

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1946—1948

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th January, 1947

Pursuant to adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock noon to-day.

Present.

His Honour Mr. G. B. EVELYN (*Speaker*), His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Deputy Speaker*), Messrs. J. T. C. RAMSAY, (*Chairman of Committees*), G. H. ADAMS, B.A., M. E. COX, D. A. FOSTER, H. D. BLACKMAN, C. E. TALMA, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., H. A. DOWDING, V. C. GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E., E. L. WARD, and Dr. J. A. LEV. WILSON.

Prayers are read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the last meeting have been circulated. If no honourable member objects, they will be taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—At the risk of appearing facetious, I hope the typographical error on page 1, which is tantamount to an obituary notice of the Chaplain's proceedings, will be corrected (Laughter).

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to that correction being made, the Minutes of the last meeting are taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I have the honour to lay on the table of the House the following Papers:—

Message No. 2/1947 from His Excellency the Acting Governor:—

His Excellency the Acting Governor

To

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Acting Governor has the honour to transmit for the information of the Honourable the House of Assembly a draft agreement with

the British Union Oil Company Limited relating to the supply of natural gas to the Belle Pumping Station.

2. The Company has expressed willingness to enter into this agreement provided that the Government will refund any import duty of customs paid by the Company on all pipes, iron work and other machinery, apparatus and fittings which have been imported or may be imported by the Company for the purpose of supplying natural gas under the agreement before the 31st of December, 1947.

3. If the Honourable the House of Assembly concurs that the agreement should be entered into on this condition, the necessary legislation to ratify the agreement will be submitted in due course and an application will be made for funds to meet the cost of installing the necessary burners at the Belle Pumping Station.

4. His Excellency wishes to take this opportunity to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that it is the Government's intention to introduce legislation as soon as possible to vest in the Crown the property in petroleum existing in its natural condition in strata in the colony.

J. D. RANKINE,
Acting Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown.
14th January, 1947,

Further Improvement of Water Supply Scheme—Progress Report No. 29 for period October to December, 1946.

Audited Statement of the Housing Board to the 30th of September, 1946.

Report of the Comptroller of Customs on the Customs Revenue, Trade and Shipping of the Island for the year 1945.

Messrs. D.D. GARNER, L. E. SMITH, and R. G. MAPP enter the House and take their seats.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to grant a gratuity of £326. 18. 7 and an annuity at the rate of £98. 1. 7 payable in equal monthly instalments from the 8th September, 1946, to Mr. F. H. Gibbons, formerly Government Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. BLACKMAN: Resolution to authorise His Excellency the Governor to appoint two additional Clerks to the Clerical Staff of the Clerical Service in accordance with the provisions of section 3 (2) of the Clerical Service Act, 1944 (1944-27).

Resolution to place the sum of £875 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make a grant of £375 to the Commissioners of Highways of St. George to repair damage to certain roads and guard walls caused by flood water, and to make a grant of £500 to the Commissioners of Highways of St. John to repair the Newcastle Hill.

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to consider the money Resolution of which notice has just been given.

Of my intention to ask leave for the appointment of a Select Committee to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 2/1947.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY enters the House and takes his seat.

Other Notices are as follows:—

Mr. FOSTER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor.

The House of Assembly is of the opinion that the extension of the Water Mains and the erection of Standposts are urgently needed in Rock Hall, Corbin's Village, St. Simons and Cane Garden in the parish of St. Andrew.

Mr. BRANCKER: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor.

The House of Assembly is of the opinion that it is essential that the office of Solicitor-General of this colony be made a whole-time office.

2. The House asks that His Excellency initiate legislation as soon as possible with a view to effecting the above.

Mr. TALMA: Of the following Address:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency the Governor.

1. The House of Assembly are of the opinion that more land should be made available to the peasant class and more especially to ex-service men, most of whom are yet unemployed and in need, by adopting the following measures in the immediate future, viz:—

(a) The purchase under The Compulsory Powers Act (if necessary) of not less than four large suitable Plantations in the Parishes of St. Lucy, St. Philip, St. John and Christ Church for the purpose of establishing a proper Land Settlement Scheme and/or Co-operative Farms.

(b) Provision of the necessary monetary aid for the initial five years without any legal or technical obstacles and/or difficulties in securing such aid by the settler or peasant.

2. The House therefore sincerely hope that Your Excellency will see fit to send down the necessary Resolution without undue delay so as to assist this deserving class of the community.

Mr. MOTTLEY: A Bill to amend the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1945 (1945-29).

QUESTIONS.

Mr. HAYNES: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present in the House at its next meeting:—

1. Whether it is a fact that year after year the salary for an Assistant Engineer to the Highways and Transport Board is voted and no person is appointed to hold that office?

