

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, 11TH APRIL, 1957

The Council met at 2 p.m.

## PRESENT:

*His Honour the Speaker*

Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E.,  
Q.C.,

### *Ex-Officio Members:*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary,  
Mr. F. D. Jakeway, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The Hon. the Attorney General  
Mr. A. M. I. Austin,

The Hon. the Financial Secretary,  
Mr. F. W. Essex.

### *Nominated Members of Executive Council:—*

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

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall (Mem-  
ber for Communications and Works).

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

The Hon. R. R. Gajraj

The Hon. R. C. Tello,

### *Nominated Official:*

Mr. J. I. Ramphal

### *Nominated Unofficials:*

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

Mr. C. A. Carter

Mr. E. F. Correia

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb

Mr. H. Rahaman

Miss Gertie H. Collins

Mrs. Esther E. Dey

Dr. H. A. Fraser

Mr. R. B. Jailal

Mr. Sugrim Singh.

### *Clerk of the Legislature:*

Mr. I Crum Ewing.

### *Nominated Unofficials:*

Mr. B. M. Viapree (Ag.)

### *Absent:*

The Hon. P. A. Cummings (Mem-  
ber for Labour, Health and Housing)—  
—on leave.

Mr. T. Lee—on leave.

Mr. W. A. Phang —on leave.

Mr. W. T. Lord, I.S.O.—on leave

Prayers were read by the Most  
Reverend Dr. A. J. Knight, C.M.G.,  
Archbishop of the West Indies.

The Minutes of the meeting of the  
Council held on Wednesday, 10th  
April, 1957, as printed and circulated,  
were taken as read and confirmed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, I shall vacate my seat to await the arrival of His Excellency who is expected to arrive in a minute or two, and I expect all of you to be present in the Chamber when His Excellency enters and as usual you will rise from your seats and then we will begin.

*The Speaker then vacated the Chair.*

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

At 2.10 p.m. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Patrick Renison, K.C.M.G. entered the Chamber, accompanied by the Speaker, and made the following presentations:

**Mr. C. L. Kranenburg, O.B.E.** — the Insignia appertaining to the award of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**Mr. G. A. Phillips, M.B.E., Mr. L. B. Thompson, M.B.E., and Mr. C. P. B. Melbourne, M.B.E.** — the Insignia appertaining to the award of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

**Mr. J. A. Bradford, B.E.M.**  
British Empire Medal.

**Mr. C. A. N. Persaud**—Imperial Service Medal.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cyril Lionel Kranenburg.

Mr. Kranenburg proceeded to the dais, accompanied by the Hon. Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E., and Mr. W. O. Fraser, O.B.E.

**His Excellency:** Mr. Cyril Lionel Kranenburg; you have given devoted and efficient service in the Treasury since your appointment to the public

service in 1917. The knowledge of the working of the Department and the experience which you have gained over the years have always been placed unstintingly at the disposal of Government. You have also prepared personally, and largely out of office hours, the recently introduced "Financial Regulations, 1955," an exceedingly useful and comprehensive financial guide. You are held in high regard by the public as well as by your brother officers.

By Command of the Queen conveyed to me through Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, I present to you the Insignia of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

His Excellency pinned the Insignia on Mr. Kranenburg and congratulated him on the award.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Geoffrey Allan Phillips.

Mr. Phillips proceeded to the dais, accompanied by Major I. O. Smith, O.B.E., and Mr. J. Durey, M.B.E. —

**His Excellency:** Mr. Geoffrey Allan Phillips; you have given over thirty years outstanding service to Government. As an Officer of the Lands and Mines Department, you devoted much time and energy, often out of official hours, to Amerindian affairs. Though professionally unqualified, because of your considerable practical experience you have been performing for years with success duties similar to those of an Assistant Conservator of Forests. Your accumulated knowledge and experience have been invaluable to the Forest Department.

By Command of the Queen conveyed to me through Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, I present to you the Insignia of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

His Excellency pinned the Insignia on Mr. Phillips and congratulated him on the award.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Lawrence Blackwood Thompson.

