

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, 3RD MAY, 1956

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRESENT :

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eus-
tace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members:—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary,
Mr. M. S. Porcher, (Acting)

The Hon. the Attorney General,
Mr. C. Wylie, Q.C., E.D.

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 Agricul-
ture, Forests, Lands and Mines).

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

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

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

The Hon. L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Deputy Speaker:—

Mr. W. J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Unofficials;—

Mr. W. T. Lord, I.S.O.

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

Nominated Officials;—

Mr. W. A. Phang

Mr. W. A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.

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

Assistance Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. E. V. Viapree (Ag.)

Absent:

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

Mr. T. Lee

The Speaker read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member
for Local Government (Mr. Farnum)
has asked to be excused from attend-
ance today.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS
AND DOCUMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FEDERATION OBSERVERS

The Chief Secretary (Mr. Porcher, acting): I beg leave to lay on the table:

Report by the Conference on British Caribbean Federation signed in London on the 23rd of February, 1956, and Report dated 4th April, 1956 by the two British Guiana Observers at that Conference.

Sir, with your permission I would like to record — as I am sure all hon. Members of this Council would wish me to do — our appreciation of the able manner in which our representatives, the hon. Member for Labour, Health and Housing (Mr. Cummings) and the Hon. R. B. Gajraj, presented British Guiana's position at this Conference, and of the valuable advice given to them by their Adviser, the hon. the Attorney General (Mr. Wylie). A full record of the work which they did is contained in the documents which I have just laid on the table.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure that hon. Members were glad to hear the references that have been made by the hon. Member to the work done by the Colony's representatives at the Federation Conference, and that they were given all the licence that was necessary, although they were only Observers, and were able to play a useful part at the Conference.

Mr. Raatgever: I regret that no member of the Anti-Federation Committee was selected to go as an Observer although that body represents the great majority of the people of this country who are opposed to Federation. It is regrettable that the Administration did not see fit to arrange for the representation of the majority of inhabitants of British Guiana who are called upon to pay the expenditure incurred in sending the representatives.

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines): I think so too; they might have come back converted. (*Laughter*).

I beg to lay on the table.

The Imperial Forestry Institute, University of Oxford — Thirty-First Annual Report 1954-55.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"An Ordinance to amend the Pensions Ordinance, 1953, to make provision for the pensions of officers whose service has been combined with service in certain health services or with service in the New Amsterdam Fire Brigade."

This Bill is in substitution for that which appears as item 5 on the Order of the Day which I will later ask your leave, Sir, to withdraw.

CRIMINAL LAW (PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Attorney General (Mr. Wylie): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Criminal Law (Procedure) Ordinance.

The Bill is not ready yet, but Members will see it in the ordinary way. This is only the introduction.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Financial Secretary (Mr. Essex): I beg to move the introduction and first reading of Bills intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance,"

GOVERNMENT CURRENCY NOTES (REPEAL BILL)

"An Ordinance to repeal the Government Currency Notes Ordinance, and to make provision for the winding up of the Note Security Fund established thereunder."

RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) BILL

Sir Frank McDavid : I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide better security of tenure for tenant rice farmers; to limit the rent payable for the letting of ricelands; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

I would like to intimate, Sir, that I shall allow some little time to elapse before taking the second reading of this Bill.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

B.G. SEVASHRAM SANGHA (INCORPORATION OF TRUSTEES) BILL

Mr. Sugrim Singh : I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to incorporate certain persons as Trustees of the Body known as the British Guiana Sevashram Sangha; to vest in such persons certain property; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

IMPROVEMENT OF BARTICA-POTARO ROAD

Mr. Raatgever : I beg to give notice of the following motion:

"Be it resolved: That this Council recommends to Government that early steps be taken to improve the Bartica-Potaro Road and its branches."