2. If the above is a fact, will the Government take immediate steps to approach the Colonial Office with a view to finding a suitable person for this office?

Mr. HAYNES: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present in the House at its next meeting:—

1. Is the Government aware that the highway leading to St. Simon's and St. Jude's via Turners Hall Woods has been closed to vehicular traffic for months?

2. Will the Government take immediate steps to have this vital road put in a passable condition, in view of the fact that it serves as a road to Church and Market for a very thickly populated part of the parish of St. Andrew and also in view of helping the widespread unemployment temporarily caused by the present drought in St. Andrew?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. MOTTLEY, seconded by Mr. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1945 (1945-29) is read a first time.

APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. ADAMS: In keeping with the notice which I gave earlier in the day, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 2/1947.

Mr. MAPP: I beg to second that.

The question that a Select Committee be appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 2 of 1947 is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to the approval of the House I appoint the following as members of that Committee:—

The senior member for St. Joseph (Mr. Adams), the junior member for St. James (Mr. Wilkinson), the senior member for St. Andrew (Mr. Haynes), the senior member for St. Philip (Mr. Crawford), the junior member for St. John (Mr. Blackman), the senior member for St. Michael (Mr. Cox), and the junior member for St. Michael (Mr. Gale). I have been asked to associate myself with the Committee and I willingly do so.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee of Supply, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

RESOLUTION POSTPONED.

Mr. ADAMS asks for and is granted leave to postpone the consideration of a Resolution to place the sum of £55 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet the cost of employing a female Probation Officer at a salary at the rate of £100 per annum from the 1st January to the 31st March, 1947, and to grant her a travelling allowance at the rate of £120 per annum during the same period.

EX GRATIA GRANT TO EVA THEODORE DOTTIN

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £92. 5. 11 to be granted as an *ex gratia* grant to Mrs. Eva Theodora Dottin, widow of Hugh Carlton Dottin, formerly employed by the Board of Health in connection with rat destruction, in consideration of his 26 years' service in that Department. Honourable members will see from the addendum that Mr. Dottin's estate is not eligible for a gratuity under the law but it is proposed, in consideration of his long service, to grant a gratuity to his widow who is in straitened circumstances, of an amount equivalent to one year's emoluments. This Resolution is similar to one we passed last week and I beg to move that it do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

The question that this Resolution do now pass is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is for the sum of £100 to supplement the provision made in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1946-47 under VI, Customs, Item 14, Incidentals. As honourable members will observe from the addendum, in the Estimates last year £200 was provided but owing to the additional expenses of running the new Rum Bond in Cheapside, as well as the advance in the cost of articles required for the working of the Department, a further sum of £100 is required to meet expenses under this item to the 31st March, 1947. This Resolution is to cover that additional amount. I may add that the expenditure is authorised by law and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,—I would like to ask the senior member for St. Joseph if proper latrine accommodation has been installed in the old Public Market that was but is now used as a bonded warehouse. It is most essential that there should be proper fittings down there for this purpose and I would like to know if they have been installed.

Mr. ADAMS: This is one of those instances which I intimated to honourable members on the last occasion. I would be extremely glad, for the quick performance of business, if honourable members would give notice beforehand of any information which they require on a particular subject. I cannot say off-hand—although I believe it has been done—whether latrine accommodation has been installed in this bond but if the honourable member wants the information before the Resolution is passed I will send and get the necessary file. I do appeal to honourable members to see that if a dozen miscellaneous questions are asked when a Resolution is being considered, the member of the Executive Committee in charge of it, may not have the information at his disposal and time will be wasted in sending to get the particular file.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I too would like to get some information on this matter. As a Commissioner of Health I remember we drew to the Government's attention the inadequacy of the sanitary arrangements in this bond and while I agree with the senior member for St. Joseph that it will facilitate matters if we let him know beforehand what information we require I still think that we should be given the information in this particular instance. People working in that bond are actually locked in and when Nature calls, they have to wend their way out to the public latrine on the wharf. I say that a state of affairs like that should not exist to-day and I would like to know if it has been remedied.

Mr. WILKINSON: I am not opposing this Resolution but again I wish to emphasize what I said on a previous occasion in respect of these rum bonds. The senior member for St. Joseph is well aware of my views on the subject. I think it is wrong to have all these rum bonds within the City limits. The rum industry is expanding and has come to stay; therefore, I think the Government should in the very near future try to find a site outside the City limits where this business can be carried on.

The question that this Resolution do now pass is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. CRAWFORD enters the House and takes his seat.