Mr. Thompson proceeded to the dais, accompanied by the Hon. G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E., and Mr. D. J. Rose, M.B.E.

**His Excellency:** Mr. Lawrence Blackwood Thompson; you have done outstanding work as a District Commissioner, East Berbice, at a time when the work of a District Commissioner has greatly increased with the promotion of self-help schemes and the supervision of the work of Regional Development Committees. You have a flair for arousing the enthusiasm of those with whom you work and this has been in no small measure responsible for the raising of morale and the spreading of a new spirit of team work and co-operation in the district.

You have also for many years been a very active member of the Boy Scout Movement and have represented this Colony at several Scout Jamborees.

By Command of the Queen conveyed to me through Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, I present to you the Insignia of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

His Excellency pinned the Insignia on Mr. Thompson and congratulated him on the award.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Carlton Paton Browne Melbourne.

Mr. Melbourne proceeded to the dais, accompanied by Mr. H. S. Jackson, M.B.E., and Capt. C. H. Walcott, M.B.E.

**His Excellency:** Mr. Carlton Paton Browne Melbourne; you have been an outstanding leader in village affairs in the Colony. Your services to your district as a member of the Village Council of Golden Grove/Nabaclis for over twenty-four years have been exceptional. As a Member of many Boards and Committees your knowledge of the rural areas and your experience have been put unstintingly at the country's disposal. You have at all times given of your best and have set an example of the highest order at this time when so much effort is being made in community development.

By Command of the Queen conveyed to me by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, I present to you the Insignia of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

His Excellency pinned the Insignia on Mr. Melbourne and congratulated him on the award.

**The Clerk:** Mr. James Adolphus Bradford.

Mr. Bradford proceeded to the dais.

**His Excellency:** Mr. James Adolphus Bradford; though you have been in the service of Government in the Forest Department only since 1950,

nevertheless your service to the Colony in the navigation of its rivers dates back to 1929. You are a most fitting representative of the "Boat Captains" those romantic figures who, with the advent of air travel, are gradually going out of existence. Not only have you shown yourself to be a courageous and resourceful captain but because of your fine character you have also gained the respect of all who know you.

By Command of the Queen conveyed to me through Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, I present to you the British Empire Medal.

His Excellency pinned the Medal on Mr. Bradford and congratulated him on the award.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Claude Andrew Nankishwar Persaud.

Mr. Persaud proceeded to the dais.

**His Excellency:** Mr. Claude Andrew Nankiskwar Persaud; throughout your whole service of 46 years, you have worked in the Jenman Herbarium of the Department of Agriculture. Since 1943 you have been in immediate charge of what is the largest collection of plant specimens in the Caribbean—a collection of great scientific value. You have the widest knowledge of local flora and have assisted many professional botanists who have worked in British Guiana. You have carried out your duties with great diligence and fidelity.

By Command of the Queen conveyed to me through Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, I present to you the Imperial Service Medal.

His Excellency pinned the Medal on Mr. Persaud and congratulated him on the award.

#### AU REVOIR TO HIS EXCELLENCY

**Rev. Mr. Bobb:** Mr. Speaker, Your Excellency, Your Grace, hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen: This is a very fitting occasion for this hon. Council to say *au revoir* to Your Excellency before you leave these shores on your well-earned vacation.

When you first came to this country many of us commented on your impressive physical stature and mental alertness and vitality when viewed like this, but even in an exacting climate like this—though I am not in the position of authority to say that these things have suffered—you will no doubt require the refreshment and stimulation of a holiday in a happier and less strenuous atmosphere than this one.

We wish to express both to you and Lady Renison our profound appreciation of your stay among us, and hope that returning home for a brief period you will be further encouraged and renewed in your vigour and exuberance for the good of this country and that you will soon return to give us the benefit of your wide experience. Please accept from this hon. Council our very deep admiration of your services, and our hopes and expectations for your early return to the country.

**His Excellency:** Hon. Members; I am most grateful to the hon. Member for expressing these kind wishes to me. Thank you very much.

