

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, 20TH JUNE, 1957

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker:

Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford,
O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members :

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

The Hon. the Attorney General,
Mr. A. M. I. Austin.

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 Agriculture,
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. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E.
(Member for Local Government, Social
Welfare and Co-operative Develop-
ment).

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

Nominated Official :

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

Nominated Unofficials :

Mr. W. A. Phang

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Mr. E. F. Correia.

Mr. H. Rahaman

Miss Gertie H. Collins.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey.

Dr. H. A. Fraser

Mr. R. B. Jailal

Mr. Sugrim Singh

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

Clerk of the Legislature:

Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Absent :

Mr. T. Lee—on leave.

Mr. L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C.—on leave.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb—on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of
the Council held on Thursday, 13th
June, 1957, as printed and circulated,
were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Luckhoo is unable to be present today. He has a motion on the Order Paper. I am going to defer it, but I don't think he intends to proceed with it and there is no one to withdraw it. I will allow it to remain on the Order Paper because a man may change his mind. I will put it down on the Order Paper in order that he might explain his intention.

PAPERS LAID

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines): I beg to lay on the table:

Fisheries (Licences) Regulations, 1957.
Fisheries (Marketing) Regulations, 1957.

Copies of these regulations are being printed and will be circulated to Members over the week-end.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

FISHERIES REGULATIONS, 1957

Sir Frank McDavid: Sir, I beg to give notice of the motion standing in my name on the Supplementary Order Paper:

"Be it resolved, That this Council approves of the Fisheries (Licences) Regulations, 1957, and the Fisheries (Marketing) Regulations, 1957, made by the Governor in Council on the 19th May, 1957."

SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS FOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE EMPLOYEES

The Chief Secretary (Mr. Porcher, acting): I beg to give notice of the following motion:

"Whereas the salaries and wages of the domestic employees employed at Government House were provided for in the Estimates since 1955 and such employees thereupon became Government employees entitled to superannuation benefits in accordance with the rules for such benefits; and

"Whereas prior to 1955, the said employees were not entitled to such superannuation benefits; and

"Whereas the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council at a meeting held on 3rd January, 1955, had agreed that the service of such employees prior to 1955, should be treated for superannuation purposes as if such service had been with the Government:

Be it resolved, That this Council approves of the service prior to the 1st January, 1955, of persons employed as domestic employees on and after that date at Government House being deemed to be service with the Government so that such service may be included in calculating the superannuation benefits to be paid to such employees on their retirement in accordance with the existing rules governing such awards approved by Council by Resolution No: LII of the 6th July, 1951 as amended by Resolution No. LVI of the 8th May, 1957."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Chief Secretary: I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:

"Volunteer (Amendment) Bill, 1957."
published on the 15th of June.

"D'Abreu Pension Bill, 1957"

also published on the 15th of June, 1957.

"The Dias Pension Bill, 1957".
published on the 15th of June.

"The Police Bill, 1957"
published on the 17th of June, 1957.

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

"The Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill, 1957",
published on the 15th of June, 1957.

The Financial Secretary (Mr. Essex): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:

"Pensions (Consolidation) Bill 1957."
published on the 17th of June, 1957.

"Development Fund (1955 and 1956) Appropriation Bill 1957,"
published on the 17th of June, 1957.

"Excise Regulations (Amendment) Bill, 1957."

published on the 17th of June, 1957.

Mr. Kendall (Member for Communications and Works): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

“Post and Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1957,”

published on the 17th of June, 1957.

Mr. Farnum: (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

“Local Government (Hopetown and Bel Air Country Districts) (Special Provisions) Bill, 1957.”

published on the 17th of June, 1957.

TRIBUTES TO SIR WILFRID HOLDER AND SIR JOHN GUTCH

The Chief Secretary: Sir, before we proceed with the Order of the Day, I think Your Honour and this Council would wish to place on record our very great pleasure at seeing two very high awards being conferred in the Birthday Honours by Her Majesty the Queen on two former Members of this Council. I refer to Mr. John Gutch and Mr. Holder, both of whom have been knighted. I think we all know that they richly deserve the high award which Her Majesty has been pleased to confer on them.

