

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 23rd August, 1932.

The Council met His Excellency the Hon. C. DOUGLAS-JONES, C.M.G., the Officer Administering the Government, President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Major W. Bain Gray, M.A., Ph.D. (Edin.), B. Litt. (Oxon), (Acting).

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. F. J. J. F. McDowell (Acting).

The Hon. F. Dias, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

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

The Hon. E. F. Fredericks, L.L.B. (Essequebo River).

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

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

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

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, Colonial Treasurer (Acting).

The Hon. B. R. Wood, M.A., Dip. For. (Cantab.), Conservator of Forests.

The Hon. S. H. Bayley, General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department.

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

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

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

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

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves, (Georgetown South).

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

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

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

The Hon. F. J. Seaford (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. C. Farrar (Nominated Unofficial Member).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 15th June, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The following Members took and subscribed to the oath :—

Dr. Q. B. De Freitas, Surgeon-General (Acting).

Mr. Peer Bacchus, Elected Member for Western Berbice.

THE LATE MR. WEBBER.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Major Bain Gray) : Sir, before we begin the ordinary business of the day I desire, with the concurrence of the Council, to move the following motion :—

Be it Resolved : That this Council records its deep regret at the death of the Honourable A. R. F. Webber, Member of the Council for the electoral district of Western Berbice, and directs that an expression of sympathy be conveyed to his widow and family.

When this Council adjourned on the 15th June, none of us expected that when we met again we should be without the familiar figure of the Member for the electoral district of Western Berbice. He had many interests in life, but I think it is safe to say that it was in this Chamber, especially in the days of the Combined Court, that he found his most congenial sphere of activity and the most fertile field

for the exercise of his great natural talents. Of these we may put first the keenness of his mind, his ready wit, and his deep humanity which enabled him to meet on equal terms men of all creeds and classes.

In point of service he was one of the senior Members of this House. It is an illustration of the rapid changes which have taken place in our membership that there are in fact only four Elected Members of this Council and one Nominated Member who were Members of the Combined Court when he was first elected to it in 1921. When we turn to the Official side there is only one Official Member who was a Member when Mr. Webber was elected and he is not present in Council to-day. There are in fact only three Official Members actually present in this Council to-day and Your Excellency who were Members of the Legislature of the Colony before the Constitution was changed. I mention this because the late Member took a particularly active part in the work of the Combined Court. It is true that as a Financial Representative in the Combined Court his constitutional functions were more limited than those of a Member of the Legislative Council. On the other hand, his opportunities for criticism, if limited to a narrow field, were sometimes more intensive, and no one would seek to deny that on many occasions he inflicted serious damage on the case as presented by Government.

That was his duty and he discharged it admirably. I feel sure, however, that I am speaking for every Official Member now in this Council and for those who preceded us in the late Combined Court, that the attacks which the hon. Member led and the losses which he inflicted never left any bad blood between us. There was never the slightest desire on his part to carry on anything in the nature of a feud with a particular Member or with the Government in general. It might be said that he occasionally carried on a debate for the sake of the debate itself, but even in such a case it was very seldom that his criticism was lacking in some point or aptness. His position in the political life of the Colony is well known to us all, but it is interesting to consider whether his talents would have brought him recognition on the wider stage which politics present in larger countries and communities than

this. In this connection he had one opportunity and took advantage of it. I may remind the Council that in 1926 he went to England with a delegation representing this Colony at the West Indies Conference. At that Conference this Colony's delegation was generally considered to be one of the most representative and capable of all the delegations, and he was one of the outstanding figures of the Conference. I returned to England just after the delegation had left for the Colony, and I was informed by a high authority, who had followed the work of the Conference very closely, that the late Member had created in the minds of many who heard him an impression that he was capable of taking a high place in the political life of the United Kingdom itself.

