

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Friday, 17th December, 1937.*

The Council met at 10.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, SIR WILFRID JACKSON, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, (Mr. E. J. Waddington, C.M.G., O.B.E.).

The Hon. the Attorney-General, (Mr. J. H. B. Nihill, K.C., M.C.).

Major the Hon. W. Bain Gray, C.B.E., Director of Education.

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

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, M.B.E., Colonial Treasurer.

The Hon. W. A. D'Andrade, Comptroller of Customs

The Hon. B. N. V. Wase-Bailey, Surgeon General (Acting).

The Hon. H. P. Christiani, M.B.E., Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

The Hon. E. M. Walcott, (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

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

The Hon. S. H. Seymour (Western Essequibo).

The Hon. J. W. Jackson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. H. G. Seaford, O.B.E., (Nominated Unofficial Member).

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on the 16th December as printed and circulated were confirmed.

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

## CONVERSION OF 5% GOVERNMENT BONDS.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor :—

## MESSAGE No. 12.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to inform the Council that Government intends to exercise option of redeeming on 1st January, 1939, the undermentioned 5% bonds totalling \$335,100, issued under the provisions of the Public Loan and Colonial Treasury Bill Ordinance, Chapter 47, Ordinance No 6 of 1916):—

No. of Issue.	Date of issue or conversion.	Amount outstanding at date.	Date of redemption.
21	1st Jan., 1929	\$ 335,100	1st Jan., 1939.

It is intended that the notice of redemption shall be accompanied by an offer to the bondholders of conversion of their bonds to bonds bearing interest at the rate of 3½% per annum the new bonds to bear the same dates, terms and conditions as the bonds for which they are substituted including the right to Government of redemption 10 years from the date of conversion on the usual 12 months notice being given.

It is considered important that the extent to which the offer is accepted should be known as soon as possible, and it is proposed therefore to fix 28th February, 1938, as the final date for acceptance by bondholders of the offer of con-

version. In the usual course, bondholders who desire to avail themselves of the offer will be required to deposit their bonds with the Colonial Treasurer on or before such date in exchange for deposit certificates pending the issue of the conversion bonds.

I accordingly invite the Council to approve of an offer of conversion being made on the terms stated to accompany the notice exercising the option of redemption of the 5% bonds detailed above.

W. E. JACKSON,  
Governor.

11th December, 1937.

## PAPER LAID.

The following document was laid on the table:—

Colonial Regulations relating to the leave and passage arrangements of officers transferred from one Colony to another.—(*The Colonial Secretary*).

## GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) gave notice of the following motion:—

## CONVERSION OF 5% GOVERNMENT BONDS.

THAT, with reference to the Governor's Message No. 12 of the 11th of December, 1937, this Council approves of an offer being made to convert the 5% Colony bonds specified herein issued under the Public Loan and Colonial Treasury Bills Ordinance, Chapter 47 (Ordinance No. 6 of 1916), into bonds carrying interest at the rate of 3½% per annum and bearing the same dates, terms and conditions as the Bonds for which they are substituted including the right of redemption ten years after the date of conversion on Government's giving twelve months notice.

## ORDER OF THE DAY.

## ROYALTY ON GOLD.

Mr. JACOB, on behalf of Mr. LEE, asked the following questions:—

1. How much was collected on royalty on gold by (a) dredging (b) by mining for (1) the year ending December, 1936, and (2) up to the 30th June, 1937?

2. How much was collected for the lease of concessions from (a) Minerals except bauxite (b) Timbers for (1) the year ending December, 1936 (2) up to the 30th June 1937?