Mr. Gajraj: I should like to associate myself most heartily, Your Honour, with the remarks which have been made by the Chief Secretary in expressing the pleasure which Members of this Council felt—and still do feel—over the great distinction that has been conferred on both Sir John Gutch and Sir Wilfrid Holder. Both of these gentlemen held very high positions in the Government. They sat in this Council and discharged their duties very efficiently—with a great deal of zeal and a great deal of honour and credit to themselves. I feel sure that

they would be very happy to know that we who are their former colleagues have placed on record our appreciation of the honour that has been conferred on them.

In the case of Sir John Gutch, he is very far away from us—in the Western Pacific—but, nevertheless, when we think of the days before we entered upon this Council, we realise how difficult were the times for him as Chief Secretary of this country. No less onerous was the task of the Honourable the Attorney General, now Sir Wilfrid Holder, Chief Justice. They both carried the burden of the times on very strong shoulders. That they have been able to survive and maintain good health is, I think, a credit to their strong constitutions, and to the honest convictions which they held. I think we should all express our pleasure at the honour conferred upon them and hope and wish for them and their goodly ladies who have been towers of strength to them both, long life to enjoy the honour which they now wear.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to be associated with these remarks, and I will arrange for an extract of the *Hansard* recording our appreciation to be conveyed to both of these gentlemen.

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS—FIRST READING

The following Bills were read the first time:

VOLUNTEER (AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled “An Ordinance to amend the Volunteer Ordinance”.

D’ABREU PENSION BILL

A Bill intituled “An Ordinance to make special provision in regard to the pension and gratuity payable to Pauline Gomes D’Abreu.”

DIAS PENSION BILL

A Bill intituled “An Ordinance to make special provision in regard to the pension

and gratuity payable to Vivian Charles Dias".

POLICE BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the British Guiana Police Force."

DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Deeds Registry Ordinance."

PENSIONS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the award of pensions, gratuities and other allowances to civil servants in respect of service in the Colony."

DEVELOPMENT FUND (1955 AND 1956 APPROPRIATION) BILL, 1957.

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to make provision for the appropriation to the development fund of certain sums of money transferred thereto from the revenues and funds of the Colony."

EXCISE REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Excise Regulations Ordinance."

POST AND TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Post and Telegraph Ordinance."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (HOPETOWN AND BEL AIR COUNTRY DISTRICTS) (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the collection of rates levied by the Hopetown and Bel Air country authorities in respect of the year 1956 and to make better provision for the collection of monies due to local authorities."

PAWNBROKING (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Financial Secretary (Mr. Essex): I think we have moved out of

Committee, Sir. I therefore beg to move that the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the Pawnbroking Ordinance" having passed the Committee stage, be now read the third time and passed.

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed

ELECTRICITY BILL

Mr. Kendall (Member for Communications and Works): I beg to move the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of a Corporation to be known as the British Guiana Electricity Corporation and for the exercise and performance by the Corporation of functions relating to the supply of electricity and certain other matters"

be now read the third time and passed.

Mr. Farnum (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development): I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Farnum: I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the Adoption of Children Ordinance, 1955".

The reasons for bringing this amending Bill are that the original Bill which was published as No. 12

of 1955 has been found to be imperfect.

The Attorney General: On a point of order! This Bill was published on June 15 last, but it will be seen that Standing Order 48 provides that no Bill should be read a second time before the expiration of seven days from the date of its publication. I think the proper date of expiration, therefore, would be on the 22nd of this month. That is a point which is going to come up in the case of several Bills, within the next few days. I was speaking to the Chief Secretary about the matter, and I think all he has to do, subject to what Your Honour has to say, is to get the Council to agree to do it as provided by Standing Order No. 48. If the Council agrees, the Bill could be taken without the special period of time lapsing.

There is another Bill which, I understand the Chief Secretary wishes to take today, but it is suggested—and I would move a motion—that this Council agrees to proceed forthwith with the second reading and the subsequent stages of (1) The Adoption of Children (Amendment) Bill, 1957 and (2) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

Mr. Speaker: The latter one is an important Bill; I think we had better suspend the other. I think the hon. Member (Mr. Kendall) was getting up to move the Electricity Bill.

