

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 5th March, 1940.

The Council met at 11 a.m. His Excellency the Governor, SIR WILFRID JACKSON, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. G. D. Owen, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Attorney-General Mr. E. O. Pretheroe, M.C.

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

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

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo, O.B.E., (Eastern Berbice).

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

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, M.B.E., Colonial Treasurer.

The Hon. F. J. Seaford, O.B.E., (Georgetown North).

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

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

The Hon. N. M. MacLennan, Director of Medical Services.

The Hon. M. B. Laing, O.B.E., Commissioner of Labour and Local Government.

The Hon. G. O. Case, Director of Public Works and Sea Defences.

The Hon. L. G. Crease, Director of Education.

The Hon. B. R. Wood, Conservator of Forests.

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves, O.B.E. (Georgetown South).

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

The Hon. E. M. Walcott (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. H. C. Humphrys, K.C. (Eastern Demerara).

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

The Hon. J. W. Jackson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. F. A. Mackey (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. C. V. Wight, (Western Essequibo).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 20th of December, 1939, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

THE PRESIDENT: This meeting has been called to deal with certain urgent matters which will be laid before you. Most of them are listed on the Agenda.

Hon. Members have been made aware by announcements in the Press of the important statement on Colonial policy issued by His Majesty's Government in a White Paper, which was laid before Parliament on the 20th of February, and of the substance of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the West Indies which were published at the same time. The statements published locally are telegraphic summaries communicated to the various Governments for simultaneous publication on the date fixed. It was not possible, therefore, to make any formal communication in advance to the Council as a body. It is expected, however, that copies of the White Paper and the full summary of the Commission's recommendations will be received shortly, and they will be at once communicated to hon. Members of Council.

In the meantime hon. Members will have

observed that it is contemplated that a sum of £350,000 should be allocated by His Majesty's Government to enable a beginning to be made with such schemes in furtherance of the policy recommended by the Royal Commission as can be immediately put in hand. I am not yet in a position to make any statement, as to what proportion of this sum may be allocated to this Colony or as to the particular proposals which may be put in hand. The Government is in communication with the Secretary of State for the Colonies on these points, but I may say that a prominent feature of the proposals which have been made is that a beginning should be made in the work of reconditioning the main drainage systems of the Coastal areas—a work which in my opinion and in that of the Executive Council must be the foundation of any schemes of productive development which may afterwards be undertaken. Other works proposed have been of a nature to afford as much employment as possible. As soon as the Secretary of State's views on these proposals have been received, the programme of the works suggested will be laid before you.

The general programme which may be adopted in fulfilment of the policy recommended obviously cannot be finally formulated until the advisory and controlling organization contemplated by the Royal Commission's recommendations has been set up.

It is too early, therefore, to make any general statement of policy arising out of these very comprehensive and far reaching recommendations, but I am sure that hon. Members will have been impressed, as I have been, by the wide scope of the recommendations made and by the action of His Majesty's Government in undertaking the consideration and fulfilment of the policy recommended in the midst of this great struggle when Great Britain and the Empire are fighting for their very existence.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

COMPASSIONATE GRATUITY TO KOODABACCUS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, (Mr. Owen) communicated the following Messages:—

MESSAGE NO. 7.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The Council is invited to approve of the payment of a compassionate gratuity of \$153 to Koodabaccus, formerly Ranger of Pln. Hague, one of the Government owned estates on the West Coast, Demerara, who served continuously for seventeen years and whose employment was terminated on 4th May, 1939, at the age of sixty-seven years, as the result of impaired vision.

2. As Koodabaccus was not a monthly employee he is not eligible for a gratuity under Legislative Council Resolution No. LXIII. of 2nd July, 1930, as amended by Resolution No. XXIII. of 10th February 1931, but in view of his satisfactory service and considering his age and the circumstances in which his employment had to be terminated, it is recommended that a compassionate gratuity of \$153, calculated at the rate of a fortnight's pay (\$9) for each completed year of service (17 years), be granted to him.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

24th January, 1940.

EX-GRATIA AWARD TO GANGA PERSAUD. MESSAGE NO. 8.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The Council is invited to approve of the payment of an *ex gratia* award of \$468 to Ganga Persaud, formerly a section ganger (1st river), Public Works Department.

2. Ganga Persaud served the Department continuously for 28 years—20 years as a road foreman, and 8 years as a section ganger. In July, 1938, when the work of road maintenance on the Corentyne Coast was being re-organised, it was found possible to reduce the number of section gangers employed on this work from two to one. Ganga Persaud was the ganger whose services were dispensed with, as he was 54 years of age and his efficiency was lowered by advancing age.

