

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 5th April, 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. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G.

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. T. Millard, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer.

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

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

The Hon. E. F. Fredericks, LL.B. (Essequibo River).

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. Q. B. de Freitas, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Surgeon-General (Acting).

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

The Hon. F. Birkitt, Postmaster-General.

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

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

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

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

The Hon. A. E. Seeram (Eastern Demerara).

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 4th April, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

ALLOWANCES AND GRATUITIES.

Mr. MILLARD (Colonial Treasurer) gave notice that when the motion with reference to the Governor's Message No. 9 was reached, he would move that paragraph (1) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:—

Any person holding a non-pensionable office who retires in circumstances in which he might have been granted a pension if he had held a pensionable office may if he has not less than twenty years' continuous service in the Colony be granted an annual allowance not exceeding two-thirds of an allowance calculated at the rate of one-seven hundred and twentieth of his salary for the year preceding his retirement for each month of service up to 30 years.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The Council resumed discussion on the following motion by the hon. Member for Demerara River:—

That this Council is of opinion that early steps should be taken to implement the recommendations of the Majority Report of the Queen's College Curriculum and Scholarships Committee laid on the table this present session and accordingly respectfully requests His Excellency the Governor to take the said Report into consideration for the purpose of bringing the new system into operation according to the tenor of the said Report, thereby raising the standard of education at Queen's College.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. C. Douglas-Jones): When the Council adjourned yesterday we had fully dealt with all the points that had been raised and reached the stage when the hon. Member was willing to amend his motion in certain respects. Perhaps he will do so or would prefer the amendment to be moved from this side.

Mr. CRANE: Better move the amendment from that side.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that all the words after the word "session" be deleted and there be substituted therefor the words "after further consideration being given to the recommendations in paragraphs 7, 9, 10 and 11 of the Committee's Report."

Mr. CRANE: I am willing to accept any form of resolution because I know that the undertaking Government has given here will be carried out. We all know what we were striving after yesterday. The form of the motion as amended enables Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Majority Report at some indefinite time. I take it that is not the intention of Government. I gathered from you, sir, that the sense in which this matter is being taken by Government is one of urgency and that the new standard and age limit and everything else in connection with the Scholarship will be brought into force in another year or two. If we get that assurance given there is no harm even in allowing the amendment to pass, which seems to give Government an indefinite period of time to implement the recommendations. So far as the age is concerned I should like to record from this side of the House that we accept Government's suggestion that the candidates should not be over 19 years of age on the 1st January in the year of the examination, therefore there is no reason to leave that for further consideration. The recommendations in paragraphs 7, 9, 10 and 11 are executive matters and must be left entirely in the hands of Government. I accept the amendment and ask that effect be given to the resolution as early as possible.

THE PRESIDENT: On that understanding Government can accept the amendment because the only point was to make quite clear the question with regard

to the age and the hon. Member has made that point. Government adheres to the views expressed yesterday as to the necessity of restricting the age. That is understood. It is not to be expected that the age will be raised above 19 on the 1st January.

Mr. CRANE: It might be placed on record that the position accepted by the Council, which of course includes Government, is (1) that the Guiana Scholarship Examination should be the London Intermediate Examination; (2) that the age limit will be not more than 19 on the 1st January in the year of examination; (3) that Queen's College will be governed by a Board of Governors as an advisory body, the executive authority being vested in the Principal who will be answerable to the Governor; and (4) that the paragraphs mentioned in the amendment will be left over for further consideration by Government. Lastly, that the new scheme will be brought into effect within a year or two.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that meets the position. I will take immediate steps to implement the motion by writing the Secretary of State. Approval will have to be given to two additional Masters. Government will then have to come back to the Council for the salary of the two Masters. That is the first step we have to take to implement this.

Mr. CRANE: I understood yesterday, sir, that you are willing to make retrenchment or do it out of savings in other directions. I hope there will be no possibility of those holding financial control vetoing the whole of these arrangements.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you may leave that to me to see what case I can make out. We have to get the money and I will endeavour to make out a case for the expenditure.

Motion as amended agreed to.