3. Will government levy a further sum of 10 cents per oz. royalty on gold, 10 cents per carat on diamonds, and 10 cents on every acre of leased concession for minerals for the first 5,000 acres, the next 5,000 acres 2 cents, the next 5,000 acres 4 cents, for the next 5,000 acres 6 cents and every other acre 8 cents, allocating the said revenue separately for the purpose of making permanent and proper roads to the Kaieteur and extending other roads further into the interior of the Colony?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Waddington) replied as follows:—

1. (a) *Dredging*—\$1,347.19 for 1936—\$245.72 to 30th June, 1937.  
(b) *Mining*—\$16,217.16 for 1936—\$3,684.82 to 30th June, 1937.
2. (a) *Concessions*—\$25,635.81 for 1936—\$16,526.54 to 30th June, 1937, inclusive of rents on exclusive permissions, mining and dredging concessions.  
(b) *Timbers*—\$4,597.60 for 1936—\$2,260.50 to 30th June, 1937, inclusive of rents on leases and licences.

3. In the opinion of Government, increases in royalty at the present time would tend to create a feeling of insecurity and would discourage the investment of capital which is necessary for the development of mining areas. It is not therefore proposed to adopt the course suggested.

## SPECIAL HOLIDAYS' FARES FOR STUDENTS.

Mr. JACOB, on behalf of Mr. LEE, asked the following question:—

1. In view of His Excellency Sir Geoffrey Northcote's advice on travelling by students, will Government cause the Transport and Harbours Department to accept a half one-way fare in any class as a return fare in the same class for all students travelling to any part of this Colony on vouchers produced from their headmasters at any time during holidays?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1. The Transport and Harbours Department will issue return tickets at ½ of a single fare on the Railway and Steamer services to organized parties of 12 pupils or more from any school.

## APPOINTMENTS IN CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. JACOB, on behalf of Mr. LEE, asked the following question:—

1. Is Government aware of the discontent and dissatisfaction that exists in respect of the appointments in the Civil Service of the Colony? Will Government cause to be held every year an examination for the purpose of awarding a certain number of students the privilege of preference in obtaining employment in the Civil Service,—Fees to be charged for such examination and a regular syllabus published in the *Official Gazette* for such examination?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1. Government is not aware of any dissatisfaction with regard to the present method of appointing candidates to the Civil Service. The matter is governed by the Clerical Service Admission Rules, which prescribe an educational qualification, and it is not considered necessary to require candidates to submit themselves to a qualifying examination.

Government is unable to agree to a policy of admission by competitive examination.

## BISHOP'S HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. JACOB, on behalf of Mr. LEE, asked the following questions:—

1. Is Government aware that illegitimate children are not permitted to enter Bishop's High School as students? How many such students were refused admission during the years 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936?

2. What was the cost to the Colony of each student at Bishop's High School for the years 1935 and 1936?

In view of the cost to the Colony of each student taking a secondary education, will

Government accept the principle that any student other than students from Queen's College and Bishop's High School satisfying the examinations and obtaining 3 credits in the Cambridge Junior and School Certificate examinations and the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board Examination be presented with his or her cost of entrance fees or such sum as may be deemed reasonable?

3. In view of the success obtained by non-denominational schools, will Government extend and commence that policy to other districts, gradually beginning with the principal villages in the several counties, selecting proper places in order to meet the need for recreation and for agricultural pursuits?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1. Pupils are admitted to the Bishop's High School in accordance with rules made by the Governing Body of the School, one of which is that illegitimate children are not accepted. Government was aware of this rule when a grant was first given to this school and has no information as to the numbers of students who have been refused admission.

2. The cost to the Colony of each pupil attending the Bishop's High School for the years 1935 and 1936 was \$13.39 and \$11.90 respectively. (This figure does not include the amount paid to the School in fees for Government scholars—(\$695.40 in 1935 and \$715.80 in 1936).

Government does not propose to accept the suggestion contained in the second part of this question. Prizes are already awarded under certain conditions to the winners of these certificates.

Government has under consideration the question of establishing undenominational schools in a few areas where no schools exist at present, or where the accommodation is insufficient, and cannot be increased by the denomination concerned, but the general establishment of Government schools is not contemplated at present.

#### QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

Mr. JACOB, on behalf of Mr. LEE, asked the following questions:—

1. What is the total amount of free periods of each Master during a week at Queen's College? State names and periods.

2. How many masters have obtained permission to teach private students after College hours?

3. Will Government consider the advisability of holding evening classes at very reasonable charges both for the ordinary examinations and commercial courses?

