

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 3rd APRIL, 1947.

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The President, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. D. J. Parkinson (acting).

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

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

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

The Hon. C. V. Wight, O.B.E. (Western Essequibo).

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

The Hon. H. N. Critchlow (Nominated).

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

The Hon. A. M. Edun (Nominated).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

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

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

The Clerk read prayers.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 28th March, 1947, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE LATE SIR IVAN DAVSON.

The PRESIDENT: I have a few announcements to make. In connection

with the resolution of sympathy which was passed by the Legislative Council on the death of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Ivan Davson, I am requested by Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Davson to inform this Council that Sir Ivan Davson's relatives highly value the very kind message of sympathy conveyed to them in the Legislative Council's resolution.

MEDICAL SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The next announcement is, I have decided with the advice of the Executive Council to appoint a Legislative Council Advisory Committee for the Medical Service. The hon. Dr. J. B. Singh has agreed to be Chairman and invitations are being issued to Members of this Council to serve on this Committee.

FACTORIES BILL COMMITTEE.

With reference to the Bill for the registration of factories, I have appointed the following Select Committee—

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Chairman;

The Hon. F. J. Seaford, O.B.E.;

The Hon. C. V. Wight, O.B.E.;

The Hon. H. N. Critchlow;

The Hon. H. C. Humphrys, K.C.;

The Hon. A. M. Edun;

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum.

RESIGNATION OF GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Arrangements have been made for an independent enquiry to be undertaken without delay into the case of the Medical Officers in order that a decision may be reached by the 30th April. The Doctors concerned have withdrawn their resignation.

GRATUITY FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE COOK

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Mr. McDavid) communicated the following Message:—

MESSAGE No. 15.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite Council to approve of the payment of a gratuity of \$330 to Mrs. Christina Braithwaite

Government House Cook, on her retirement from service on the 31st of March, 1947, on account of ill health and advanced age.

Mrs. Braithwaite, who is 65 years of age, has been cook at Government House for almost seventeen years and has given excellent and faithful service throughout the period of her employment. The gratuity, it is proposed to pay her, is based on the provisions for payment of superannuation benefits to non-pensionable employees of Government. There is precedent for the award of some retiring allowance to a Government House Cook and Council is accordingly invited to approve of the proposed award.

W. L. HEAPE,
Officer Administering
the Government.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
British Guiana.
31st March, 1947.

The PRESIDENT: You will ask with the permission of Members to take that resolution today. Perhaps it may be convenient to take it at the start.

PAPER Laid.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Parkinson, Acting): I beg to lay on the Table the following:—

Report of the Director of Education for the year 1946.

It is a rather lengthy document, and we could not get it printed or cyclostyled. Any Member interested can get the copy from the Clerk.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The PRESIDENT: I would like to supplement that announcement because the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) has quite properly complained to Government about the delay which had occurred in the past in the presentation of Government Departmental Reports to the Council. I am happy to say that, as the result of a Circular which had been issued, there is a marked improvement in respect of the year 1946. Our difficulty still is printing, but I hope to allay the delay by making either manuscript or cyclostyle copies of departmental reports which are coming in very quickly.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

GRATUITY FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE COOK

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I beg to give notice of the following motion:—

That, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 15 of the 31st of March, 1947, this Council approves of the payment of a gratuity of \$330 to Mrs. Christina Braithwaite, Government House Cook, on her retirement on the 31st of March, 1947.

I shall ask leave to take this motion today.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Holder): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:—

- (a) A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance, Chapter 139, with respect to the Registration of Births and Deaths occurring in certain parts of the Colony and with respect to the registration of baptismal names."
- (b) A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Gambling Prevention Ordinance, Chapter 95, with respect to distributions thereunder to charitable organisations; and for purposes connected with the matter aforesaid."
- (c) A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Education Ordinance, Chapter 196, with respect to the minimum age for the employment of children."

The intention is to move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to enable me to have these Bills read the first time and to take the Post Office Savings Bank Bill through all its stages today.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

EXCLUSIVE PERMISSION FOR MINERAL PROSPECTION.