REHABILITATION OF EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution is for the sum of £5,000 to supplement Resolution No. 62 of the 24th July, 1945, for the rehabilitation of ex-service personnel. Honourable members have in their possession a pretty comprehensive set of figures as to the previous working of the Rehabilitation Committee. They will see from the Resolution that it is to make provision for the establishment in civil life of discharged service personnel; to operate or participate in schemes for the training and for the care and maintenance of discharged personnel; and to provide a rehabilitation fund from which payments may be made. I do not know if there is much more information that can be given than what honourable members have before them but if there is any specific information which is required and which it is possible for me to obtain I shall give it. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. GALE: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—There seems to be a great deal of dissatisfaction among ex-service men over the manner in which the Rehabilitation Committee is functioning; they say that it is not assisting them. I recall the warning of the senior member for St. Joseph as to what he would like to be done in future and I am sorry that in this instance notice has not been given of the particular question which I propose to ask in connection with this matter. But I am wondering if the honourable member can tell us off-hand what is the principle on which this assistance is given.

Many ex-service men who have been to me say that the Committee has informed them that it will help them with loans if they can furnish security but they contend that if they could furnish security they would not worry with the Rehabilitation Committee; that they would go to solicitors' offices and get their loans. So I am wondering how the principle of making loans to assist ex-service men in this island compares with that in other parts of

the Empire, whether our policy is less liberal than theirs. It will be remembered, Sir, that during the last session I enquired whether this Government was aware of what was being done in British Guiana as far as the rehabilitation of the ex-service personnel in that colony is concerned—I understand that there they made loans not exceeding \$500 to deserving cases—and the Government replied that they were not aware of what was taking place in British Guiana. I am wondering whether I have been misinformed as to the method of assisting ex-servicemen in this island and also whether it is true that no man receives assistance a second time. I understand that if an ex-service man who has been assisted happens to go to the U.S.A. for a short period and on his return approaches the Rehabilitation Committee for assistance a second time, the Committee says to him "Oh, no; we have already done what we can to help you. We will only help anybody who has not yet received assistance." I observe a member of that Committee sitting on the right of the senior member for St. Joseph, so perhaps I may sit awhile and let him give us the information as to the principle which is being observed in assisting these ex-service men.

Mr. LEWIS enters the House while Mr. BRANCKER is speaking and takes his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: I will ask the junior member for St. Michael who is a member of the Rehabilitation Committee to reply to the junior member for St. Lucy.

Mr. GALE: Mr. Chairman,—As far as the loans are concerned, the honourable member says that the ex-service men can seek the loans elsewhere. If it were only a matter of loans—

Mr. BRANCKER: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman. I said that certain ex-service men told me so. I was not expressing my own opinion.

Mr. GALE: No doubt, anybody will lend money with security but people do not lend money without interest. The Rehabilitation Committee is making these loans free of interest and takes real estate or chattel as security. When a man applies for a loan an investigation is made as regards his property and if the Committee is satisfied that the property is proper security, it advances the loan free of interest but the man has to pay the legal expenses incurred in connection with the loan. The Committee goes into the applicant's circumstances and if the loan is granted, the terms or repayment are made as easily as possible; as many as two years — sometimes three years — are allowed for repayment. Over 200 applications for loans have been made and, of these, 49 have been granted—thirty-two during the last two months of last year—and the sum of £1,801.0.7. has been so expended. The sum of £1,444.15.7. which is outstanding by way of loans is secured by mortgages. £917 has been loaned for the purpose of purchasing or repairing houses. A number of these men started to build or repair their houses on their return; they soon discovered that they could not complete their houses and on their application to the Committee for loans to enable them to do so, those loans have been granted as far as possible. As regards subsistence allowance, the Committee has granted subsistence allowance to men who have been undergoing vocational training; men who expressed the desire to become mechanics or carpenters or tailors have been placed with firms or persons carrying on such businesses and at the Public Works Department and these men have been given subsistence allowance to keep them going while undergoing their training.

Mr. BRANCKER: It is good to have an honourable member who is so full of information and so I am tempted to ask another question in connection with this matter. Will the Rehabilitation Committee make a loan to an ex-service man to the extent of one-third of the price of a motor car which the applicant proposes to use as a taxi, especially when it is considered that in these days you can insure a car? Another point is this. I notice on page 3 of the information supplied in connection with this Resolution the following statements: "Tailors taken on—4" and "Tailors struck off—3." I am wondering why those three tailors have been struck off. I notice that in the case of the carpenters they have been struck off after completing or leaving their training but there is no explanation as to why three of the four tailors who were taken on have been struck off.

Mr. GALE: In the case of loans to purchase motor cars or tools or anything else, each application for a loan is considered on its merits. As far as the striking off of applicants is concerned, if a man applies for employment and the Rehabilitation Committee secures an appointment for him and he refuses to take it, he is struck off.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—This information, in my opinion, is not sufficiently comprehensive. There are certain things in connection with this matter which I would like explained. Take for instance the destitute men. I see that the sum of £31. 18. 0. was spent from the 1st August, 1945 to the 30th September, 1946, on destitute men. I want to know how many ex-service men were destitute during that period and how much each destitute ex-service man received. I would like to have a reply to that question before proceeding further.