4. How many students are in the preparatory class at Queen's College? What provision is being made or considered, should there be a further increase of the number of students for the year 1938? Is Government aware that the number of students in the said preparatory class is already too large for one master to teach properly and efficiently?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1. Mr. Pilgrim	4 free periods per week.
Mr. Bevis	3 " " "
Mr. Clarke	5 " " "
Mr. Coats	5 " " "
Mr. Dartford	5 " " "
Mr. Cameron	4 " " "
Mr. Taitt	6 " " "
Mr. Weston	4 " " "
Mr. Lighton	4 " " "
Mr. Drayton	6 " " "
Mr. Chung	5 " " "
Mr. Thorne	3 " " "

2. Two masters have during this school year received permission to teach private pupils after College hours. Two of the pupils concerned are not Queen's College pupils and are studying for the Matriculation and Intermediate Examinations of the University of London; they are not candidates for the British Guiana Scholarship. The other pupil is a Queen's College boy who was somewhat backward due to a late start at the school.

During the last 3 months of the school year 1936—37, another master received permission to give extra lessons in oral French to two Queen's College pupils preparing for the British Guiana Scholarship Examination.

The masters are not allowed to take private pupils without the permission of the Head Master. Government is not prepared to alter the present procedure in this matter.

Government does not propose to establish evening classes for the purposes mentioned. They are outside the scope of Government policy and the needs of students are already met by private teachers.

4. There are seven pupils in the Preparatory Form at Queen's College. There is therefore no need to consider further provision at present.

#### IMMOVABLE PROPERTY SALE OF INTERESTS BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Nihill): I move that "A Bill intituled An Ordinance to make provision in the case of dispute for the sale of undivided interests in immovable property," be read a third time and passed.

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education) seconded.

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

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK BILL.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I move that "A Bill intituled An Ordinance to continue the establishment of the Post Office Savings Bank and to

provide for the better control and management thereof" be read a third time and passed.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) seconded.

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

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### Tax (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. McDAVID: I move that "A Bill intituled An Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 37, in certain particulars" be read a third time and passed.

Mr. D'ANDRADE seconded.

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

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### BENJAMIN DISRAELI McDougall PENSION BILL.

Mr. McDAVID: I move that "A Bill intituled An Ordinance to make provision as to the pension rights of Benjamin Disraeli McDougall" be read a third time and passed.

Mr. D'ANDRADE seconded.

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

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION (TRANSFER OF DUTIES) BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: On behalf of Mr. Laing (District Commissioner, East Demerara) I move that "A Bill intituled An Ordinance to abolish the offices of Chief Commissary and District Commissaries of taxation and to apportion the duties of those Officers among District Commissioners and their Officers" be read a third time and passed.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) seconded.

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

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILL.

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:—

A Bill intituled An Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935." (Mr. D'Andrade).

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING RULES AND ORDERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders so that certain Bills may be taken through their remaining stages, and also to enable the Colonial Treasurer to move the motion of which he gave notice earlier in the day. As hon. members are aware Bills should be printed and published seven days before the second reading in this Council. Two Bills on the Order Paper have only been printed and published six days, and therefore the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders is necessary if they are to be taken now. Hon. members will agree that it is desirable that we should continue with our business to-day. I therefore move "That the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended, to enable the following Bills:—

A Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Colonization Fund Ordinance, 1937, in regard to certain particulars.

A Bill intituled An Ordinance to prescribe the method to be adopted in computing the taxes and rates to be levied by the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown in respect of the year 1938 on all properties in the city.

A Bill intituled An Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935, to be now read a second time and taken through all the stages to-day, and also to enable the Colonial Treasurer to move the motion of which he gave notice earlier to-day."

