

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.***Friday, 10th November, 1933.*

The Council met, His Excellency the Governor, SIR EDWARD DENHAM, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., President, in the Chair.

**PRESENT.**

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. Millard, C.M.G. (Acting).

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. Hector Josephs, K.C., B.A., LL.M. (Cantab.), LL.B. (Lond.).

The Hon. T. T. Smellie, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. F. Dias, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

Major the Hon. W. Bain Gray, M.A., Ph.D. (Edin.), B. Litt. (Oxon.), Director of Education.

The Hon. J. S. Dash, B.S.A., Director of Agriculture.

The Hon. R. E. Brassington (Western Essequibo).

Major the Hon. J. C. Craig, D.S.O., M.E.I.C., Director of Public Works.

The Hon. J. A. Henderson, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc. (P.H.) (Edin.), D.T.M. & H. (Edin.), Surgeon-General.

The Hon. F. Birkitt, Postmaster-General.

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, M.B.E. Colonial Treasurer (Acting).

The Hon. P. W. King, Official Receiver.

The Hon. H. P. Christiani, Commissioner of Lands and Mines (Acting).

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

The Hon. Jung Bahadur Singh (Demerara-Essequibo).

The Hon. G. E. Anderson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

The Hon. W. S. Jones (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. H. G. Seaford (Nominated Unofficial Member).

**MINUTES.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 30th August, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

**GOVERNMENT NOTICES.****SUSPENSION OF ORDERS.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. T. Millard) gave notice that at a later stage he would move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable "A Bill to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, Chapter 34, with respect to the duty on edible oil" to be taken through all its stages.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Hector Josephs) gave notice that at a later stage he would move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable "A Bill to make provision for the regulation of the sale of copra and the manufacture of certain products from the kernel of the coconut" to be taken through all its stages.

**GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER BILL.**

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education) gave notice that when the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Bill reached the Committee stage he would move the following amendments:—

(a) That the following be substituted for clause 2 of the Bill:—

"2. Any rate which the Council is authorised to raise levy and collect under section twenty-two of the Principal Ordinance shall not be levied in respect of—

(1) any building and the land therewith which are used by the owner thereof solely as a school for elementary education with the approval of the Council;

(2) any building and the land therewith which are used by the owner thereof solely for the charitable purpose of housing poor persons who are themselves maintained by charity: provided that no benefit or advantage whatsoever accrues to the owner in respect of such user or housing."

(b) That the following be added at the end of clause 3 of the Bill:—

"in respect of all buildings and lands which are granted exemption under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section two, and on and after the first day of January, nineteen hundred and thirty-four in respect of all buildings and lands which are granted exemption under sub-section (2) of section two."

#### ORDER OF THE DAY.

##### CUSTOMS DUTIES BILL No. (3).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable "A Bill to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, Chapter 34, with respect to the duty on edible oil" to be taken through all its stages.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the Bill be now read the first time.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Sir, in moving that the Bill to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, Chapter 34, with respect to the duty on edible oil, be now read the second time I would remind hon. Members that some time earlier in the year representations were made to Government that owing to the low prices ruling for coconuts and copra there was great danger to the industry. The prices ruling at that time were \$1.30 per 100 lbs. for copra and \$3.50 per 1,000 for coconuts. It was suggested that this Government should attempt to remedy the position by employing methods used in Trinidad and

Jamaica. The subject was carefully considered at Conferences and by Committees and it was decided to represent the position to the Secretary of State and to make suggestions for the protection of the local industry for the manufacture of edible oils with the objective of securing a satisfactory price for the manufacture of copra. The proposals were sent forward to the Secretary of State and have been approved, and they will be found embodied in this Bill and in the Bill that will be introduced by the hon. Attorney-General. In the Bill now before the Council protection is afforded by the increase in Customs duty on imported edible oils. The existing duty is 13 cents under the British Preferential Tariff and 26 cents under the General Tariff, and the proposal in the Bill is to increase the British Preferential Tariff to 60 cents and the General Tariff to \$1.20. The existing surtax of 30 per cent. will operate in regard to these increased rates and the effective rates will be 78 cents and \$1.56. It will be observed that the protection that will be afforded is substantial, and it may be expected to limit and probably exclude the importation of edible oils, even including those of British and Empire manufacture. It will be apparent, therefore, that the assistance to the local manufacture of edible oils, as now approved by the Secretary of State, has been granted unreservedly with the hope and intention that this local industry will secure the whole of the local market. By such means it will be possible to ensure to the local manufacturers of copra a higher price, and, it is hoped, encouragement given to the owners of coconut plantations to carry out fully the proper methods whereby the best nuts and copra will be secured and manufactured. Technical advice is not lacking. For some while past the means accruing from the very low market price have been inadequate for the purpose.