Mr. LEWIS: Perhaps the honourable member who is going to reply can reply to my question at the same time. I see here in the notes to the Resolution on page 2 "Outstanding Bills, Electrical Books £150. 0. 0." and on the opposite page "Electricians taken on—13." That would seem to be an unlucky number and in my opinion is rather disproportionate to the amount of money that is spent on these books. I would like to have some explanation of that.

Mr. GALE: In reply to the junior member for the City I would like to say the electrical books were imported by the Electrical Inspector to give lectures to the ex-service men undergoing training as electricians and to be lent to them.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I think I understand what the honourable member means.

Mr. TALMA: While awaiting the reply to my question I would like to make this further point. Out of a total of 1,376 men who are registered for employment or assistance of some sort, only 509 have actually been assisted up to now in some form or other. Some have obtained employment of a temporary nature and others have emigrated to the U.S.A., Bermuda, Curacao and Trinidad. But if we go carefully into these figures we will find that although 509 are supposed to have secured employment, yet in reality the figures in relation to the ones who are employed to-day would be no more than 300 because some may have since returned from places to which they emigrated and others who were employed may now be out of work. I am saying that when one considers the risk which these men took in the past,—the risk of losing their lives and limbs to enable us to live here in safety,—one can hardly believe that this Government is doing its

utmost to take care of men who have rendered such excellent service. We must bear in mind, Sir, that these men, when they were fighting abroad, always felt that they had been fighting hard to improve local conditions and that when the cessation of hostilities came, they would not be treated as their fathers and other relatives were treated after World War I. They had built up hopes on the present set-up of the Government and it is with that view in mind that I gave notice of that Address earlier in the day, to see if something constructive can be done for these men and not have this piecemeal legislation whereby only very slight assistance is actually derived. Although I am in favour of this Resolution yet at the same time I can hardly believe that so few of the men were destitute as to require only £31. 18. 0. I can hardly believe that £31. 18. 0 will meet the need of all the destitute ex-service men whom I see knocking about the place and who disturb me, in my small way, morning, noon and night. I am asking the Government to release a little more money for these destitute ex-service men. Instead of releasing £31, it should release £310 and the money will be spent to good advantage by assisting not only the poor, destitute ex-service men themselves but their families as well.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I see that 1,376 men actually registered with the Rehabilitation Committee. What I would like to know is what percentage of the ex-service men this represents and, further, what percentage of those who are registered are skilled or unskilled men because on that information I may be able to offer some observations as to whether I think the Committee has adopted the best means of helping these men. I hope the honourable senior member for St. Joseph noted my questions because I want a reply to them.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—There is just one thing that occurred to me, apropos to what the junior member for the City drew to our attention. It is in connection with these electrical books. We may not always have a man of the integrity of the present holder of the office of Electrical Inspector and I feel that an inventory of these books should be kept, so as to be sure that they always remain the property of the taxpayers who purchase them.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—If I were not the worst offender I would say that I believe that as careful a check is made of the books in the Electrical Inspector's office as is made of the Law Books in the Public Library. As regards the questions of the senior member for the City I have not the figures but what does it matter what percentage of the ex-service men these 1,376 represent? If the others did not register, it is obvious that they got back their jobs. How would it benefit him if he were told that this number represent 2 per cent. of the men who have retired? The men who have not registered are obviously doing the jobs which they had before or have found other employment. I do not think that the honourable member really wants to press that question. How would we know what percentage this represents unless we found out from the South Caribbean Force how many men went abroad and from private individuals how many of their sons went abroad?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—I wish the honourable member, in his position as Leader of the House, would be more courteous in answering questions that are asked him by other honourable members! How can he tell what I have in mind? I made it quite clear that I was asking the questions with the