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

## COLONIZATION FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move the second reading of "A Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Colonization Fund Ordinance, 1937, in regard to certain particulars." There are only two amendments to the Ordinance which are proposed in this Bill, and they are clearly set out in the Bill itself. One provides that the fund may be used to pay the remuneration of the Secretary and any other expenses in connection with the Trust Fund which the Governor in Council may approve. The other provides for a decrease of the quorum from five to four. There are only seven members of the Committee, and it has been thought desirable that the quorum should be four only, otherwise there may be difficulty in obtaining a quorum at important times. The Chairman of the Committee is not here to-day, but I think I may say that it is a matter on which he has been consulted. He is very strongly of the opinion that a quorum of four would be better in the circumstances.

Professor DASH seconded.

Mr. JACOB: I have no objection to offer to the quorum being reduced, but I should like to emphasise one point. On the majority of these Boards and Committees members are appointed who are not resident in Georgetown, and therefore it is found very inconvenient at times to get the business of those Boards and Committees carried through. I urge on Government the advisability of appointing members who will be able to attend meetings at short notice and regularly without much inconvenience to themselves and to the despatch of business connected with the Government, so that matters can move a little more rapidly. There have been complaints over and over in regard to the composition of Boards and Committees. I have just merely mentioned the matter so that Government should go into it, not only in respect to this Bill but as regards others as well. There is a principle here to appoint members resident in various parts of the Colony. It has not worked well in the past, and I do not think it will work well in the future either. I think there should be some change of policy in such matters.

Mr. SEYMOUR: Committees, or what-

ever they may be, want men who happen to know the various parts of the Colony. This Committee, I do suppose, will not be called upon many times during a year to investigate, as is anticipated by the hon. member, any scheme confined to just the members resident in Georgetown. It seems totally absurd to think that the intelligentsia can only be found in Georgetown. I think that we in other parts of the Colony are just as intelligent, and it will be very unwise to confine the appointees to those resident in Georgetown, because soon we will get the "Georgetown Complex" which is not well in a country so wide as this. People living in other parts of the Colony do know and should know what is necessary for their district.

Mr. JACOB: I am afraid the hon. member misunderstood my remarks.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I hope that I have not misunderstood the hon. member. He says that people living outside of Georgetown cannot easily get to meetings and therefore should be excluded from these Committees in order to allow the business to proceed. I take very strong exception to that. That is one reason why this Colony is as it is; in years gone by we used to legislate as if Georgetown is the only place in the Colony. It is only within recent times that we have been putting people, who are resident outside of Georgetown, on these committees and the business has been going on better and more rapidly. I personally fight shy of appointment on committees because of the inconvenience it causes me as the result of being resident in New Amsterdam. Very often I have been appointed against my will, to find that the members resident in Georgetown cannot be got to attend meetings. Yesterday afternoon I wanted my hon. friend who lives in Georgetown to meet me here, and although a Berbice member could have been in his seat he could not be found. We were yet to find where he was until he told me this morning. It was an urgent matter we had to discuss and yet he could not be found. The matter concerned two of us from Berbice and two from Georgetown, and those from Georgetown could not be found; they were not in the Council, not at their homes, and not at their offices. The hon. member wishes these things but he does not really appreciate the remarks he very often makes. Government has discovered that it is a

mistake to appoint only people in Georgetown on committees; very often they know nothing except what happens in Georgetown and cannot contribute to the information required. That is the reason why Government goes further afield. As the hon. member for Western Essequibo (Mr. Seymour) has said, Georgetown does not claim the monopoly of brains in this Colony.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the hon. member sees the considerable difference in the views expressed. It is not a matter in which Government can give any indication, except to do their best to see the interests concerned are represented.

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 now read a third time and passed.

Professor DASH seconded.

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

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### GEORGETOWN RATING BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I beg to move that "A Bill intituled An Ordinance to prescribe the method to be adopted in computing the Taxes and Rates to be levied by the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown in respect of the year 1938 on all properties in the City" be now read a second time. This Bill has been prepared at the request of the Georgetown Town Council to meet a situation created by the discovery that it will not be possible to complete by the end of the current year the general appraisal of the properties of the City now in progress. Under section 153 of the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance there is an obligation placed upon the Town Council to order and complete a

general appraisal at least once in every 10 years. The present year is the tenth year, and unless therefore the appraisal which is now in progress can be completed by the end of the current year, the Town Council will find itself in the position of having no legal basis upon which to compute the town rates and taxes for the ensuing year. That is the situation which must be met if, as Government is advised by the Town Council, it is impossible that the appraisal now in progress can be completed and ready by the end of the year, 1937.