Hon. Members will realise that with the increase in the local manufacture of edible oils there has been a substantial diminution in the receipts of Customs revenue. In 1932 the local consumption of edible oils amounted to 326,100 gallons. Of that amount 184,000 odd gallons were manufactured locally, leaving 141,000 imported. The Customs duty collected in 1932 was \$26,579. If the same rates of Customs duty had been imposed on the

total consumption as had been imposed on the imported article there would have been \$33,365 additional revenue. During the current year, up to the end of October, the local manufacture of edible oil amounts to 107,144 gallons. I think hon. Members will realise that the proposal to assist the industry throughout, from cultivation to manufacture of copra and on to the manufacture of edible oils, is substantial in amount and substantial in the omission of any limiting factor. It is a plain, straightforward attempt to secure the full establishment of a local industry and to secure for that industry the greater portion and, if possible, the whole of the local consumption. In approving of the proposals put forward the Secretary of State says there should be a clear understanding that if this scheme fails it should not be attempted to give any further assistance. It must be, I think, quite clear to hon. Members that the meaning there is that the attempt to establish the cultivation and manufacture of copra and the absorption of the whole of the local consumption by the output of the locally manufactured edible oils is so complete that should it fail it must fail for remarkable reasons, such as (1) that we cannot produce coconuts in sufficient quantity and quality, (2) that the manufacture of copra, for some technical reason unknown to my lay mind, is unsatisfactory, and (3) that the hopes of Government, Councils and the industry that the local manufactured edible oils can provide all that is required for local consumption, again in quantity and quality, is not the case. Well, sir, in the consideration of these proposals by the various bodies of Government, Conferences and Committees, there was a definite opinion that the proposals are sound and that the objective will be secured, given the protection at the point that is proposed in this Bill. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Mr. CANNON: The mover of the motion for the second reading of this Bill has made out an excellent case for the manufacturers. While the manufacturer or manufacturers of this kind of oil or of any other kind of product that is sought to be introduced into the Colony will always have my support, I cannot close

my eyes to the effect on the consumer. There is nothing I have heard that satisfies me that the consumer is in any way protected under this Bill. I have heard that there is another Bill to follow in connection with copra, but I do not happen to have a copy and do not know to what extent it is proposed to go. Unless there is something in that Bill which provides for a reasonable price to the grower there is no reason at all why the manufacturer or manufacturers should not take advantage of the grower and so destroy the good that this Bill is likely to bring about. I certainly think that something should be done in that direction. I notice with regret that the duty is to be increased. Knowing human nature as I do I cannot conceive it possible that the manufacturer or manufacturers will shoulder that burden. It is going to fall on the consumer and at a time such as this I do not think that foodstuffs of this nature should be taxed to the extent proposed. Unless there is some provision for the protection, first of all, of the grower as to the price he is likely to be paid for his commodity, and, secondly, that the consumer's interest is to be protected in the form I have indicated, the Bill cannot have my support. If, on the other hand, the consumers as well as the growers are to be protected, the Bill will have my unstinted support and my very good wishes.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Sir, the hon. Member who has just spoken has referred to questions which really arise out of the Bill which I referred to this morning when I gave notice with respect to the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders. That Bill is not before the House at the present moment but it is relevant to this debate, and the point has been very properly made by the hon. Member that information should be given as to what is provided in the respects he has mentioned. That other Bill, sir, is one which provides for the regulation of the sale of copra and the manufacture of edible oil. With regard to that provision is made in that Bill giving the Governor-in-Council power to fix the price which shall be paid from time to time for coconuts. An important point that has been made by the hon. Member is that if protection is not afforded to the persons who have the marketable article for sale it will be possible for the manufacturers to buy from