Reputations in politics depend, however, mainly on the spoken word, and for that reason they are apt to be written in water or at best in sand. There is, however, another sphere of activity in which perhaps rather less than justice has been done to the hon. Member's work. I refer to his compilation of the Centenary History of the Colony. This Colony having just completed the Centenary of its history was entitled to look for a local historian. It is true that the late Member was not born in this Colony, but its welfare was as important to him as to any of us, whether this is the country of our birth or of our adoption. The hon. Member, however, has put us all to shame by producing a useful history of the Colony, which will keep its place for a long time to come as the only complete review of the history of the Colony within the compass of a single volume. Considering how much of his life was devoted to daily journalism, which has the shortest life of all forms of writing, it is gratifying that he has left at least one volume which can survive in more permanent form as a memorial to him. It is fitting, therefore, that we should place on record the deep regret which we all feel at the premature loss of one of our most able and devoted Members, to whom everything appertaining to the history, functions and privileges of this Council was a matter of great and abiding moment.

Mr. WOOLFORD: Sir, it is with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret I

have risen to support the resolution which has been so ably and feelingly moved by the hon. the Colonial Secretary. On behalf of my colleagues and myself I desire to place on record our appreciation of the motives that have prompted the Government in submitting this resolution to this Council. In a Colony like this, and in the state of transition through which the Colony is passing, it is perhaps a fortunate circumstance that the occasions are rare when men with the ripened experience and judgment of our late Member are no longer available for the use of the community. Mr. Webber possessed in the very highest degree the characteristics and attributes which are so desirable a feature and so suitable to the political atmosphere of this Colony. He was quick in perception; he had a versatile method; he was readily and easily adaptable to changes of circumstance; he was suspicious, and justly so, of any wrong or suspicion of wrong to what he so often described as "the underdog." He was opposed to autocratic Government in any shape or form.

With all of those qualities he managed to intersperse his contributions to the public, both inside this Council and outside of it, with a wealth of resource, energy and, I may add, considerable humour. It is very difficult for men like myself and others who are present here to-day to be able to realise that Mr. Webber's voice will no longer be heard in this Council. I have perhaps had better and greater opportunities of forming an estimate of him than almost any one present here. I was frequently, as some Members know, associated with him in many a public document the result of our joint handiwork, and it was during such moments I learnt to realise how very considerably and how very readily he was capable of stimulating interest on public questions. But, more than that, he was able to sustain it at a time when his colleagues, like myself, felt exhausted almost in the endeavour to pursue our common objective. Mr. Webber in such circumstances would not leave us alone, and he gave evidence in this Council on very many occasions of his manifest and capable determination to stimulate, to recreate interest in public questions that were redounding to the common good.

With many of his convictions, sir, most

of us were in disagreement. He learnt in the course of life to shread many a shibboleth like myself, but no one has ever doubted his claims to public notice, no one better earned the reward of public applause with which he was showered from time to time, and no one, I feel certain, would be found to envy him the general regret and disappointment with which the news of his untimely death was received by all sections of this community. In a speech which he made here in December last, in avenging the cause of a Civil Servant on whom he thought some injury was being meted out, he made use of an utterance that to-day seems grimly pathetic. Referring to the officer he said: "He, like myself, is in the evening of his days; his sun is westering." The object of his sympathy lives. His own sun has dipped below the horizon, but I know, sir, that I interpret the sentiments of everyone present when I express the hope that from below there will radiate such a twilight of his memory as the efforts of time will not readily efface from the recollections of each and every one of us.

Mr. CRANE: Sir, I do not propose to add anything to what has fallen from the hon. the Colonial Secretary and the hon. Member who represents the Electives on this occasion. It merely remains for me to request that after the formal business of this Council has been disposed of the Council be adjourned for the balance of the day as a mark of respect to our deceased brother.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Your Excellency, I rise to support the motion which has been moved. I think it is due to me to make a few remarks with respect to the death of our late colleague, Mr. Webber. The hon. Member for New Amsterdam has said so much that very little remains for me to say. I therefore will content myself with saying that Webber, as we all knew him, had a love for public service which it was a pleasure to enjoy. He fulfilled his duty eminently to all sections of this community and he enjoyed it immensely. I can only say that in his life and in his death we see the truth of the maxim "All is not life to live nor death to die."