The Bill meets the situation in a very simple way, by directing that the Town Council shall in respect of the year, 1938, compute its rates and taxes upon the existing appraisal. That is provided for in clause 2 of the Bill. The proviso to that clause merely harmonises this Bill with the general provisions regarding appraisements, which are to be found in the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance. They provide for the re-appraisal of improved or deteriorated properties. Clause 3 of the Bill provides that the appraisal now in progress shall be continued and completed, and clause 4 provides that in respect of the year, 1939, the computation of the City's rates and taxes shall be upon the appraisal now in progress and to be completed during the year, 1938. That is the object and whole extent of the Bill. I am glad to see the hon. members for Georgetown South (Mr. Gonsalves) and Georgetown Central (Mr. Wight) in their places this morning, and I am sure if any further explanation is needed by this Council those members will be happy to give it.

Mr. GONSALVES: I beg to second the motion, and I wish before I go further, assuming that the Bill is going to be passed at this meeting, to express on behalf of the Town Council my gratitude to Government and the hon. Attorney-General in helping us to get this Bill through so promptly. It is a Bill of necessity, as Your Excellency has heard, because it has been brought about really through the decision of the Town Council to have a fuller appraisal, or one of more detailed particulars, than in the past. It is also due to the fact that the appraisal now in progress should have been begun a little earlier. As the hon. Attorney-General has said, unless this

Bill is passed there will be some difficulty in the Town Council computing its rates and taxes for next year. While it is true, as has been said here, no one likes to pay taxes, as far as the Town Council is concerned, it is a necessity to levy taxes. We have improvement schemes in respect of which we have a large amount owing to Government.

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

Major BAIN GRAY seconded.

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

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: I beg to move that "A Bill intituled An Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935" be now read a second time. This Bill contains a few amendments to the Customs Duties Ordinance of 1936. Clause 2 of the Bill amends the First Schedule of the Principal Ordinance as amended by the Customs Duties Ordinance of 1936 by repealing and replacing Item 2) therein. Item 29—"Matches"—is now sub-divided into three, namely:—

(a) In boxes containing not more than 100 matches each—\$1 per gross of boxes, British preferential tariff, and \$2 per gross of boxes General Tariff;

(b) Other than in boxes, per 14,400—\$1.10 under the British Preferential Tariff and \$2.20 under the General Tariff;

(c) Vestas, per 14,400—\$1.50 under the British Preferential Tariff and \$3 under the General Tariff.

There is another sub item relating to match splints but it is not intended to amend this. It would appear from the figures just quoted that it was the intention that the rate of duty on matches

packed in boxes should be rather less than when otherwise packed. Actually matches are generally imported in boxes containing between 50 and 60 and not 100 as is now provided for in the tariff, and so it comes about that such matches are really taxed at a higher rate than matches not so packed and liable to duty on the actual quantity. The amendment to Item 29 now proposed in clause 2 of the Bill reads:—

(a) Matches of every description, per gross of boxes each containing not more than 60 matches—\$1 under the British Preferential Tariff and \$2 under the General Tariff.

This single sub-item will replace the three sub-items (a), (b) and (c) in the existing tariff. The effect of this is that matches packed otherwise than in boxes will be liable to duty proportionately under the provisions of subsection 2 of section 6 of the Principal Ordinance, which reads:—

Where in any case in the First Schedule reference is made to any description of goods as packed in a particular form, the same duty shall be imposed on the article if packed in any other way, or in any other form imported; and the amount of duty then payable shall be computed by the Comptroller so as to equal as nearly as may be, but be not less than, the amount of duty payable in the like case if the goods had been packed in the usual way or imported in the usual form.

