

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.*Tuesday, 7th May, 1935.*

The Council met, His Excellency the Governor, MR. GEOFFRY A. S. NORTHCOPE, C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. Millard, C.M.G., (Acting).

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. Hector Josephs, K.C., B.A., LL.M. (Cantab.), LL.B. Lond.).

The Hon. T. T. Smellie, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

Major the Hon. W. Bain Gray, M.A., Ph.D. (Edin.), B. Litt. (Oxon.), Director of Education.

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

The Hon. R. E. Brassington (Western Essequibo).

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. J. A. Henderson, M.B., Ch. B. B.Sc. (P.H.), (Edin.), D.T.M. & H. (Edin.), Surgeon-General.

The Hon. F. Birkitt (Postmaster-General).

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

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

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

The Hon. J. L. Wills (Demerara River).

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

The Hon. R. V. Evan Wong (Essequibo River).

GOVERNOR SWORN.

His Excellency the Governor took the oath and his seat as President of the Council.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 7th February, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The following Members took and subscribed to the oath:—

Mr. E. F. McDavid, Colonial Treasurer (acting).

Mr. G. J. De Freitas (Nominated Unofficial Member).

THE KING'S JUBILEE.**A LOYAL ADDRESS.**

The President addressed the Council as follows:—

Honourable Members,

Yesterday was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession to the Throne of His Majesty King George V.

The past twenty-five years have been a period of strain, difficulty and danger for the British people perhaps not equalled, certainly not surpassed, by any other of our history. Though we have not yet come forth entirely from those troublous times nevertheless we may say that, thanks to the mercy of Almighty God and to the

wisdom and courage of our King, the darkest hours of peril and distress are behind us.

And as yesterday we rendered thanks to the Divine Being for His goodness in preserving and guiding our beloved King, so to-day we are assembled in Council to vote a loyal address to His Majesty in grateful and loving acknowledgment of his unflinching devotion to us, his people.

I call upon the Honourable the Colonial Secretary to move.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. T. Millard): I move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to enable me to move a motion approving of a loyal address being presented to His Majesty.

Mr. SMELLIE: As the senior Unofficial Member of the Council, I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Sir, I move:—

That a dutiful and loyal address be presented to His Majesty as follows:—

TO HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY, GEORGE THE FIFTH, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, OF GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND AND THE BRITISH DOMINIONS BEYOND THE SEAS, KING, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, EMPEROR OF INDIA.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, the Legislative Council of British Guiana, beg leave on behalf of the inhabitants of this Colony, to lay before Your Majesty this expression of our duty to You and of our loyalty to the throne, on the occasion of this the twenty-fifth anniversary of Your Majesty's accession as King of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, and Emperor of India.

We acknowledge with thankfulness our debt to Almighty God for having spared Your Majesty to reign over this Colony and the other parts of Your Empire for so long a period; a period during which Your Majesty's subjects here and elsewhere have enjoyed manifold blessings and Your Majesty, by Your wisdom and foresight, has maintained and deepened the loyalty, devotion and affection of all subjects not only in times of progress and prosperity, but also in times of anxiety and endeavour.

We remember with pride that Your Majesty visited this Colony in the year 1884 while serving in Her Majesty's Ship 'Canada,' and we have received with pleasure the message recall-

ing that visit which Your Majesty was graciously pleased to send to us by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief. In the year 1920 we had the honour and privilege of welcoming also Your Majesty's eldest son, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Your Majesty is aware that this is the only part of Your Empire which is situated on the mainland of South America and that it has an area of 90,000 square miles. The population of the Colony which numbers 321,000 includes many people who are not found dwelling together elsewhere within Your Majesty's Possessions. The Colony was first inhabited by Aboriginal Indians; and this race still survives in certain parts of the interior of the Colony. The majority of our present population are the descendants either of persons who came from Africa, or of others who at a later date came from Your Majesty's Indian Empire. There are also among us some of Portuguese and some of Chinese descent, as well as a small minority composed of those born in the British Isles and those whose ancestors came from there. It is a source of pride and gratification to us that members of so many different races live in such close relationship in peace and harmony and that, as Your Majesty's subjects, they all enjoy equal rights and liberties. The Legislative Council, in which we have the honour to serve Your Majesty, includes members of every race in the Colony except the Aboriginal Indians.

In addition to the allegiance which all the inhabitants of this Colony gladly render to You, we have another bond of union among ourselves and with Your Majesty's subjects elsewhere: we speak the English tongue and so share with them the common language of the Empire.

Thus we are a community which is unusual, if not unique, in respect of the diversity of races living within so small a compass and of the unity which exists in the public and social life of our people. Its population is small in proportion to its area, but our Colony is still, in the extent and value of its natural resources, the

"yet unspoiled

Guiana."

of which Milton wrote; and we look forward to the future with faith in our people and confidence in our destiny as a part of Your Majesty's Dominions.

We pray that Your Majesty may long continue to occupy the Throne of Your Empire, and on behalf of all the inhabitants of this Colony we ask Your Majesty to accept this assurance of our enduring loyalty and our deep attachment to Your Majesty and to Her Majesty the Queen and the other members of Your Royal House.

We are,

Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects
The Legislative Council of British Guiana.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.