Mr. EDUN gave notice of the following motion:—

WHEREAS it has been publicly announced that the Government of British Guiana contemplates granting a large concession of approximately 5,000 square miles of territory to the

Anaconda Company for exploitation of mineral resources, therein;

AND WHEREAS it is the intention of Government to grant exclusive permission to this Company for exclusive use and utilization of the territory aforesaid and thus prevent the inhabitants of British Guiana to use or utilize the territory aforesaid, with resultant unemployment and loss of revenue;

AND WHEREAS the granting of such exclusive permission violates the avowed policy of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies as outlined in a recent despatch;

AND WHEREAS the area aforesaid approximating 5,000 square miles is known to be a diamondiferous and auriferous area which has been successfully prospected by the local people known as pork-knockers who are solely dependent on the resources of the Interior for their means of livelihood;

AND WHEREAS there are, in fact, other companies who have now become interested in the Interior for the purpose of general development;

AND WHEREAS it would not be in the best interests of the Colony and its inhabitants to grant a monopoly to the Anaconda Company to the exclusion of other companies with similar interest;

BE IT RESOLVED that having full and proper regard to all the foregoing this Honourable House accept the principle as set forth in the preamble of this motion and, in consequence, recommend to Government that no exclusive permission be granted to any company whatsoever, and that all companies be required to prospect and stake out claims as is done in other mining territories.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS.

P.W.D. WEST DEMERARA DISTRICT.

Mr. EDUN gave notice of the following questions :—

1. Is Government aware that 98 reinforced concrete piles were being driven in the wrong place, and had to be abandoned at the River Defences on the West Bank ?
2. If the answer is in the affirmative what action has been taken against the person or persons responsible ?
3. Is Government aware of the fact that about five sections of the wall built on the West Bank River Defences, had to be broken up im-

mediately after it was built, and had to be recast ?

4. Who is the person or persons responsible ?
5. Is Government aware that a school boy attending Government-aided school at Uitvlugt was being paid as a labourer by the Public Works Department for work for many fortnights on the West Coast, when during the specific time and dates referred to above, the school register recorded him as being present and attending school ?
6. If the above is in the affirmative, what action Government intends to take ?
7. Is Government satisfied that the District Engineer in charge of the West Demerara District is a person fully qualified to perform the said duties as District Engineer ?
8. Will Government lay on the table the qualification of this gentleman serving as a District Engineer on the West Demerara District ?
9. How many pensioners are at the present time re-employed in all departments of Government ? Give names, dates of re-employment, salaries being received and pensions being received.
10. Will Government state how soon this irrational policy of re-employment of pensioners will be terminated ?
11. Will Government place on the table for general information the number of applicants seeking employment in the various departments of Government ?

IMPORTATION FROM U.K.

Mr. FARNUM gave notice of the following questions :—

1. Is there any restriction on importation of merchandise from the United Kingdom and other sterling areas ?
2. If there is not, will Government consider the abolition at an early date of licences deemed necessary by the Control Board before importation can be made ?
3. When does Government intend to abolish the quota system ?

ORDER OF THE DAY.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING RULE 9.

The PRESIDENT : With the approval of the Council I would like the Colonial Treasurer to move his motion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER : I beg to move that Standing Rule No. 9 be suspended in order that the motion standing in my name be taken now.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Standing Rule No. 9 suspended.

GRATUITY FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE COOK.

The COLONIAL TREASURER : I beg to move—

That, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 15 of the 31st of March, 1947, this Council approves of the payment of a gratuity of \$330 to Mrs. Christiana Braithwaite, Government House Cook, on her retirement on the the 31st of March, 1947.

As stated in Your Excellency's Message, Mrs. Braithwaite is now 65 years of age and has been employed in the capacity of cook at Government House for seventeen years. She has given excellent and faithful service in that employment, as has been testified and left on record by the Governors under whom she had the honour to serve, including yourself as Acting Governor. She is not in very good health at the moment. Her eyes are giving her trouble and she is unable to carry on in employment which requires such strain and stress as this particular post. She had intended to retire for some time, but only on pressure from Sir Gordon and yourself she has carried on for the year.