3. His wages as section ganger were \$18 a fortnight, but his employment, though continuous throughout the 28 years, was not on the regular monthly salaried staff and he is therefore not eligible for a gratuity under Legislative Council Resolution No. LXIII of 2nd July, 1930, as amended by Resolution No. XXIII of 10th February, 1931.

4. In view of his long service, however, and considering the circumstances in which his services had to be terminated, it is recommended that a gratuity of \$468 the equivalent of one year's pay, be awarded him.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

7th February, 1940.

EX-GRATIA PAYMENT TO MR. C. C. KING. MESSAGE NO. 9.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite Council to approve of the grant of an *ex gratia* payment of \$70 in connection with a claim by Mr. C. C.

King for the cost of salvaging a punt, which grounded on submerged piles in the Canje Creek and sank with its load.

2. The punt contained firewood to be used in connection with the Pure Water Supply Scheme, and it was usual to land the wood at or near the place where the accident occurred. It is stated by the claimant that the captain of the punt was unaware of the existence of the submerged piles, and when the tide fell the unloaded punt struck one of the piles, filled with water and sank.

3. The cost of salvaging the punt was stated by the owner to be \$120, and a claim for this amount was forwarded to Government.

4. Section 4 of the Creeks Ordinance, Chapter 134, charges the proper authorities with the duty of keeping creeks "clear and free from obstructions," but section 5 of the same Ordinance precludes the institution of legal proceedings for any neglect of such duty.

5. The matter has been considered by the Executive Council who have recommended that in all the circumstances Mr. King be granted an *ex gratia* payment of \$70, which is considered a reasonable amount for the salvage of the punt and its load of firewood. I concur in the recommendation, and the Secretary of State has approved of the payment in this instance as a special case.

6. Steps are being taken to remove the obstructions in the Creek.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

6th February, 1940.

REVIEW OF CIVIL LIST ORDINANCE.

MESSAGE NO. 10.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

In my concluding remarks on the debate in the Legislative Council on the 7th of June, 1938, when a Resolution was passed for the revision by the Council of the provisions of the Civil List Ordinance at intervals of not less than five years, I informed Honourable Members that I would transmit the Resolution to the Secretary of State for the Colonies as an expression of the views of the Unofficial Members of the Council.

I am now in a position to inform Honourable Members that the Secretary of State has approved of the Civil List Ordinance being brought before the Council for review in 1943 and thereafter at intervals of five years.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor,

7th February, 1940.

APPOINTMENT OF SECOND INSPECTOR OF LABOUR
MESSAGE NO. 11.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The work and activities of the Department of Labour and Local Government have increased considerably since its creation in 1938, particularly that of the Labour Inspectorate.

2. The work will be further increased when

the Labour Code, which has been published as a Bill and which is at present under reference to the Secretary of State, becomes law.

3. Honourable Members will recall the visit to the Colony of Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E., Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In his preliminary report on the Colony, one of his recommendations in regard to the organisation of the Department of Labour and Local Government was that there should be two additional Inspectors of Labour. Owing to the outbreak of War and the urgent need for economy, provision was made for only one additional post in the 1940 Estimates. It is now proposed to make provision for the second additional post.

4. I have consulted the Executive Council who have advised that the appointment of the second additional Inspector of Labour, at the minimum of the salary scale, \$2,400 x \$120—\$3,120, per annum, should be made. The officer to fill this post will be selected locally.

5. I, therefore, invite the Council to approve of the necessary provision being made in the First Schedule of Additional Provision for 1940 to give effect to the recommendation.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

4th March, 1940.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL DETECTIVE
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

MESSAGE NO. 12.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The need for strengthening the personnel of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Police Department has been under consideration, and the appointment of another Senior Police Officer with special training in detective work is considered to be desirable.

The Council is, therefore, invited to approve of provision being made on supplementary estimate for such an appointment on the salary scale, \$2,160 x \$120—\$2,880 per annum, the rate applicable to the rank of County Superintendent of Police.

2. The proposal is that the appointment should be additional to the existing establishment of the Police Force.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor,

4th March, 1940.

PAPERS LAID.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following reports and documents:—

Report on the Working of the Joint Colonial Fund for the year ended 31st March, 1939.

Report on the Meteorology for the year 1938.

Report on the British West Indies (Eastern Group) and British Guiana Representation at the New York World's Fair, 1939, by Mr. C. E.

Green, the British Guiana Representative in U.S.A.

Report of the Postmaster General for the year 1938.

Report on the Post Office Savings Bank for the year 1938.

Report of the Registrar of Trade Unions for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Report and accounts of the East Demerara Water Conservancy Board for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Report of the Immigration Agent General for the year 1938.

Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

The Petroleum (Prospecting and Winning) Regulations, 1940.

The Distribution of Petroleum (Suspension from Operation) Regulations, 1939. Published in the *Official Gazette* of the 9th December, 1939.

Importation of Textiles (Suspension of Quotas) Regulations, 1939. Published in the *Official Gazette* of the 23rd December, 1939.

Merchant Vessels (Control of Radiotelegraphy) (No. 2) Regulations, 1939. Published in the *Official Gazette* of the 30th December, 1939.

The Defence (Protection of Ships) Regulations, 1940. Published in the *Official Gazette* of the 3rd February, 1940.

The Defence (Rice Control) (Amendment) Regulations, 1940. Published in the *Official Gazette* of the 10th February, 1940.

The Defence (Amendment) Regulations, 1940. Published in the *Official Gazette (Extraordinary)* of the 13th February, 1940.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

Notice was given of the introduction and first reading of the following Government Bills:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make special provision in regard to the pensionable service of Robert Leslie Thomson.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Cinematograph Ordinance, Chapter 105. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, 1939.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Prisons Ordinance, Chapter 32, with respect to the carrying and use of fire-arms by prison officers.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to incorporate the New Building Society, Limited, and to transfer to that society the assets of the British Guiana Building Society, Limited.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance, 1933, (No. 14 of 1933) in certain particulars.

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

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Accidental Deaths and Workmen's Injuries (Compensation) Ordinance, Chapter 265, in certain particulars.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make provision for the importation, sale, possession and use of firearms and ammunition, and for the registration, and licensing, of firearms, and for matters connected with the matters aforesaid. (*The Attorney General*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the current session of the Legislative Council. (*Mr. McDavid Colonial Treasurer*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Bill of Entry Tax Ordinance (No. 2), 1932, by exempting importers of printed books and newspapers from the payment of the Bill of Entry Tax. (*Mr. D'Andrade, Comptroller of Customs*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Local Government (Village Councils) Ordinance, 1935. (*Mr. Laing, Commissioner of Labour and Local Government*).

MOTIONS.

COMPASSIONATE GRATUITY TO KOODABACCUS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motions:—

THAT, with reference to the Governor's Message No. 7, dated 24th January, 1940, this Council approves of the payment of a compassionate gratuity of \$153 to Koodabaccus, formerly Ranger of Pln. Hague, one of the Government owned estates on the West Coast, Demerara, who served continuously for seventeen years and whose employment was terminated on 4th May, 1939, at the age of sixty-seven years, as the result of impaired vision.

EX-GRATIA AWARD TO GANGA PERSAUD.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 8, dated 7th February, 1940, this Council approves of the payment of an *ex gratia* award of \$468 to Ganga Persaud formerly a section ganger (Driver), Public Works Department, who served the Department continuously for twenty-eight years and whose services were dispensed with consequent on the re-organization of the work of road maintenance on the Corentyne Coast, as he was fifty-four years of age and his efficiency was lowered by advancing age.

EX-GRATIA PAYMENT TO MR. C. C. KING.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 9 of the 6th February, 1940, this Council approves of the grant of an *ex gratia* payment of \$70 in connection with a claim by Mr. C. C.

King for the cost of salvaging a punt which grounded on submerged piles in the Canje Creek and sank with its load of firewood.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INSPECTOR OF LABOUR.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 11 of the 4th March, 1940, this Council approves of the appointment of an additional Inspector of Labour on the salary scale \$2,400 x \$120—\$3,120 per annum and of the necessary provision for his salary being included in the First Schedule of Additional Provision for the year 1940.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL DETECTIVE-SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 12 of the 4th of March, 1940, this Council approves of the appointment of an additional Detective Superintendent of Police on the salary scale \$2,160 x \$120—\$2,880 per annum and of the necessary provision for his salary being included in the First Schedule of Additional Provision for the year 1940.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

PROTECTION OF LOCAL PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT gave notice of the following motion:—

WHEREAS unemployment is prevalent and rife in the Colony of British Guiana;

And WHEREAS it is desirable that local products and industries should be encouraged and protected as much as possible;

Be it Resolved,—That this Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor the appointment of a committee to consider the advisability of revising and re-adjusting without loss to the revenue the tariff duties now collectable with a view to the protection of local products and industries.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS OF LABOUR.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT gave notice of the following questions:—

1. How many Inspectors of Labour are there? Please give names, previous service, if any; dates of appointments and salaries.

