

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Fourth Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana, at its First Session, 1947-1948, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, on

FRIDAY, 7TH MAY, 1948,

at 2 P.M.

Saga Estate Case
Farming

PRESENT:

The President His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Campbell Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.
" Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W.L. Heape, C.M.G.
" " the Attorney General, Mr. R.M. Duke (ag.)
" " the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. E.F. McDavid, C.B.E.
" " C.V. Wight, O.B.E. (Western Essequibo)
" " F.J. Seaford, C.B.E. (Nominated)
" " Dr. J.B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo)
" " Dr. J.A. