

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, 24th March, 1933.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, 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. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G.

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).

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

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

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo (Eastern Berbice).

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

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

The Hon. Q. B. De Freitas, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Surgeon-General (Acting).

The Hon. J. Mullin, M.I.M.M., F.S.I., Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

The Hon. F. Birkitt, Postmaster-General.

The Hon. L. G. Crease, (Oxon), Director of Education (Acting).

The Hon. E. G. Woolford, K.C. (New Amsterdam).

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

The Hon. A. V. Crane, LL.B. (Lond.) (Demerara River).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

The Hon. A. E. Sceram (Eastern Demerara).

The Hon. V. A. Pires (North Western District).

The Hon. J. I. De Aguiar (Central Demerara).

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

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

The Hon. M. B. G. Austin (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 23rd March, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

TAX BILL.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs): I move that "A Bill further to amend the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 37" be read the second time. Clause 1 refers to the short title. The effect of clause 2, which amends section 11 (1) (g) of Chapter 37, would be exemption in respect of immovable property belonging to two or more persons as the joint and undivided owners thereof, transported by all the owners jointly to each and every of them for the purpose of conveying to each owner a specific portion of the said property in lieu of the undivided interests previously held by such owners, provided the Registrar of Deeds is satisfied that the effect of the whole transaction is equivalent to a partition under the District Lands Partition and Re-allotment Ordinance. A little over a year ago this section was amended so as to exclude from the payment of this stamp duty immov-

able property transported by an officer under the District Lands Partition and Re-allotment Ordinance to any person entitled to a lot by the decision of the officer or the determination of the Local Government Board on an appeal from the officer. In both instances in respect of which provision has already been made, and that which is now being considered, transport is by two or more persons possessing immovable property as owners jointly and undivided of specific portions of such property to each owner. In the first case the partition of the land is done by the partitioning officer under the District Lands Partition and Re-allotment Ordinance and in the other the partition is by mutual consent. It seems reasonable that in the second case the exemption should be allowed in the same manner as in the former.

Clause 3 is an amendment to section 45 (b). It is well known that it was the practice of several steamers of different Lines visiting this port to bring with them a number of stevedore labourers for the purpose of discharging their cargoes in the harbour. In 1928 the Tax Ordinance was amended fixing a duty of \$50 in respect of every person brought into the Colony under such circumstances. It was never intended that this duty should be payable in respect of the crew of intercolonial crafts discharging cargo. The question has been raised as to whether the section as it now reads does not so apply, and the object of the amendment is to exclude ships of not more than 250 tons net register which have brought cargo shipped at a West Indian port, provided that the cargo is discharged by members of the crew only. The other exemption is a repetition of what is now the law in respect of any ship while in quarantine or while in any port of the Colony which is subject to quarantine.

Clause 4 imposes a licence duty for the manufacture of sweets and compounds. Section 3 of the Bitters and Cordials Ordinance, as amended by Ordinance No. 55 of 1932, provides that anyone who desires to manufacture any sweets or compound shall make application in writing signed by himself or his duly constituted attorney or agent to the Chief Commissary for a licence in that behalf, and section 5 (4) provides that there shall be payable for the licence the sum, if any, from time to time fix-

ed by the Legislative Council. It is felt that the time has come when the licence should be imposed, and it is proposed that in the case of sweets the manufacturer should pay a licence of \$25 and in the case of compounds the compounder should pay \$50.

Clause 5 proposes to impose a duty of 25 cents per gallon upon any liquor made from fruit and sugar or from fruit or sugar mixed with any other material other than spirits which has undergone a process of fermentation in the manufacture thereof and which contains more than 4 per centum and less than 26 per centum of proof spirit. Within recent years the manufacture of what is described in the Ordinance as sweets, but mostly in actual fact described as wine made locally from fruit of various kinds and certain vegetables, has developed very considerably. In 1927 the quantity delivered for consumption was just over 1,000 gallons, but during 1932 no less than 16,000 gallons were manufactured, in respect of which no duty was contributed to revenue. On the other hand the imports of wine for consumption for the same period, not including sparkling wine, fell from 36,000 to 8,000 gallons. It is considered that this industry is in a position to be able to pay a small tax. The average duty on imported wines is about \$1 per gallon and the duty it is proposed to impose on local wines is 25 cents per gallon. I may mention in this connection that in 1923, at the annual session of the Combined Court, a similar proposal was brought forward by Government but the motion was defeated in Committee of Ways and Means, the Elected Members voting solidly against it. The attitude then taken up was that the industry was in its infancy and should be encouraged, also that the time was then not ripe to tax it. I think it will be admitted now that the position is quite different and that the industry can afford to pay a small amount of duty.

