. J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central).

The Hon. Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara).

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall (New Amsterdam).

The Hon. C. A. McDoom (Nominated).

The Hon. A. T. Peters (Western Berbice).

The Hon. W. A. Phang (North Western District).

The Hon. John Carter (Georgetown South).

The Hon. E. M. Gonsalves (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 3rd June, 1948, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed, with the following amendment:—

“By insertion in the opening minute of the Order of the Day between the words ‘With Council’s consent’ and the word ‘consideration’ of the following words:—

“The Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) (Amendment) Bill, 1948, was withdrawn and.”

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PURCHASE OF PLNS. CANE GROVE AND LA BONNE MERE

The COLONIAL TREASURER communicated the following Message:—

#### MESSAGE No. 11

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to refer to Sir Gordon Lethem’s Message No. 11 dated 25th October, 1946, regarding the purchase of Plantations Cane Grove and La Bonne Mere for land settlement purposes and to the Resolution of this Council No. XVII dated 1st November, 1946, by which the Council approved of the proposals outlined in that Message and of the provision of a sum of \$363,100 for the purchase and re-conditioning of the drainage of the estates.

2. In the Message referred to the

Council was informed that as a result of the decision of Messrs. Booker Brothers McConnell and Company Limited to discontinue sugar production at Plantation Cane Grove and to dispose of that property and of the adjoining Plantation of La Bonne Mere, a Committee was appointed to report on the matter and this Committee recommended that Government should:—

- (a) purchase Plantations Cane Grove and La Bonne Mere;
- (b) re-condition the drainage and irrigation trenches to provide gravity drainage for 3,187 acres of residential and arable land and 4,223 acres of pasture; and
- (c) establish a land settlement in accordance with the principles approved by the Legislative Council in December, 1943.

3. The Council further approved of the expenditure of \$363,100 for the acquisition of the estates and the reconditioning of the drainage and irrigation trenches. It was proposed that as much as possible of this sum (\$363,100) should be provided from the local Development Trust Fund, and the balance thereof and any other sum required for completing the layout of land settlement estimated at \$240,000 be obtained from the general revenue of the colony. The total cost of the scheme was therefore \$603,100.

4. On further examination it was found, however, that the proposals of the Committee were impracticable, and the Commissioner of Local Government was directed to re-examine the matter and submit a modified scheme within the overall limit of \$600,000 originally contemplated.

5. This modified scheme has now been submitted and provides for drainage by gravity of 5,167 acres and 2,066 acres by pump, and for the division of the lands of the two estates, exclusive of the area occupied by dams and trenches, into crop lands, pasture lands, and a housing site as under:—

Land suitable for rice cultivation	3,015 acres
Land suitable for ground provision	341
Land planted with cocounts	273
Pasturage	2,134
House Lots (one-fifth of an acre each)	100
Land made available to Agriculture Department for dairy farming and experimental purposes	454
	6,317 acres

6. The estimate of the cost of re-conditioning and re-constructing the trenches, dams and structures has been prepared by the Deputy Director of Public Works for Drainage and Irrigation and Sea Defences and this cost together with a purchase price of the drainage pump etc. amounts to \$488,782 made up as under:—

Trenches and Dams	\$207,780
Structures other than houses and fences	197,955
Buildings: Watch houses, Stock Minders' houses, Pump House, Assistant Superintendent's house and Rangers' houses	7,300
Fencing	16,147
Clearing Bush	7,925
Purchase price of drainage pump	50,000
Purchase price of portable pump	1,200
Purchase of horses and saddlery	475
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	\$488,782

7. In addition to this it will be necessary to purchase a house for the Superintendent of the settlement, an office and an electric lighting plant and the cost of these is \$13,600. It will also be necessary to lay out a housing site for the settlers' houses as the present area occupied by the estates ranges is low-lying and difficult to drain and keep in a sanitary state. The cost of laying out 100 acres for house lots of one-fifth of an acre each including roads for light cart traffic and playgrounds for children is estimated at \$36,773.