*At this stage the Council rose, and His Excellency accompanied by the*

*Speaker left the Chamber. On the return of the Speaker, the Council resumed the sitting.*

### PAPERS LAID

**The Chief Secretary:** I beg to lay on the table:

Sessional Paper No. 6/1957—Superannuation Benefits to Non-Pensionable Government Employees.

**The Financial Secretary (Mr. Essex):** I beg to lay on the table:

- (a) Report of the Director of Audit British Guiana, on the audit of the Accounts of the Colony of British Guiana for the year ended 31st December, 1955.
- (b) Minutes of the meetings of Finance Committee held on 3rd and 4th December, 1956.

**Mr. Farnum (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development):** I beg to lay on the table:

Report on the Needs of the Youth of the more populated Coastal Areas of British Guiana by Pearl Jephcott, M.A., Senior Research Assistant, London School of Economics (University of London) together with Sessional Paper No. 7/1957 thereon.

### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

#### GRATUITIES TO NON-PENSIONABLE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**The Chief Secretary:** I beg to give notice of the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper:

“Be it resolved: That, with reference to Legislative Council Resolution No. LII of the 6th July, 1951, approving the payment of allowances and gratuities to non-pensionable Government employees, this Council approves of the gratuities and allowances being calculated in accordance with the amendments to the existing rules proposed in Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1957 presented to Council by the Honourable Chief Secretary, and undertakes to provide the necessary funds for this purpose.”

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

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

“An Ordinance to amend the Widows and Orphans Pension Ordinance by making provision for the increase of pensions registered on the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and fifty-three”

### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance to amend the Widows and Orphans Pension Ordinance by making provision for the increase of pensions registered on the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and fifty-three” was read the first time.

### MONEYLENDERS BILL

**The Financial Secretary:** I beg to move that Council resolves itself into Committee to resume consideration of the Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to moneylenders” clause by clause.

**Sir Frank McDavid:** I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

### COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

Clause 9 recommitted. — *Transfer of business to other premises.*

**The Financial Secretary:** We did agree to this clause, but the point was made that an aggrieved moneylender who had been refused consent to

change of his address should have the right to go to the Full Court to Appeal. I see no objection to this, and I propose the amendment of this clause as follows:

- (a) the clause to be re-numbered as subclause (1), and
  - (b) the new subclause to be inserted:
- (2) Any person aggrieved by the refusal of a magistrate to give consent may appeal to the Full Court in the manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction (Appeals) Ordinance.

This is a provision similar to clause 6 (2).

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 9 passed as amended.

Clause 16.—*Employment of agents or canvassers by a moneylender prohibited.*

**The Attorney General:** I undertook yesterday to look into the point relating to solicitors' fees, and I think that the Bill as it stands is quite satisfactory. The Order relating to solicitors' fees to which Mr. Ramphal referred was, I think, the Legal Practitioners Register of Fees Order, 1931, which set out a scale of fees for solicitors for various types of work, and one of the categories of work for which a solicitor is entitled to charge is that of negotiating a loan.

Now, the relevant clause of the Bill is aimed at providing that moneylenders should not employ touts—men who go around getting people to borrow money—which is a very different thing from a responsible member of a profession negotiating a

loan. There is a similar provision in the Moneylenders Act of 1927 of the United Kingdom.

**The Chairman:** Is the hon. Member satisfied?

**Mr. Ramphal:** Perfectly satisfied, Sir.

**The Financial Secretary:** There are one or two other clauses which we would like to re-commit, Sir, but I would suggest that we wait until the end of the Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 16 passed as amended.

Clause 16 as amended passed.

Clauses 17, 18 and 19 passed as printed.

Clause 20—*Restriction on money-lending advertisements.*

**The Financial Secretary:** I beg to move the deletion of subclause (2) and the consequential re-numbering of subclauses (3), (4), and (5) as (2); (3), and (4), respectively. The reason for this is, that it is felt that the prohibition of advertisement in the newspapers is too restrictive, and we propose therefore to take out that prohibition.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 20 passed as amended.