The Attorney General: I got up to a point of order when the hon. Member for Local Government began to move the second reading of the Adoption of Children Bill. The motion which I have moved—and it has been seconded—is that the Standing

Orders should be suspended—so that there would be no question as to the validity of the motion on the second reading.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection to the suspension of the Standing Orders. We do know that it is not allowed for a member to proceed with a motion in that way unless the previous permission of the Governor has been obtained.

The Attorney General: I had an idea that this is a motion which does not need any notice.

Mr. Speaker: I know of no precedent for it. Mr. Attorney General, on the question of procedure, I would like to point out that in my view the Speaker is not allowed on his own to suspend the Standing Orders or any relevant Standing Orders to allow a Bill to pass through all its stages. In my view the proper construction to be put on cases involving the passage of Bills is that the Governor's signification must appear on the document itself, and in some way or other the Council's attention has to be brought to it.

The hon. the Chief Secretary did not say he has the Governor's approval. If we read the Order in Council, we will see that the Council cannot suspend the Standing Orders of the Council or any of them, "except with the recommendation or consent of the Governor signified thereto . . ." It is not a matter like the Attorney General's *fiat*. But I am not proceeding any further. I am guided by what the Council wishes to do.

Mr. Ramphal: I daresay, I think, the point the hon. Member is dealing with is entirely different from the

[Mr. Ramphal]

other point, Sir: taking the Bill through all its stages. I think we can move the suspension with the consent of the Council.

Mr. Speaker: I have said so. I do not mind what is done.

Mr. Ramphal: I think there is a specific Standing Order on that.

Mr. Speaker: A motion has been made in that respect—suspending the Standing Orders. The question is, that the motion be adopted.

The Attorney General: Sir, you raised the point whether it should be done by the suspension of Standing Orders. I rather think, on second thoughts, that the motion which I moved debars notice. This is one of those motions that can be moved without notice. It may well be I cannot move my motion until tomorrow because I have to give one day's notice. Whether or not we can actually take these Bills today by suspending the Standing Orders, I am just looking up.

Mr. Speaker: As a general rule, it is applicable to any motion.

The Attorney General: It seems, as Your Honour suggests, in order for us to take the Adoption of Children (Amendment) Bill and the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill today, the motion which I moved just now is not satisfactory and will require one day's notice. What I will do with the leave of the Council is to withdraw the motion which I moved just now that the Standing Orders, under S.O. 64, be suspended with Your Honour's permission.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, when the matter was discussed with him, did signify he was agreeable in the event of its becoming necessary for the suspension of the Standing Orders in order to get the business of the Council done expeditiously.

As far as the Bill which we hope to take tomorrow is concerned, I will give notice today of a motion, under section 48 of the Constitution Order in Council, asking for leave of the Council to proceed tomorrow immediately after the motion with the four Bills, which are, the D'Abreu Pension Bill, Dias Pension Bill, Volunteer (Amendment) Bill and the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill. In short, I will withdraw the motion I just moved, with the leave of the Council, and make a new motion asking for the suspension of the Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any delay. If you look at the Order in Council you will see there is an *ipse dixit* that such a motion be made; the Order in Council specifically prescribes that the approval of the Governor should be obtained on the document, not by means of an Executive Council Member getting up and asking for it. I have ruled that.

The Attorney General: These facts have been put before the Officer Administering the Government. I was present when he signified his agreement to the suspension of the Standing Orders, if it was necessary, to deal with the business of the Council.

I have heard what you said, but that is all right in its way.

Mr. Speaker: Although I continued it, I pointed out the Rule. The Order in Council is something written. It requires much more than the Member getting up and saying so. It should appear on the instrument. Have you got the Order in Council? Let me have the number of the Order in Council.

The Attorney General: No. 48.

Mr. Speaker: Which is rather clear. It says:

"(1) Save as is provided in subsection (2) of this section and subject to the Standing Orders of the Council, any member may introduce any Bill or propose any motion for debate in, or may present any petition to the Legislative Council, and the same shall be debated and disposed of according to the Standing Orders of the Council."

"(2) Except with the recommendation or consent of the Governor signified thereto, the Council shall not proceed upon any Bill, amendment, motion or petition . . ."