8. The total cost of purchasing Cane Grove and La Bonne Mere, re-conditioning and re-constructing the dams, trenches and structures, and laying out the estates for land settlement purposes will therefore be:—

Purchase price of Cane Grove	\$ 100
Purchase price of La Bonne Mere	60,000
Re-conditioning and re-constructing drainage, trenches, dams and structures including the purchase of the drainage pump	488,782
Laying out house lots	36,773
Purchase of house for Superintendent, Office, etc.	13,600
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	\$599,255

9. The estimated annual cost of maintaining the estates as a land settlement is as follows:—

Salaries of Superintendent and Staff	\$ 9,878
Maintenance of trenches, dams, and structures	21,754
Running expenses and maintenance of drainage pump	5,160
Fixed Charges (water rate and Crown land lease)	4,274
Contingencies	2,700
	\$ 43,766

or \$6.05 per acre.

10. The estimated annual revenue is as under:—

(a) Lands to be leased to settlers for growing rice and ground provisions including land to be occupied by Agriculture Department at \$7.20 per acre per annum	\$27,432
(b) Agistment fees for dry cows, steers and yearlings, at the rate of 36c. per head per month	4,320
(c) Sale of coconuts \$18 per 1,000 (including cost of picking and husking \$4 per 1,000)	10,080
(d) Rent of house lots at \$7.20 per annum	2,880
(e) Miscellaneous Revenue	620
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	\$45,332

The rent of the crop lands and house lots and agistment fees are the same as those paid by settlers at the Vergenoegen Land Settlement.

11. The annual revenue (45,332) when the settlement is completely occupied will therefore cover the annual maintenance (\$43,766) but will not provide a reserve fund for re-digging trenches, etc., and replacing structures.

12. The object of the purchase of these estates and laying them out for land settlement purposes was to provide for the welfare of the families who were previously dependent upon the sugar estate for their livelihood, and as sugar production on the estate ceased on 23rd January, 1948, it was essential to proceed with the re-conditioning work on the estate and the allocation of lands to those families so that they might plant the rice crop to be reaped in the Autumn and ground provisions. Accordingly, lands have been allotted to some 286 families, and it is expected that some 1,400 acres of padi will be planted for the Autumn crop and 270 acres of ground provisions. Fenced pasturage has been provided for 640 head of cattle exclusive

of the dairy herd of 204 head. I should mention that the work of re-conditioning the drainage and irrigation, ploughing and levelling, and converting the old cane lands into rice fields and ground provision areas has been delayed owing to adverse weather conditions and the lack of sufficient and suitable agricultural machinery. It is expected, however, that wage earning employment on the re-conditioning scheme and the sale of their produce (rice and ground provisions) should provide the families with at least a subsistence until the settlement is fully developed.

13. I now invite the Council to approve of the proposals here outlined and the expenditure from the local Development Trust Fund and from the general revenue of the colony of the sum of \$600,000.

C. C. WOOLLEY,  
Governor.

3rd June, 1948.

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

### PURCHASE OF PLNS. CANE GROVE AND LA BONNE MERE

The COLONIAL TREASURER gave notice of the following motion:—

“That, with reference to His Excellency the Governor’s Message No. 11 of the 3rd of June, 1948, this Council approves of the proposals outlined therein for establishment of a Land Settlement Scheme at Plantations Cane Grove and La Bonne Mere and of the estimated expenditure of \$600,000 being met from the Development Trust Fund and the general revenue of the Colony.”

## NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

### DISTRIBUTION OF MILK

Mr. LEE gave notice of the following questions:—

1. Is it the case that dissatisfaction exists in the distribution of fresh milk and powdered milk to the public in Georgetown?
2. Is it the case that the milk given to be pasteurized is not properly distributed and creates partiality?
3. Is it the case that the milk given to the Brown Betty Restaurant is being used for other purposes than that of being pasteurized for resale to the public for domestic use?
4. Will Government consider the de-control of the milk in Georgetown?

and only fix the price of milk, so that healthy competition will bring better results?

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### VOLUNTEER BILL, 1948.

A Bill intituled 'An Ordinance to provide for establishment control training and discipline of a Volunteer Force, and for matters connected therewith.'

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On the 20th of September last year, Message No. 21 was communicated to Members of the Council in connection with the establishment of a Volunteer Force. Following upon that, the Council passed Resolution No. 47 which reads:

"That this Council approves in principle of the permanent establishment in British Guiana of a Volunteer Corps on the lines indicated in the Governor's Message No. 21 of the 20th of September, 1947."