The object of clause 6 is to repeal the section providing for the payment of a stamp duty of four cents in respect of every ticket in connection with a lottery or sweepstake organised by a racing club or association mentioned in the schedule of the Gambling Prevention Ordinance. The number of clubs mentioned in the schedule is five but in actual fact there has been only one club carrying on sweep-

stakes. Writing on this subject the Colonial Treasurer stated:—

This enactment requiring collection in stamps has, from its inception for one reason or another, proved laborious of operation as duty can only be collected on tickets that have actually been sold. At first, collection was operated generally by embossing the total number of tickets advertised for issue, duty being demanded before embossment and refund made after return to this Department of all unsold tickets duly attached to the relevant books upon conclusion of the drawing. From experience it has been found that the declared value of sweepstakes has been, in every instance, out of all proportion to the advertised value thereby necessitating return of the majority of tickets previously embossed for satisfying claims to refunds. The gross receipts in 1931 totalled \$2,224, while refunds amounted to \$1,218.80 or over 50 per cent. For last year the gross receipts amounted to \$354.56 and refunds \$321.16.

This method was very irksome and as an experiment it was agreed to collect the duty of four cents per ticket on the declared value of the sweepstake, but this course was considered unsatisfactory for the reason that it was not fraud-proof. The position is that there are numerous lotteries being carried on in the Colony, all of them with the permission of the Inspector General of Police under the powers given him under the Ordinance where they are for charitable purposes, and it seems unreasonable that only one club should be taxed. In view of the difficulty of collection and the work involved it is proposed that this provision should now be repealed.

Mr. MULLIN seconded.

Mr. CANNON: It has been pointed out by the Comptroller of Customs that the importation of wines is certainly very much below what it ought to be. I had hoped that he would have given us the reason for that. Imports have not been affected by the locally made wine but by the ridiculous duty imposed. If Government would reduce the duty there would be no necessity to call upon this Council to tax a minor industry. I will not give my vote to a tax on the unfortunate people who are trying to make a living, and I urge on Government the necessity to reduce the duties on imported wines and so enable people who would like to indulge in a little wine the option of doing so. I have in my possession a letter written by the Chief Commissary to one

of the manufacturers. It does not say that the duty is to be imposed on the proof gallon but on the gallon, which makes it worse and more ridiculous. If Government would reduce the duty for a year or two they would see whether it was not justified and whether the local manufacturers could compete with imported wines.

Mr. CRANE: For the present I shall confine my remarks to clause 3 of the Bill. The law is that no person shall employ for the purpose of discharging cargo of a ship any person who is not resident or has not been resident for three months or is not a settler in the Colony. Provision is made in a case of emergency for remission of payment of the duty, and a second exception is made in the case of any ship while in quarantine or any port subject to quarantine. My objection is to sub-clause (b) (2). I submit that the policy of Government ought not to be one of letting into employment in this Colony a section of labourers which obviously is already employed on board ship. By this provision it is possible for ship-owners to employ their crew with the understanding that they should do both the work of manning the ship and discharging cargo at this port, to the exclusion of labourers of this Colony who look forward to the opportunity of being employed in the discharge of cargo brought here. The crew of a ship should be restricted to manning the ship at sea, and if even they are allowed to discharge cargo over the side of the ship, there should not be included in that concession the right to come ashore and discharge that cargo. It is not fair to the labourers whose accustomed occupation it is to discharge cargoes of ships coming here. The exclusion of ships of not more than 250 tons net register will permit every sailing ship that comes to this port to discharge cargo by its crew. I suggest that Government cannot reasonably increase unemployment by sanctioning employment of strangers from whom we get nothing either in taxation or in any other respect.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I also protest against this amendment. Government seems very seldom to enquire before making these changes what was the necessity that caused the statute to be made in this form. Owners of vessels brought a large number of labourers into this country to work in

the place of local men because it was less expensive, and to avoid trouble this provision was enacted. To-day when the situation is much worse amongst the same class of individuals Government is seeking to remove that restriction which was made with that definite object. The Comptroller of Customs says that locally made wines have reached maturity. It is true that the manufacturers have reached maturity but they are on the dole. Government is too finicking in its search for taxation and this clause should not be made law.