The effect of this amendment is similar to that provided in the Tax Amendment Bill which was read a second time yesterday. The duty on matches has remained the same but the wording has been altered somewhat in this Bill. It now reads:—

(b) Match splints of the ordinary length of matches, per 14,400—75 cents under the British Preferential Tariff and \$1.50 under the General Tariff.

Instead of "Match splints, in cases containing 14,400 equal to 100 gross of matches of the ordinary length per case. . ." The effect is the same.

Clause 3 amends the Second Schedule by inserting the words "other than paper bags" after the word "merchantable" in the first line of Item 2 therein. That Item reads:—

Articles, ordinarily merchantable, bearing an advertising device, not enumerated in the First Schedule and not exempt in the Fourth Schedule. . . 8½ per cent. British Preferential and 16½ per cent. General Tariff.

Under this item there are admitted at

the present time paper bags on which are printed an advertising device of some kind, whereas paper bags which do not bear any such device are admitted on payment of those rates of duty under Item 14 of the Second Schedule which reads :—

All other goods not in this, nor in the First and Third Schedules particularly mentioned, nor in the Fourth Schedule particularly exempted. . . 16½ per cent. British Preferential Tariff and 33¼ per cent. General Tariff.

At present the printer outside of the Colony is placed at an advantage over the local printer. The printed article is admitted at a lower rate of duty, whereas the unprinted article, which may be printed on locally, is admitted at a rate of duty double that of the printed article. By the exclusion of paper and paper bags all those articles, regardless of whether they are printed on or not, will be admitted at the same rate of duty, namely 16½ per cent. under the British Preferential Tariff and 33¼ under the General Tariff. Another amendment to the Second Schedule is the insertion of two new items :—

- (a) Barbed Wire
- (b) Cattle foods of high protein content approved by the Director of Agriculture

Both of these are Duty Free under the British Preferential Tariff but pay a rate of duty of 16½ per cent. under the General Tariff. These items now appear in the Fourth Schedule as sub-items 36 and 37 to Item 1 of the Table of Exemptions from Duty, regardless of origin. The object of this amendment is to admit Duty Free only such barbed wire and cattle food as are of Empire manufacture.

Clause 4 of the Bill amends the Fourth Schedule by the addition of the following words to sub-item 34 of item 1 :—

and materials for use in the repair of aircraft.

The object of this amendment is to allow all such materials which are imported to be admitted as parts of aircraft. Aircraft parts are not usually imported ready shaped for fitting. Materials specially manufactured for the purpose are shipped in lengths, bars or sheets, such as the fabric for the wings of aircraft, and are here shaped and adjusted to the craft.

Other amendments to that Schedule

are two new subsections—(36) and (37) of Item 1—which replace the sub-items “Barbed Wire” and “Cattle Foods.” They are as follows :—

(36) Gasolene, Kerosine oil, diesel oil and lubricating oils when imported by or on behalf of the Committee appointed under the Sugar Experiment Stations Ordinance, 1932, for use in connection with any experiments with sugar cane at any experimental station established by the Committee.

(37) Miners' lamps together with headgear to which lamps may be attached.

There are also amendments to Item 5 by the addition of the following sub-items :—

(4A) Oil or oil mixtures suitable for larvicidal purposes and approved by the Surgeon-General for use exclusively in connection with the prevention of mosquito-born diseases.

(13) Chemicals and other substances of British manufacture which the Comptroller is satisfied are to be used in connection with any scheme approved by the Governor in Council for the purification of water.

I do not think these amendments require any comment. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. McDAVID seconded.

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.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: I move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

Mr. McDAVID seconded.

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

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### CONVERSION OF 5% COLONY BONDS.

Mr. McDAVID: I beg to move the following motion of which I gave notice this morning and which has been printed in the Second Schedule of the Order Paper for to-day :—

THAT, with reference to the Governor's Message No. 12 of the 11th of December, 1937, this Council approves of an offer being made to con-

vert the 5% Colony Bonds specified herein issued under the Public Loans and Colonial Treasury Bills Ordinance, Chapter 47 (Ordinance No 6 of 1916), into bonds carrying interest at the rate of 3½% per annum and bearing the same dates, terms and conditions as the bonds for which they are substituted, including the right of redemption ten years after the date of conversion on Government's giving twelve months' notice.