In pursuance of that, when the Estimates were being considered by this Council provision was made for certain expenditure in connection with the proposed Volunteer Corps. So that it will be clear to hon. Members that the principle of the establishment of a British Guiana Volunteer Corps was accepted by the last Council and also by this Council by its action in voting the necessary expenditure.

The Bill before this Council seeks to place on a permanent basis the Volunteer Force which now functions under Defence Regulations. As will be seen from the Objects and Reasons, the main provisions of the Bill have been adapted from the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, 1907. The particular sections of that United Kingdom Act which have been adapted are section 7 relating to government, discipline and pay of the Territorial Army; sections 10 (2), and 9 relating to enlistment, term of service and discharge; 15, annual training; 17 and 18, embodiment; 19, notices; 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25, offences and legal proceedings; and 23 and 36 relating to civil rights and exemptions.

As hon. Members are no doubt aware, there are certain Defence Regulations which are still in force, and if this Bill is passed those Defence Regulations

would be revoked. The particular Defence Regulations which would be revoked are (a) the Defence (Local Forces) Regulations, 1941, (No. 26) (b) the Defence (Military Organisation) Regulations, 1942, (No. 43), (c) the Defence (Volunteer Regulations Amendment) Regulations, 1942, (No. 56), (d) the Defence (Volunteer Regulations Amendment) Regulations, 1942, (No. 30), and (e) the Defence (Military Units) (Change of Name) Regulations 1943, (No. 38).

Hon. Members will observe from the last clause of the Bill that there is a Volunteer Ordinance of 1878 which would be repealed by this Bill. I am sure hon. Members have perused the Bill, and that I need hardly emphasise that the word "volunteer" means a person who gives his service without any expressed or implied promise of remuneration. There are, however, certain provisions for pay in the Bill, and hon. Members will appreciate the reasons for those provisions.

Clause 3 provides for the establishment of a Volunteer Force under the name, style and title of "The British Guiana Volunteer Force." Clause 4 provides that service in the Force shall be voluntary. There is no question of compulsion about it. Clause 5 provides for the appointment of a Commandant of the Force who will hold the rank of Colonel of the Force. The Commissioner of Police for the time being shall be Commandant. Then there is provision for the appointment of a Commanding Officer in clause 6. Clause 8 provides for the appointment of a Staff Officer and Adjutant with the rank of Captain. Then there is provision in clause 9 for the appointment of two Warrant Officers.

With regard to the question of enlistment, hon. Members will see in clause 16 what the provisions are. Young men between the ages of 16 and 38 are eligible for enlistment for a period of three years, but there is provision in sub-clause (1) (b) under which youngsters going to Queen's College who are seventeen years and are in the Cadet Corps may, with the consent of their parents, join the Volunteer Force. Any Volunteer may be re-engaged to serve for a period of one, two or three years from the end of his term as he thinks fit.



There is provision for discharge on certain terms and conditions, and in clause 17 there is provision for annual training during a period of not less than eight days and not more than fifteen days in every year. I am sure hon. Members will appreciate the necessity for a provision of this nature, and I imagine it will be done with the least possible inconvenience to those who are employed. Then there is provision in clause 18 for the embodiment of the Force, and in clause 19 for its disembodiment.

Clause 23 makes provision for hospital accommodation and treatment in case injury occurs to a Volunteer whilst on duty. Clause 24 provides for the Force to be subject to military law whilst under training, instruction or exercise. Then follows provision for failure to attend embodiment.

Clause 29 makes provision for the trial of offences, and hon. Members will see the reasonableness and the propriety of the procedure laid down in that clause. Then there is clause 31 which gives the Governor power to make Regulations. I wish to emphasise clause 32 which makes provision for this Council to have a say with regard to any Regulations which are to be made.

Clause 34 makes provision for the establishment of a reserve of the Volunteer Force. I am sure that there are many of the large body of men in the Colony who have served in the armed forces, who would wish to be associated with the Volunteer Force.