them at their own price and that the growers will accordingly suffer. The Bill makes provision in that respect because there is a clause which provides that every manufacturer shall pay for all copra purchased by him a price which shall not be less than the price which the Governor-in-Council may from time to time fix, having regard to the current local market price and other conditions prevailing in Georgetown, and the price so fixed shall be published every week in the *Gazette* and be effective from the day following the date of publication. There is also provision that the manufacturer shall pay for all crude coconut oil purchased by him a price equivalent to the price fixed for copra, to be computed on the basis that 100 lbs. weight of copra is equal in value to six and two-thirds gallons of crude coconut oil. The effect of it, therefore, is that the price of copra will be controlled by the Governor-in-Council in the interest of the producers of copra, and it also follows that the growers of coconuts will benefit because the price of coconuts will naturally depend upon the market price of copra. There is another clause which is important also to the question as to the price at which edible oil will be sold. That clause empowers the Governor from time to time, by notice published in the *Gazette* to prescribe standards of quality, and fix maximum wholesale and retail prices for copra products manufactured and intended to be sold for consumption in the Colony. Copra products include edible oils and lard substitutes, and there is a penalty against any person who sells or exposes for sale copra products not of the standard or at a higher price. Care has therefore been taken to make provision in that Bill to meet the circumstances to which the hon. Member has referred. Provision is also made in that Bill for the imposition of an excise duty of 12 cents upon every gallon of edible oil and of 42 cents upon every 100 lbs. of lard substitute manufactured in the Colony and delivered for home consumption.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause without discussion.

The Council resumed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the Bill be read a third time.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question "That this Bill be now read a third time and passed" put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time.

#### COPRA PRODUCTS (SALE AND MANUFACTURE) BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended in order that the Bill to make provision for the regulation of the sale of copra and the manufacture of certain products from the kernel of the coconut may be taken through all its stages.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that "A Bill to make provision for the regulation of the sale of copra and the manufacture of certain products from the kernel of the coconut" be read the first time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that the Copra Products (Sale and Manufacture) Bill be now read the second time. The hon. Colonial Secretary in moving the second reading of the Customs Duties Bill with respect to the duty on edible oil has referred to some of the circumstances which have led up to the introduction of these two Bills to the Council. The object of this Bill is to give protection to the local industry in a similar manner to that given Jamaica in 1931 and Trinidad in 1932. The position, as has been pointed out, is that the market of coconut products has been, unfortunately, not a very flourishing one, and it is realised that if the coconuts which are produced locally are used for local consumption in the manufacture of edible oils and of lard substitutes and consumed in this Colony it will be of great advantage to the growers of coconuts in

that the price which they will get from their cultivation will be remunerative and will also foster the manufacture of the products. It is perhaps somewhat an unusual method, but I submit that the special circumstances of the case warrant it. We have precedent for it in the instances to which I have just adverted, and the matter is one that has been carefully considered in the interest of the parties concerned—the growers of coconuts, the manufacturers of copra products and the community generally. The effect of the Bill will undoubtedly be far-reaching because it will not only be to the benefit of the particular individuals but there is no doubt that the wages fund and the amount of money to be expended in the Colony will be increased. As has been pointed out, there has been a good deal of consideration of the matter. Reference has been made to the Secretary of State, who has given his approval to this Colony embarking on this enterprise, and I think that everything points to a favourable result of the undertaking and that now and in future the Colony will have good reason to be grateful for the attitude of the Secretary of State in connection with the matter, because in looking after ourselves and in protecting our own house there is no doubt that it will have an effect on other persons in the Empire who produce copra products.