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF FRUIT PROCESSING PLANT

Mr. Carter: I beg to ask the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development the following questions:

1. Is the accommodation for the pilot plant for experimental work in pottery adequate?
2. If the answer is in the negative, when does Government propose improving the accommodation?
3. Does Government intend to set up a research centre in the utilization of local raw materials with a view to the establishment of new industries?
4. Is it a fact that when Government was operating the pilot plant in Essequibo for the manufacture of Guava Jelly and Jam, the residents of the area were encouraged to increase their cultivation of fruits?
5. Is it a fact that since the plant was sold by Government the purchasers have not expanded production and have now discontinued production?
6. If the answers to Questions 4 and 5 are in the affirmative, does Government intend to re-establish a fruit processing plant in the area to utilize the fruit now going to waste?

If not, what are Government's plans for relieving the situation?"

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE MR. A. A. THORNE

Mr. Raatgever : Sir, before you proceed with the Order of the Day, I wish to refer to the death of Mr. A. A. Thorne, and with Council's permission, to move the following motion:

"Be it Resolved: That this Council records its profound regret at the death of

[Mr. Raatgever]

Mr. Alfred Athiel Thorne, a former Member of the Legislature of this Colony, and requests that an expression of the Council's sympathy be conveyed to his widow and relatives."

The late Mr. Thorne, who died on April 20th was a Member of the old Combined Court when I was a little child That was some time in 1906, when he was Financial Representative for Essequibo. Later he was Financial Representative for the town of New Amsterdam. I did not know Mr. Thorne in those early days, but I certainly do know that he gave of his best to this country for 50 years. His last period of service in the Legislative Council was in 1945 when, during Sir Gordon Lethem's regime, he was nominated to act in place of Mr. Hubert Critchlow.

Mr. Thorne was the grand old man of local politics. He gave fish and unstinted service to the people of this country and his life is a shining example to the younger generation of Guianese. I beg to move the motion.

Sir Frank McDavid: I would like to second the motion. I did not have the privilege of sitting in this Chamber during the early days of Mr. Thorne's membership here, but he did sit in the Legislative Council during the regime of Sir Gordon Lethem when both Mr. Raatgever and myself were members.

I myself remember Mr. Thorne in perhaps a wider sphere—as an educationist in British Guiana. I remember that in the days when I went to Queen's College the outstanding rival school was the Middle School, which was run by Mr. Thorne. If you did not go to Queen's College, then you had to go to the Middle School. I remember, too, that Mr. Thorne had a brother who was also an educationist. I myself was

not bright in those days and I had the privilege of being specially coached by Mr. Thorne's brother.

The late Mr. Thorne was greatly respected as a shining example not only in British Guiana but also in the Caribbean. He came from Barbados as we all know, and adopted British Guiana as his homeland, and not for one moment did he fail to keep his eyes on the whole of the West Indies. I recall that he had established the reputation for having made the longest speech ever in this Council Chamber by a Member. I know that in these modern days lesser lights have tried to rival that particular speech, which lasted seven and a half hours and was delivered on education—and not on agriculture or anything like that.

I thank the Council very much for this opportunity to speak. I felt very deeply Mr. Thorne's death. I think his children have followed brilliantly in his footsteps. One of his sons worked in the Income Tax Department as an Inspector, and I had great pleasure in seeing that particular son become a greatly respected Professor of the University College of Puerto Rico. Another is Editor of a local daily newspaper.

I think it is only right and proper that we who inherit the place of Mr. Thorne in this Council should pay tribute by passing this resolution which I heartily support and second.

Mr. Ramphal: May I, on behalf of the "floor Members", join in this expression of sympathy to the widow and the sons of the late Mr. Alfred Athiel Thorne. Reference has been made to his work as a politician and a teacher but, indeed, he was a man of many parts. He was a great journalist in his own right and, in the latter days of life, he took a very leading part in the Trade Union Movement. As a teacher, I think

Mr. Thorne played a most invaluable part in the educational evolution of this country. When educational facilities were scarce, he came here and put secondary education within the reach of the small man, and I think there are in this country today very many shining examples — very many citizens of repute — who passed through his school. I know there have been many in this Council who have had the privilege of sitting at the feet of that great master. This country is the poorer whenever we lose men of that kind.

