

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.*Wednesday, 28th June, 1933.*

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, SIR EDWARD DENHAM, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., 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).

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

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

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

Major 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. 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. L. G. Crease, M. A. (Oxon), Director of Education (Acting).

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, M.B.E., Colonial Treasurer (Acting).

The Hon. P. W. King, Official Receiver.

The Hon. A. V. Crane, LL.B. (Lond.) (Demerara River).

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

The Hon. V. A. Pires (North Western District).

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

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

The Hon. W. S. Jones (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. H. G. Seaford (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 27th June, as printed and circulated, were brought up for confirmation.

Mr. WIGHT: I rise to a point of correction of the minutes. I was in my seat before the Council was adjourned, but I observe from the minutes that I am not recorded as present.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw the hon. Member come into the Chamber and I think the point will be met by the insertion of the words "The hon. Member for Georgetown Central entered the Chamber" between the last two paragraphs (Laughter). With that alteration the minutes are confirmed.

QUESTIONS.**VISITS OF EXPERTS.**

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I gave notice of some questions on the 2nd December in regard to the number of experts who have visited the Colony and the names of such experts. May I ask when I shall get an answer to those questions?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. T. Millard): The answers to the hon. Member's questions cover a period of 20 years and entail considerable research. I am responsible for the delay in the matter because it appeared to me that such data should be checked. I hope the hon. Member will be satisfied with the explanation. The replies to the questions will be given during this session.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

TAX BILL (No. 2), 1933.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I move that "A Bill to amend the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 37, with respect to the licences of Insurance Companies and the duties to be paid thereon" be read the third time.

Mr. BIRKITT seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

The Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1932 additional to that included in the schedules of additional provision for the year 1932 already passed by the Legislative Council.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. CRANE: I thought that Supplementary Estimates always covered appropriations that had been made but for some unforeseen cause the expenditure had exceeded what was granted. That must occur and is permissible. Here is an item for the purchase of a typewriter with the remark "The purchase of a typewriter was necessary." Items which were not before the Council at all, I submit, should not be undertaken in that way. It is a small matter but the principle is great. It is unconstitutional to spend money that was never before the Council. A Supplementary Estimate should only cover supplementary expenditure authorised by the Council.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think the hon. Member will observe on studying the Schedule that the majority of the items are supplementary to votes which have been authorised by the Council. I also think he will recognise the extent to which economies have been effected in the Estimates. This item was reported in a despatch dated November, therefore the expenditure was incurred late in the year. The alternative would have been to post-

pone the purchase of the typewriter until provision was made on the following year's Estimate, but I think it will be found that many typewriters in service at the present time do not admit of postponement, therefore cases have been met by providing typewriters and the House is now asked to authorise that expenditure.

TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I received a petition yesterday from a very large number of residents in the Supenaam district as regards the discontinuance of the steamer service there after the end of this month. The petition is very largely signed and I have satisfied myself that the signatures are genuine. The Supenaam stelling was erected at great expense after careful consideration as to the necessity of having a stelling there. I do not think any circumstances have arisen which lessen that necessity. In fact, there are now more people settled in the district than there were when the stelling was erected. Cessation of the steamer service will make a very great difference to those people. They will have to walk some four miles to Aurora, and there will be extra expense of going by bus, which is only run from Supenaam when the steamer arrives there. The petition sets out other points which go to show the hardship the people will suffer if the service is discontinued. I do not think it will involve very much extra expenditure to maintain the service and I ask Government to reconsider its decision. The petition is not properly addressed to this Council, sir, and I ask your permission to lay it on the table.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can the hon. Member give the Council the assurance that it is couched in respectful language?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: If that is one of the reasons why it should be admitted it will be admitted at once. It is most respectful.

THE CHAIRMAN: I mention that point because the Council has to protect itself. Permission is given to lay the petition on the table of the Council, and the Colonial Secretary will give the matter early attention.

SEA DEFENCES.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Under this head a sum of \$1,967 is asked for to cover "urgent expenditure on timber facing to check erosion of sand reef which have set in on the Essequibo Coast." Can the Director of Public Works inform the Council where that erosion took place and if the expenditure has stopped the erosion?

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works): The work was done opposite Suddie, and so far it has stopped the erosion that was taking place.

The Council resumed and again resolved itself into Committee to consider the Schedule of additional provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the Estimate for the year 1933.

POLICE.