Mr. SEERAM: I oppose the whole Bill with the exception of clause 2, which exempts conveyance of immovable property that should have been exempted long before now. I plead with Government not to press the clause. With regard to wines we have to consider what would be the effect of such a form of taxation. The manufacture of wine from fruit is a minor industry, the revenue that would be collected would be very small, and it would no doubt put a number of people out of employment. I was surprised to hear that the tax on sweepstakes is to be abolished. My opinion is that there are too many sweepstakes and a large number of people are being fleeced. People who wish to carry on sweepstakes should be made to pay this licence and I suggest that the tax be raised to eight cents as a means of getting some revenue.

Mr. AUSTIN: Vessels that come here from West Indian ports are of a net register below 75 tons. The reason for that is that for them light and tonnage dues are restricted to four payments a year. I am inclined to think that 250 tons is rather on the high side. Vessels of that tonnage come here from Canada with lumber and other things. It is a well known fact that the cargo is discharged by seamen, but that should not be allowed. I think it would be more satisfactory if the tonnage is reduced to 75 or 100 tons.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: If clause 3 will have the effect indicated by the hon. Member for Demerara River it ought not to be supported. I take it to specially refer to schooners operating from Barbados and other neighbouring islands to enable the crew to discharge them, but I do not think it is intended that the crew should also take the cargo into bond. I am in

entire agreement with the licensing of the manufacturers of sweets, as I understand the term, if for no other reason than that of absolute control. The question of the sanitary conditions under which wine is manufactured was raised by me not long ago and I am disappointed that the Comptroller of Customs did not make particular reference to that point. Those conditions are in many instances very unsatisfactory. It might appear that the duty of 25 cents a gallon is hard but it has to be remembered that imported wine pays a much higher rate of duty, and it is reasonable to expect that wine manufactured locally should pay some form of duty for the purpose of revenue. I anticipate some little trouble, however, over the words "other than spirits." Am I to understand that if in the process of manufacture a man added a quarter gallon of rum that would exclude him from paying the duty? I strongly urge that those words be deleted. It should also be made clear whether the words "per gallon" refer to liquid or proof gallon.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: With regard to the question of the discharging of cargo by people other than those belonging to the Colony, it has always been the practice for the crew of small schooners from the West Indies to discharge the cargo. The procedure was for them to handle the cargo on board and the regular labourer to handle it on the wharf. That is restricted to vessels bringing cargo from West Indian ports and no question would arise in respect of vessels coming from Canada.

Mr. AUSTIN: It did happen and has been the custom.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: It was in respect of a schooner that the question arose and it is intended to exclude such vessels. It is true that vessels from the West Indies are of a tonnage below 75 tons and the object is to give a special privilege to them. Vessels over 100 tons pay 25 cents per ton of cargo landed or taken on board. There are, however, few of these boats coming here and 250 tons was fixed to cover such vessels. The hon. Member for Demerara River regretted that I did not state the reason for the reduction in the consumption of imported wines. I did infer that it was to be attributed

in part to the very considerable increase in the manufacture of local wines, which has displaced a corresponding amount of wines hitherto imported. I do not go so far as to say that all the reduction is attributable to that source alone because 16,000 gallons were manufactured locally whereas the decrease is about 28,000 gallons. Obviously that is due to the fact that local wines have found favour largely in the Colony. Economic and other causes also contribute. A duty of 25 cents per gallon on 16,000 gallons would yield about \$4,000 a year and that is the amount of revenue involved. The hon. Member for Central Demerara raised the question of control. Quite recently the Bitters and Cordials Ordinance was amended to cover the manufacture of both sweets and compounds. The question of sanitary conditions could not be dealt with in that Ordinance but it is one which the proper authority is now investigating. The hon. Member also suggested the deletion of the words "other than spirits." If that were done sweets under the Bitters and Cordials Ordinance would come within the definition of compounds, in respect of which there is a special duty of \$3 under the Tax Ordinance.