It is in the Standing Orders and is perfectly clear in my own mind. The hon. the Chief Secretary knows that.

The Attorney General: A motion relating to the suspension of the Standing Orders does not need any notice. It can be proposed verbally.

Mr. Speaker: It must have prior signification of the Governor's consent. What is your authority?

The Attorney General: It may be that the words "signified thereto" imply it is to be in writing.

Mr. Speaker: It does not require one to be a lawyer to understand what is there.

The Attorney General: I understand that, but in the past it has been accepted.

Mr. Speaker: I had overlooked it. It is considered with precedent because I had overlooked it. I am willing to do what the Council wishes.

Mr. Ramphal: May I suggest there is nothing wrong with the motion which the hon. the Attorney General has moved in respect of the motion by the hon. Member for Local Govern-

ment, because that is provided for in the Standing Rules, No. 48. This Council must not deviate from the Rules. I understand the hon. Member is armed with the Governor's certificate.

Mr. Speaker: I will do anything this Council wishes, but I want some decision quickly.

Mr. Ramphal: Within the law.

The Chief Secretary: I believe that I gave notice last week of the intention to take these Bills today. I think that may be accepted by this Council as notice of the motion. Possibly it would be appropriate if I now move the motion which the hon. the Attorney General was trying to move that we should take the two Bills forthwith even though seven days have not elapsed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Attorney General's motion adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Whether you are right or wrong you may proceed.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Farnum: I beg to move the second reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the Adoption of Children Ordinance, 1956."

This Bill seeks to repeal section 21 of the Principal Ordinance which was passed in 1955. That section reads as follows:

"21. Where an adoption order is made in respect of a child who is not a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies, then, if the adopter, or in the case of a joint adoption the male adopter, is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies, the child shall be a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies as from the date of the order."

The Secretary of State has advised that that particular section is of no effect, as it seeks to add to the categories of persons who may be made citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies, and that the section should therefore be repealed.

Mr. Gajraj: I beg to second the motion. It seems very reasonable to realize that it is not within the province of this Legislature to make laws which will bind the United Kingdom.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE.

Council resolved itself into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause without amendment.

Council resumed.

Mr. Farnum: I beg to move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed.

Mr. Gajraj: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"An Ordinance to amend the Representation of the People Ordinance and to provide for the inclusion of certain areas as registration areas for the purposes of that Ordinance."

This is a very simple amending Bill. Clause 2 which relates to the Schedule seeks to make a number of small minor

amendments which do not interfere with the principle of the Ordinance. They mostly concern typographical errors and one or two other failures to make consequential amendments when the Ordinance was passed.

Clause 3 deals with certain registration areas. The point about this clause is that the 1953 list of Census Districts unfortunately did not include five districts. That error was discovered recently. Both the Revisal Ordinance and the Representation of the People Ordinance had taken the Census Districts as the Registration Areas.

It is therefore necessary now to ask this Legislative Council to recognize those five omitted Census Districts as Registration Areas. The mistake happened in 1953 and following the discovery it is now being sought to put it right. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Attorney General: I beg to second the motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE.

Council resolved itself into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause without amendment.

Council resumed.

The Chief Secretary: I beg to move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed.

The Attorney General: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHIPBOARD INDUSTRY

Mr. Correia: With Your Honour's permission and that of the Council, I ask to put in an amended motion which will be circulated to Members of the Council. I shall read it.

"Be it resolved: That with reference to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Select Committee appointed in terms of Resolution XXXVI of 1955, which was tabled on the 9th of July, 1956, this Council requests that the Government give all possible encouragement to the recommendation with respect to the setting up of a Chipboard Industry in British Guiana."

Mr. Speaker: It is a new motion. I am seeing it for the first time. In general it accepts in principle all the recommendations of the Select Committee. A Select Committee is a creature of this Council. It is not an ordinary Committee but a very important one.

Mr. Correia: The Committee made certain specific recommendations; since then further investigations were carried out and it was found that some of the proposals were not quite possible.

Mr. Carter: The Committee decided that a chipboard industry should be established in preference to a plywood industry because the scope for plywood would be very limited in this Colony. Furthermore, plywood would only absorb our stocks of softwood, like dalli, while a chipboard industry would absorb everything except the leaves and bark of other woods. That is why I would support any recommendation for the establishment of a chipboard industry.