THE CHAIRMAN: With regard to this item (23—French Criminals, \$150) the explanation given is that the expenditure is uncontrollable. I mention for the information of the Council that I have made representations in this matter to the Secretary of State. It is a burden on the finances of the Colony which should not be endured and I hope that action may be taken which will lead to less expenditure being incurred in respect of these prisoners landing on these shores.

The items of the Schedule were approved without further discussion.

The Council resumed.

RICE (EXPORT TRADE BILL).

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Hector Josephs): I move that "A Bill to extend the operation of the Rice (Export Trade) Ordinance, 1932, to the thirty-first day of July, 1933" be read the second time. As the Council is aware, there is a Committee to consider the question of the export of rice and what, if any, regulations should be made in reference thereto. That Committee is still sitting and has not yet concluded its labours; in fact, it will have to continue sitting for some little time longer before it will be in a position to present to the Council a report. I laid on the table of the House

yesterday the interim report of the Committee in which was recommended an extension of the operation of this Ordinance until the 31st July. The Committee advise that it is not desirable that there should be an interval between the present restrictions and the coming into operation of any other restrictions, and it is in order to enable the Committee to conclude its work and this Council to decide what changes should take the place of the existing ones that the recommendation was made. The Bill before the House is the outcome.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it will be of interest to the Council generally if the Attorney-General, as Chairman of the Committee, will give us some information as to when the Committee is likely to report. The Council has accepted the principle that the Board be extended until the 31st July. It has to be remembered that in arranging the business of the Council we do not want to bring Members here when it can be avoided. Can we have an assurance that the report of the Committee will be shortly in the hands of Government?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The position is, sir, that the Committee has been taking evidence of persons who desire to give evidence and on four days evidence has been taken. There are other persons who have submitted their names to the Committee and whose evidence will be taken also. It is difficult at the present moment to say how many people will desire to give evidence. When the evidence has been concluded it will be necessary for the Committee to weigh that evidence and to consider exactly what changes, if any, should be made and to evolve some definite scheme and to report that to the Council. I feel that as a consequence of that the report of the Committee will require consideration by the Council and the enactment of a measure. It is not possible for me at the moment to foretell just what

time that report will be ready. It is not an easy matter to work out exactly what recommendations will be made. Different points have to be considered and their bearing on one another and generally on the question of the export trade. Of course, the extension to the 31st July suggests that by that date the Council ought to be in a position to have given legislative effect to such changes as it may deem sound after considering the report of the Committee. The Committee, I think, will have to sit taking evidence for perhaps a week longer, and so far as I can see at the present time it will be a few weeks before the Committee's work will be concluded.

THE CHAIRMAN: I may tell the hon. Attorney-General as Chairman of this important Committee that I am only putting this question from the point of view of the general business of the House. The hon. Member estimates that it will take a week for enquiry and some time after that the report will be received. That report will necessitate legislation. I may say that Government is not prepared to introduce immediately into the Council a Bill dealing with so important a principle as will be involved and with one of the most important industries of the Colony without due publication of that Ordinance. That Ordinance will have to be published and be before the general public for at least some period under the law—seven days before the second reading in any case—and I do not think the Council would want to be without that period for due publication. It has to be realised that after the Committee has sent in the report it has to be considered by Government and legislation drafted and published, and that legislation will have to be published certainly for a week. We do not want to be called here on the 31st July to extend the Ordinance for a further period but we wish to know exactly when we shall be in a position to put the new legislation through. I am only suggesting this for the consideration of both sides of the Council.

MR. CRANE: It struck me yesterday that we might have adopted a course which would have given the Committee more opportunity for discussing this matter and getting its report at an earlier date. I suggest that after the business