COMMISSIONS OF ENQUIRY BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Hector Josephs): I move that "A Bill to enable the Governor to issue Commissions of Enquiry with special powers" be read

the second time. The object of this Bill is to extend the scope of what is now known as the Commissioners (Examination of Witnesses) Ordinance, Chapter 258, and to give special power where it is decided. That Ordinance provides that Commissioners appointed by the Governor to enquire into the conduct of any Public Officer, or into any matter relating to the Public Service, or into any matter of public interest or concern, may summon all witnesses whom they consider necessary, and who they have reason to believe will not attend voluntarily, and may examine every witness upon oath touching the subject matter of the enquiry. The other sections are with respect to the mode of giving evidence, service of process, liability to punishment of witness in contempt, and payment of witnesses. At the present moment the Commissioners have no legal authority with respect to these matters. The present Bill goes further and confers power which is given in a large number of other Colonies but do not exist here at the present time. It gives power to the Governor "whenever he shall deem it advisable to issue a commission, appointing one or more commissioners, and authorising such commissioners, or any quorum of them therein mentioned, to enquire into the conduct of any public or local officers or the conduct or management of any department of the public service, or of any public or local institution, or of any municipal or local authority, or into any matter in which an enquiry would, in the opinion of the Governor, be for the public welfare." It also gives statutory powers and provides a penalty for contumacy or insult, or interruption of proceedings. Any person whose conduct is the subject of enquiry, or who is in any way implicated or concerned in the matter under enquiry, shall be entitled to be represented by counsel or solicitor at the whole of the enquiry, and any other person who may consider it desirable may be so represented.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Mr. CRANE : The power to issue special commissions of enquiry into matters of a public nature or for the public welfare seems pretty wide. I should also like to see Commissions consisting of more than one individual. It is very easy sometimes for a single individual to endeavour to "break" another. There is no provision

for a review of the conclusions arrived at and the constitution of the Commission ought to be a matter for serious consideration. A statute of this kind is innocuous in a big country, where there is little chance of a Commissioner knowing anything of the person whose conduct is being enquired into, but it is a matter of great concern in a small country where prejudice is rampant. I am sure that the Attorney-General will appreciate the point of a one man Commission doing an injustice. We should endeavour to prevent any miscarriage of justice or oppression. I have in mind a Commission that sat quite recently in another Colony. While it did unearth something in the nature of corruption it is said that the whole Colony was against the general condemnation of the institutions of that Colony. Very serious consequences nearly resulted from that Commission and the learned Judge did not remain in that Colony much longer. I ask the Attorney-General to address his mind to the question of whether in a small Colony like this it is not unwise to set up Commissions consisting of one Commissioner.

Mr. SEERAM : The scope of the Bill includes "any public or local institution." At the present time the Companies Consolidated Ordinance regulates companies that are formed. Does a company that is formed come within the purview of the Ordinance? I agree with the view of the hon. Member that there should be some provision for a review by the Governor-in-Council. It would also be a valuable amendment to say that a Commission shall not be of less than two or more than three Commissioners.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL : The arguments of the hon. Member for Demerara River can be met when we are in Committee by amending clause 2 (1) to provide for "two or more Commissioners." With regard to what has been said by the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara, I may point out that we do not call a company a local institution. There is a distinction between a public institution and a local institution. A public institution is one that is usually supported by or concerns the general public. A local institution is one of limited scope to a particular place or to particular persons and does not apply to companies in the form of institutions. Inquiries under the Com-

panies Ordinance are done by the proper procedure, from which certain results and certain questions flow. There is no question of appeal here because the duty of the Commissioners, as stated in clause 7, is to report to the Governor in writing the result of the enquiry, and also, when required, to furnish to the Governor a full statement of the proceedings of such Commission and of the reasons leading to the conclusions arrived at. It does not follow that the Governor is going to be bound by the findings of the Commission. Those are reasons for the Governor's consideration, and it is for the Governor to decide what action, if any, should be taken. It is not a matter of appeal because there is no judicial consequence flowing from the report.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

Clause 2 (1)—Power to issue special Commissions of enquiry into matters of a public nature, or for the public welfare.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that the word "two" be substituted for the word "one" in the second line of sub-clause (1).

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 8—Division of opinion of Commissioners.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I do not think the Chairman of the Commission should have the right of a casting vote. In the event of the Commissioners being equally divided on any question the matter should be referred to the Governor-in-Council. It might be a question on the real issue and a casting vote might endanger the person charged.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The point is the conclusion that is to be arrived at. If the Commissioners are equally divided no report can be made. If, however, there is a casting vote, the matter goes before the Governor. There is no question of the finding of the Commission having any consequence on anybody. The

Commissioners will simply report giving their reasons and it is for the Governor to decide what action he will take on that report. This is the usual provision in respect of matters of this kind in the Colonies and elsewhere.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: In the case of a casting vote the Chairman would be consulted by the Governor and not the other Commissioners and he may influence the decision of the Governor.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The matter is completed so far as the Commissioners are concerned when they report. There will be no consultation of them but of the Executive Council if the Governor then thinks it is necessary to take their advice.

