

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

FRIDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1954.

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C., in the Chair.

## PRESENT :

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

### *Ex-Officio Members:—*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Mr. John Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. F. W. Holder, Q.C.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary, Mr. W. O. Fraser, O.B.E.

### *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. W. O. R. Kendall.

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E.

The Hon. G. H. Smellie.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

### *Nominated Officials:—*

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

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

### *Nominated Unofficials:—*

Mr. W. A. Phang.

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Mr. E. F. Correia.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb.

Mr. H. Rahaman.

Miss Gertrude H. Collins.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey

Dr. H. A. Fraser.

Lt. Col. E. J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D

Mr. R. B. Jailal.

Mr. Sugrim Singh.

Clerk of the Legislature — Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature — Mr. I. R. King.

### *Absent:—*

The Hon. P. A. Cummings (Member for Labour, Health and Housing). —on leave.

Mr. W. J. Raatgever, C.B.E., Deputy Speaker.

Mr. T. Lee

Mr. L. A. Luckhoo.

Mr. W. A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The Speaker read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 23rd of February, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

**MR. CUMMINGS ON LEAVE**

**Mr. Speaker :** I have to inform hon. Members that His Excellency the Governor has granted leave to the hon. Mr. Cummings, Member for Labour, Health and Housing, from the 5th to the 26th of March. Mr. Cummings is out of the Colony and hopes to be back by the 26th of this month.

**REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS**

The Chief Secretary laid on the table the following documents:

Five Bound Volumes of the Preliminary and Supplementary Lists of Voters used at the General Election of April, 1953.

Order in Council No. 9 of 1954 made by the Governor in Council under Sections 2 and 4 (1) of the District Lands Partition and Re-allotment (Special Procedure) Ordinance, 1948 (No. 16 of 1948), on the 13th February, 1954.

Order in Council No. 10 of 1954 made by the Governor in Council under Sections 2 and 4 (1) (a) of the District Lands Partition and Re-allotment (Special Procedure) Ordinance, 1948 (No. 16 of 1948), on the 13th February, 1954.

The Annual Report on the East Demerara Water Conservancy Board for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

**UNOFFICIAL NOTICES****SELLING PRICE OF ANTIBIOTIC PREPARATIONS**

**Mr. Farnum** gave notice of the following motion:

"Whereas it is reported that there is a sharp rise in the incidence of typhoid in the City;

And whereas it is understood that antibiotic preparations are usually prescribed by medical practitioners for this ailment;

And whereas it is understood that only certain firms are authorized to im-

port and sell such preparations which can only be dispensed on a doctor's prescription;

And whereas many families are finding considerable difficulty in meeting the cost of medical and other treatment for the complaint;

Be it resolved that this Council hereby recommends that the selling price of antibiotic preparations be fixed by the Controller of Supplies and Prices."

**WITHDRAWAL OF LAND TITLES MOTION**

**Mr. Farnum:** Before the Order of the Day is proceeded with Mr. Speaker, I have to ask your permission and that of the Council to withdraw a motion which I moved some time ago in this Council, seeking the appointment of a Committee to investigate and report on the measures adopted to enable persons to acquire titles by transport to lands in the Pomeroon district in the cheapest and most expeditious way possible. I wish to withdraw it because Government has accepted the recommendation and a Committee has been appointed, the personnel of which will soon be made known.

**Mr. Speaker :** If you had told me before, I would have had the motion put on the Order Paper and so given you the opportunity of asking the Council's leave to withdraw it. That is the procedure. However, this motion deals with titles of lands in the Pomeroon, or, I should say, particularly in the Pomeroon. I hope the Committee will have an easy job. Legislation is probably necessary. Is there any objection?

Permission granted and motion withdrawn.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT)  
BILL.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. the Chief Secretary has asked that consideration of the Bill intituled: "An Ordinance further to amend the Friendly Societies Ordinance" be deferred.

**The Chief Secretary :** Yes, Sir. Discussions have taken place with various representatives of friendly societies, and my hon. friend, Miss Collins, is bringing a deputation to see me tomorrow. We are also going to have discussions with the Registrar who is also seeing some representatives of the societies. I hope shortly to be able to proceed.

Further consideration of the Bill deferred.