Clauses 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 passed as printed.

Clause 26—*Audit of moneylenders' books.*

**Mr. Correia:** With the permission of the Committee I should like to move an amendment to subclause (1), at the last line, inserting a comma after the word "commissioner" and the addition of the words, "or a person

qualified to be an auditor." This amendment is to allow persons who are registered and known as auditors from having to get permission from or be recommended by the District Commissioner.

**The Financial Secretary:** Well, as I said in the debate on the second reading, the intention was that by administrative action the District Commissioner for the Georgetown area would appoint such persons as are qualified under section 109 of Chapter 320, which covers this Ordinance. It would not be practicable to make it a *sine qua non*. I have no objection at all to the amendment as suggested, in principle, but I would prefer it the other way around. In other words, if there is no approved auditor available in the district, then the District Commissioner would appoint some other person.

**Mr. Correia:** I will accept that, Sir.

**Rev Mr. Bobb:** In that case, I wonder if we could substitute the word "auditor". An auditor may not be available.

**The Financial Secretary:** It all depends on what one wants; whether an auditor with a big "A" or a small "a". I would suggest the insertion of the words "who is qualified to be appointed as an auditor under subsection (8) of section 109 of the Companies Ordinance or by a person" between the words "auditor" and "approved" in the penultimate line:

"Every moneylender shall each year have the books required to be kept by him under the provisions of section 17 of this Ordinance audited by an auditor who is qualified to be appointed as an auditor under subsection (8) of section 109 of the Companies Ordinance or by a person approved in that behalf by the District Commissioner."

**Mr. Correia:** That meets the case.

Clause 26.—*Audit of moneylenders' books.*

**The Financial Secretary:** I move that subclause (2) of clause 26 be amended by substituting for the words "previous year" at the end of the subclause the words "preceding period of twelve months ending on the thirtieth day of September of the year during which the books have been audited."

**Mr. Carter:** I would like to know whether the preceding 12 months referred to precludes a moneylender getting a licence for any part of that period of 12 months. I suggest the insertion of the words "or part thereof" after the word "months."

**The Financial Secretary:** An auditor cannot audit books which do not exist.

**Mr. Carter:** What I have in mind is that a moneylender may start business in June or July. The licence year commences in January, and his books could be audited from the time he starts business up to the end of September. Three months between September and December would allow an auditor to audit his books and give him a certificate which would entitle him to get a licence for the next year. Unless the words I have suggested are inserted the law could not compel such a moneylender to have his books audited.

**The Attorney General:** I think subclause (2) is fairly clear when read with subclause (1) which says:

"26 (1) Every moneylender shall each year have the books required to be kept by him under the provisions of section 17 of this Ordinance audited by an auditor approved in that behalf by the district commissioner."

A person is only required to keep books if he is a moneylender licensed under the Bill, and no Court would hold that even though he was licensed during part of a year he must have his books audited for the whole year. It does not make sense, and I do not think any Court would give a ruling which would not make sense.

**Mr. Carter:** But where a moneylender starts business in July or earlier he would not be able to secure a licence for the next year because he would not have an auditor's certificate covering the preceding 12 months. If clause 3 did not provide that a moneylenders' licence shall expire on the 31st December in each year it would not be necessary to require him to have his books audited.

**The Financial Secretary:** As the hon. the Attorney General has said, if it is only part of the period then it is quite obvious that there would not be an auditor's certificate, nor would it be expected that there would be one.

**Rev. Mr. Bobb:** In such a case then in view of subclause (2) of clause 3 the person we have in mind would not have had any business.

**The Financial Secretary:** I think that in those circumstances he would still have got an auditor's certificate in respect of the preceding period of 12 months. The certificate would show that the moneylender began business on the 1st of February, as the case may be. But I have no objection to making it abundantly clear if someone would suggest an amendment.

**Mr. Ramphal:** In the very first year of the operation of the Ordinance we are going to find great difficulty

in getting certificates of auditors, because the moneylenders' books may not be in conformity with what the law requires. Personally, I think the clause as printed would meet the case, but we might add the words "or for such period as he may have been in business."