But, Sir, I wish to speak of the late Mr. Thorne as a trade unionist. In that particular field he came in as an intellectual. It is well known that in the historical development of trade unionism throughout the world, in the early stages the intellectuals came in to give them stability and that status of leadership which is so necessary. In the very early days of our trade union movement in this country, Mr. Thorne, like others, came into the movement and gave it the status which it could not have had without the introduction of such people. Mr. Thorne himself knew that that was a phase in the development of trade unionism — that he was playing an important role and it was only transitory. And, when he had finished his job he left it for younger men to carry on. I do trust that the younger people of the country — those who are the intellectuals — will take the pattern from Mr. Thorne's own activities and realize that the time is now for the intellectuals to stand behind the unions and not before them.

If I were asked what were the leading characteristics which the man Alfred Athiel Thorne has left deeply impressed on my mind, I would say they were firstly, his rugged individualism. He lived in a day of individualism and was himself very

individualistic, and that is why, I believe, he came to cross swords with nearly every person of standing in the community, particularly those who were at the summit, but no less with those who were at the base, and up to the end of his time he remained an individualist. That time has passed but, possibly, he could not find a place for his individualistic turn of mind in our political movement at that moment, but he served his time and generation exceedingly well, even with his individualism. Another characteristic which stands out in my mind is that, as an expatriate, Mr. Thorne came to this country and became a patriot. I would wish that expatriates who come to this country would identify themselves as fully with the aspirations and the life of the community as the late Mr. Thorne did. And, Sir, in the closing days of his life he was looked upon as a Grand Old Man — a patriot and a man who lived in and loved this country. He died a patriot.

Mrs. Dey: It is with feelings of emotion that I rise to support this motion, Sir, because I stand before this Council as a pupil of the late Alfred Athiel Thorne. If there happens to be any spark or trace of educational ability in your humble servant, Sir, I attribute it to what I may call the pattern of the late Alfred Athiel Thorne. If I have shown any sign or promise of being a politician, I would say I owe that also to the late Mr. Thorne, because I remember only too well that from the very beginning until later in my days at the Old Middle School, mine was the task to type the motions and other political documents prepared by that gentleman, some of which formed the subject of the speech which the hon. Member for Agriculture referred to as a memorable and prolonged speech. It was through reading speeches prepared by the late Mr. Thorne that I became imbued with the

[Mrs. Dey]

desire to become a politician. I do not know if I have succeeded in that respect, but my conscience tells me that I am a long way off from where the late Alfred Athiel Thorne left off. The non-Member, Mr. Ramphal, has also referred to his activities as a patriot, and I would like to tell this Council in that respect that I know he took objection to Guianese being referred to in public print as "mud heads." He never once used that phrase in referring to the people of British Guiana but, on the other hand, he preferred to regard this country as his beloved Guiana. I venture to state that such an individual has left a lot for all those who love this country of ours to emulate.

Mr. Tello: I crave indulgence Mr. Speaker, to associate myself with the remarks that have been made, because I know the late Mr. Thorne to have been a prominent trade unionist. I have read of him as a politician, however, and of the very lengthy speech he made on one occasion in this Chamber. I have had the privilege of working along with the late Mr. Thorne in matters relating to trade unionism particularly, and I know that he has left quite a fine record in that respect. His union—the B.G. Workers' League which he founded—was one of the oldest trade unions in British Guiana, and I had the honour of serving with the rank and file of that particular union. Secondly, the late Mr. Thorne was the Vice-President of the B.G. Trades Union Council and, thirdly, he was responsible for editing the first newspaper to reach the working-class people in British Guiana, thus bringing them into contact with the written word. I have very much pleasure in associating myself with this resolution of condolence, and I deeply regret the passing of this great man.