She is not a public servant in the sense of the word, and is not on the Establishment but, I think, Members of Council will appreciate that anyone employed in a capacity of that nature at Government House is almost a Government Servant. There is precedent for the granting of superannuation benefits to a person in that capacity. The previous cook, I think, was granted a pension by this Council and I invite the Council to pass this motion which, if approved, will enable Government to give her a gratuity of \$330, the same figure which she would have obtained had she been holding a non-pensionable post in the Government Service.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded

The PRESIDENT : I would like to add to the hon. the Colonial Treasurer's remarks. I know Mrs. Braithwaite now for some three years—since I have been appointed to British Guiana. Over twelve months ago she tendered her resignation and Sir Gordon Lethem asked her to continue until he returned from his leave. She did so while I was acting, and when Sir Gordon came back she said again "Please, may I go? I am not really up to the work." While Sir Gordon was absent she was quite seriously ill, and I had to lay her off for a month or two. When Sir Gordon came back she continued to work for him and had very heavy work indeed during that last time when Sir Gordon was in residence at Government House. Then when I took over, she said she would like to continue to work for my wife and myself as a private individual, but she must really insist on being relieved of the duty of cook at Government House because of the very hard work.

I have now sent her to an Eye Specialist. She has a very bad cataract and is not fit for the work. I would just like to tell Members that she hopes to be able to do light work when she can. She is retiring from the steady and hard work at Government House. I hope Members will deal most sympathetically with her case. I have only known her for three years but, I am sure, Members will agree that she has been a faithful servant of Government House.

Motion put, and unanimously adopted.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTIONS)

BILL, 1947.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : I beg to move that the following Bill be read a second time :—

A BILL intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Legislative Council (elections) Ordinance, 1945, with respect to the dates on which the Registers of voters to be prepared under the Ordinance shall come into force."

As hon. Members are aware, the Lists of Voters as compiled by the Registering Officer were required to be published on or

about 31st August, 1946, and the first Register of Voters to be prepared under the Legislative Council (Elections) Ordinance, No. 13 of 1945, should have come into force not later than 1st December of last year. However, owing to printing difficulties the Lists of Voters are not yet published and the day of coming into force of the first Register of Voters has long since passed. The procedure required to be observed in relation to the preparation of the Second Register of Voters under the Ordinance cannot be so observed while the first steps in relation to the preparation of the first Register of Voters have not yet been taken.

This Bill therefore seeks to alter the dates on which Registers of Voters under the Ordinance are to come into force. If this Bill is passed, Regulations will be made enlarging the times prescribed for (1) the publication by the registering officer of the List of Voters, (2) the service of notices of objection and appeals, (3) the publication by the registering officer of lists of objections and appeals, (4) the holding by revising officers of revising courts, (5) the preparation by the revising officer of the Register of Voters, (6) the delivery thereof to the returning officer and the Registrar of Deeds, and (7) the publication of the Register of Voters.

It will be within the recollection of hon. Members that last Friday I made an announcement in regard to the possible dates when the Elections may be held. At that time I pointed out that a minimum period of 111 days must elapse between the date of the publication of the Voters' Lists and the polling date. If the Lists are published on the 30th April it may be possible to hold the elections in the latter half of August or the beginning of September. It was not possible to give the exact date at that stage. Reference to the Bill itself shows that the dates fixed in the provisions at the time when the Bill was drafted and on the information at that time available were that the first Register of Voters will come into force on the 15th June, 1947 or on such later date not being later than 1st August, 1947.

Consequent upon the information which Government has received, it will now be necessary to change that date from

the 15th June to the 31st July. That is to say, allowing that the Lists, as it is estimated, are published on the 30th April then that allows three months, but there is a further extension permitted under the Ordinance and that is to cover any possible unforeseen contingency—"or on such later date not being later than the 1st August"—which is six weeks after the 15th June. That is proposed to be the 15th day of September. The position up to today is the following Lists have been despatched to the Registering Officer to be held for publication:—District No. 2—New Amsterdam; District No. 3—Berbice River; District No. 6—Central Demerara; District No. 9—Georgetown South; District No. 11—Demerara Essequibo; District No. 12—Essequibo River; District No. 14—North-Western District. Two at least are now being revised in consequence—District No. 1—Eastern Berbice, and District No. 8—Georgetown Central. One-fourth of the revision in regard to those Lists has already been done. Two Districts have been revised and sent back to the Printers for final printing off—District No. 4—Western Berbice, and District No. 13—Western Essequibo. The following two Districts are being printed in sections and are being revised similarly—District No. 7—Georgetown North, and District No. 10—Demerara River. That is to say, as soon as a section is printed off it is sent to the Registering Officers. They are revised as they come along. District No. 5—Eastern Demerara—is now being sent up to the Printers over the week-end. That is the position which, I think, it is desirable we should put before hon. Members.