This motion refers to Message No. 12 which I also laid on the table this morning. It will be seen from that Message that Government proposes to give notice of redemption of an issue of bonds amounting to \$335,100 which now carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The motion seeks the approval of this Council to an offer being made simultaneously with that notice to convert those bonds into bonds carrying a rate of interest of 3½ per cent. per annum. The consequential saving will be approximately \$5,000 per annum. The proposal is similar to a motion passed by this Council last year dealing with bonds to the value of \$683,950, only in that case it was possible to offer a conversion at the rate of 3 per cent; but owing to the change in market conditions which has taken place since then, the rate of interest in respect of this conversion is now proposed at 3½ per cent.

I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more in support of this motion. It represents the final operation in regard to our conversion programme which had been initiated since 1933. In view of certain remarks which were made by the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) two days ago when speaking on his motion in regard to the raising of a large loan, I should like, however, to remind the Council of what has taken place during the last three years in regard to conversion operations. Actually between 1934 and 1937 we have repaid bonds which have matured to the value of over \$2,000,000 and have thereby saved a sum of \$60,000 per annum on our Public Debt Charges. Apart from that, we have instituted conversion operations dealing with bonds to the extent of nearly \$4,500,000, and as a result of those operations we have saved on Public Debt Charges something like \$100,000 per annum. I merely make these remarks in order to assure members that during the last five years Government lost no oppor-

tunity of converting bonds into lower rates of interest.

This particular operation with which this motion deals is the last possible one for some time. The next conversion cannot take place until 1942 when opportunity to convert a loan, known as the Million Pounds (sterling) Loan, at 5½ per cent. will arise. I hope when that time arrives we will be able to come to the Council with proposals that will effect considerable further relief in our Public Debt Charges.

Mr. D'ANDRADE seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am very glad to hear what has fallen from the lips of the hon. Colonial Treasurer (Mr. McDavid), and of course I know Government is not sleeping when things are going good. My view in asking Government to get this loan as a matter of fact is because money is plentiful and can be obtained cheaply at the present time. According to some businessmen, when business is bad you have to push it so as to get it going, and when it is good you have to push it because it is easy to go. I see Government is taking advantage of opportunities as they come along. I see Government is offering conversion at 3½ per cent., but there may come a time when you talk about 3½ that people will feel insulted. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. I am only too glad to see Government is vigilant in taking advantage of opportunities as they offer.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Your Excellency, this is the first Christmas you are going to spend with us. With your permission, you cannot leave for home this morning without being wished the old customary "Happy Christmas" not only to yourself but to Lady Jackson as well. This country is known—you may have heard of its characteristic feature—to be hospitable even to Governors. One of your predecessors used to say: "I must wish you a happy Christmas; I must fete you, and not you," but still he used to do it and make us feel happy. I feel it is the duty

of this Council to do so, and on my own behalf and of the Elected members of the Council as well as others who may wish to join, I wish you and Lady Jackson a very happy Christmas in this country and a prosperous New Year. I am going to borrow for the occasion these lines from a writer :

Perfect be your happiness,  
How can friendship wish you less,  
Yet would friendship fain deplore  
That it cannot wish you more.  
A happy Christmas and a prosperous new  
year."

THE PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, the hon. member anticipated me in the wish I was

about to offer to members of this Council before we adjourned — A Happy Christmas and a very prosperous and happy New Year. I am doubly grateful to the hon. member for his kind remarks and good wishes which I very sincerely appreciate. I can assure him my short experience entirely bears out his view that this is a hospitable and friendly country. I have nothing further to add at the moment. I cannot give you any information at the moment as to the probable business before this Council in the immediate future, and the Council will therefore stand adjourned *sine die*.

The Council adjourned accordingly.