**Mr. Farnum:** Isn't the point covered by clause 4 (1)?

**The Financial Secretary:** I think the difficulty can be cleared up. The difficulty which Mr. Ramphal has mentioned stems from when a certificate is issued. Obviously, if we say that a person has to have an auditor's certificate as from the 1st June 1957, it would not be reasonable. The criterion for issuing a certificate is that his books should have been audited for the previous 12 months, but during those 12 months there would not have been an Ordinance governing the keeping of books. It looks as if the operation of this provision will have to be delayed for a period. It would not be reasonable to ask a person to have books for a period under an Ordinance which did not exist. I suggest that the clause be left over, and that the third reading of the Bill be deferred until next week.

**Mr. Carter:** I am asking that subclause (2) remain part of the Bill with the inclusion of the words I have suggested. My reason is that a moneylender might commit breaches of the Ordinance during the previous 12 months, and an audit of his books might be the only means of discovering those breaches. An audit of his books might also disclose valuable information for the Income Tax Department. I move that the subclause remain with the amendment I have suggested.



Clause 26 deferred.

Clause 27 passed as printed.

**Mr. Carter:** May I suggest a new clause 28 to the effect that a copy of the Moneylenders Ordinance be kept in good condition in the money-lender's office.

**The Chairman:** I think the hon. Member had better leave that alone. What I think the Government might do is to provide facilities for persons to obtain copies of the Ordinance.

**Mr. Carter:** I withdraw it, as it seems not to find favour.

**The Financial Secretary:** I would ask the Committee to recommit clause 14.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 14 re-committed.

Clause 14 — *Method of calculating interest when not expressed in terms of a rate.*

**The Financial Secretary:** I beg to move that the words and figure "section 12" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:—

"the proviso to section 13" in the fifth line.

It is a drafting error, and as it stands it does not make sense.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause passed as amended.

**Mr. Correia:** I would ask, with Your Honour's permission, that clause 12 be re-committed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 12 re-committed

Clause 12—*Interest to be charged.*

**Mr. Correia:** In paragraph (a) of subclause (1) the interest rate has been fixed at 10 per cent. for secured loans. My object for that reduction and my amendment to (b) for 12 per cent. and my suggestion to make (c) 24 per cent. was to maintain a sequence. But with my amendments to (b) and (c) not having been carried, that sequence has been broken. I would therefore like to ask that the paragraph as amended be now amended so as to bring the rate of interest back from 10 to 12 per cent. Quite a number of those who had voted for the amendments are not here and they may consider it some sinister action on my part. We are going to sit next Wednesday but I will not be here to say why I move it.

**The Chairman:** It is a dangerous practice to allow an amendment to be re-committed when the adherents are not there to support it.

**Mr. Ramphal:** If there is a bad sequence I think Members would much prefer that sequence to be reversed.

**The Financial Secretary:** Everyone who voted for the amendment is here present.

**Mr. Sugrim Singh:** After reconsideration I would ask that this paragraph be re-committed, because at the time I did not grasp the full situation. It will work a hardship.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment affirmed.

**Mr. Correia:** I now move that the paragraph remain as printed.

Question put, and agreed to.

**The Financial Secretary:** I appreciate that all hon. Members not realizing the relationship would be destroyed, supported the amendment. I think it is very sensible on their part to alter their decision.

At this stage further consideration of the Bill was deferred to the next meeting.

Council resumed.

#### LAND TENURE AND REGISTRATION OF TITLES

Motion—

**Sir Frank McDavid:** (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines): I wish to ask leave of Council to withdraw this motion and to crave indulgence to amplify the previous explanation given by me as to the reason why it is necessary to withdraw it.

“Be it resolved: That with reference to Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1956 this Council approves of the acceptance in principle of the Report of the Land Tenure and Registration of Titles Committee and in particular approves of the introduction in Council of the legislation as proposed in the ‘Sessional Paper.’”