view of making certain observations to see if I could enlighten the Rehabilitation Committee and I am not going to allow myself to be stifled by the Leader of the House or anybody else in respect of any question which I may ask from my seat in this House. I asked these questions in my capacity as a member of this House and I want them answered. How can the honourable member tell what useful purpose they will serve? I shall be the last person in this House to keep back any Measure or waste time. I shall ask questions on occasions when I feel that I can offer some constructive criticism and I consider that it is the duty of the honourable member as Leader of the House to reply to questions asked by junior members, so to speak, in a courteous manner. I asked these questions with the view of finding out whether I could throw any light on this matter. For instance, Mr. Chairman, I asked "what percentage of these men who have returned has registered?" In my capacity as Churchwarden of the parish of St. Michael, I can say that several of these ex-service men have visited that office and some honourable members must be aware of the fact that members of the ex-Service Men Association actually came to see me in respect of employment. If we could find out what percentage of the number which returned actually registered and what portion of that percentage is actually skilled or unskilled workers, we may be able to embark on schemes like the canalizing of the Constitution River which would in the long run be more profitable to the men than merely to lend them a few pounds to buy chattel houses or start small businesses. My only reason for asking these questions is to discover whether it would not be more profitable to embark upon some scheme and provide these men with work rather than merely coming here from time to time with a Resolution of this nature. I would prefer to vote to-day, Sir, if it were necessary, £20,000 or £30,000 to start some construction work on which we could employ these people or purchase plantations on which they could be settled, instead of passing this Resolution. I hope not to have to generate any heat in this House. I would like the senior member for St. Joseph to know that in this House I have no party feeling and that I ask questions in the interest of the people of this country. I am not asking questions just to keep back the business of this House and I only hope that I will not have to make observations of this nature again.

Dr. CUMMINS enters the House while Mr. MOTTLEY is speaking and takes his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I have heard so much heat in the course of twenty years' practice of my profession that heat makes no difference to me. I ask the honourable member this question: If 5,000 ex-service men have returned and only 1,376 have registered, isn't it normal commonsense that the others did not register because they do not need help? Take the junior member for St. George; he may be wrong not to have registered; he may have come in the category of destitute persons—I do not know—and there may be a couple of hundreds like him who have not registered. Why should the honourable member get hot merely because I have told him that it does not matter what percentage of the men who have returned these 1,376 represent? Surely it must mean that they are the only ones who want something from the Government by way of rehabilitation! And that reply has set the honourable member off to tell us that he is Churchwarden and that he is interested in building schemes—all unnecessary talk.

Mr. DOWDING: I cannot agree with the senior member for St. Joseph. I wholeheartedly support the senior member for the City. It does not stand to reason, Sir, that the fact that these men have not registered is proof that they are not in need of help. I know most of them personally; they have been to the Rehabilitation Committee on divers occasions and have had no assistance. They are far from being in a position in which they are quite happy. My opinion is that the Rehabilitation Committee is not functioning as it should; it gives the men no encouragement to register.

Mr. TALMA: The honourable member who has just sat down has more or less said what I intended to say. It is useless registering with this bureau because no actual benefit is derived. For instance, Sir, only £31. 18. 0. has been spent on destitute ex-service men over a period of 13 months—1st August, 1945, to 30th September, 1946—and in October and November, 1946, not one cent has been spent in this direction. Do you mean to tell me that there are no destitute ex-service men in this island to-day? That is what I am led to understand from these figures and I think I understand figures very well. These men were not even given a bonus in December, 1946, and you can imagine that many of them must have been fairly hungry on Christmas Day. That is the present state of affairs and although I have asked the honourable member who is handling this measure how many destitute ex-service men there are, yet up to now I have not had a reply. I feel that the majority of these men are in need and if the Government lacks initiative which the men themselves possess, it should place at the disposal of the ex-Service Men's Association in trusteeship for these men, a sum of money which they can spend to the best possible advantage. There must be some scheme from which ex-service men should benefit. This temporary arrangement is no better than that of 25 years ago when the first World War came to a close. We are deceiving these people by not helping them in a way in which they should be helped. I am hoping to see some permanent five or ten-year plan whereby plantations could be bought and split up in five or ten-acre lots and placed at the disposal of these men. Instead of spending £5,000 every few months, spend £20,000 and do something constructive at once. Buy two plantations, split them up in lots and place them at the disposal of these men. If they do not help themselves after that, then they will have themselves to blame. The lazy ones will get nothing but those who are desirous of helping themselves will be able to do so not only for now but for years to come.

The question that this Resolution do now pass is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PAYMENT OF MEDICAL FEES FOR REPORTING CASES OF CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

Mr. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of £25 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to pay the medical fees in connection with the reporting of cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis from the date of the outbreak of the epidemic in 1944 to the date of the passing of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1946 (1946-4).

The House obviously, in passing that amending Act last year for the payment to doctors of fees for notifying cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, was not

aware that doctors have been reporting these cases from the time of the outbreak in 1944. The payment was not made retrospective and this Resolution is to provide fees for the reporting of cases from 1944 to the passing of the amending Act last year. What happened is that cerebro-spinal meningitis was not among the infectious diseases; it has since been added to the list but no provision was made for the retrospective payment for notifying cases in 1944. The doctors have sent in claims for the reporting of cases in 1944 and this Resolution is to meet those claims. I beg to move that it do now pass.

Mr. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: There is just one question I would like to ask. I would like to know what provision has been made for the isolation of persons suffering from this disease. Has any provision been made since the destruction by fire of the place which the Health Authorities had in mind?