Mr. Speaker: I am being asked, in effect, to regulate what the Select Committee did. The hon. Member (Mr. Correia) cannot move a motion adopting all that the Select Committee did.

Mr. Correia: I do not know whether the Council would accept the amendment in a new form instead of the form in which I have submitted it. My object is that this Council should accept in principle the recommendations for the setting up of a chipboard industry, and request the Administration to give favourable consideration to those recommendations.

Mr. Speaker: Why doesn't the hon. Member (Mr. Correia) withdraw this motion and make another? He could ask that Government give some consideration to the establishment of a chipboard industry in this Colony. I am assured by Mr. Carter that he would support such a motion.

The Financial Secretary: The Committee did not recommend chipboard, but another industry.

Mr. Correia: The Select Committee did recommend chipboard — not plywood particularly.

Mr. Speaker: The main object of the Committee was to consider the possibilities of plywood, but that was negatived. The hon. Member (Mr. Correia) may move another motion, but he should withdraw this one in the Order Paper.

Mr. Correia: I beg to withdraw the motion which is in my name on the Order Paper and to substitute the one just read in its place. A Select Committee was appointed by Your Honour to go into this question but, at this stage, I would like to congratulate Mr. Carter for his vision in tabling a motion relating to the matter because I know it would be a

[Mr. Correia]

means of revolutionizing various industries and bringing about more industrial progress in this country.

The Select Committee was under the Chairmanship of the late Mr. Raatgever, the other members being Mr. Phang, Mr. Carter, Mr. Jailal and myself. I also desire to take this opportunity to recall the fact that Mr. Raatgever left no stone unturned in his efforts to make the findings of the Committee a success. I would also like to record the fact that valuable services were rendered to the Committee by the Secretary, Mr. Crum Ewing (Clerk of the Council).

The forests of British Guiana are among the country's greatest natural resources and they cover a great part of the interior. Only a small number of the timbers that grow in these forests are known in the world market. Only a few species are gleaned from the forests and only one of them makes an economic export item in large quantities. Although we have great forests they are almost useless to us because we cannot exploit one type of timber to any very great extent. Hence we have to look around for various means of developing the various types of timber in these forests.

It is only on account of recent scientific discoveries that the Select Committee of this Council was able to make recommendations in regard to a chipboard industry. Chipboard is something that is very new in the world. It is made from waste material from sawmills—from trimmings, chips and other waste that otherwise cannot be utilized economically.

I should like to refer to the "Daily Chronicle" of Friday 31st August, 1956, in which it was reported that the Conservator of Forests said that the

establishment of a chipboard industry would be very welcome to the Forest Department. Mr. Smeathers, the Conservator, gave a reply to that effect

"when, at the G.I.S. Press Conference, he was asked how did the Department feel about the possibility. He added that such operations would bring out very many more species of wood from the forests. Everything, he said, would be brought out instead of one or two species and the Department would then go in and look after the establishment of new forests in the areas. Apart from any other consideration of putting good timber on the local market, a chipboard industry, from the forestry point of view, would be very welcome."

Well, I am sure the Conservator must have studied the new possibilities of chipboard and he must have realized it is the only avenue through which we can utilize our forests economically. It goes further than the mere utilization of our forests: it means the Forestry Department can go in for re-afforestation.

South American pine and other timbers can be planted which in a short time would mature, and the afforestation can be continued with white pine and other suitable types of timber which would be economical to cut after they have matured. That is why I am interested in recommending that every possible help should be given to encourage a chipboard industry in this country.

Since this motion was tabled almost a year ago we have been told, just recently, we will in a very short time have hydro-electric power. With hydro-electric power we would be able to site a chipboard manufacturing plant in the interior and so be able to compete with other chipboard manufacturing countries because we would be having the raw material at the back door of the plant, so to speak. In Germany it has to be transported for about 450 miles by rail and they have to sell at competitive prices.