Miss Collins: Mr. Speaker, I desire to associate myself with the remarks of the previous speakers. The late Mr. Alfred Athiel Thorne was one of our staunchest trade unionists, and he gave outstanding service to the movement in this Colony from its earliest days. His services in other fields are also well known, and I think it would be fitting to recall the following lines by Longfellow as a tribute to his memory:

"Lives of great men all remind us.
We can make our lives sublime;
And departing leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time."

Mr. Cummings: As the Member for Labour, I feel it incumbent upon me to associate myself with the remarks that have gone before. I did not rise before because I felt that there were many who knew the late Mr. Thorne more intimately than I did and would testify to his fine qualities in this Council far more forcibly than I can. But, I do wish to say that I was associated with the Trades Union Movement for some time and, as a matter of fact, I succeeded the late Mr. Thorne as President of the B.G. Workers' League. I can add but little to what has been so ably said already, but I do support this motion of condolence to the widow and other relatives of the late Mr. Thorne.

Mr. Gajraj: Mr. Speaker, many Members have joined in expressing their regret at the passing of Mr. Alfred Athiel Thorne, and many references have been made to the various phases of his work in this Colony. I was associated with the late Mr. Thorne as a member of the Georgetown Town Council for quite a number of years, and in that capacity he gave yeoman service indeed. He was a member of that body for an unbroken period of 45 years. That is in itself a record, and

one which, I am sure, it will be difficult for those of us who have succeeded him to reach even near to. I have already had an opportunity in the Town Council of expressing my regret at his passing, and I am glad for the opportunity of doing so here again because, as I said then, the late Mr. Thorne was a man of outstanding grit. He always had a great desire to do what he thought was right for this country, and whatever might be the views of others, he was quite prepared to express his own convictions in any issue, fighting defiantly for what he thought to be right. At least, he was sincere in whatever he proposed to offer for the good of the country. I have much pleasure, therefore, in joining in this motion of condolence.

Rev. Mr. Bobb: Mr. Speaker, I should like to add my quote in support of this motion and also to make personal reference to the very fine work which the late Mr. Thorne has done, since I happen to be in the position of one of those persons who have personally benefited by his learning and his wonderful art of teaching. But, I would also like to refer to his great love for his people; as a student, that is what struck me most. He was always willing to assist people to better themselves—to take their proper places in the community and to get on—and I remember many of the points which were given to me in that respect during lessons which the late Mr. Thorne gave to me in my early days, as showing the wonderful elasticity of his mind. There is no doubt at all that he has done a wonderful job for this country, and for many a day to come many persons will remember the fine contribution he made and the outstanding services he rendered in his endeavour to improve the lives of the

people of this country. I do very sincerely wish to associate myself with this motion and I am happy to be able to look back upon a life so honourable and devoted to the service of British Guiana.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to be associated with the many well-deserved tributes that have been paid, both within this Chamber today and in the public Press, to the very valuable services rendered by the late Mr. Thorne to the community during his lifetime. I am the only person now alive who could more completely than anyone else, endorse all that has been said about him, having been associated with him, both as a Member of the Legislature and of the Georgetown Town Council, during his whole career. I made his acquaintance shortly after his arrival in this Colony—within a matter of days—as I was introduced to him by a fellow native of Barbados. Even at that early stage I knew that he was desirous of getting his school recognised as one at which Government scholarships should be tenable, as was the case at Queen's College, and that one of them subsequently won the Guiana Scholarship. He also told me at that time of how bitterly disappointed he was in not having been awarded the Barbados Scholarship, having been placed wrongly—as he claimed—*proxime accessit* to the winner. I remember that that conversation took place at my father's house, and I know that the alleged injustice permeated his entire life and largely influenced his whole attitude in espousing any wrongs which he thought had been committed against others.