CUSTOMS (CONSOLIDATION)  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Chief Secretary:** I am asking permission of the Council to hold over the second reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1952 (No. 69 of 1952)"

I am unable to proceed with it today. There is another Bill which also incorporates amendments and I hope to be able to take both at the same time.

Permission granted.

Second reading of the Bill deferred.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Chief Secretary :** Sir, I am afraid I must ask the Council to hold

over the second reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1948, to provide for the minimum of persons capable of registration and for the compulsory sale of produce through a registered society in certain cases."

As hon. Members will have seen, part of this Bill is of a controversial nature, and Government would like time to make further enquiries and perhaps to reconsider the relevant provision, so that we possibly will be able to secure the desired end in relation to a particular category of producer in another way.

Permission granted.

Second reading of the Bill deferred.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Chief Secretary :** I see the next item on the Order Paper is the second reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance".

It is in connection with the birth of persons born at the Mahaica Hospital. I have been charged with the responsibilities of the hon. Member for Labour, Health and Housing who is down to move the second reading, and I have prepared myself to go on—the Bill is of a non-controversial nature.

**Mr. Speaker :** Yes, you can proceed.

**The Chief Secretary :** One point has been raised—whether the provisions should be given retrospective effect—and certain people have suggested certain dates. It is also a point whether the people who work in that institution

[The Chief Secretary]

should get the benefits of these provisions if they so desire. It is contemplated doing it in another way, by allowing anybody who wishes the registration of his birth to be altered in this way to apply to the Magistrate's Court, and on an order from the Magistrate the Registrar would make the necessary alteration in the register and on the birth certificate. I think this is a better way of doing it than to try to give the Bill a retrospective date—it would be rather difficult to fix a date. This matter was raised only on the 3rd of March and the hon. the Attorney-General is not yet ready to draft the entire legislation.

**Mr. Speaker :** He told me so.

**The Chief Secretary :** Otherwise I am quite prepared to take the second reading.

Second reading of the Bill deferred.

PRABHATRANJAN DAS GUPTA  
(DISABILITY REMOVAL)  
BILL.

**The Chief Secretary :** I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled :

“An Ordinance to enable Prabhattranjan Dasgupta to be registered in the Colony as a Medical Practitioner under the provisions of the Colonial Medical Service (Consolidation) Ordinance.”

The object of this Bill is quite clear from the title of it. Mr. Dasgupta has come here as a Specialist in Ear, Nose and Throat diseases, and it is considered that since he is a specialist he should be given permanent registration instead of the year to year registration which applies to foreign practitioners under the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration)

Ordinance, 1947. I understand it has been done previously, in 1890 for the late Dr. John Monteith Rohlehr, under similar circumstances.

The position is that Mr. Dasgupta obtained his primary medical qualifications at the University of Calcutta at a time when the qualifications at that particular University were not recognised in the United Kingdom, and it is necessary to take this step to have him permanently registered as a medical practitioner. Mr. Dasgupta is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

**The Attorney-General** seconded.

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

Council resumed.

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

**The Attorney-General** seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (TEMPORARY REGISTRATION)  
(EXTENSION) BILL.

**The Chief Secretary :** I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled :

“An Ordinance to continue in force the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, 1947.”

This is more or less an annual procedure. The Ordinance was introduced in 1947, at a time when there was a great shortage of medical officers and when medical officers with

foreign qualifications were not registrable under the Colonial Medical Service (Consolidation) Ordinance; to operate in the space of a year and therefore it has to be renewed annually. There are at present three practitioners who have been previously registered under these special provisions and it is desired to register them again. Owing to the fact that there was no Government in existence at the end of last year it was not possible to introduce the Bill at that time, and that is why it is being brought forward at this date to come into effect from the first day of January, 1954. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

**The Attorney-General** seconded.

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

Council resumed.

**The Chief Secretary :** With the permission of Council, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed.

**The Attorney-General** seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

SITTING OF FINANCE  
COMMITTEE.

**The Financial Secretary :** Sir, I take it that you are going to adjourn the Council now. Before that is done, however, I would like to ask hon. Members to remain over for a little while, because I would like to discuss a matter with them in Finance Committee which I should have done yesterday.

**Mr. Speaker:** I should like to know what date we should adjourn to. I think I had better adjourn the Council *sine die*. Council stands adjourned.