The type of factory the Committee recommends should use less than 2 square miles of forests per year. If we consider that against the area of Bartica's forests, 280 square miles, we will see that it will take the factory over 200 years to be able to clear those forests, for example. So we can imagine how a chipboard industry can revolutionize the colony's economy. A few years after the establishment of a chipboard industry the Forestry Department can plant better types of timbers which can mature in 30 years, and I can see British Guiana taking its place with countries like Canada and others in Scandinavia and Europe whose economy is based on this kind of industry.

The Committee's report was tabled in this Council on the 19th of July, 1956. The report stated that based on the information furnished they had been reluctantly forced to the conclusion that at present there were no B.G. timbers with outstandingly high plywood characteristics, though there were a number of species which would make reasonably satisfactory plywood, if they were available in sufficient quantities individually.

But the report continued thus:

"21. Having regard to the foregoing conclusion with reference to plywood, and in view of a genuine desire on our part to recommend a related industry which could utilize fully much of the valuable products of our forests now going to waste, and also to provide another avenue of employment for the people of this Colony, we turned our attention to the investigation of modern techniques and processes used in the manufacture of other bonded woods.

22. As is generally known, there are only a few species of timber in the forests of this country known and recognized in world trade. For years, therefore, it has been the practice to cream the forests of these timbers; but there are many other timbers, the potential economic value of which still has to be assessed and which might well be utilized in the manufacture of a form of bonded wood. However, we were more concerned with finding

some economic means of utilizing the tremendous amount of timber waste such as unmerchantable boles, hollow and unsound trees, immature trees which on account of the density of our forests never develop fully, high stumps left in the forests through bad logging practices, tops, trimmings, trees cracked and broken through bad felling which are discarded, and sawn ends of lumber.

23. Our efforts were therefore concentrated on finding some process to make use of this waste, and we therefore considered the following modern processes in the manufacture of bonded woods."

These modern processes were listed as (a) Composition Board, (b) Sandwich Board, (c) Slat Board, (d) Hard Board, and then (e) Chipboard or Particle Board. Describing the process of the latter the report stated:

"Trees of all dimensions, wood waste including small ends and shavings are ground into small wood chips and flakes. The chips are chemically treated and compressed with resins and other additives to form a core. This core is then sandwiched between two skins of veneer flakes bonded together to manufacture boards in various thicknesses from $\frac{3}{8}$ " to $1\frac{1}{4}$ "."

The Committee made a very good study of all the various types of boards that are made from wastes of forest products and we found that the chipboard was the answer to the question. Therefore we recommended that Government should do everything in its power to assist the setting up of a chipboard industry in the Colony.

Mr. Speaker: Who seconds the motion?

Miss Collins: I do.

Mr. Speaker (after reading the text of the motion): I prefer to see the word "establishment" used instead of "setting up."

Mr. Correia: I accept that.

The Financial Secretary: I could not support the motion as originally phrased, as I said some minutes ago

[The Financial Secretary]

when it came before the Council for approval, but I do support the amended form now proposed by the hon. Member, Mr. Correia.

I would like to say first of all that the Select Committee should be congratulated on the thoroughness of the work it did, on its obvious enthusiasm for its work, and also on the clarity of the writing of its report, and I would like to endorse the hon. Member's views about the way the Chairman of the Select Committee obviously did proceed in connection with the report. I also would like to congratulate the Select Committee on its courage in turning down the plywood industry proposal.

For the purpose of the record, although this is not directly along the lines of the amended motion, I would like to say that there were certain ones of ten recommendations of the Report which Government could not support.

The first of these was the recommendation that the export of dalli wood should be prohibited because the Committee said that is very useful as a source of veneer and there is a useful supply of dalli wood to be had from the North West District and we can safeguard that by stoppage of export for the sake of the industry which may use it as a veneer. But this veneer source may be found in other parts of the country, particularly Essequeibo.

Another recommendation we could not support is one connected with surveys. The Committee recommended that a more detailed survey should be carried out to ascertain fully and accurately the true position of dalli in the exploitable forest areas. We are advised that would be a tremendously costly operation, costly in money, professional skill and time, and would not be justified just for ascertaining the position of dalli. However, the motion has been changed and I do not wish to go over the ten recommendations of the Committee's Report.

We do entirely agree to what the hon. Mover has said about the benefits of the chipboard industry. We do need industries of this kind, particularly ones in which we will not only use our own raw materials but the waste products of those materials.