He was uncompromising in his resistance to grievances of any kind, and I think that was very largely respon-

[Mr. Speaker]

sible for his neglecting opportunities to better his own position. He was very prominently associated with several others—all now dead except myself—with the constitutional changes that followed on the enactment of Ordinance No. 1 of 1891, under the provisions of which candidates for the Legislature were, for the first time in the political history of the Colony, elected by ballot — the most important change, I think, in the Constitution of the Colony that has ever taken place. In the series of contributions made by Mr. S. S. Ramphal, this change has been unfortunately omitted. I have however brought the omission to his notice, and he will no doubt rectify the omission in any future reference made by him to the Constitution.

I regret to say that I have been unable to find the record of the remarkable speech made by Mr. Thorne in this Chamber. He then sat where Dr. Fraser is now sitting, and I was present when he delivered it. It was with reference to education and the late Sir Wilfred Collet was then presiding over the meeting of the Combined Court. In those days we met at 10.30 a.m., and when the adjournment was about to be taken His Excellency asked Mr. Thorne whether he had concluded his speech. Mr. Thorne assured him that he had not done so, and he occupied the entire day in speaking on the subject. Those of us who knew Sir Wilfred Collet will realize how deeply impressed he must have been to have allowed an indulgence of that kind. I am certain that that speech was not of longer duration than that made by Mr. Jailal quite recently. No Member would have been allowed to speak for four days in this Chamber in those days.

Mr. Thorne carried on a secondary school known as The Middle School, the first of its kind in the Colony, where

he maintained a very high standard in the tuition given to pupils, as a result of which Government Scholarships awarded to primary scholars were made tenable at his school. He found much difficulty in collecting the fees payable by his pupils, and was forced eventually to close his school—a distinct loss to the community.

When the Prince of Wales was about to visit this Colony in 1920 Sir Wilfred Collet appointed Mr. Thorne and myself to prepare, along with himself, an address of welcome. His Excellency prepared the draft which both Mr. Thorne and I considered inadequate, but Sir Wilfred would not permit any alteration. Mr. Thorne was very emphatic in letting His Excellency know that the draft did not meet with his approval.

Of all the descendants of Barbadian birth who came here, Mr. Thorne made this Colony his adopted home to a greater degree than almost any others, as it may be said of some that they only claimed to have done so, but he actually did so in every possible way. He was a very earnest and formidable opponent, and spoke with a rapidity that I have never known equalled in this Colony or anywhere else. It was impossible for reporters to take verbatim notes of his speeches. He exhausted them.

He has left a rich heritage in the persons of two of his sons who may well be proud of the name they bear, and the respect in which it will always be held. It may well, I think, be said of Mr. Thorne—

“The evil that men do lives after them
The good is oft interred with their bones.”

So let it be with Alfred Athiel Thorne.

Motion put and carried, Members standing.

HIRE CARS STRIKE

Mr. Sugrim Singh : Mr. Speaker, before you proceed to the Order of the Day I would like to draw the attention of this Council to a matter which is causing great concern, especially in the rural areas. I refer to the position of hire cars in rural areas. As hon. Members know, there was recently a strike of hire cars on the West Bank, Demerara, followed by another on the East Bank. The situation was gone into fully by the Member for Communications and Works (Mr. Kendall) to whom I had the honour of leading a deputation on behalf of the West Bank hire car owners. Under the Motor Vehicles & Road Traffic Ordinance hire cars are not permitted to take up or deposit passengers anywhere in this Colony, but the particular provision in the Law has not been enforced until recently when the Traffic Authorities decided to put it into operation. The consequence is that the entire hire car service in this Colony has been affected, to the inconvenience of the public, especially in the rural districts.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member will pardon my interrupting him, but I think I have heard enough to say that the grievances he is ventilating should be made the subject of a motion. The hon. Member will realize that it is not a matter to which the attention of this Council should be directed in the way he is doing—there is nothing before the Council nor can the Member in charge of Communications do anything about the problem immediately. I am quite willing to give the hon. Member an opportunity to move a motion on the subject if he so desires.