Mr. CRANE: If the report is to be a report of the majority there would be only one report, and there may be some importance in the point of the hon. Member. It ought to be made clear that the minority also have the right to tender a report to the Governor. There is nothing in the Bill which gives power to the minority to send in a report.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The Commissioners will report to the Governor the result of the enquiry and furnish the reasons leading to the conclusions arrived at. It is not necessary that any Commissioner or Commissioners who take a different view to the majority should be given power in the Ordinance to express it. The minority have the right to submit their own view of the matter and in my experience that has frequently been the case elsewhere.

Mr. CRANE: I see no objection to giving the right to the minority to send in a report. We are merely asking Government to include in the Bill something which is admitted or tacitly implied. We ask that it should be expressed and not left to be inferred.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It is not a question of inferring but a right which exists. Commissioners are entitled to give their reasons as to why they do not agree with the result. I do not see the object of putting in a provision which is taken to be part of it and which has always been acted on and has never been

questioned. Besides, the report is not signed by the Chairman but the Commissioners. The Commissioners who agree to the finding sign the report, and those who do not agree sign their own report.

Clause as printed agreed to.

The Council resumed.

ALLOWANCES AND GRATUITIES.

MR. MILLARD : In moving the motion standing in my name I will remind hon. Members that the question of compassionate allowances and gratuities to employees of Government not on the Fixed Establishment is a subject that has been before this Council on several occasions. The basis of an annual allowance for service of a stated period had a unit value of \$120 per annum. I think the basic idea behind that value was an allowance to be considered to represent the sum of money that would cover living requirements on a minimum basis. That amount was so in respect of the annual allowance for service over the stated period and multiples of that allowance have been given as gratuity where service has been less than the period. In neither case has the factor of the emoluments drawn by the individual been brought into the calculation, and, as stated in the Message laid before the Council on the 23rd March to which were attached the resolutions at present standing, cases had occurred where the annual allowance would exceed the emoluments drawn by the individual. There was an actual case of a charwoman at the hospital who was in receipt of \$7.50 per month and under the resolution, having served beyond the stated period, qualified for the annual allowance and received a retiring allowance in excess of the wages earned during employment. That, of course, has never been the intention of the Council, and it occurs only in cases where the emoluments are very small. The motion now before the Council is a calculation of the annual allowances and gratuities on two normal factors, one length of service and the other the amount of the emoluments. When drafting this motion, paragraph (1) providing for the annual compassionate allowance was worded to grant an annual allowance not exceeding two-thirds of the pension that might have been granted had an

employee held a pensionable office. It has since been realised that the pension granted to an individual holding a pensionable office is a pension that was awarded under Ordinance 15 of 1921. That was a pension calculated at a reduced sum with the lump sum attached to it. There again I do not think it was the intention of the Council in giving a compassionate allowance to give pensions and a lump sum but to give such an allowance as has a proper relationship to the emoluments drawn and the period of faithful service. I therefore place before the Council a redraft of paragraph (1) of the motion of which I gave notice. The revision introduces a standard pension calculated at the rate of one-seven hundred and twentieth. That calculation is to include months of service and is equivalent to one-sixtieth in respect of one month. The limitation of 30 years is based on the Pension Ordinance. It is proposed in paragraph (2) to grant a gratuity in the case of non-pensionable employees at the rate of two-thirds of such annual allowance as would be granted if the individual had held a pensionable office. Paragraph (3) of the motion is the existing authorisation by this Council to the Governor-in-Council to grant to the next-of-kin such gratuity as he may think fit.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded the motion, which now read :

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 9 of the 3rd of January, 1933, this Council approves of the following provisions for payment of compassionate allowances and gratuities to subordinate Government employees not on the fixed establishment :—

(1) Any person holding a non-pensionable office who retires in circumstances in which he might have been granted a pension if he had held a pensionable office may if he has not less than twenty years' continuous service in the Colony be granted an annual allowance not exceeding two-thirds of an allowance calculated at the rate of one-seven hundred and twentieth of his salary for the year preceding his retirement for each month of service up to 30 years.

(2) Any person holding an office similar to the above who has completed ten years' and less than twenty years' continuous service may be granted on retirement a gratuity at the rate of two-thirds of one-twelfth (one-eighteenth) of a month's emoluments for each complete month of service.

(3) In case of the death of the employee the Governor-in-Council may in his discretion grant to the next-of-kin such gratuity as he may think fit.