2. Is there any vacancy in the office of an Inspector of Labour?

3. If the answer to No. 2 is in the affirmative, does Government propose to fill same?

4. If the answer to No. 3 is in the affirmative, who is the Officer to be appointed? Please

give name, previous service, if any, and salary of such Officer.

5. Are any of the Officers, referred to in the preceding question, Guianese? If the answer is in the affirmative, please give the names of such Officers.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

TELEGRAPHIC AND TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION.

Mr. GON ALVE, asked the following questions to which the Colonial Secretary replied:

Q. 1.—Is Government aware of the great inconvenience caused by the absence of telegraphic or telephonic communication between Garraway Stream and Potaro—a distance of about 20 miles?

A.—Government is aware that some inconvenience is caused by the absence of telegraphic or telephonic communication between Garraway Stream and Potaro.

Q. 2.—Has Government ever considered the necessity of providing such form of communication in the said area, and if so, what would be the cost?

A.—Government has previously considered the provision of such a service but it was felt that the expenditure necessary would not be justified in view of the need for the strictest economy. It is estimated that the cost of providing wireless telephonic communication between Garraway Stream and Potaro would be \$1,000 with small maintenance costs, and the question will be considered either of providing such a service or transferring the present wireless station from Garraway Stream to Potaro.

Q. 3.—How soon will this unsatisfactory condition be remedied?

A.—See answer to Question 2.

Q. 4.—What are the views of the Commissioner of Police and Commissioner of Lands and Mines on the matter?

A.—It would be a convenience to those Heads of Departments and Officers serving in the district to have direct communication with Potaro.

RETIREMENT OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT, on behalf of Mr. T. Lee, asked the following questions to which the Colonial Secretary replied:

Q. 1.—How many employees will be retired from the Transport and Harbours Department at the end of the year?

Give length of service and state whether they will receive pensions or gratuities, and what sum in each case.

A.—Three.

One man with 15 years' service is eligible for a gratuity of \$100.

One man with 18 years' service is eligible for a gratuity of \$100.

One man with 15 years' service is eligible for a gratuity of \$111.26

Q. 2.—Has Government despatched any communication to the Secretary of State for the Colonies recommending the payment of pensions to the Transport and Harbours Department employees?

If the reply is in the affirmative, state when the communication was despatched.

A.—Yes. In April, 1939.

Q. 3.—Has Government obtained the Secretary of State's approval to the said recommendations? If not, will Government take urgent steps to secure the Secretary of State's approval in view of the fact that many employees of the Department are to be retired shortly?

A.—No. The matter is being dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

GOVERNMENT COUNTY SCHOLARSHIPS.

Q. 1.—How many Government County Scholarships Government proposes to award annually by open competition from 1940 in terms of the Government County Scholarship Regulations, 1931? And how many for the Junior Competition?

A.—24 Government County Scholarships and 4 Government Junior Scholarships.

Q. 2.—If the number of Scholarships to be awarded under No. 2 of the said Regulations will be increased from 1940, in accordance with recent legislation, will Government preserve the ratio of 5 : 4 : 3 for the respective Counties of Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo as provided under the said Regulations and award the given number of scholarships as will be awarded from 1940 by no other method, so as to allow of

(a) the distinctive feature "County Scholarships" being maintained and

(b) the stimulation of increased healthy competition amongst schools and pupils of each County as provided by No. 9 of the said Regulations?

A.—The basis on which the additional scholarships are to be allocated is at present under consideration. Draft Regulations in this connexion are now being prepared.

Q. 3.—Will Government maintain the method of awarding all lapsed scholarships in any one county as providing by No. 9 of the said Regulations?

A.—The reply is in the affirmative.

Q. 4.—What amount is provided annually for each term's fees in respect of a Government County Scholar?

A.—The amount provided annually for each term's fees in respect of a scholar varies with the school which he or she attends. Provision is made for the actual amount of tuition fees payable. This provision is in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Regulations?

Q. 5.—Is the total amount so provided for each term's fees for each scholar ever expended?

A.—The reply is in the affirmative.