I think I have dealt as fully as possible with this Bill, and I need hardly remind hon. Members that the basis of all organisations of this nature is the volunteer spirit, the *esprit de corps* which is developed and maintained by those who become members of such a unit. They are, and will be, I feel sure, actuated by the spirit of not letting down the unit, and that is perhaps the greatest mainstay in any voluntary organisation, and more particularly one of this nature. I wish to say that Col. Orrett has stated that after nearly three years the present Volunteer Force is still waiting to be placed on a permanent basis. During that time we have been unable to accept any recruits, and large numbers of men have

been lost because they were tired of waiting until we have an organisation of this nature. There are men who wish to become members of an organisation or unit of this nature and I am sure hon. Members will agree that we can do nothing better than to pass this Bill which seeks to establish and put on a permanent basis the British Guiana Volunteer Force. I wish to commend the Bill as being very desirable in the interest of the Colony, and I feel sure it will be beneficial to all those who get training from this organisation. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Mr. DEBIDIN: Before speaking on the Bill, may I be permitted to ask three questions of either the Attorney-General or the Colonial Secretary? The first is, what expenditure is it anticipated that the Colony would be committed to as a result of this Volunteer Force; and the second is, what is the meaning of the term "opposers" in clause 22 (1) relating to the oath to be taken by volunteers, and whether the term has any relationship to clause 18, (1), (b).

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I should like to point out as regards the oath that if the hon. Member looks at the Militia Ordinance, Chapter 29, he will see the same words occurring there. There is nothing new in the Bill with regard to that.

Mr. DEBIDIN: The third question is this: To what extent is the policy of Government—

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I do not want to interrupt the hon. Member, but this is the second reading of the Bill and he should not put such questions now.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I wanted to have certain things elucidated.

The PRESIDENT: I think the hon. Member can get his elucidation when we come to deal with the Bill in Committee.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I wanted to get certain matters cleared up.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. Member has asked a question he has no reason

to ask. He should make his speech on the Bill and say what his views are.

Mr. DEBIDIN: If Your Excellency so rules I will accept your ruling. In view of what has happened outside this Colony — in certain South American colonies—and in view of the present trend of international affairs, I would not say that this Bill is not opportune. I would certainly support it provided there are certain reservations in so far as certain things are concerned. I am sorry it has come up at this moment when there is so much unrest.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: To a point of order: I would like to point out that this Bill is the result of a motion moved in 1947. It had to be drafted and the reason why it has come up at this moment is that it was not ready before. I do not want to make a speech, but the reason why we have to pass it as soon as possible is that we cannot issue any uniforms or start the Force until this Bill is passed. It has come before the Council at the earliest possible date. The idea in the Bill was mentioned by me in my motion of September, 1947, when I said very clearly that "the Attorney-General would introduce the Bill and when the 1947 draft estimates have been prepared the Finance Committee of this Council will have an opportunity of going through the expenditure." That is the answer.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I have not said there is no right on the part of Government to bring forward this Bill now. All I have said is that it is unfortunate it has come up at this time when certain conditions exist. That is all I have said, and I hope I have not been misinterpreted. In view of the experience I have had in a certain respect—and I refer to the inquiry which was held into the Leonora strike some years ago but I need hardly make any further reference to that — I am opposed to clause 18 (1) (b) remaining in this Bill, since I feel that we are aiming at reform—and references have been made in this Council from time to time about the general advancement of civilisation. While it is necessary to have a Constabulary Force in this Colony capable of dealing with whatever disaster may arise among our people, it is not expedient for measures to be adopted at

this time which would have an undesirable effect on the minds of the inhabitants, such as the use of extra force or influence against what might be regarded as legitimate protests or uprisings by the people.

The PRESIDENT: I assure the hon. Member that it would not be used in such circumstances as legitimate protests. I do not believe anybody thinks it would.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I am glad for the assurance, but in my experience what is a legitimate uprising may be regarded otherwise. Another observation I desire to make is that whenever we have in this Colony the men suitable for filling certain posts or certain offices, Government should give every opportunity to them. Further than that, I feel that every effort should be made to secure voluntary services from the Officers and members of the various ranks of the Volunteer Force. Bills of this kind should not normally find opposition on the part of this Council and I do appreciate the reasons for bringing this one forward. I sincerely hope, however, that due consideration will be given to what I have stated with regard to clause 18 (1) (b).