As I said, it will be appreciated that the two dates standing in the provisions have to be altered accordingly—15th June to the 31st July and the 1st August to the 15th December. The latter date has been put in, as hon. Members will appreciate, having regard to any possible unforeseen circumstances. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. CRITCHLOW seconded.

Mr. JACOB: I was hoping to hear something a little more definite from the hon. Mover of this motion for the passing of this Bill. We are still at the mercy of

the Printers, because today—the 3rd April—the Council cannot be informed exactly when all fourteen Lists will be published. Seven, so far as I have been able to understand, are completed and the other seven, some of the largest, are in course of being printed. Well, sir, it took from October of last year to March of this year—at least six months—to finally print seven Lists. I hope that the other seven Lists will be completed by the end of April. If they are completed by the end of April and there are no unforeseen circumstances, then the Lists ought to be finally revised four months after, that is by the end of August. I trust, sir, we will have the General Elections in September, 1947. When the original Bill was going through I predicted that we would have no Elections in 1946, but that the probable date of the Elections would be August or September, 1947, the regular Election time in this Colony after every five years. We here have broken all records. We have not been in the front-line, yet it has taken us seven years after an election was due to hold an election. Yet it is not quite final.

In this Colony we live and learn. We are always at the mercy of somebody. Government seems always helpless and to be dependent upon people who cannot be relied upon. It was a most unfortunate time when this Government decided not to have this work done outside the Colony. I think, if we were unable to print these Lists locally in time they could have been done outside the Colony and within the time. It is no use talking over something that has gone so long a time. So far as I am concerned I would have certainly liked to see larger electoral rolls, the people given an opportunity to register their names up to the end of December or to send in their claims up to the end of December, 1946, so that their names would appear on the Lists to be used in September, 1947. When these Lists are published I hope that arrangements are being made now for the people to be informed, in the same way as they had been informed during last year to send in their claims to the Registering Officers for the next Lists to be revised, I hope, some time this year. I do not know what is going to be done. As Your Excellency says, after this Election

is held, if a by-election is to take place immediately after, there would be no new List, and anyone who has not sent in his claim after July, 1946, would not be eligible to exercise the vote in 1948. I do not know what arrangements are being made as regards that. People are becoming of age every day, every month, every year, and they will be disenfranchised if any by-election is to be held in 1949. I trust that arrangements will be made to do something, so that while this present List is being revised people can send in their claims to be put on the List to be published early in 1948.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I do appreciate the hon. Member's role of a prophet, but hon. Members are aware of the fact that it is not a question of Government being at the mercy of somebody or other at some time or other. We must have regard to the circumstances, and it is a well known fact that we had a fire and these difficulties have arisen as the result of that fire plus the difficulty of obtaining the necessary machinery from abroad. Those are the two factors which must not be lost sight of. It is perfectly true this Council has been continuing for some time. Just at the time when this matter of the Elections was reaching a head, we had this big fire plus the other difficulty of obtaining the necessary machinery. So far as the hon. Member's last point is concerned,—those would-be voters—that matter has not been lost sight of, but it will be appreciated also that we are endeavouring to get this part of the matter completely settled before we go into that aspect of it. There is nothing to prevent anybody who thinks that he has the qualification from registering at any time, provided he comes within the ambit of the provisions of the Ordinance. The hon. Member is laying emphasis on the fact that if there is a by-election in 1948 all those in a position to be registered should be given facilities to do so. I can assure the hon. Member that that point has not been lost sight of.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 2 — Amendment of section 9 of the Principal Ordinance.