THAT, Resolutions No. LXIII. of the 2nd of July, 1930, No. II. of the 22nd of October, 1930, and No. XXIII. of the 10th of February, 1931, are hereby rescinded.

Mr. CRANE: The Council was not told what was the actual pension in the case of the \$7.50 employee.

Mr. MILLARD: The pension was \$10 per month. In that case the length of service justified the granting of an annual allowance, and the annual allowance granted exceeded the emoluments drawn during the time of employment.

Mr. CRANE: If an un pensionable officer retires and he is to be given two-thirds the pension which he might have been granted if he had been on the Fixed Establishment, I do not think any further condition should be imposed that he should have had 20 years continuous service. A period of 20 years is a pretty long time to entitle a man to a pension. I suggest that the words "not less than twenty years' continuous service in the Colony" be struck out. The only distinction then will be that one would be on the Fixed Establishment and the other not. The man on the Fixed Establishment would get the full pension as calculated under the Ordinance while the other who was not would get two-thirds of that pension. The question of pension was definitely settled. The intention of paragraph (2) is to take away from persons the right to pension. This Council gave the hope to persons that in the event of their being compelled to leave the Service within a certain time they would get a pension. I suggest that persons with 10 years' service and over should be granted two-thirds of the pension to which they would have been entitled had they been on the Fixed Establishment and those with less than 10 years a sum on a lower scale.

Mr. SEERAM: Would the Colonial Treasurer tell us what would be the saving on this motion? I am afraid we will deprive some people of their pension.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I may say something that has some bearing on what has been said. A Public Officer cannot get a pension for 10 years' service unless that 10 years' service is at the end of his career. If a limitation of 10 years is made as suggested the employees referred to will be in a much better position, because it might mean that a man who joined the Service at the age of 20 might be entitled to pension, whereas a man on the Fixed Establishment who joined the Ser-

vice at 20 cannot get a pension unless he reaches the age of 55 or is compulsorily retired.

Mr. MILLARD: The hon. Member for Demerara River indicated that he did not quite understand the circumstances attached to officers holding pensionable offices. In the case of employees holding offices which are un pensionable there are no regulations governing the age or circumstances of entry and other conditions set out in the Pensions Ordinance. It does seem to me that in the case of employees not holding pensionable offices and who are not entitled to pension or any form of retiring allowance, but to whom it has been the practice of this Council to grant some provision at the time of discontinuance of employment, a period of service should be required on the lines set out in the motion or something corresponding to it. When I arrived in the Colony, or shortly afterwards, the records of the Petitions Committee of the Council gave me the impression—and I think it is correct—that the granting of compassionate allowances was limited to the individuals who applied for them either on their own initiative or as prompted by their friends. Since that time this Council has definitely laid down that some form of compassionate allowance or gratuity should be given in all cases of retirement of Government employees. I ask hon. Members in connection with this motion to view it along the lines of temporary employment and realise that the awarding of compassionate allowances has a breadth of application that does not exist in cases dealt with under the Pensions Ordinance.

Mr. CRANE: I move an amendment that this Council recommends that the motion be further considered by a small Committee of the Council.

THE PRESIDENT: It cannot be moved as an amendment, but I can give a promise that the motion will be put before a Committee of the whole Council.

Mr. CRANE: I have suggested that course for the reason that I do not think Members on this side of the House have had an opportunity of understanding what Government proposes to do in this matter. A matter of this kind involving a departure from what the Council had done

under two years ago warrants the course of Government consulting with the Electives beforehand.

THE PRESIDENT: I remind hon. Members of a request made to me at an early stage after my arrival in the Colony to appoint a Finance Committee of the Council. There is such a Finance Committee. If the hon. Member would ask that the motion be referred to the Finance Committee of the Council there is no objection to that.

Mr. MILLARD: In consideration of the remarks that have been made during the discussion I propose that the motion be withdrawn and submitted to the Finance Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: The motion is withdrawn from the Order of the Day in order that it may be first discussed by the Finance Committee and if necessary drawn up in another form.

PENALTIES (REVENUE APPROPRIATION)
BILL.

Mr. MILLARD: In moving the second reading of "A Bill to provide for the payment to general revenue of fines and penalties and the proceeds of forfeitures and seizures" I would remind hon. Members of a resolution passed by the Council on the 14th December last, viz. :—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 6 of the 9th of December, 1932, this Council approves of the transfer to general revenue of the balance at credit of the Revenue Defence Fund at 31st December, 1932, and of the introduction of the necessary amending legislation to authorise the transfer and to provide that thereafter the total of all fines, penalties, etc., for breaches of the revenue laws shall be paid into revenue—provision to be made in the annual estimates for rewards to officers concerned in such cases.