Q. 6.—Is Government aware of the fact that as there is no secondary school at all or at least approved secondary school in every County where scholarships might be tenable, the parents of winners of County Scholarships from a County where no such school exists, usually poor people, are put to considerable expense to board and lodge such winners in Georgetown so that they might get the benefit of the scholarships won?

A.—Government is aware that there is not in every county a secondary school at which a Government County Scholarship could be made tenable. Some parents may find it difficult to bear the expense of sending their children who are scholarship winners to schools in Georgetown.

Q. 7.—And since these parents find the maintenance allowance of \$8 per term wholly inadequate, will Government increase the maintenance allowance to parents in such circumstances by any unexpended balance or savings on the amount provided for fees per term for each scholar for each term?

A.—Government could not undertake to differentiate in the manner suggested. The disposal of any available balances is regulated by Regulation 11 (e) of the Regulations.

INCREASED RATES OF CUSTOMS DUTIES PAYABLE ON SPIRITS AND TOBACCO.

Q. 1.—Will Government state how many gallons of rum were taken out of Bond in the months of July, August, September and October, 1938, as compared with the quantity taken out in the corresponding periods of the year 1939, and by whom, and how much revenue was lost through the introduction of the new Customs duties?

Q. 2.—Will Government state how many pounds of tobacco were taken out of Bond in the months of July, August, September and October, 1938, as compared with the quantity taken out in the same period in the year 1939, and by whom, and how much revenue was lost thereby?

Q. 3.—Is Government aware that the knowledge gained of such increases constitutes a breach of faith to Government and what action is being taken in such cases?

A.—The undermentioned quantities of rum were cleared for home consumption in each of the months of July, August, September and October of 1938 and 1939:—

	1938.		1939.	
	Pf. glns.		Pf. glns.	
July	10,587	10,262		
August	10,366	12,296		
September	10,798	10,909		
October	9,135	9,863		

More than 100 persons were concerned in the clearing of this rum.

Revenue collections from Excise duty on rum during the four months ended 31st October, 1939, totalled \$199,240 as compared with \$183,989, during the corresponding period in 1938. Additional revenue, to the extent of \$4,252, was collected in October, 1939, from the increased excise duty.

The quantities of tobacco which were cleared for home consumption in each of the four months ended 31st October in 1938 and 1939 are set out hereunder:—

TOBACCO IN LEAF—MOISTURE CONTENT 25% TO 38%

	1938.	1939.
	Quantity lbs.	Quantity lbs.
July	13,262	9,390
August	14,432	17,030
September	11,419	12,201
October	13,715	16,719
Total.	52,878	55,340

TOBACCO IN LEAF—MOISTURE CONTENT UNDER 25%

	1938.	1939.
	Quantity lbs.	Quantity lbs.
July	14,898	14,645
August	22,155	20,884
September	15,616	30,481
October	23,485	24,311
Total.	76,154	90,321

CIGARS.—

	1938.	1939.
	Quantity lbs.	Quantity lbs.
July	6	81
August	98	2
September	21	93
October		
Total.	125	176

CIGARETTES.—

	1938.	1939.
	Quantity lbs.	Quantity lbs.
July	575	519
August	646	589
September	679	685
October	637	706
Total.	2,537	2,499

TOBACCO MANUFACTURED—OTHER KINDS.—

	1938.	1939.
	Quantity lbs.	Quantity lbs.
July	5,860	4,740
August	4,364	4,745
September	3,918	6,074
October	5,550	4,980
Total.	19,692	20,539

The tobacco in question was cleared by twenty-two importers. Revenue collections from Customs duty on tobacco during the four months ended 31st October, 1939, totalled \$209,187, as compared with \$179,078 during the corresponding period in 1938. The increased duties on tobacco yielded additional revenue totalling \$4,931 in October.

Government is satisfied that any loss of revenue which may have been occasioned by excessive clearances of rum and tobacco in anticipation of a revision of the Customs and Excise tariffs could not be attributed to a breach of confidence by any one, for the decision to increase the duties was not made until after the close of Customs business on the afternoon of 2nd October, and the increased duties became effective as from the morning of 3rd October.

RICE INDUSTRY.

Q. 1.—Will Government state what quantities of rice are in the hands of merchants of the City of Georgetown, or other persons, stating the name of each merchant or person separately, and quantity for the period ending 31st October, 1939, and the name of any other holder in any part of the Colony of 350 bags of

rice or over for the said 31st October, 1939, and where held?