on the Order of the Day is concluded to-day the Council should adjourn until such time as would enable the Committee to complete its labours. We on this side of the House find it extremely difficult to attend the Council and concurrently meetings of the Committee, and I think it would be to the interest of everybody concerned to give the Committee a full opportunity to complete its work.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: A meeting of the Council will be necessary for the presentation of the report so soon as the Committee concludes its labours as it is a Select Committee of the Council. Taking all the circumstances into consideration it does look as if the date fixed is running the matter rather close for a concluded decision by the Council together with the enactment of any measure. If the matter is concluded before the expiry of the extended Ordinance that can always be met by the repeal of the Ordinance in the new measure.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand from the Colonial Secretary that from the point of view of Government there is no objection to the adoption of the suggestion of the hon. Member for Demerara River. I think it is a sound one. The Committee has already started on its labours and should complete them as early as possible. The recommendations of the Committee will no doubt take the form of what should be embodied in the Bill, and it would be advisable that the report should be laid on the table for debate. Members should be given an opportunity to raise any question they wish and Government could then make some pronouncement with regard to the Bill based on the recommendations. There would then be a further opportunity for debate on Government's pronouncement, and if that pronouncement is accepted by the Council as in principle correct the Council may reserve discussion on details of the Bill so as to avoid two discussions. Members will have an opportunity to record their decision as to either accepting, amending or rejecting the report of the Committee. The Bill can be drafted in the meantime and introduced before the 31st July. There is no objection to completing the business before the Council to-day and then to adjourn. We should adjourn to a fixed date and the Attorney-

General may consider that point and let us know before the adjournment.

The Council resumed.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT BANKS BILL.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture): The Bill now before this Council (A Bill to make better provision for the constitution and management of Co-operative Credit Banks) seeks to provide, as set out in the explanatory memorandum, for the better constitution and control of Co-operative Credit Banks in the Colony and to ensure that effective supervision so essential to their well-being. By this legislation Government desires to correct the anomaly of having imposed a responsibility on the Department of Agriculture without affording legal authority for its proper assumption. In consequence of the transfer of the Banks to that Department, it is necessary and fitting that the Head of the Department should be directly responsible to Government for the satisfactory administration of the affairs of the Banks. It should be readily conceded also that the Agricultural Officers, as Chairmen of the Banks, should be answerable to no other person or body of persons than their immediate Head in office for the efficient management of the banks under their control. To give an illustration of the extraordinary position in which I am now placed: Not long ago, at one of these banks, my directions in certain vital matters were the subject of a resolution questioning my right to interfere with that bank. A recurrence of such an attitude is most undesirable.

There are many matters which call for early and firm handling, and the more I am brought into touch with the affairs of the banks, the more I am convinced of the need for personal responsibility and enthusiasm—the required driving force for their continuance and progress. But to be of any use, such driving force must be backed by legal authority to advise, supervise and enforce, without which the future of these banks will always remain uncertain.

This is no new venture for there already

exists precedent, as in the case of Ceylon, Mauritius, India and elsewhere, where provision in law is made for the appointment of Registrars of Co-operative Societies. The influence of direct personal contact plays a most important part in all matters co-operative and particularly in co-operative credit. No fundamental change has been proposed in the methods of local management of the Banks as at present obtain under the existing legislation, Chapter 84—Local Government. The “Model Rules” for the working of the banks remain the same with a few necessary consequential alterations. The banks have functioned quite satisfactorily under these and there has never been a single cause for appeal. It is sought only to place responsibility with legal authority on the shoulders of those now made responsible. At this point I think it necessary, however, to draw attention to the need for a general right of appeal to the Governor-in-Council from any decision of the Registrar. Under the existing law (Sec. 308 (5)—Cap. 84—this right is provided, but the omission has been due to an oversight. The Bill has been framed mainly on Cap. 84 of 1930 which is the existing bank legislation, and Ordinance 10 of 1931—the Industrial and Provident Societies Ordinance—while the Jamaica Industrial and Provident Societies Ordinance No. 15 of 1930 has also been drawn on. I desire to acknowledge the valuable help rendered by the hon. the Attorney General and that of Mr. Delph, the Inspector and Auditor of the existing banks. For the very safety of the banks and to ensure their future welfare, which Government earnestly desires, it is expedient that this Bill become law. With these few remarks I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Mr. CRANE: I regret that my position in this matter must be one of opposing the Bill. I do so not because I am not convinced that something is necessary in order to put the funds of the Banks on a proper footing but because I consider that in bringing the Bill before the House in this form Government has ignored all investigations which have been made into the matter of affording credit facilities to the various agricultural entities all over the Colony. This Bill is merely perpetu-