Motion put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

#### COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

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

Clause 4—*Service in the Force to be voluntary.*

Mr. ROTH: It seems to me that there is a kind of anomaly here. Clause 4 says: "...no person shall be under any obligation to serve in the Force and no person who serves in the Force shall receive any pay or allowance in respect of such service."

I find, however, that clause 8 (3) states:—

"(3) The Staff Officer and Adjutant shall be paid such salary and allowances as are from time to time provided by the Legislative Council."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The first few words in this clause—4—explain

the situation. They are "Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and of the Regulations,..." The general rule of payment, therefore, would be subject to the words provided in the Ordinance or in the Regulations.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that would be clear to the hon. Member.

Clause 4 put and agreed to.

Clause 18—Embodiment of the Force.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I beg to move the deletion of clause 18 (1) (b).

Dr. JAGAN: I beg to second that. I feel that the provision in clause 18 (1) (a) is sufficient to meet our needs. It reads:—

"(a) that there is imminent national danger of great emergency,..."

I think there is sufficient scope there for taking care of anything under par. (b) and, as the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara stated some minutes ago, the Police Force of the Colony can very well take care of disturbances that may take place from time to time.

Mr. DEBIDIN: Another good reason for the deletion is that those who are willing to serve in this Volunteer Force may become unwilling if they become aware of this clause.

Mr. LEE: I would ask the two hon. Members not to press this amendment. If there is a Volunteer Force the Governor would certainly have the right at all times to call on any and every citizen to serve if there is a civil disturbance. We did not object to the Message when it was laid before this Council, and I do not think we should raise this point now. After all the Governor of the Colony is the judge in such cases, and I appeal to the hon. Members not to press the amendment.

Clause 18 put and agreed to.

Clause 29—*Trial of offences.*

Mr. LEE: I feel that some provision should be made so that if a defendant

requires the services of counsel he would be permitted to have it.

Mr. FERREIRA: Under the King's Regulations he would be permitted to do so.

Mr. LEE: There is no mention in this Ordinance that it would be subject to the King's Regulations. It is subject to Regulations made by the Governor.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: That is so.

The CHAIRMAN: I will note the hon. Member's point anyway.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The question of the King's Regulations is mentioned in clause 24 and, therefore, it was in the minds of those who dealt with the preparation of this Bill.

Clause 29 put and agreed to.

Clause 34—*The Reserve.*

The CHAIRMAN: One point that strikes me here is this: This makes it obligatory for a man to go on the Reserve and be still a volunteer.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I would not say obligatory; I would say that is a means of building up a Reserve. In other words, after service in the Volunteer Force a person would become eligible for the Reserve.

Mr. FERREIRA: I think there should be a time limit, and that a man should not be on the Reserve for a period of more than five years.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think the idea is that those who leave the Force may join the Reserve, but I do not think the clause says so exactly.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It means, in other words, that the Reserve shall consist only of persons who have served as members of the Volunteer Force and are no longer active members.

Mr. GONSALVES: I interpret it to mean also that no member of the Force

who has been dismissed for any offence shall be eligible for inclusion in the Reserve.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: That is the only person who is excluded. All those who have been members are eligible and, therefore, they can go on and remain active on the reserve.

The CHAIRMAN: He is still a volunteer and has to go on. That is how I look at it.

Mr. LEE: There is one point. I notice this Reserve Force is to be built up by members who have now joined the Volunteer Force, but there are past members of the Militia who would like also to belong to the Reserve Force and cannot be in the present Volunteer Force.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Does the hon. Member mean those, who some time ago have been members of the Militia and have retired from the Militia, would still like to go on the Reserve, or those at present serving in the Militia who will be lifted from the Militia and become members of the Volunteer Force?

Mr. LEE: I am thinking of past militiamen.

The CHAIRMAN: Will they not come under members of His Majesty's Forces elsewhere?"

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I do not know whether they will be regarded as members of His Majesty's Forces in that sense.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The draughtsman intended anybody serving in His Majesty's Forces anywhere.

Mr. LEE: It can be so interpreted. I only wanted to bring it to the attention of the Council.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It is very good to have it clear.

The Council resumed.

