

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Fourth Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana at its Fourth Session, 1951, held at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, on

FRIDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 1951,

AT 2 P.M.

PRESENT:

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| The President, | His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Campbell Woolle, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C. |
| The Honourable | the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. Gutch, O.B.E. |
| " | " the Acting Attorney General, Mr. A.C. Brazao |
| " | " the Acting Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W.O. Fraser. |
| " | " C.V. Wight, C.B. (Western Essequibo) |
| " | " Dr. J.B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo) |
| " | " Dr. J.A. Nicholson (Georgetown North) |
| " | " T. Lee (Essequib River) |
| " | " V. Roth, O.B.E. (Nominated) |
| " | " C.P. Ferreira (Berbice River) |
| " | " T.T. Thompson (Nominated) |
| " | " G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E. (Nominated) |
| " | " J.F. Coghlan (Demerara River) |
| " | " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central) |
| " | " Dr. G.M. Gonsalves (Eastern Berbice) |
| " | " W.O.R. Kendall (New Amsterdam) |
| " | " A.T. Peters (Western Berbice) |
| " | " W.A. Phang (North Western District) |
| " | " J. Carter (Georgetown South) |
| " | " L.A. Luckhoo (Nominated) |
| " | " W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E. (Nominated). |

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 15th of November, 1951, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Colonial Secretary communicated the following Message:-

MESSAGE No. 1

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

As you will recall the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in paragraph 4 of his despatch No. 122 of the 6th of October on the Constitutional Commission's Report, promised a further communication with regard to the manner in which the proposed alteration of the franchise might be submitted to this Council: this communication (despatch No. 124 of the 22nd of October) has been received and copies are being tabled today.

2. It is proposed to take action as suggested by the Secretary of State to amend the Legislative Council (Elections) Ordinance, 1945 (No. 13), to provide for universal adult suffrage and thereafter to proceed with the proposal for dividing the existing electoral districts into registration areas which could afterwards be redistributed to conform with the boundaries of the new electoral districts proposed by the Constitution Commission.

The object of this proposal is to enable the difficult and lengthy task of registration of voters to be put in hand in advance of the new Constitution so that there may be as little delay as possible in the arrangements for holding elections when the new Constitution is introduced.

3. It is hoped that draft amending legislation to give effect to the Secretary of State's suggestion will be ready shortly and on the occasion of its introduction in the Legislative Council I propose to afford Members an opportunity of discussing the Constitutional Commission's Report generally.

C.C. WOOLLEY,

Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
British Guiana.
15th November, 1951
(M.P. 262/1/8/3).

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following:-

- ✓ The Secretary of State's despatch No. 134 of the 22nd of October, 1951, referred to in His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 1 of the 15th of November, 1951.

(M.P. 262/1/8/3).

The Financial Secretary and Treasurer laid on the table the following:-

- ✓ (a) The Minutes of a Special Meeting of Finance Committee of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd of November, 1951.
- ✓ (b) The Report of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer for the year 1950.

(M.P. 123/4 VII).

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

Mr. Roth gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS the St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital and School of Nursing operated by the Sisters of Mercy opened its doors to the British Guiana public on 1st September, 1945, with sixty-four beds;

AND WHEREAS today, with the opening of the New Wing, it provides 137 beds of which 24 are specially reserved for the indigent;

AND WHEREAS the hospital caters for every section of the community without regard to race or creed, having during the first five years of its existence treated 8,341 in-patients and 25,292 out-patients;

AND WHEREAS the hospital has maintained a steady policy of progress, keeping in line with modern medical and surgical development by installing up-to-date equipment;

AND WHEREAS all this has not been done without great expense and the cost of maintenance, equipment, medicine and food has risen considerably within the past five years and is still rising;

AND WHEREAS the debt of the New Wing still exceeds \$200,000;

BE IT RESOLVED, in view of the above facts and especially in view of the gap in medical care and attention to the community at large which this hospital undoubtedly has filled and is filling, that this Honourable Council recommends strongly to Government the favourable consideration of granting a subsidy to this most valuable institution.

Dr. Nicholson gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS it is equitable that the worker should share in the profits of industry;

AND WHEREAS it is incumbent upon Government among its other functions to provide SOCIAL SECURITY by way of a system of monthly insurance benefits for the worker and his family when the wage-earner is old and stops work or if he dies;

AND WHEREAS in as much as there are in existence Unions capable of bargaining for the worker with his employer there are thousands of employees who are as yet unorganised and whose sole protection is still Government;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommends to Government the appointment of a SELECT COMMITTEE to examine the question of the institution of a Contributory Pension Scheme for the workers of this country and to make recommendations.

ORDER OF THE DAY

MOTION BY MR. FERNANDES RECOMMENDING THE GRANT OF A
SUBSIDY TO ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommend to Government that a subsidy be granted to the St. Stanislaus College.

(M.P. 35/21/5)

After discussion the motion was put and adopted.

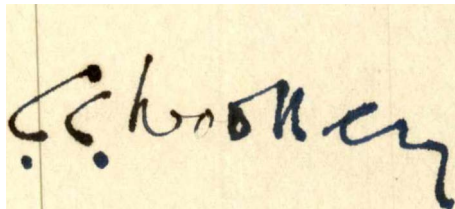
COMPANIES (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951

On motions by the Attorney General seconded by Mr. Wight the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPANIES (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS was read the second time and thereafter taken through the remaining stages and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

The President adjourned Council to 2 p.m. on Friday, the 23rd of November, 1951.

Confirmed,



President.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Public Buildings,
British Guiana.

23rd November, 1951.