Mr. SEERAM: Your Excellency, the hon. Member for New Amsterdam has said all that could possibly have been said

on behalf of the Elected Members, but you will permit me just to add my little bit. I think that of the hon. Members of this Council I will be one of those who will miss the late hon. Member a good deal, largely because he happened to sit next to me on my left and because of the frequent inspiration I received from him. Whilst I was in England, in visiting the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey, I saw there an epitaph with a message which was sent from India on the occasion of the burial of the Unknown Soldier. It read thus: "He is not dead; he died to make life worth living." Of the late hon. Member, sir, I can say that his name will not die and the good work he has done for the people of this country and in their interest, I am sure, will remain ever green in the pages of history. Mr. Webber has been one of the ablest debaters in this Council. I am sure no Member will deny him that credit. He was one of the readiest Members to join in any debate and his general political knowledge on all matters was so overwhelmingly convincing to Members of this Council that I am sure, sir, it is with the profoundest regret that we join in this motion which has been so ably moved by the hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. FREDERICKS: For the purpose of the Hansard of this Council I rise not to pay a panegyric to our departed friend but to associate myself with those fitting and touching remarks which have so eloquently fallen from the hon. the Colonial Secretary and the senior Elected Member. Webber has gone; we mourn his death, but his memory will ever remain green with us for his deeds merited it.

Mr. DIAS: Your Excellency, I beg to associate myself with the expressions of sympathy and regret at the loss which this Council has sustained by the death of the late hon. Mr. Webber. I presume the Nominated Member to whom the hon. the Colonial Secretary referred as being still a Member of this Council who knew Mr. Webber when he first came into the Council is myself, because, as it happens, I am the oldest Member of this Council. From the day he came to this Council to the day he left it Mr. Webber displayed such zeal in his work that many a Member envied him, and it is not surprising to find after

loyal service in the duties which fell to him here that he was selected in 1926 as one of the Members to form a deputation which went to England in connection with the West Indian Conference. I was a member of that delegation myself, so I am in a position to speak, I suppose, better than any other Member of Mr. Webber's ability. I think when the Conference was ended it was the unanimous opinion of the whole body of men that Mr. Webber alone could have carried on the work of the Conference equally as well as the whole body of men did. Personally, I shall miss him, sir, because as an Elected Member of this Council, or rather in the days of the Court of Policy and the Combined Court, I often met Mr. Webber and although my connection with the Council as an Elected Member ceased three or four years ago Mr. Webber never failed to approach me and discuss matters of public interest generally and obtain my views on them. We did not always agree but more than once he accepted the view extended to him. He was reasonably minded and always strong in his remarks, but there was never at any time at the bottom of it any feeling other than to serve the interest of the people who sent him here. There was never any venom in anything he said. He was as friendly afterwards with anybody with whom he had disagreed. Personally, I shall miss him, this Council will miss him, and I am sure the whole Colony will miss him.

THE PRESIDENT: Members of the Council, there is very little I can add or wish to add to the speeches which have been made in putting forward this motion. I don't suppose there is any Member of this Council who will miss the late hon. Member more than I shall. He was always a worthy opponent and critic, and in the course of an official life of some years and in which I have had the honour and pleasure of meeting a great many able men, officials and others, I don't think there is anyone who will remain in my memory longer than the recollections of our friend. What has been said about Mr. Webber I endorse entirely. He will be a very great loss to this Colony and to this Council. He served the Colony as a Member of this Council during perhaps one of the most difficult decades of its history. During the period he had been a Member of the Combined Court and of

this Council the Colony passed through a depression due to the late War, and in the solution of the difficulties with which this Colony has been presented during those years the hon. Member contributed more than his share. He had always been of great assistance to Government in the difficult problems which Government has had to decide. As I have said, he has been a critic and a severe critic of the action of Government; but severe and honest criticism is all that Government asks and always received at the hands of our late friend. The wish has been expressed that in honour of the memory of the late Member this Council should adjourn. I propose when the formal business on the Order of the Day has been completed that this Council should adjourn until 2.30 p.m. to-morrow. I suggest that we accept the motion in silence standing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am the bearer of the following Messages from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government:—

MESSAGE No. 16.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the granting of a compassionate allowance of \$15 a month to Miss Gertrude Irene Bishop, uncertificated assistant teacher of Charlestown R. C. School, from the date of retirement 1st June, 1932.