Mr. ADAMS: As far as I know, Mr. Chairman, "No". I speak now not from the Record but I had a conversation with the Chief Medical Officer some time ago in connection with fears that some people have about establishing an isolation hospital in their respective vicinities for the treatment of these cases and he told me that the number of cases was so few that if we are careful about the arrival of people from infected areas there is no real danger, as far as he can foresee, of an outbreak. It may be for that reason that he has not pressed for the establishment of an isolation hospital.

The question that this Resolution do now pass is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Chairman reports the passing of four Resolutions and the postponement of one in Committee of supply.

The House resumes and on motions by Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. Cox in each case, the four Resolutions which are passed in Committee of Supply are read a first and a second time and are agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—To move the passing of the following Resolution:—*Resolved* that the House of Assembly approve the following Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under Section 37 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—In moving the passing of this Resolution I would like to say, in anticipation of any questions that may be asked by honourable members, that the unofficial attitude of the members of the Government who are members of this House—I say "unofficial" because it has not been a matter of a decision in Executive Committee—is that the method of computing compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act should be completely changed. Just as it has been found in England that this method of computing workmen's compensation through the Law Courts should not exist so it is the feeling, unofficially, of the members of the Government who are members of this House that the same procedure should be adopted in this island. In saying that, I wish to assure honourable members, without blowing my own trumpet, that if they will refer to the debates that took place on the Workmen's Compensation

Bill they will discover that what I am saying now I said then. Yet although that is the unofficial opinion of members of the Government who are members of this House, it is necessary in the meanwhile, until that method is adopted, to pass regulations under Section 37 for the efficient working of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Nothing that any honourable member may say by way of criticism of the Workmen's Compensation Act could be any stronger than what I myself am prepared to say; so that honourable members may rest assured that any criticisms that they may make about the working of the Act in its present form are well known to the Government who intends at the earliest possible moment to bring the Act more in keeping with recent modern legislation of its kind in the big countries of the world. Unless honourable members have any specific amendments to make to any of these regulations I would suggest that, in order to save time, they be read in the House but if it is the general feeling that we should go into Committee on the regulations I have no objection to that. I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to move that the House go into Committee on these regulations.

Mr. HAYNES: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—I do not think we will understand these regulations any better if we go into Committee. They are voluminous and I presume that members who were members of the last House and had copies, have read the regulations. I would appeal to the junior member for St. James to withdraw his motion and if there is any comment to be made, it can be made when we come to the particular regulation in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The only difficulty is this. If the House wait until the regulations are read and then go into Committee, it will mean that the regulations will be read twice. We should either go into Committee now or not at all. The question is that I do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on these Regulations. Honourable members in favour will please say "Aye"; those against will please say "No." I think the "Noes" have it.

A division is taken as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. RAMSAY, CRAWFORD, GARNER, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD, and Dr. WILSON—11.

Noes: Messrs. LEWIS, SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, ADAMS and BLACKMAN—7.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, eleven honourable members voting "Aye" and seven voting "No".

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

Regulations 1 to 12 inclusive are read and agreed to.

Regulation 13. When such workman is present on the employer's premises, and the employer offers to have him examined free of charge by a qualified medical practitioner who is so present, the workman shall submit himself for examination forthwith.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Regulation 13 of these Regulations.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to know if a workman should not have some say as to the medical man who is to examine him.

The CHAIRMAN: I would draw the honourable member's attention to Regulation 15.

Mr. TALMA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The question that this Regulation stand part of the Regulations is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Regulation 14 is read and agreed to.

Regulation 15. A workman shall be entitled to have his own medical practitioner at any examination but at his own expense.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Regulation 15 of these Regulations.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I am going to move the deletion of the words "but at his own expense." I feel, Sir, that any employer who takes it—

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—However sympathetic we may be with the honourable member's point of view, subsection 2 of section 11 of the Act provides that this should be done and I do not see how we can make a regulation that is contrary to the wording of the Act. To delete the words "but at his own expense" would be ultra vires.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—The only thing for me to do then is to suggest that the Act be amended because as it stands, it is not right. It is not fair to a workman, because he might have faith in his medical practitioner while the employer may not have faith in that medical man and there may be a misunderstanding as a result.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that he cannot amend the Act now; he will have to bring in a Bill later on to do so.

Mr. GARNER: That is what I said, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman,—In seconding the amendment I should like to say that the object of these regulations is to correct certain errors which were committed on the passing of the Act. We could amend this regulation now and amend the Act sometime later, so as to bring everything into line.

The question that the words proposed to be deleted stand part of this Regulation is put and resolved in the affirmative, the division being as follows:—

Ayes: Messrs. SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, ADAMS, BLACKMAN, CRAWFORD, TALMA, MOTTLEY, HAYNES, DOWDING, GALE, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON, WARD, Dr. CUMMINS, and Mr. SPEAKER—17.