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

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### MILITIA BAND BILL, 1948

"An Ordinance further to amend the Militia Ordinance with respect to the constitution of the British Guiana Militia Band and by repealing all references to the Militia Force."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: In moving the second reading of this Bill, it will be seen that the Militia Ordinance, Chap. 29, regulated the British Guiana Militia Force and the British Guiana Militia Band attached to it. The Bill, which we have just been considering and which hon. Members have just passed to provide for the establishment, control, training and discipline of a Volunteer Force, makes provision for the establishment of a Volunteer Force to be called the British Guiana Volunteer Force. That Volunteer Force is to take the place of the British Guiana Militia Force; and the present Bill before hon. Members seeks to amend the provisions of the Militia Ordinance, Chap. 29, by removing therefrom all references to the Militia Force. The Militia Ordinance is to be known in future as the Militia Band Ordinance.

Opportunity has been taken in this Bill that members of the Band, who are now engaged before the Georgetown Magistrate, be engaged before the Commandant — provided in clause 5 of the Bill—and also that there should be a certain amount of elasticity allowed in the number of Non-Commissioned Officers, Bandsmen and Apprentices. At the present time there are 5 Band Non-Commissioned Officers — one sergeant, two corporals, two lance-corporals—and 18 Band privates and 12 Band apprentices. Clause 3 of the Bill provides that there shall be such number of Band Sergeants, Band Corporals, Band Lance-Corporals, Band Privates and Apprentices as the Governor may, with the approval of the Legislative Council, from time to time direct. Also it is provided that the Band Sergeant-Major shall be called Band Warrant Officer (clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill) and that in suitable cases the Bandmaster shall be designated as Director of Music (clause 3 of the Bill).



I understand that the post of Bandmaster is only held by a Warrant Officer, and as soon as the Bandmaster is commissioned his title is then Director of Music. This Bill seeks to provide for that. I do not think it is necessary for me to go further into the various points in connection with this Bill. There is a Schedule which provides for several verbal amendments consequent upon the acceptance of the principle as to the change. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. LEE seconded.

Mr. ROTH: I would like to enquire what is the reason for the change of the designation or title of the Bandmaster to Director of Music.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Some time ago when Colonel Hooker was here, he wrote asking that this title be changed because, he said, when he was in England he discovered that the post of Bandmaster is only held by a Warrant Officer and immediately a Bandmaster is commissioned he becomes a Director of Music. He further said he was given to understand that this change was made in Jamaica and Trinidad and it is an Army custom, and he would be grateful if this change is permitted. It makes no financial commitment. Now that we are dealing with the Militia Ordinance opportunity is taken to deal with this change which has been drawn to our attention.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

Council in Committee.

*CLAUSE 4 — Amendment of sections 59 (2), 63, 74 and 75 of the Principal Ordinance.*

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask that the words in the third line "subsection (2) of section fifty-nine" be deleted because, as it will be observed, in clause 3 section 59 of the Principal Ordinance is thereby repealed.

The CHAIRMAN: It is therefore redundant there!

Question put, and agreed to.

Words deleted.

Clause passed as amended.

*CLAUSE 5 — Amendments to section 63 of, and the Second Schedule to the Principal Ordinance.*

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I ask that in line two the words "for Georgetown" be added after the word "magistrate". With reference to the section of the Ordinance I see the words "Magistrate for Georgetown" are used.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause passed as amended.

*SCHEDULE — Amendments.*

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: (17)—section 126—the word "neglects", in the first line be changed to "neglects" Opportunity has been taken to correct the spelling.

Question put, and agreed to.

Schedule as amended passed.

The Council resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Clause 3 (1) reads:

"The band of musicians known as the British Guiana Militia Band and formerly attached to the British Guiana Militia Force shall be attached to the British Guiana Volunteer Force established under the Volunteer Ordinance, 1948."

It is therefore necessary to defer the third reading until that Ordinance has been assented to.

Third reading deferred.

**HOSPITAL FEES (AMENDMENT)  
REGULATIONS, 1948**

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I ask leave to defer consideration of the motion

in respect of the Hospital Fees (Amendment) Regulations, 1948, to the next meeting of the Council.

business for the day. Next Thursday being King's Birthday, I adjourn the Council to 2 o'clock a week today, that is next Friday.

Agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: This concludes the

The Council adjourned accordingly to 2 p.m. on Friday, 11th June, 1949.