The Bill now before the Council gives statutory effect to that decision. The balance of the Revenue Defence Fund to be transferred to revenue under the statutory authority now sought is \$8,400, but the estimate of the receipts for the year 1933 is \$3,900 and the estimated expenditure based on the average for three years \$2,200. Hon. Members will recollect the inclusion in the Budget for 1933 of those amounts.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

The Council resumed.

POST AND TELEGRAPH BILL.

Mr. BIRKITT (Postmaster-General): I move the second reading of "A Bill to amend the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Chapter 185, with respect to the use on private premises of approved types of franking or postage meter machines." This Bill gives the Postmaster-General legal authority to issue licences to approved applicants to use franking machines on their own premises, such machines being purchasable by the licensee from the manufacturers. These machines, of which there are seven approved types on the market, are largely used by private firms in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, and the Bill will bring the Post Office Department up to date and in line with other Post Offices elsewhere. The introduction of these machines will be the beginning of the exit of the use of insaniitary postage stamps and will also accelerate to some extent the work in the Post Office. I commend the Bill to the approval of the Council and I am sure that the machines will be used by progressive firms.

Dr. DE FREITAS seconded.

Mr. CANNON: Will the hon. Member give us some idea of the cost of the machine?

Mr. BIRKITT: I am unable to give any information regarding the cost of the machine. There are several machines and the selection is left to the potential users.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

The Council resumed.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable the Bills which have been read a second time to-day to be read the third time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

COMMISSIONS OF ENQUIRY BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that "A Bill to enable the Governor to issue Commissions of Enquiry with special powers" 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.

PENALTIES (REVENUE APPROPRIATION) BILL.

Mr. MILLARD: I move that "A Bill to provide for the payment to general revenue of fines and penalties and the proceeds of forfeitures and seizures" be read the third time.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

POST AND TELEGRAPH BILL.

Mr. BIRKITT: I move that "A Bill to amend the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Chapter 185, with respect to the use on private premises of approved types of franking or postage meter machines" be read the third time.

Dr. DE FREITAS seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

TOURIST TRAFFIC COMMITTEE.

THE PRESIDENT: With regard to the motion moved by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) for the

appointment of a Committee to deal with the question of tourist traffic and that provision be made for the purpose, I propose to appoint the following Committee: Hon. F. Dias, Chairman; Professor J. S. Dash, Director of Agriculture; Hon. J. Mullin, Commissioner of Lands and Mines; Hon. F. Birkitt, Postmaster General; Hon. J. Gonsalves; Hon. J. I. De Aguiar; Mr. H. G. Seaford, President, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce; Mr. E. M. Walcott; Mr. F. H. Martin-Sperry; Mr. G. C. Green, Assistant Colonial Secretary; with Mr. H. V. H. Abraham, Chief Clerk, Transport and Harbours Department, as Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That concludes the business of the Council on the Order Paper. I should like with your permission, sir, to indicate what is proposed to be done. It is proposed that the Council should now adjourn *sine die* until after the Easter holidays and it will probably assemble at a later date this month or early in May. I will give some idea of the business to be transacted when the House reassembles. We have a Pension Bill, with regard to which we are awaiting a reply from the Secretary of State, which may be received any day and the Bill ready for presentation to the Council at an early date. The Public Health Bill is now in process of being redrafted and will then be considered by the Law Officers of the Crown. Perhaps after one further meeting the Select Committee will then be in a position to make its report to the Council. There are two Cinematograph Bills now ready and will be considered by the Executive Council. A Bill dealing with the employment of women, young persons and children is now before the Executive Council. A Bill to amend the Tax Ordinance with respect to the licences of Insurance Companies and the duties to be paid thereon and a Customs Bill dealing with the prohibition of imports and exports are also being drafted. There is a further amendment to the Customs Ordinance dealing with the royalty and export tax on diamonds and precious stones which may be brought forward after further consideration. A Bill dealing with the registration of rice mills is now receiving the consideration of the Law Officers

and should be ready for presentation when the Council meets. The Co-operative Societies Bill is now before the Executive Council. A Bill dealing with the registration of Clubs and another with respect to mangy dogs are also being drafted. The motion by the hon. Member for Berbice River in regard to the appointment of an extra Judge and an extra

Magistrate is still receiving the consideration of Government. I have no doubt that the hon. Member will be prepared to take that motion when the Council resumes. That is an indication of the programme of the work before the Council.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.