The Select Committee had, however, recommended that the chipboard industry should be sponsored originally by the Government through the Credit Corporation. It did seem to us and still seems to us that this industry is essentially one for private enterprise.

We feel that private enterprise will do it best and efficiently, and if 100 per cent. of the capital is put up by Government through the Credit Corporation, then the private enterprise aspect of it would to some extent be lost. We do very much hope there would be the capital from the resources of that private company which the hon. Member said is in progress of being set up, and we naturally will give every assistance we can in luring overseas capital to come into this venture.

I would like on this question of the chipboard recommendation to say also for the purpose of record, that the danger which was apparent in the recommendation of the Committee as to the particular process of chipboard manufacture to be used was a real one, and that was connected with the pattern attached to this particular type of process. The string attached to using this was that only the local market should be supplied by this industry, but it is quite obvious that if it is going to be useful to the country and sponsors, it must have an export market. I am glad to see that we have solved that difficulty. The motion which the hon. Mover is now asking us to adopt does express that Government should give all possible encouragement to the setting up of a chipboard industry.

Government has in fact given an earnest of its intention in this matter. The company which is in process, we hope, of being formed will be granted a Tax Holiday under the Income Tax (Encouragement) Ordinance for five years, as a company which is doing something which is developmental. We also agree that the machinery which is brought in for this industry should come in duty free under the legislation which exists. We also propose, subject to ratification by the Council, that the other items which form a large part of the recurring cost of production should also be duty free.

We have no difficulty in accepting the motion as amended now, so that in fact we have gone some way in implementing the report of the Committee, and again I would like to say that we could not have accepted *en bloc* the ten recommendations of the report of the Committee. In conclusion I would compliment the Select Committee for one or two things.

I think I should say that even this industry would not be quite in the direction envisaged by the Committee. No doubt it would be rather due to the stimulus given by the efforts of those men.

Mr. Jailal: I cannot afford to allow this opportunity to pass, having served on the Committee myself. I do wish, like the hon. Member who moved the motion to congratulate the hon. Member, Mr. Carter, on bringing the matter forward. Like the hon. the Financial Secretary said just now, it took some courage to tell this country that it could not benefit by the establishment of a plywood industry here because of the fact that as much the same processing is involved. In the case of plywood, as was pointed out, much secondary forest products can be used up. It is reasonable to understand this, when one sees lying around the waste of forest products.

As I passed along Water Street today, I saw several cart-loads of plywood being transported, and that means that so much less heavy timber would be used. It is normal in these days to find a person building a house and using materials like plywood for panel doors and internal walls. It is therefore a good thing for one to hear that plywood or some other form of pressed wood could be actually made in this Colony.

British Guiana would not have the kind of market that would be able to absorb in any degree the kind of chipboard that could be processed from these woods, but if and when we do go in for such an undertaking the Caribbean area and some parts of the continent itself would be our field.

Therefore, it behoves us to go ahead with the introduction of this industry as quickly as possible, and I am very glad that Government is willing to accept the motion, as amended. I regret that it is not possible to make an earlier start, but there is an old adage which says: "Better late than never".

I believe that this new industry is an answer to one of the problems in British Guiana which I referred to some time ago in this Council when I stated that long beams of timber were being left to rot in the forest and that the Colony was losing much money as a result. With the establishment of an industry such as this, there will be a means of using this timber in the forest. I do hope that when this firm issues its prospectus and its proposals are examined they will be supported and that projects like this would help British Guiana to go forward.

It is all right to talk about other places and about getting money advanced to this Colony, but I venture to think that before these things are done we must have a fair and reasonable economy. If we are able to build up industries such as this we would be able

[Mr. Jailal]

to take our people out of the poverty in which they have found themselves. There is no doubt that if British Guiana decides to utilize her resources widely we would not need any financial help from outside. I can only conclude by commending this motion to Government and the members of this Council.

Miss Collins: I am very pleased to support the motion because it will mean industrial development in British Guiana. I can only hope that the time will soon come when a chipboard industry will become a reality in this Colony.