Mr. JACOB : May I make the specific recommendation that Registering Officers be appointed to get the Lists for 1947 ? If the Officers are not known, persons eligible to be registered as voters cannot submit their claims to them. I do not think the public is aware of the names of the several Officers appointed, and I suggest that the names be published so that they can receive claims between now and the date for revision of the 1948 list.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : I take it that the hon. Member is thinking in terms of 1948, because it is stated that the new Ordinance will come into force then. Under the new Ordinance, it will come into force on the 1st August and remain in force until July 31. When that was passed it was in accordance with existing circumstances, but it seems advisable to revise it and make it December. The hon. Member's point is with regard to the would-be Officers so that would-be voters can submit their claims. At the present time, the majority of Officers are connected with the District Administration, but the matter will be gone into and the question of publication of the names dealt with. As I indicated at the second reading, the date 15th June will be changed to July 31, and in the fifth line of the section 9 (3) the words "fifteenth day of September" will be substituted by the words "first day of August".

Clause 2 put and agreed to.

Council resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : With the consent of hon. Members I beg to move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed. In doing so, I would ask hon. Members to bear in mind one fact and that is, the Regulations require amendment and under the terms of the Principal Ordinance they have to be laid on the table in the Legislative Council within 21 days. I think hon. Members will appreciate that with the necessary consequential amendments in this Bill.

Mr. CRITCHLOW seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 1947

The PRESIDENT : Now, Mr. Attorney-General, will you please proceed with item 4 ?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : I beg to move the first reading of the following Bill intitled :—

"An Ordinance to make special provision for the determination of certain claims by depositors against the funds of the Post Office Savings Bank, and for matters connected therewith."

Mr. CRITCHLOW seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING RULES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : I now beg to move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable me to deal with this Bill and take it through the remaining stages today.

Mr. WOLFORD seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Standing Rules and Orders suspended.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : In moving the second reading of this Bill, I am sure all hon. Members appreciate the necessity for a Bill of this nature. It is the result of the disastrous fire which took place on February 23, 1945, and, as will be seen in the memorandum of "Objects and Reasons", the pass books of certain persons who were depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 23rd February, 1945, were burnt in the fire, which on that day destroyed the records of the Post Office Savings Bank, or have been lost in other ways. The object of this Bill is to appoint a Committee to ascertain and determine the amounts which stood to the credit of such depositors on the day in question. The Committee will hear evidence on oath.

In some cases the depositor may not be able to state accurately, or may be inclined to overstate, the amount which was to his credit on the day in question. In such cases, by clause 6 (4) of the Bill the Committee will determine such amount they consider to be proper, having regard to the evidence adduced and to all the surrounding circumstances. By clause 4 (2), every application is to be made on or before a day appointed by the Governor, and by clause 4 (3) the Governor may, in any particular case, enlarge the time for making the application. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything further in connection with this Bill. I beg to move that it be read the second time.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded

The PRESIDENT: Does any other Member wish to speak on the principle of the Bill?

Mr. EDUN: I think that this Bill is very necessary, but it is a clumsy arrangement as I see it. I have always held that a man who deposits money in the Bank should have the right to claim it at any time. If he loses his pass book through circumstances for which he is not responsible, I do not see why something else cannot be done, than adopting this clumsy and cumbersome process. I thought Government would have taken a businesslike attitude and adopted some other means to do away with this business quickly. I know of several cases where depositors—genuine depositors about whom I have absolutely no doubt—simply because they sent another book to the Post Office, cannot get their money up to now. It is unfortunate, and I think some more effective and quicker means should have been devised. The experts should have advised us, but if this is all they can do, then—

In this Bill it will be found that the depositor will have to go through so many ceremonials and so much red tape, enough to get him exasperated and, perhaps, the whole object defeated. I do not think it is the intention of Government to put difficulties in the way of these people who have lost their money, therefore every effort should be made to minimize the difficulties.

The members of the Committee should be men who understand human nature, and they should examine these persons and get everything finished and done. I ask Government to do everything possible to quicken this process and be finished with the whole thing.