Question that the Bill be read the second time put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

Clause 2—Amendment to section 11 (1) (g) of Chapter 37.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move the deletion of the words "joint and" and "jointly" in the second and third lines. Under the law there is no such thing as joint ownership but ownership in common.

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment to proviso (b) to section 45 of Chapter 37.

Mr. CRANE: I move the deletion of this clause. The effect will be to give to the Governor during a state of emergency power to remit payment of the duty levied as well as to enable persons other than those mentioned in section 45 to be

employed on any ship while in quarantine. I am not complaining about the crew being able to put cargo over the side of the ship but I object to their coming on shore and handling cargo.

Mr. CANNON: I am not in agreement with my hon. friend in allowing the crew of a ship to put cargo overboard. He is possibly not aware of what happens with certain vessels which come to this port. They take on at the first port of call a number of hands for the purpose of working cargo, and if the crew are not to be allowed to put cargo overboard it must be definitely stated what "crew" means. If it is to be the crew of the ship, and not a supplementary crew, then I am inclined to be in agreement, but I will not be a party to any supplementary people coming here and depriving our own people of their just dues.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Government now has to assist to find people employment, and I ask you, sir, not to press this provision.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think hon. Members are labouring under a misapprehension. We are doing nothing by this Bill but to legalise what has been going on all the time. The Ordinance was amended on the representations of the hon. Member for Georgetown North that ships were bringing labourers to the Colony and displacing persons who work on the wharves here. The schooner "Golden West" was bought in Canada and she brought down a cargo of timber which was being discharged by the crew. It was suggested that the ship-owner was contravening section 45 of Chapter 37 and the matter was brought before Government. The term "ship" was never intended to include a schooner and it was decided to put the matter right by clause 3. In order to get over the difficulty of large schooners bringing cargo from elsewhere it is intended to restrict the clause to cargo shipped at a West Indian port. The fact that schooners are trading between the neighbouring Colonies is enabling rice to be exported to them at a much cheaper rate than by steamer, and anything that is going to increase that rate will do great harm to the rice industry. Schooners also take charcoal and wood from this Colony, and representations are now under consideration from Barbados asking Government not to levy the export tax on those

commodities. Anything done is going to discourage trade with the West Indies. It is perfectly clear that we are only legalising the position that has never been questioned in the past. Section 45 was only to apply to steamers arriving with large cargoes, and I hope the clause will not be deleted in view of the great benefit of the schooners to the Colony.

Mr. CRANE: This is a provision that might lead to disorder.

Mr. AUSTIN: I propose to move an amendment which I hope will be acceptable to Government. It is that for 250 tons 100 tons be substituted. In addition to the schooners taking rice from this port I can visualise such items as fertilisers being transhipped to them at Trinidad or Barbados for this port and they would have the right to discharge those fertilisers by their crew.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Government is prepared to accept that amendment. When the Bill was first under consideration 100 tons was inserted but it was thought that it might include larger boats. The point we are at variance on is that we do not want the crew of vessels to handle cargo on the wharves and that in practice is not done. What happens is that the crew bring cargo from the hold and it is handled on the wharf by local people. To make that perfectly clear Government is willing to add the words "and that none of the crew shall be employed in the handling of cargo on any wharf."

Mr. CRANE: I have no objection to the crew discharging over the side of the ship and I accept the amendment.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I suggest that the tonnage remain as it might work hardship on some schooners.

THE CHAIRMAN: The clause will stand over for consideration by the Comptroller of Customs.

The clause was deferred accordingly.

Clause 4—Licence duty for manufacture of sweets and compounds.

Mr. CRANE: Is it intended to levy both a licence of \$25 and a duty of 25

cents per gallon in respect of the spirits used? It has been the policy of Government during the past ten years to encourage home industries and I do not see how Government can justify the levy of a heavy licence in addition to a duty of 25 cents per gallon. The revenue is so small that this cannot be a revenue producing tax. Are we to continue the policy of encouraging home industries? Consistency with our policy to encourage home industries makes me deprecate this proposal. There must be some regulation, but the licence is too high and I move that it be \$10. These people are growing fruit and everything they use in the manufacture of the wine pays duty.