2. Miss Bishop has served in the Primary Schools of the Colony for 26½ years and has now become incapacitated. Had she served for a further period of 3½ years she would have been entitled to a pension under Section 5 of Teachers' Pensions Ordinance, Cap. 197.

3. Miss Bishop was examined by a Medical Board on 22nd December, 1931, and was recommended for three months' leave, with re-examination at the expiration of such leave. On being re-examined on 19th March, 1932, she was reported to be unfit for further employment as a teacher.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Officer Administering the Government.

19th June, 1932.

MESSAGE No. 17.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the grant to the undermentioned uncertificated assistant teachers of compassionate gratuities as set out against their names:—

Name.	Name of School.	Gratuity to be Paid.
Mrs. M. A. Bovell	Marlborough Roman Catholic School	\$ 180
Miss C. O. La Rose	New Amsterdam Congregational School	120

2. Mrs. Bovell retired voluntarily on the 31st December, 1931, when her husband, the head teacher of the school, was placed on pension. She is not eligible for a pension under the Teachers' Pensions Ordinance, Cap. 197, as she has not had 30 years service. Her total service amounts to 26 years and 8 months, and in view of this long period spent in an outlying district she is recommended for the gratuity which you are invited to approve.

3. Miss LaRose is due to retire on 31st August, 1932, having attained the age of 60 years. As in the case of Mrs. Bovell she is not eligible for a pension under the law. She will have had 14 years and 11 months' service, and is recommended for a special gratuity.

4. These cases have been considered in Executive Council when it was agreed that these payments should be made subject to the approval of the Legislative Council.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Officer Administering the Government.

12th July, 1932.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. McDowell): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government:—

MESSAGE No. 19.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to inform the Council that after the awards of the Mitchell Foundations for 1932 had been made it was found that one of the candidates to whom a foundation had been granted was not born in lawful wedlock.

2. The Will of Walter Mitchell leaves the residue of his estate "at the disposal of the Legislature of the Colony in order to form or found a Church College or other charitable institution in this Colony similar to the Saffon Establishment though not with the same exclusion but under similar rules for such purpose appointing the Legislature my residuary heir leaving the arrangement to the superior judgment of the Governor and the Court of Policy."

3. In 1928, when the present Regulations governing the award and tenure of the Mitchell Foundation were being framed, the question of the interpretation of the Will in regard to illegitimacy of candidates was considered, and Government was advised, with reference to the statement in the testator's Will that his foundation was to be "similar to the Saffon establishment though not with the same exclusion" that the expression "not with the same exclusion" referred to the preference given by Saffon to children of white parents, and that while Mitchell intended that there should be no distinction of race, he meant to retain legiti-

macy as a qualification of those receiving benefits under his Will.

4. A question has now been raised whether the interpretation of the Will as given in the Regulations is correct, and Government is advised that, in order to remove any doubts in regard to the question of legitimacy, a case should be prepared and submitted to the Supreme Court for a legal decision as to the correct interpretation of the Will.

5. I have consulted the Executive Council whose advice is that this course should be adopted. As Mitchell's Will leaves the residue of his estate at the disposal of the Legislature of the Colony, a Resolution of the Legislative Council is necessary before any action can be taken.

6. I therefore invite the Council to approve of a case being submitted to the Supreme Court for a decision.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Officer Administering the Government.

8th August, 1932.

PAPERS LAID.

The following documents were laid on the table:—

Annual Report on the North Western District for 1931.

Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners for 1931.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General for 1931.

Annual Report of the Inspectors of Prisons for 1931.

Annual Report of the Directors of the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund for 1931.

Annual Report of the Directors of the New Widows and Orphans' Fund for 1931.

Annual Report of the Banks Committee of the Local Government Board and on the Co-operative Credit Banks Established in the Colony for the year 1931.

Annual Report of the Government Analyst for 1931.

Annual Report of the Registrar-General for the year 1931.

Returns of the British Guiana Building Society, Ltd., for the year ended 31st December, 1931.

Consolidated Half-yearly Return of Immigrants for half-year ended 31st December, 1931.

Despatches (2) from the Secretary of State for the Colonies acknowledging receipt of Legislative Council Resolution No. X. of 21st April, 1932, *re* grant of additional preference on Colonial Sugar imported into the United Kingdom.