The special provisions of the Bill are for the regulation of the sale of copra and the manufacture of copra products. So far as the regulation of the sale of copra products is concerned Part I. of the Bill deals with that, and it provides for the granting of a licence to a manufacturer of copra products, copra products being defined as meaning edible oils and lard substitutes. There is a penalty on any person who manufactures copra products without a licence, such penalty being a fine not exceeding \$480 and forfeiture of the machinery. Every manufacturer of copra products shall first make application in writing to the Commissioner of the district for a licence in respect of each factory which he intends to operate, and power is given to the Commissioner to refuse a licence to any applicant who has been convicted of felony or of an offence involving dishonesty or of an offence under the Ordinance. Provision, however, is made by clause 6 for an appeal to the

Governor-in-Council from refusal to issue a licence, and this clause follows one which was adopted by this Council in connection with the rice industry. All licences will expire on the 31st December in every year. Power is given to the Governor-in-Council to suspend or revoke the licence of a manufacturer, provided that he gets notice of it and has an opportunity of being heard on the question of its suspension.

Part II. of the Bill provides for the duty on copra products, which is to be an excise duty of 12 cents upon every gallon of edible oil and 42 cents upon every 100 lbs. of lard substitute. So far as lard substitute is concerned it is understood that it is not now being manufactured, but there is no doubt that in a short space of time its manufacture will be undertaken, and when that takes place the duty is attached in respect of such amount as is delivered into consumption. Clause 11 provides for a book to be kept by every manufacturer at each factory recording (a) the quantity of copra received into the factory, (b) the name and address of every person from whom he has purchased copra and the date and quantity of each purchase, (c) the quantity of copra used for the manufacture of edible oil and lard substitute respectively, (d) the number of gallons of edible oil and pounds of lard substitute manufactured, (e) the number of gallons of edible oil and pounds of lard substitute exported, (f) the number of gallons of edible oil and pounds of lard substitute delivered for consumption in the Colony, (g) the number of gallons of edible oil and pounds of lard substitute remaining in the factory at the end of the month, and (h) the amount due for duty. Then he has to make a true and correct return to the Commissioner of the district of the matters entered in the book and at the time of making the return shall pay the duty imposed by clause 10. And there is a penalty for not doing that. The effect of that is that it will be easy for the Commissioner, who has the right of inspection of the books and factories and so forth, to keep a check of what is being done, and it is similar to the provision which has been made in respect of the sugar excise duty.

In Part III. there is provision for fixing the price of copra. That price will be fixed from time to time by the Governor-in-Council having regard to the market price and other conditions prevailing in

Georgetown. The effect of that will be to prevent any undue advantage being taken of the coconut producers and copra manufacturers. It is clear that without such a provision in the Bill the special object which it is sought to accomplish would fail because one of the primary objects is the protection to be afforded to the growers of coconuts and the producers of copra. Clause 13 provides that the Governor may from time to time prescribe standards of quality and fix maximum wholesale and retail prices. Both of these are most important. The interest of the grower and producer of copra, as well as the interest of the general community who will be consuming the copra products, will be afforded ample protection by means of these provisions. Then in clause 14 there is power to enter and inspect the factory and the books. Clause 15 provides that the Legislative Council may make regulations with respect to the method of sale and distribution of copra and the regulation of other transactions relating thereto. The object of that is to enable further action, if any becomes necessary, to be taken by the Legislative Council by way of making regulations for the purpose of carrying out the measures which the Council may deem fit to secure the objects of the Bill.

The Bill as it stands will have the effect of improving the quality of copra and, as I indicated earlier, the natural result is that the copra producer will get more for his article. The price will be advertised and it follows that people who grow coconuts, knowing the price of copra, will naturally be able to command a price for their coconuts, so that protection will be afforded to both of them in that respect. If after the Ordinance is in operation it is found that any further provisions are necessary to secure the particular object regulations will be framed and passed by this Council for that purpose. The Bill as it stands will secure what is intended but clause 15 has been inserted so that in the event of its not accomplishing the object desired, then this Council will be able to take the necessary steps to make regulations for the purpose. Clause 16 enables the Governor-in-Council to prescribe forms in the manner in which they are to be kept. When the Bill goes into Committee I shall move the insertion of a sub-clause providing a penalty for a con-