Mr. GONSALVES: I support the amendment for a reduction of the licence. It has been said over and over again that local industries should be encouraged. It is not a question of revenue but a question of registration and control of the industry, and in that case the licence is too great. I think every encouragement should be given people to grow fruit and manufacture wine from any surplus.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am in agreement with the view that the licence is too high, especially as the original idea was to effect control. It is not a large sum of money that is expected to be collected. I think there are six or seven manufacturers operating at the present time and I hope Government will accept the proposal to reduce the licence to \$10. It seems to me that we shall also have to reduce the licence for a compounder from \$50 to \$10.

Mr. CANNON: I move that this clause be deleted and a clause inserted with a registration fee of 50 cents.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If Government is inclined to impose a licence for the purpose of registration the charge should be a nominal one.

Mr. SEERAM: I am in favour of the deletion of the clause and the substitution of a registration fee, and the manufacturers should comply with sanitary regulations.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The actual amount of the licence is immaterial. It is not a question of revenue and Government is quite prepared to accept a licence of \$10 with respect to both. The com-

pounder already pays an excise duty of \$3 on his product and the manufacturer would pay an excise duty of 25 cents per liquid gallon. The case can be met as far as registration is concerned by fixing the licence at \$10.

Clause amended accordingly, \$10 being substituted for \$25 and \$50.

The Council resumed.

CENTENARY EXHIBITIONS.

Mr. CREASE (Director of Education): I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 11 of the 22nd of March, 1933, this Council approves of the award by the Governor, as a fitting memorial to commemorate the Centenary of the union of the Colony of Berbice with that of Demerara and Essequibo, of Centenary Scholarships not to exceed three in number in each year commencing from 1932 to pupils who have shown special aptitude in particular subjects.

Before I ask hon. Members to approve of the award of these scholarships perhaps it would be better if I make some remarks in regard to them. These Scholarships are being instituted by Government, as stated in Your Excellency's Message, as a fitting memorial to commemorate the Centenary of the union of the Colony of Berbice with that of Demerara and Essequibo. The basis of awarding the scholarships will be to those candidates who have sat for the Government County Scholarship and have succeeded in gaining scholarship standard but have not succeeded in being awarded a scholarship because in the three Counties the numbers for each County are limited. It was first suggested that these scholarships should be confined to Queen's College, but on recommendations received from other secondary schools which are recognised by the Education Department, it was thought that perhaps it would be better not to confine them to Queen's College only but that they should be open to any secondary school which is recognised by the Education Department. It was thought that to confine them to Queen's College alone would be rather hard lines on other secondary schools, and all the schools which are recognised by the Department were approached to ascertain whether they would be willing, if a candidate were awarded one of these scholarships, to take that scholar free of tuition for a period of

five years. I am glad to say that the reply in each case was in the affirmative. I may point out that these scholarships will not incur any expenditure on the part of Government. They are scholarships for free tuition and no allowance will be made either for maintenance or books. I therefore ask the Council to approve of the motion to award these scholarships.

Mr. WOOLFORD seconded.

Mr. SEERAM: The scholarship is limited by the Message to boys. I want to suggest that it be extended to girls also.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. Member is correct. Although the motion says "pupils" the Message says "boys." What is the intention?

Mr. CREASE: That it should be confined to boys, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What is the opinion of the House?

Hon. MEMBERS: That it should be for both.

THE PRESIDENT: We will amend the Message to read "boys and girls."

Mr. CRANE: May I ask what is the benefit? I cannot see what Government is giving.

THE PRESIDENT: Government is taking into an institution which charges fees boys who will pay no fees. That could not be done without the authority of this Council.

The Council adjourned for the luncheon recess.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I support the motion with all my heart but wish to make a few remarks. I observe that between the motion and the Message there is a difference. It seems that the scholarship was originally intended for boys, and I think that is correct. I do not think Government should have students in any school in which they have not got complete control, and the only school in which they have complete control is Queen's College. The Message says that the awards are to be made "to pupils who have shown special aptitude in particular subjects but who have not succeeded in securing

Government County Scholarships" and also that "nominations will not be limited to those who have entered for County Scholarships." I do not think Government would be doing the correct thing to award the scholarships to candidates who do not come up to the standard of the examination. I ask that the scholarships be confined to pupils who attain the standard and that they should be sent only to a school over which Government has complete control.