Summary Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Colonial Agricultural Scholarship Fund for the period 1st April, 1931, to 31st March, 1932.

Report of the Committee of the Georgetown Public Free Library for 1931, together with a Statement of the Accounts of the Library for that year (*Colonial Secretary*).

Annual Report of the Director of Public Works for 1931 (*Major Craig*).

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Income Tax for 1931 (*Mr. McDavid*).

Annual Report of the Transport and Harbours Department for 1931 (*Mr. Boyley*).

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move the following motions:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 16 of 1932, from the Officer Administering the Government, this Council approves of the grant of a compassionate allowance of \$15 a month to Miss Gertrude Irene Bishop, Uncertificated Assistant Teacher of Charlestown Roman Catholic School, from the date of her retirement, 1st June, 1932.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 17 of 1932, from the Officer Administering the Government, this Council approves of the grant to the undermentioned uncertificated assistant teachers of compassionate gratuities as set out against their names:—

Name.	Name of School	Gratuity to be Paid.
Mrs. A. Bovell	Marlborough Roman Catholic School	\$ 180
Miss C. C. La Rose	New Amsterdam Congregational School	120

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move that the following Regulations be made:—

Regulations relating to rates of postage on parcels to Martinique, French West Indies.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move that the Council resolve itself into Committee to consider the Schedule of additional provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the Estimate for the period 1st April, 1932, to 30th June, 1932.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move the following motion:—

That, with reference to Message No. 19 of 1932, from the Officer Administering the Government, this Council approves of a case being prepared and submitted to the Supreme Court for a legal decision as to the correct interpretation of the Will of Walter Mitchell, deceased, on the question whether legitimacy at time of birth is a necessary qualification of those receiving benefits under the Will, and other questions arising out of the interpretation of the Will.

Notice was given that at the next meet-

ing of the Council leave would be asked to introduce and have read the first time the following Bills :—

A Bill to repeal the A. Fawcett Pension Ordinance, 1932.

A Bill to repeal the Plantation Shops Ordinance, Chapter 156 (*Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill to make provision for the regulation and use of moto. vehicles.

A Bill to make provisions for the repayment to Government of amounts advanced by Government to defray the cost of the operation and maintenance of drainage and irrigation works constructed before the application to such works of the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, 1927.

A Bill to authorise the Governor in Council to reduce the total cost of works in certain cases under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, 1927, for the purpose of affording relief in the proportion to be paid by proprietors and Local Authorities.

A Bill to secure the Exhibition of a certain proportion of British Films, and for purposes connected therewith.

A Bill to amend the Cinematograph Ordinance, Chapter 105, by making provision for the appointment and duties of Censors (*Attorney-General*).

A Bill to amend the Animals (Breed and Contagious Diseases) Ordinance, Chapter 272.

A Bill to provide for the Control of Sugar Experiment Stations.

A Bill to amend the Rice (Export Grading) Ordinance, 1930, by providing for the blending of rice for export and the making of Regulations in connection therewith (*Professor Dash*).

A Bill to allow and confirm certain expenditure incurred in the year ended thirty-first day of December, 1931.

A Bill to amend the Stamp Duties (Management) Ordinance, Chapter 43, with respect to the cancellation of adhesive stamps.

A Bill to amend the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, 1930, by providing that Registered Friendly Societies and Registered Trade Unions are not subject to the provisions thereof (*Mr. McDavid*).

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

Mr. WOOLFORD gave notice of the following motion :—

That a Select Committee of this Council be appointed to enquire into the administration of the Trust created by the late Walter Mitchell and to make such recommendations as may appear to be necessary to give due effect to the bequest contained in the last Will and Testament of the deceased gentleman.

Mr. CRANE gave notice of the following questions :—

1.—(1) Is it true that Government treats the funds provided by the Imperial Government for carrying out the Brazilian Boundary Survey as

funds removed from the control of this Council?

(2) Did Government not intimate to this Council the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that as the Colony might be called upon to repay these funds at a future date, they should be dealt with as money voted by the Council?

(3) Is it true that the Commissioner of the Brazilian Boundary Commission claims to administer these funds as Imperial funds free of any departmental control?