travention of the provisions of clause 12. I move that the Bill be now read the second time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Dr. SINGH : I kindly request that this Bill be taken at a later date. We have seen this Bill to-day for the first time. To my mind it bristles with difficulties, in spite of the explanation of the learned Attorney-General, and I request that it be taken at a later date.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I desire to support what the hon. Member has said and to ask Government not to push this Bill with indecent haste. The Bill contemplates what Government does not seem to imagine. The ordinary man with half a dozen coconut trees manufactures copra when the price is good and it does not require such elaborate machinery. You are asking that man suddenly to take out a licence, and you say if he does not do so he should be fined £100. The person who advised Government that this Bill is necessary has misinformed Government.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL : I rise to a point of correction. It is not required that every manufacturer of copra shall take out a licence. He is only required to register with the Commissioner of the district each place where he produces or intends to produce copra. The Commissioner registers his name and issues a certificate, and the penalty for producing copra without registering is a fine not exceeding \$20.

Mr. ELEAZAR : Before a certain company embarked on the manufacture of edible oil they had been manufacturing coconut oil for consumption. All these parties are producers of edible oil under this definition.

THE PRESIDENT : Government is quite prepared to give further time for consideration of the Bill. It had to be brought before the Council without notice as it affects the revenue. The position at present is that we have passed the Customs Duties Ordinance, and having agreed to an excise duty Government has cover and would not be losing money, as the excise duty takes effect from the date of the introduction of the Bill. Government has nothing to lose by postponement of consideration

of the Bill, but the point I wish to make perfectly clear is that if this Bill is not taken before the end of the present session it will lapse and have to be introduced again. We do not want to do that and the Bill should be passed as soon as possible. I should like to know if there is any other Member who wishes a postponement.

Mr. JONES: I should like the Bill deferred for further consideration to enable people who are interested in the coconut industry to consider the proposals.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I also join in the request that consideration of the Bill be deferred.

Mr. CANNON: I should like to know if Government has any figures as to whether the price of edible oils will be increased to the consumer. Possibly I can be told what the effect will be on the consumer.

Mr. SEAFORD: If the Bill is deferred the Regulations prescribed under clause 15 should be brought before the Council at the same time. The kernel of the Bill is clause 15 and the Bill without the Regulations is unworkable.

THE PRESIDENT: I suggest that the best way of dealing with the position will be to refer the Bill to a Committee of the Council to deal with the points raised, especially the question of the Regulations in connection with clause 15, the Committee to report to the Council by Tuesday or Wednesday so that the Bill can be proceeded with on Thursday next week. One point I may refer to. The hon. Member for Georgetown North wishes to have some information as to what the price is going to be to the consumer. It must be quite obvious to everyone that this Bill is going to increase the price of coconuts and copra very considerably, and it is also obvious that the consumer will have to pay more, but Government is endeavouring to protect the consumer as far as possible by Regulations to fix the price at which the article should be sold. The consumer may have more to pay with respect to edible oil, but the whole object of this Bill is what the Colony has been asking for for a considerable time, that is the protection of a local industry. This has been done in spite of instructions laid down with regard to Imperial Pro-

tection. The Secretary of State has gone so far as to abandon that principle with respect to this Colony, following what has been done in Jamaica, Trinidad and British Honduras. We have now to work out a scheme for ourselves, and to devise a good and workable scheme as far as possible. I think the best course will be to put the Bill before a Committee and see how far it is desired to amend it by representations by the Chamber of Commerce. The Bill is no longer confidential and the revenue is protected. I suggest as the Committee the Hon. the Attorney-General, the Hon. Mr. Smellie, the Hon. Mr. Dias, the Director of Agriculture, the Hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo, the Hon. Member for Western Berbice and the Hon. Mr. Seaford. Are there any other names Hon. Members wish to propose? I ask the Committee to let me have their Report, if possible, by Tuesday next. I am sorry to give them so short a time, but they will appreciate that it is desirable to get through legislation before the annual session. It has been suggested that the second reading of the Bill be taken now. I will therefore put the question that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot agree that the Bill be read a second time because when the Committee have reported the House will then be asked to go into the several clauses of the Bill and accept or reject the recommendations as the principle of the Bill would already have been passed.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Does clause 8 mean that an individual who has seven or eight coconut trees and sun-dries his copra is a copra producer?

THE PRESIDENT: I suggest that that point and others be considered by the Committee.