Mr. Carter: As the original mover of a motion asking Government to appoint a Select Committee to investigate the possibilities of establishing a plywood industry in this Colony, I am indeed proud to know that, to all appearances, this industry is about to be established. I know that the Committee has recommended a chipboard instead of a plywood industry, and as a member of that Committee I have seen the wisdom in the recommendation. Chipboard, so far as I know, is by far the better product. It is used in many other places, as stated by previous speakers.

My constituency (Demerara River) happens to be a "river" constituency and, as such, I was committed to finding some means whereby more timber could be used for industrial purposes, providing more employment and securing an economic price for those engaged in that industry. Had I known about chipboard I would have recommended it, but, as Mr. Correia stated, it is a new industry and there are people who came to this Colony recently and were able to give evidence about it before the Committee.

It is most beautiful for manufactured goods and then too, by its use the construction of houses can be speeded up at less cost of labour. It would find a ready market and I honestly believe

this market would be found in the West Indies at least, if not further afield. It would also be a source of employment for a number of men who are timber workers and it would enhance our revenue.

I believe every Member of this Council has studied the report and they have also seen samples of what chipboard is like. Now that Mr. Correia has brought forward this motion and from what we heard the Financial Secretary say, I can actually see a new industry coming into being. We gather from the Financial Secretary that the Government will do all it can to establish this industry.

I am therefore very proud to support this motion and the only rider I would add is that the hon. Member, Mr. Correia, has stolen my thunder by bringing it forward.

Mr. Lord: I rise to support this motion. There has undoubtedly been a decline in the use of local timber in the building trades in this Colony, with the result, I regret to say, of an ill effect on certain areas. There are only certain types of timber which today can find a ready market. As a result of this there is a glut; our loggers have to go further and further afield and the time will come when the cost of local timber for export will be very prohibitive.

On the other hand, a great number of secondary woods which at present have no marketable value can, with the introduction of a chipboard industry, very well be made use of and the land which will not be used again for forestry purposes can be turned to agricultural purposes.

I am very glad to hear that this amended motion has come before the Government and has been considered in connection with certain legislation now in force. I must congratulate Mr. Correia for bringing it forward.

Mr. Correia: I would like to say a few words in reply. The Financial Secretary said that Government should never have accepted some of the recommendations made by the Select Committee. I can assure the hon. Member that recommendations were made by the Committee in the enthusiasm of these days to create new industries. I was very glad to hear that investigations are being made now with a view to establishing a factory with local and foreign capital. I hope that within a short time from now a decision will be made as to the site and that we will see the launching of a chipboard industry in the Colony.

Before I take my seat I must pay tribute to those persons who gave evidence before and sent in memoranda to the Committee. Especially I would like to mention the names of Mr. V. J. Willems, and Mr. P. A. W. Howe of B. G. Timbers, Ltd. Mr. Willems, Managing Director of Willems Timber and Trading Co., Ltd., not only came and gave us information as regards the timber industry in the Colony but also the knowledge he had gained about the chipboard industry on his visits to Europe and the United States; he even volunteered to go on collecting information for the Committee. I think we owe him a debt of gratitude. I must thank Government for accepting the motion and hon. Members for their support.

Question put, and agreed to.

Moton, as amended, carried.

PENDING BUSINESS

The Attorney General: In view of the number of small non-contentious Bills to get through the Council tomorrow and in view of Standing Order 48, which had been referred to earlier in this sitting, I would like to give notice of motion (which has been handed to the Clerk) to this effect:

"Be it resolved: That this House agrees to proceed forthwith with the second reading of the following Bills:

1. D'Abreu Pension Bill, 1957.
2. Dias Pension Bill, 1957.
3. Volunteer (Amendment) Bill, 1957-1957.
4. Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill,
5. Development Fund (1957 and 1956 Appropriation) Bill, 1957.
6. Excise Regulations (Amendment) Bill, 1957
7. Post and Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
8. Local Government (Hopetown and Bel Air Country Districts (Special Provisions) Bill, 1957.
9. Animals (Control of Experiments) Bill,

and a resolution regarding superannuation benefits of the Government House Staff."

This motion will be moved at tomorrow's meeting.

Mr. Speaker: That regularizes everything.

At this stage, Council adjourned to 2 p.m. on Friday, 21st June, 1957.