A.—The question asks for information as to quantities of rice held "for the period ending 31st October, 1939," but it is assumed that the Honourable Member desires to know the quantities held on the 31st October, 1939. The information can be obtained from returns submitted by merchants and other persons in accordance with the Order dated 7th October, 1939, made by the Competent Authority under Regulation 44 of the Defence Regulations, 1939. These Regulations, however, contemplate that such information is to be regarded as strictly confidential and is to be used only for the specific purpose for which it has been obtained, that is, the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community. It would be contrary to the public interest to disclose such information.

Q. 2.—Is Government aware that the holders of large stocks of rice had previous knowledge of the introduction of the Rice Regulations and made use of such knowledge to acquire and hold large stocks of rice?

Q. 3.—What steps Government intends to take in respect of the profits to be made by the improper use of such knowledge?

A.—Government is not aware that the holders of large stocks of rice prior to the coming into operation of the Defence (Rice Control) Regulations, 1939, were in possession of any information which was not generally known to other traders in rice. Government does not propose to take any action in the matter.

BILLS—FIRST READING.

Motion made, and question put and agreed to, that the following Bills be read the first time:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make special provision in regard to the pensionable service of Robert Leslie Thomson.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Cinematograph Ordinance, Chapter 105.—(*The Colonial Secretary*)

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, 1939.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Prisons Ordinance, Chapter 32, with respect to the carrying and use of firearms by prison officers.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to incorporate The New Building Society, Limited, and to transfer to that society the assets of the British Guiana Building Society, Limited.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance, 1933, (No. 14 of 1933) in certain particulars.

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

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend Accidental Deaths and Workmen's Injuries (Compensation) Ordinance, Chapter 265, in certain particulars.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make provision for the importation, sale, possession and use of firearms and ammunition and for the registration, and licensing of firearms, and for matters connected with the matters aforesaid.—(*The Attorney-General.*)

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the current session of the Legislative Council.—(*Mr McDavid.*)

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Bill of Entry Tax Ordinance, (No. 2), 1932, by exempting importers of printed books and newspapers from the payment of the Bill of Entry Tax.—(*Mr. D' Andrade.*)

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Local Government (Village Councils) Ordinance, 1935.—(*Mr. Laing.*)

Bills read the first time and notice given of their second reading at the next or subsequent meeting of the Council.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 1940, BILL.

Motion made, and question "That the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, 1939," to be taken through all its remaining stages to-day" put, and agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Pretheroe): In moving the second reading of this Bill I need hardly remind hon. Members that the news of the declaration of War was received in this Colony on the evening of September 3, and on the following day this Council met and enacted a mass of legislation. One of the Ordinances then enacted was the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, and owing to the speed with which this Ordinance was prepared and printed two errors crept in. The object of this amending Ordinance is to correct those errors.

In the first place Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to insert certain words into the main Ordinance. Those words represent one full line of typed matter which was dropped from the original Bill as presented and enacted by this Council. I am not suggesting that it was the fault of the Government Printers or the Clerk of this Council. The line was dropped from the copy of the typed script which was sent to the Printers.

Clause 3 requires the prior approval of the Secretary of State to be obtained. It refers to section 4 of the Principal Ordinance which reads:

(2). The Governor may by order direct that any person specified in the order shall, for the purposes of this Ordinance, be deemed to be, while so specified, an enemy.

All that is intended is that the order be made with the prior approval of the Secretary of State. Three orders have in fact been published under that particular section, and they were not only made with the prior approval of the Secretary of State but on his actual instructions.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

Bill passed without amendment.

The Council resumed.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Trading with the Enemy Ordinances, 1939" be read a third time and passed.

Professor DASH seconded.

Question "That this Bill be read a third time and passed" put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time.

THE PRESIDENT: This concludes formally the business we have today. Some of the Bills for consideration will not have completed the requirements as to publication laid down by the Standing Orders until Thursday. I would like to know if hon. Members prefer to meet to-morrow and go on with these Bills, in which case it would involve the suspension of the Standing Orders, otherwise the Council would stand adjourned until Thursday.

Mr. ELEAZAR: It seems to me that we should proceed and finish the business of the Council rather than adjourn now to Thursday, as to-morrow would be a wasted day to me and, I think, there are other hon. Members in the same position.

THE PRESIDENT: I daresay the other hon. Members who are in the same position would rather go straight on to-morrow. I have not the least objection to that being done. I would like to go on to-day if hon. Members are so desirous, but, as I have pointed out, that would involve the formal suspension of the Standing Orders in respect of some of these Bills as the full carriage of publication would not be completed until Thursday.

The Council adjourned to 10.30 a.m. on the following day.