ating the state of affairs which has not been in the past of any substantial benefit to the community. On the general policy I am going to make reference to the Small Farmers Committee which was appointed by Government and whose report was laid on the table of the House at the first session in 1930. That Committee went fully into the question of co-operation amongst farmers in the various districts and dealt with this subject of providing credit and making loans to members of Co-operative Societies, the formation of which was recommended, and the Committee especially drew attention of Government to the fact that the existing Credit Banks were merely for making small loans to their members, also that those loans were extremely small and did not assist in increasing production in the community but calculated to hamper co-operation so necessary at this time in the Colony's history. The Bill is framed, it is said, on Chapter 84. It seeks to perpetuate what is obsolete and useless in the laws of the Colony, and it seems to me merely an attempt to ignore the considered opinion of those who were called upon to consider the question in detail, and who made an investigation on the spot throughout the Colony and found out from the people themselves where these banks helped them and where they did not. This is merely a bureaucratic attempt to put into statute form the opinion of a single Government Official as against the considered opinion of the people's representatives who studied the question on the spot. Whom has Government consulted outside its own officers? This is not a matter where Government is concerned except for the fact that the banks owe Government a small sum of money. These banks are the banks of the people who have formed them in various districts, and they should have been consulted when it is proposed to take out of the hands of a Committee of the Local Government Board powers of supervision and vest them in a single individual. The Committee at paragraph 54 of their report state :

“We have deliberately recommended that these societies should exercise other functions than those of co-operative credit societies, which are merely lending associations. If the functions of the district agricultural co-operative society are made to embrace the whole range of district agricultural activity, that body is more likely to produce results than if the functions were restricted to the lending of money to its members. A society such as we

recommend would have its finger upon the agricultural pulse of its district. It would be in a position to know the condition of the land of any member and the cultivation thereon. It would exercise a very beneficial supervision of the farm practice and cultivation of the farmers, and would not only lend money but be in a position to recover it with greater efficiency than a purely credit bank could. In our experience the present co-operative societies are run by some person on the spot who does this work as a side business and in his spare time doles out small loans to members almost invariably without any consideration of the agricultural benefit likely to accrue from any particular loan. Co-operation in agriculture must extend beyond co-operation for obtaining credit. It is imperative that the credit should be used for agricultural purposes. The present condition of our peasant-farmer requires co-operation for modernising his farm practice, for cultivating the right kind and quality of crops, for procuring the plants, seed and fertilisers, and for the several other purposes on which intelligent peasant-farming depends.”

The Committee pointed out in the preceding paragraph, after referring to the need for some society to afford advances and credit to these people, that it would be better to assist the people to cultivate their farms. The present state of the farms is a disgrace to the Colony as well as to the Agricultural Department, and it is because the people are not given the necessary training and the necessary lead which can only be given to them by the large army of experts whom we are harbouring for that purpose. We want results from the experts, and those results can only be given, in the opinion of the Committee and a number of persons whom they interviewed, by combining in one co-operative society not only the business of lending money but of controlling business generally and giving credit where it can be used for agricultural purposes. This Bill has been ushered into the House without proper investigation and in the face of a considered report. It is not being considered in any favourable light by the community. A week ago a large number of my constituents met me to consider the matter and yesterday morning I had another consultation with them on the subject. The greatest change is to take power from the Committee of the Local Government Board and vest it in a single individual. That is my general observation on the Bill: that it ought to be reconsidered on the lines recommended by the Committee. Government must be satisfied on investigation that these banks

have served no purpose except petty lending, which has not contributed to the development of the Colony.

The Bill itself contains a number of features which are objectionable to those most concerned. I do not think that the Agricultural Department has paid sufficient attention to the fact that these banks are the people's banks; they are only concerned with control. These banks are the efforts of the people to co-operate in the different districts and you cannot coerce them in this way. Why should the Banks Committee be destroyed, and on whose decision, in a matter which is essentially Local Government? That is the principal objection to the Bill. The Registrar may refuse to register a bank, without any trial, if at any time it is proved to his satisfaction that the number of members has been reduced to less than 15, or that the registration has been obtained by fraud or mistake. A lot of things depend on his satisfaction, which, like the Chancellor's foot, may vary from a yard to two inches. The people object to placing in the hands of one individual the powers and functions set out in clause 12, and I am doing nothing here but delivering the mandate of my constituents to protest against the attempt of Government to interfere with their business in this manner, not by improvement but by making worse from their point of view the banks which they set up for affording themselves financial assistance. There is grave suspicion that these powers in the hands of one individual will be abused and the representatives of the people must protest against any attempt to set up a "one man's show." It is interesting to mention that when the idea of inaugurating these banks was first developed, Government promised to contribute one dollar for every dollar share subscribed by their members, and Government continued to pay to these banks the money in terms of its promise until 1928 when it ceased to make those contributions. In the Report of the Banks' Committee for 1929 it is stated that "loans from public funds to augment their working capital . . . have now been suspended pending improvement in the Colony's financial position." Government has withheld all loans to enable the people to produce on account of the Colony's financial position, and yet it is hoped that the Colony's financial position will improve.