Mr. FARNUM: I am surprised to see this Bill, because I thought most of these claims had been already settled, but I do not see any other way in which Government can go about the matter except by taking evidence from the depositors as provided here. The last speaker has, perhaps, not carried his mind back to what happened recently. I think several cases came before the Court—cases of impersonation and that kind of thing—and I do not think Government can do otherwise than get the matter settled this way.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Attorney-General, do you wish to reply?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I only wish to assure the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Edun, that it is not Government's intention to put difficulties in the way of anybody but, as Members must appreciate, there must be an analysis of the claims put forward and, as the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Farnum, has pointed out, there have been cases which had to be brought before the Court and in which convictions were obtained. They were cases in which persons endeavoured to perpetrate fraud as a result of the conditions prevailing. Although there are difficulties, human nature being as it is and Government having the larger interest of the community, can adopt no other course than the one now before this Council. I think hon. Members will agree that this is the best course in the circumstances.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

Clause 3 — Appointment of Post Office Savings Bank Claims Committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It will be seen in this clause that the date which appears in the Bill is February 23, but it

will be realized that the fire occurred on the afternoon of February 23—at about a quarter to four—and the Post Office building was destroyed after the close of the day's business. Therefore, I think it will be agreed that the 24th will be a better date. That is to say, a depositor on the morning of February 23 might have had a deposit of \$500 and might have gone and taken out \$200 during the course of the day. The fire occurred after the close of business and, therefore, for practical purposes it occurred on the 24th day of February, and I suggest that is a better date to put into the Bill.

Mr. ROTH : A nice point of logic will arise, however, and that is, there was no Post Office Savings Bank on February 24.

The COLONIAL TREASURER : The building was not in existence, but the Bank was always there.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : Sub-clause 3 (1) says "*standing to their credit in the Post Office Savings Bank.....*" The important words are "to their credit".

The PRESIDENT : Mr. Treasurer, were you consulted about the change ?

The COLONIAL TREASURER : Yes, Sir; and I entirely agreed.

Clause 3 passed.

Clause 5 — Procedure.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : I have to move the deletion of the comma following the word "Ordinance" in the second line of clause 5 (1).

The CHAIRMAN : I bear with you, Mr. Attorney-General, but I cannot agree. It has not been my practice in any other Council to ask the Members to delete commas.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : It is not only a question of the wording, but of the interpretation of the Ordinance.

The CHAIRMAN : I will agree. Let us carry on.

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Clause 5 passed as amended.

Council resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : With the consent of hon. Members, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

BILLS—FIRST READING.

On motions moved by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL and seconded by Mr. WOOLFORD, the following Bills were read the first time :—

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance, chapter 139, with respect to the registration of births and deaths occurring in certain parts of the Colony and with respect to the registration of baptismal names."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Gambling Prevention Ordinance, Chapter 95, with respect to distributions thereunder to charitable organisations; and for purposes connected with the matter aforesaid."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Education Ordinance, Chapter 196, with respect to the minimum age for the employment of children."

APPRECIATION.

The PRESIDENT : There being no other item on the Order Paper, I just like to say that when I took over I promised to work this Council very hard, and we have indeed worked very hard and have cleared up a good many matters within the last eight months. I wish to thank hon. Members for their co-operation and for their regular attendance at meetings. I will now adjourn the Council *sine die*.

Mr. EDUN : I would like to ask permission for just a minute or two to say how much we appreciate Your Excellency's services as President of this Council. I think, I am voicing the sentiments of the people in the Colony when I say that we appreciate very much how Your Excellency has conducted the business of this Council,

and we thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts.

The PRESIDENT : Thank you, Mr. Edun.

Mr. FARNUM : I beg to associate myself with those remarks.

The PRESIDENT : Thank you, Mr. Farnum

Mr. THOMPSON : I also beg to concur with the remarks, Your Excellency.

The PRESIDENT : Thank you.

Mr. CRITCHLOW : I beg to associate myself also with the remarks. It seems as if Your Excellency is anxious to run away from this responsibility, as you will not even give us a chance to say something. (Laughter).

The PRESIDENT : Thank you, Mr. Critchlow. I can assure you and all hon. Members that there is no one who will welcome the arrival of the Governor more truly than myself. I thank you all very much.

Council adjourned *sine die*.