Mr. CRANE: I think it would be a most invidious thing for Government to make an award which it could not enforce. These scholarships should not be in respect of any other school than Queen's College. I suggest that the motion be amended to read "approves of the award by the Governor tenable at Queen's College." I am aware that there are schools which receive an annual grant, and in consideration of that grant Government may nominate three non-paying students. I do not think the award of scholarships should be made under those provisions because they are uncertain and the grant may be withdrawn at any moment. When other and more reliable arrangements have been made for girls we could then amend this resolution, but meanwhile I suggest that the resolution should be limited to boys and to Queen's College.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the question has to be looked at from three points of view. The first point of view, as stated by the last speaker, is perfectly correct. The only thing that the Council can really be asked to do is that scholarships be granted for Queen's College, because it means that as a Government institution the taxpayers would not have to pay the cost of tuition there. As regards a private or semi-public institution which gets grants from Government, I put it to the Council from another point of view. Let us assume that one of these institutions wrote Government saying they are prepared to follow the example Government is setting in giving Centenary Scholarships to Queen's College by offering a Centenary Scholarship affording free tuition to boys or girls who had done well at an examination and were nominated by Government as students who should get scholarships. I am sure that no Member of this Council would

want to deny to that school the right to accept children nominated by Government for such scholarships. That question might be left to the discretion of the Governor. It is a point on which the Governor should be able to exercise his discretion through the Education Department. Strictly speaking, I think the hon. Member is quite correct in suggesting that the resolution should be limited to Queen's College, which is the only institution over which this House has any special rights as regards free tuition. The Council might have something to say with regard to the grants to other schools and to the award of scholarships by them but not to the extent of interfering with their operations. I will take the view of the Director of Education on the point. At the same time I should like to make it perfectly clear that there is no intention not to allow other institutions which desire to give Centenary Scholarships and ask Government to nominate students for them, and I am sure there is no intention on the part of Members of this Council that this privilege should not be given to all children in the Colony.

Mr. CREASE: I think the award of these scholarships to other schools than Queen's College is due to the fact that there may be a possibility of a candidate finding it almost impossible to come, say, from Berbice and live in Georgetown in order to attend Queen's College. I do not think that will be a frequent occurrence, but there is a possibility of a boy's parents finding it too expensive for him to live in Georgetown. If we confine it to Queen's College we will probably shut out an outsider, and, if necessary, we should allow a candidate to attend another school.

Mr. WOOLFORD: The object of the scholarship is one which, if it is to be carried out, cannot be limited in its scope. If the scholarship is to be tenable only at Queen's College there is a very strong probability that a candidate from the County of Berbice would be prevented from doing so owing to the impossibility of his being maintained in Georgetown. We cannot have Centenary Scholarships applicable only to one part of the Colony. The motion embraces the three Counties and I do not see how the scholarships could be restricted to one County or even two. I can foresee the possibility of a scholar in

Georgetwn not wishing to go to Queen's College on the score of religion or other grounds. Those are cases that have occurred before, raising questions of considerable difficulty. In the case of girls there are certain disabilities under which they would labour. The matter bristles with so many difficulties that it might be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : What I think the Council really want is, first of all, to approve of the idea of the foundation of these scholarships to commemorate the special event. They should be tenable to pupils of either sex at Queen's College or at an educational institution which undertakes to the Governor to accept pupils nominated by the Governor for holding such scholarships without charge to Government.

THE PRESIDENT : I think that would meet with the acceptance of the mover and seconder. I don't want to exclude giving a Berbice boy a chance in Berbice.

The motion as now amended will read :—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 11 of the 22nd of March, 1933, this Council approves of the award by the Governor, as a fitting memorial to commemorate the Centenary of the union of the Colony of Berbice with that of Demerara and Essequibo, of Centenary Scholarships (tenable at Queen's College or at an educational institution which undertakes to the Governor to accept pupils nominated by the Governor for holding such exhibitions without charge to Government)—the number whereof shall not exceed three in each year commencing from 1932 to pupils who have shown special aptitude in particular subjects.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL : These are really exhibitions and not scholarships and I suggest that the word "Exhibitions" be substituted for the word "Scholarships."

Mr. CREASE : I accept that amendment.

Motion as amended agreed to.

The Council adjourned until Tuesday, 28th March, at 11 o'clock.