Noes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. BRANCKER and GARNER—3.

Regulations 16 to 36 inclusive are read and agreed to.

Regulation 37. Save as otherwise expressly provided in the Act or these Regulations, the provisions of the Assistant Court of Appeal Act, 1900, and of any Rules made thereunder, as to enforcing the attendance of witnesses, compelling the production of documents and material objects, administering oaths, taking evidence, amending any defect or error in any proceedings, enlarging the time appointed for taking any proceedings or doing any Act, and the representation of persons under disability shall, with the necessary modifications, apply to proceedings before a Judge.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Regulation 37 of these Regulations.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I should like to draw attention to the marginal note which says:—"Application of Supreme Court Rules." As far as I know, we have no Supreme Court here.

Mr. ADAMS: The marginal notes are not parts of Measures; we do not pass them as such. However I will draw the matter to the attention of the person responsible for the wording of the marginal notes.

The question that this Regulation stand part of the Regulations is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Regulation 38 is read and agreed to.

At this stage, 2 p.m., Mr. SPEAKER takes the Chair and adjourns the House until 2.45 p.m. in accordance with Rule 40 (a).

SUSPENSION OF RULE 61 (A).

On re-assembling,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—There are no replies ready to any questions as yet, and I ask leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to resume Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to move for the suspension of Rule 61 (a) in order to resume Government Business. If there is no objection, the honourable member will be granted leave. There being no objection, the honourable member may make the motion.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 61 (a) be now suspended in order to resume Government Business.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION REGULATIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the adjournment took place, the House was in Committee on the Resolution to approve the Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under Section 37 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House resumed Committee on the Resolution, Mr. RAMSAY being in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was adjourned, we were in Committee on the Resolution to approve the Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under Section 37 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943, and Regulation 38 of the Regulations had just been passed.

Regulations 39 to 44 inclusive were read and passed.

Regulation 45 was read as follows:—

45. The Clerk shall enter all proceedings hereafter to be commenced in a Cause Book, which shall be in a form approved by the Judge. Any entry made therein shall be examined with the original document the day after such entry is made, and such entry shall be evidence having been filed.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this be Regulation 45 of these Regulations.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: Before the question is put, I would just like to know if it is the intention of the Government to employ an extra clerk to deal with matters relating to Workmen's Compensation, or if the Clerk of the Assistant Court of Appeal will have to deal with such matters in addition to his other duties.

Mr. ADAMS: Speaking off-hand, I believe that an extra clerk will be appointed. I do not say that the Government will appoint an extra clerk to deal

with matters relating to Workmen's Compensation and nothing else; it may be necessary to have an extra clerk in the office, and if it should fall to him to do this work during a particular week or a particular month, he will be doing it. The work is rotated over varying periods: sometimes a clerk sends out appeals and at other times he may be paying out money. As far as I am aware, no one clerk is appointed specifically to attend to this or that kind of work.

The question that Regulation 45 stand part of these Regulations was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Regulation was passed.

Regulation 46 was read and passed.

Regulation 47 was read as follows:—

47. Proper indexes of the titles of all applications filed with or delivered to the Judge shall be kept so that the same may be conveniently referred to when required; and such indexes shall at all times during office hours be accessible to the public.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this be Regulation 47 of these Regulations. I should have mentioned just now that the Act makes it compulsory for the Clerk to do everything unless there are matters which he can delegate to some other clerk; although he will have to sign all that is to be signed.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that Regulation 47 stand part of these Regulations was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Regulation 48 was read and passed.

Regulation 49 was read as follows:—

49. Any person shall be allowed to inspect the file of documents or proceedings in any matter.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this be Regulation 49 of these Regulations.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: This Regulation seems to be very wide. It says: "Any person shall be allowed to inspect this file of documents or proceedings in any matter". Perhaps the honourable senior member for St. Joseph will explain why that is so. I know that this is a copy of the Trinidad Regulations. It will be useful if the honourable member can tell us how it is worked.

Mr. ADAMS: I have not made any specific enquiries, but I take it that just as any member of the public can get a copy of the proceedings in any case at any time, it was felt that the same thing can be done in this case. I suggest that we pass this Regulation and it can always be re-committed if that is desirable. The Judges have to pass Regulations, and they might say that persons shall inspect the file at a fee of so much each time. I ask honourable members to pass the Regulation, and as I have said we can always re-commit it. Perhaps some honourable member can move an amendment putting in a fee for inspection.

The question that Regulation 49 stand part of these Regulations was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Regulation was passed.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the CHAIRMAN do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported the passing in Committee of 49 Clauses of the Regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee under Section 37 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943, and that the Committee had asked for leave to sit again.