Mr. Sugrim Singh : I accept your ruling, Sir, but I think the Member for Communications (Mr. Kendall) will

agree that he is helpless unless there is some resolution by this Council.

Mr. Speaker : How will you carry out your object—by petition or motion?

Mr. Sugrim Singh : I will take it up in another form.

Mr. Speaker : Under the proposed new Standing Rules and Orders I think there will be some restriction as regards matters being raised before the Order of the Day. I think there is some provision that would prevent matters of this kind being raised at this stage.

ORDER OF THE DAY

PROMISSORY OATHS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Chief Secretary : I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intitled:

“An Ordinance to amend the Promissory Oaths Ordinance.”

The Attorney General I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Chief Secretary : I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intitled:

“An Ordinance further to amend the Estate Duty Ordinance to transfer the functions of the Registrar thereunder to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.”

The Attorney General I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

DECEASED PERSONS ESTATES'
ADMINISTRATION (AMDT.) BILL

The Chief Secretary: I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Deceased Persons Estates' Administration Ordinance."

The Attorney General: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956.

The Chief Secretary: I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance."

The Attorney General: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL

Item 5. —First reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide for the pensions of officers whose service in Government has been combined with service in certain Health Services or the New Amsterdam Fire Brigade."

The Chief Secretary: With the permission of Council I beg leave to withdraw the Bill standing at item 5.

Agreed to.

MONEYLENDERS BILL, 1956.

The Financial Secretary : I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to moneylenders."

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

FISHERIES BILL, 1956.

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines): I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to regulate fishing in the waters of the Colony."

Mr. Cummings: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

ACQUISITION OF LAND (LAND SETTLEMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Sir Frank McDavid : I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to make further provision for the acquisition of lands to be used for the purposes of land settlement."

Mr. Cummings : I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

PHARMACY AND POISONS BILL, 1956.

Mr. Cummings: (Member for Labour, Health and Housing): I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to make better provision for the control of the profession of Pharmacy and the trade in drugs and poisons."

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

OPTICIANS BILL

Mr. Cummings: I beg to move the first reading of the Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Opticians.”

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT)
BILL

Mr. Cummings: I beg to move the first reading of the Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance further to amend the Public Health Ordinance with respect of the Constitution of the Central Board of Control.”

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

FACTORIES REGULATIONS (VALIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Cummings: I beg to move the first reading of the Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance to amend the Factories Regulations (Validation) Ordinance, 1955.”

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR
JANUARY TO MARCH, 1956

The Financial Secretary: I beg to move the following motion:

“Be it Resolved: That this Council ap-

for the months of January to March, 1956, totalling \$47,047.85, which have been laid on the table.”

This schedule of supplementary provisions has been approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislature and I do not think it is therefore necessary to go into great detail about it. Apart from one item it is not very formidable — as one would expect and hope in the first quarter of the year. It is quite obviously not going to, in itself, upset the validity of the Budget, equally as \$6,960 is accounted for by savings, and \$3,653 by revotes.

The largest provision is required to give effect to the Special Revisal Ordinance. It is not possible to say exactly what the total cost will be of this year's operations. The sum which is now sought in connection with the revisal should be enough, however, to cover the preparation of the certified lists and the revisal of them. Printing and advertising account for half of the \$32,000 which is required: the rest is mainly to pay the Registration Officer and other officers who are required to carry out the revisal. The figure of \$32,180 may seem a large one, but it is not too much for a task which has to be done timeously and properly, and which will form the basis for preparing lists of voters in the future.

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Does anyone wish to speak on the motion?

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE LAND TENURE
AND REGISTRATION OF TITLES
COMMITTEE

Item 14 —The Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines to move the following motion:—

“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.”

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to ask that this motion be deferred. I think that in good time it could be debated, when the Land Tenure Bill comes before the Council.

Agreed to.

Motion deferred.

Mr. Speaker: Council is adjourned until next Thursday, 10th May, at 2 o'clock.