Mr. CANNON: I should like to associate myself with the point made by the hon. Member for Berbice River. The Bill is of more importance than I thought at first and every opportunity should be given not only to Members of this House but also to those outside of it to consider it very carefully.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think it is a vital point whether the second reading

should be taken or not. I wish to make it quite clear that Government has approved of the principle of this Bill. We have already passed the other Bill and Government cannot possibly go back on the principle already accepted. We intend to protect the local industry, but the local industry naturally has to make up the loss of revenue of the duty on imported oil. With the passing of the first Bill the Council has deprived Government of the revenue to be derived from imported oil, and it is quite obvious—and is admitted by the firm itself, who made the offer if such protection is to be given—that if such protection is to be given with respect to the local article the local article must pay for the monopoly. It is quite clear in that case that the local company will have to pay more for what they are producing here. Government has power to make Regulations to prevent them passing on the increase to the consumer. The consumer may get the article considerably cheaper by local competition, but it would be quite wrong for Government to say that the consumer should not pay a little more, and I say he should in order to protect the local industry. I am willing to let the second reading stand over but wish to make it clear that the principle of the Bill Government must adhere to. The debate is adjourned until Thursday next.

GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER  
BILL.

Major BAIN GRAY : I move the second reading of "A Bill to amend the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Ordinance, Chapter 96, by giving the Council authority to exempt from rating buildings and the lands occupied therewith used as schools." The principle of this Bill is embodied in clause 2, which exempts from the special rates buildings and lands in Georgetown which are used by the owners thereof solely as schools for elementary education. This legislation embodies an agreement which has been reached between the Governing Bodies of Church schools, the Town Council and the Government. The matter has been the subject of representation for some years and an agreement has been reached which is embodied in the Bill. The fact that these representa-

tions have extended over a long period accounts for the date of commencement, which is given in the original Bill as the 1st January, 1931. It was on or about that time that the Church Authorities who manage schools in Georgetown made representations on the subject. After the Bill was published the Town Council received representations from another class of institutions in the City asking for the same concessions. These institutions are charitable institutions which provide for the housing of poor persons, or young children or orphans or old people who have passed the age of maintaining themselves. The Town Council accepted those representations and supported them to Government, and Government has accepted the principle that the same measure of exemption shall be granted to the owners of these houses, hence it will be necessary to substitute for clause 2 as printed a new clause which appears on the Order of the Day, and I propose to move the necessary amendment when we are in Committee. As the result of that important amendment in clause 2 it will be necessary to amend clause 3 in regard to the date. The date of exemption of schools will be left as the 1st January, 1931, but the date in regard to charitable institutions will be the 1st January, 1934. I move that the Bill be read the second time.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

Clause 2—Premises used as schools for elementary education not liable for rate.

Major BAIN GRAY : I move that the following be substituted for clause 2 :—

"2. Any rate which the Council is authorised to raise levy and collect under section twenty-two of the Principal Ordinance shall not be levied in respect of—

(1) any building and the land therewith which are used by the owner thereof solely as a school for elementary education with the approval of the Council;

(2) any building and the land therewith which are used by the owner thereof solely for the charitable purpose of housing poor persons who are themselves maintained by charity: provided that no benefit or advantage whatso-



ever accrues to the owner in respect of such user or housing.”

Mr. ELEAZAR: I think we might improve on this clause. I suggest that it should read:—

Any building and the land occupied therewith used solely for educational or charitable purposes with the approval of the Council.

The word “owner” should be deleted.

Major BAIN GRAY: The point about “owner” is that the word follows from the Principal Ordinance both in regard to Sewerage and Municipal taxes generally.

Clause as amended by the Director of Education agreed to.

Clause 3: Commencement.

Major BAIN GRAY: I move that the

following be added at the end of the clause:—

in respect of all buildings and land which are granted exemption under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section two, and on and after the first day of January, nineteen hundred and thirty-four in respect of all buildings and lands which are granted exemption under sub-section (2) of section two.

Question put, and agreed to.

The title of the Bill was amended by the addition of the words “or for charitable purposes” at the end thereof.

The Council resumed.

Notice was given that at the next meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bill be read the third time. (*Major Bain Gray*).

The Council adjourned until Thursday, 16th November, at 11 o'clock.