PRESENTATION OF HOUSE'S REPLY TO ACTING GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

At 3 p.m. Mr. SPEAKER received a message by the Acting Sergeant-at-Arms summoning the House to attend His Excellency the Acting Governor in the Council Chamber to present their Address in reply to the Speech which was delivered by His Excellency at the opening of the Legislative Session.

Mr. SPEAKER and the House, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, proceeded to the Council Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER read and presented to His Excellency the following Address which was passed by the House in reply to His Speech:—

The House of Assembly

To

His Excellency The Governor

The House of Assembly thank Your Excellency for the Speech which your Excellency was pleased to deliver on the occasion of the opening of the present Session of the Legislature.

2. The House commend the action of the Government in negotiating an agreement for an adequate supply of rice from British Guiana for the next five years.

3. The necessity of keeping under constant review the means of expanding and improving the efficiency of the sugar industry is appreciated by the House, who look forward to reading the report of Dr. Alfred Senn to which Your Excellency referred, and will welcome practical proposals for the expansion of our water services for the purposes both of domestic supply and irrigation.

4. The several enquiries instituted by the Government into the fiscal system, juvenile and vocational training are, in the opinion of the House, desirable and necessary as also the projected enquiry into local Government.

5. The House approve in principle of the proposals outlined by Your Excellency for the re-organisation and further expansion of elementary and secondary education and of the Health Services, and are glad to learn that the much needed training College at Erdiston is likely to be opened next year.

6. The House agree with Your Excellency that the planning and execution of our schemes of development, in addition to the ever expanding business of routine administration, will make it more than ever necessary that the Civil Service shall be adequately staffed paid and accommodated, and the House will give careful and sympathetic consideration to proposals devoted to the attainment of these objects.

7. The House are in agreement with Your Excellency that improved facilities for communication with the outside world will greatly contribute to future prosperity of the island.

8. The House are of opinion that steps should be taken to explore all the possibilities for an increase of the Tourist Trade.

9. The House appreciate that some revision of the previous method of selecting members of the Executive Committee and a corresponding change in the relationship between the Executive Committee and the House of Assembly were necessary in the interest of efficient administration, and will

endeavour so far as lies in their power, to ensure the successful working of the constitution.

10. The House assure Your Excellency of their constant willingness to give their approval to any proposals designed to improve the economic and social conditions of the people of the island.

His Excellency then delivered the following Rejoinder.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for your Address in reply to the Speech which I delivered at the opening of the Legislature on the 26th of November, 1946.

2. I am gratified to know that you are in agreement with the action of the Government in negotiating an Agreement for an adequate supply of rice from British Guiana over the period of the next five years, and that the other proposals referred to in my Speech meet with your approval in principle.

3. Your suggestions with regard to the tourist trade have been noted with appreciation.

4. I am happy in the assurance that you will do your part in ensuring the successful working of the constitution under the revised system for the selection of members of the Executive Committee.

J. D. RANKINE,
Acting Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown.

14th January, 1947.

The Members of the House returned to the Assembly Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that when we attended His Excellency the Acting Governor in the Council Chamber to deliver our Reply to His Address at the opening of the Session. His Excellency was pleased to make a Rejoinder thereto and to hand me a Copy which I will now read to the House. It is as follows:—

“Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for your Address in reply to the Speech which I delivered at the opening of the Legislature on the 26th of November, 1946.

I am gratified to know that you are in agreement with the action of the Government in negotiating an Agreement for an adequate supply of rice from British Guiana over the period of the next five years, and that the other proposals referred to in my Speech meet with your approval in principle.

Your suggestions with regard to the tourist trade have been noted with appreciation.

I am happy in the assurance that you will do your part in ensuring the successful working of the constitution under the revised system for the selection of members of the Executive Committee.”

THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. ADAMS: I suggest that Committee of Supply be the first Order of the Day for the next meeting.

Mr. WILKINSON: I ask that Order No. 16 under Private Members' Business be made Order No. 2 for the next meeting.

Mr. COX: I object.

Mr. WILKINSON: I beg to move that Order No. 16 standing in my name under Private Members' Business be made Order No. 2 for the next meeting of the House.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

The question that Order No. 16 under Private Members' Business be made Order No. 2 for the next meeting was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Dr. WILSON, Messrs. RAMSAY, BRANCKER, CRAWFORD, GARNER, TALMA, MOTTLEY, GALE, DOWDING, S. A. WALCOTT, WILKINSON and WARD—12.

Noes: Dr. CUMMINS, Messrs. SMITH, COX, FOSTER, MAPP, ADAMS and BLACKMAN—7.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 21st day of January, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 21st day of January, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The House was accordingly adjourned to meet on Tuesday next, the 21st day of January, 1947, at twelve o'clock noon.