It shows that Government's policy has not been a consistent or co-operative one, but a haphazard, ill thought out scheme.

The mover of the motion expressed his appreciation of the services rendered him by the Attorney-General and others. I should have liked him to acknowledge his appreciation of the services of the people responsible for these banks. The people have asked us to protest against any interference. They are even prepared to suggest the repayment of the approximate \$30,000 due to Government out of their reserve fund if the price of Government's interference is going to be so great. The question, however, is not whether Government wants its money back, but whether Government is taking the right step in improving the situation. What is wanted is a District Co-operative Credit Society with bank facilities, also control of the people from the plough to marketing, and not staccato efforts but co-operative efforts by the Agricultural Department. I am going to ask Government to defer this measure until the people primarily concerned are consulted. It would be very important to get some ruling with respect to clause 19, or it should be made clearer, because great expense is incurred in bringing these matters before the Supreme Court. If the intention is that this jurisdiction is not to apply in the case of small banks, it should be made clear that whatever the sum it should be recovered without the long process of the Supreme Court. Clause 20 is an innovation and clause 23 is the climax to the power of the Pro-Consul who is to be appointed. Clause 23 reads "A bank may be dissolved by an order made by the registrar that the bank be wound up and appointing a liquidator to wind up the bank." That is nothing like modern administration. Power of that sort in the hands of one individual leads to anarchy rather than utility.

Professor DASH: That clause is included in the present Provident Societies Ordinance.

Mr. CRANE: Power of that sort may reasonably be left in the hands of four persons, but it is proposed to put that power in the hands of a single individual. Government must hesitate to vest in the hands of a Government servant powers so

wide, so far-reaching and so intimately connected with the private affairs of the people in the districts. People in the Colony are not accustomed to being governed by one man and they trust no one man except the Governor. On the Board there are three persons intimately associated with the people, one a Member of this Council and the other two resident in the district, and it might be left with some safety in their hands. My application is that the Bill should be withdrawn on the grounds, firstly, that the people have complained that they have not been consulted; secondly, that whereas they are willing to see those powers placed in the hands of certain persons they protest against placing them in the hands of a single individual; and, thirdly, that the individual being a Government Official and not personally answerable to them it would be unconstitutional.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : I wish to endorse all that has been said by the last speaker. Like himself, I happen to know that this Bill is causing a great deal of dissatisfaction in the country districts. In my own constituency I have been approached by nearly every village where a bank is operating. The primary object of the Bill is to transfer the control of the banks from those who are now responsible for them to a single individual who would be an official. These banks are now operated by a small Committee of residents in the villages, subject to the control of the Committee of the Local Government Board. In effect these men are custodians of their own money, and if they allow it to be spent fraudulently it is their own fault. One of the powers to be given the Registrar is to vary or amend any order, decision or resolution of the Committee or a meeting of members of a bank; and an order, decision or resolution so varied or amended shall have the same force and effect as if varied or amended by the Committee or a meeting. That should not be allowed and is not allowed in any other institution in the Colony. I repeat that the Bill is causing a great deal of dissatisfaction, and it would be well for Government to accede to the advice to defer consideration of the Bill. I do not see how it is possible for this Council to give such wide powers to a single individual. The villagers have asked me to appeal to you, sir, to defer consideration of the Bill until such time

as the matter can be carefully investigated, and I join in the appeal and hope you will accede to it.