(4) Is it true that the said Commissioner refused to accept a medical officer assigned to him by the Surgeon-General for the service of the said Commission?

(5) On what grounds were the services of the medical officer who it was suggested should be appointed on the Boundary Commission refused the appointment?

2.—(1) What is the total sum of money paid and payable in respect of the year 1932 as pensions to retired officers from the public service?

(2) What is the total sum of money paid and payable in respect of the year 1932 as pensions to retired public servants *residing out of the Colony*, under the following heads :—

(a) Resident in the United Kingdom,

(b) Resident in Barbados,

(c) Resident elsewhere?

(3) What is the total sum of money received by Government as tax in respect of pensions paid to all public officers, as follows :—

(a) In the Colony,

(b) Out of the Colony?

3.—(1) How many Government Medical Officers have been paid salaries during the present year from the vote "Medical," head 43, sub-head (c), contained in the Annual Estimates for 1932?

(2) Are there any vacancies for Government Medical Officers in the public service?

(3) Did Government create the two offices of "junior medical officers" at the Public Hospital as promised during the last general session of this Council?

(4) If so, who were the junior medical officers so appointed, and what were the salaries paid them?

(5) What were the professional qualifications of the said junior medical officers?

(6) Are those junior medical officers still in existence? And if not, why not?

(7) Is it correct that Government proposes to fill the posts of Government Medical Officers now vacant by calling for applicants abroad?

(8) Has Government exhausted the possibility of filling those vacant offices by qualified men in the Colony?

(9) Are there any persons who have given acting service to Government in the medical service who are in possession of all the professional qualifications required by Government?

Mr. SEERAM gave notice of the following questions :—

1. When does Government intend to introduce the Workman's Compensation Bill?

2. Has the Secretary of State for the Colonies returned the draft Bill? If so, will Government endeavour to introduce same at the Annual Session?

3. Is it true that certain retrenched officers have been re-employed by Government?

4. If so, will Government give the names of such officers, the offices held, and salaries received before they were retrenched, and their present offices and salaries?

5. Why were they retrenched and why are they re-employed?

Mr. CANNON gave notice of the following questions:—

1. Has Government received a petition from the people of this Colony to His Majesty the King praying for certain amendments to the Constitution? If so

(a) What date was it received?

(b) What date was it forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies?

(c) What reply has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies?

(d) What action does the Government purpose taking?

2. What is the shortage in revenue on the receipts of the Registrar of Deeds Office for January-July, 1932?

3. What are the amounts collected for the past five years, say 1927-1931, and from January-July, 1932? under the heads:—

(a) Transports } for Georgetown only.

(b) Mortgages }

4. What revenue has been collected by the Customs under head "Bill of Entry Tax" from commencement to, say, 31st July, 1932? under the following Heads:—

(a) $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

(b) 3 per cent.

PETITIONS.

Mr. GONSALVES laid on the table the following petitions: (1) from Charles Smartt, ex-member of the Police Force, asking for a gratuity or increased pension; (2) from Alice Mary Lawrence, ex-Nurse-in-Charge of the female infirmary, Mental Hospital, Barbice, asking for a monthly compassionate allowance for the balance of her natural life.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE PRESIDENT: In accordance with the wish of hon. Members that the Council should adjourn as a mark of respect to the late Hon. A. R. F. Webber, I adjourn the Council until 2.30 to-morrow afternoon.

Mr. CANNON: Will you permit me, sir, to ask whether you will give the Council an opportunity to correct a mis-statement which has been made in the House of Commons in relation to the Constitution of this Colony? The Secretary of State has no doubt made a mistake. Whether he has done so off his own bat or as the result of a despatch sent from this Colony I do not know, but I think it is due to the people of this Colony that immediate steps should be taken and their representatives in this House afforded an opportunity to have the necessary correction made.

THE PRESIDENT: I will go into the matter if the hon. Member will let me have some indication of the statement he refers to.

Mr. CANNON: I have a copy of the Hansard and all the details.

Mr. CRANE: There are some small matters of which notice has been given for the next meeting which can be disposed of to-day.

THE PRESIDENT: If we are going to adjourn as a mark of respect to the late Member for Western Barbice we had better do it at once.

The Council adjourned until the following day at 2.30 p.m.