The motion refers to Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1956 which is over one year old and also to the Report of the Land Tenure and Registration of Titles Committee submitted a long time ago. The Sessional Paper mentions the recommendations of this Committee and indicates those recommendations which Government is prepared to accept and two which were to be reconsidered. It also stated that a small departmental committee had been formed to draft a Bill to give effect to those recommendations.

I do not want to go through the the recommendations as it will take too much time. I shall only refer to the two which Government has not decided to accept. One of them has a bearing on the Acquisition of Land (Land Settlement) Bill. Those recommendations were Nos. 9 and 10. No. 9 referred to the uneconomic fragmentation of agricultural land. This Committee wants to have that stopped by law. But the Government did not see fit at this stage to accept a recommendation of that nature. Recommendation 10 was a somewhat unusual one which has not been accepted. Summarizing it, it reads this way:

“That agricultural land capable of beneficial occupation but lying abandoned or vacant for over five years should vest in the Colony and thereafter be made available in the same manner as Crown Land.”

That is an extremely strong recommendation. It means that land left unused for five years must automatically go to the Crown. The Government did not accept it. As hon. Members know, in the Bill I have moved, much less stringent provisions are made. It is rather strange that this very strong recommendation should be made by this Committee which was composed of well-known people—Mr. R. S. Persaud (Registrar of Deeds) Chairman, Mr. C. V. Wight, Mr. Vincent Roth, Mr. W. A. Macnie, the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, Mr. J. Edward DeFreitas, Mr. A. W. B. Long, Mr. J. T. Clarke and Mr. M. R. Chase (Secretary). Those were the members of the Committee. What has happened since is that the work of this Committee is now absorbed in the work of a second Committee.

At the instance of the Attorney General, the proposal has now come

to the fore to change the existing method of registration of titles that is to say, the ancient system of transport. I think what this second Committee is trying to do is to recommend legislation by which both systems—the old and the new—will run side by side until the old one ends. This second Committee was appointed in September, 1956, with Mr. Edward De Freitas as Chairman. The other gentlemen on it are Mr. C. V. Wight, the Registrar of Deeds, the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, Mr. A. G. King, Mr. Carlos Gomes, Mr. H. A. Brnton, Mr. H. A. Fraser, Mr. Mr. R. Chase (Assistant Conveying Officer) as Secretary. This Committee is hard at work preparing the necessary legislation, to bring this change into being. Therefore this legislation will really absorb the recommendations of the first Committee.

The first Committee did recommend the setting up of a tribunal to give proper titles to persons who own land. That proposal, I think, would also be the objective of this second Committee. It is unnecessary at this stage to pursue the recommendations of the first Committee. It will be wasting the time of the Council to do so. I hope Council would agree to the motion being deferred until this second report and draft legislation are ready. I am afraid however, this report and legislation will not be ready before this Council is dissolved.

It is an extremely controversial subject and a very difficult one, indeed. I know the Committee will recommend the appointment of the necessary tribunal. Mr. Clarke, our Land Adviser, is extremely *au fait* with this particular aspect of the

land question and will be associated with this Committee. He is giving much personal attention to the matter. With this explanation I hope hon. Members will agree that I may now withdraw this particular motion. I hope that before many months are past, the work of this second Committee would bear fruit in the form of legislation.

**Mr. Sugrim Singh:** When I heard the word "withdraw", I expected it was with respect to the Land Acquisition (Land Settlement) Bill. Whatever may be the reason for the withdrawal of the motion, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the recommendations of the Report referred to by the hon. Mover will certainly be used in this Land Acquisition Bill. Paragraph 10 states that after five years the land should go to the Colony while the Land Acquisition Ordinance, Chapter 182, states eight years.

**Mr. Speaker:** That being all the business I propose to adjourn—

**The Chief Secretary:** I gather that the hon. the Financial Secretary is ready to proceed with his Bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think so.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Chief Secretary:** I wonder if Your Honour would mind asking Members here who are Members of Finance Committee to stay just a few minutes after Your Honour has vacated the Chair; there is something I would like to put forward informally.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

Council adjourned until Wednesday 17th April next.