Professor DASH : We have listened with a great deal of interest to the remarks which have been made concerning this Bill. I do not propose to go over all the ground of the criticisms which have been made, although I think I can refute a large number of them. Apparently the bone of contention centres on the question of the power of the Registrar. There is a great deal in what has been said in respect of those powers. I explained in my remarks that no fundamental change is proposed. The only thing is that it is highly desirable to have control and effective supervision in a far better way than we have at present. No one wants to take away the powers of anybody who has anything to do with the banks, but it certainly is desirable and necessary that there should be some more power at headquarters than is available at present. I explained that the Agricultural Officers are now Chairmen of the banks. That makes for a better guarantee that the loans of these banks will be properly applied to agricultural purposes. In the past there has been a tendency to take loans for other use, and that is one of the things we are gradually checking up on. It is not to exercise any bureaucratic powers but in the interest of the banks themselves. The banks can play a useful part in the development of the country area. There is no doubt that the banks have served a very useful purpose. All we are seeking to do is to render them more efficient, looking forward to the time when their powers and usefulness can be extended and not to restrict their activities in any way. The banks owe Government something like \$30,000 and we want to see them thrive. Everything has been done with the best possible intention. I realise, and Government realise, that some further consideration can very well be given to the question of control and how it can be made more satisfactory from the point of view of the two hon. Members who have made representations on it. At this stage I am prepared to move the adjournment of further consideration of the Bill to allow Government and the Banks Committee to consider and see if some alternative proposal which will have the same effect can be drawn up and sub-

mitted to the Council at a subsequent meeting. If that would meet the views of hon. Members I move the postponement of further consideration of the Bill.

Mr. CRANE: I understand that consultation is to be with the Banks Committee and not with the people interested.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that might be well left to Government to deal with. The object of the postponement is to consider the point made by the two hon. Members as to further assistance being rendered and power not being vested entirely in the Registrar. The banks will be given some opportunity to be heard but no undertaking can be given to any particular bank.

Further consideration of the Bill was deferred accordingly.

SEA DEFENCE LOAN.

Mr. McDAVID: I beg to move the motion standing in my name:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 14 of the 26th of June, 1933, this Council approves of the raising of a short-term loan in London for the purpose of making such immediate advances as may be required by the Sea Defence Board in terms of section 17 (2) of the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933, and of the introduction of the necessary legislation to authorise the issue of the loan.

The object of the motion is clearly set out in the Message to which reference is made in the motion, and it is unnecessary for me to do more than to say that the new Sea Defence Board will find it necessary to approach Government for authority to undertake work of a permanent nature urgently required. That Ordinance provides that money for undertaking permanent works may be advanced by Government with the approval and consent of the Legislative Council. When the Board has been formulated and established it is very likely that this Council will be consulted and asked to approve of a sum of money to be advanced and the manner of its repayment. It is understood, however, that it will not be a large sum, probably not exceeding \$100,000, and also that the period of repayment should be short and should not exceed ten years. Meanwhile it is necessary that arrangements should be made to find the money to advance to the Board and it is proposed to raise the

money by means of a short-term loan. The Crown Agents have facilities for raising short-term loans for very small sums such as would be required and also to make advances pending the raising of the loan, therefore the immediate purpose of this motion is to secure preliminary approval for the introduction of legislation in order to enable Government to secure the money as soon as it is required by the Board when it is established.

Mr. BIRKITT seconded.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I see no reference to the rate of interest in the motion.

Mr. McDAVID: The rate of interest cannot be stated in view of the conditions prevailing in England.

Motion agreed to.

RICE (EXPORT TRADE) BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable the Council to sit after 1 p.m. in order that "A Bill to extend the operation of the Rice (Export Trade) Ordinance, 1932, to the thirty-first day of July, 1933" may be read the third time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I have consulted the Members of the Committee in the Council with respect to the question of the conclusion of the labours of the Committee and the presentation of the report of the Committee to the Council. It is suggested that it would be convenient that the report be presented on the 28th July. The Committee expects to conclude its labours before that date, probably about the 15th July. In view of what has to be done in connection with the decision on the report of the Committee, as indicated by Your Excellency at an earlier stage, it would involve an extension of the period beyond the 31st July for the continuance of the existing Ordinance. It has been suggested that the 31st July should be made the 15th August. That seems to be the earliest possible date when the matter can be disposed of. Under these circumstances I

move that the Council do go into Committee to amend clause 2 of the Bill by changing the date from the 31st July to the 15th August.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and recommitted clause 2 of the Bill.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that the 15th August be substituted for the 31st July.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Any new legislation enacted will provide for the repeal of this Ordinance. As the decision may over-run the 15th August, I suggest that the date be made the 31st August.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I am willing to accept that amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: If an amending Ordinance is introduced before the 31st August, I give an undertaking that Government would not stand in the way of its being introduced before that date. New legislation, if accepted by Government, will be introduced at once.

Question "That this clause as amended stand part of the Bill" put, and agreed to.

The Council resumed.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that the Bill be read the third time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.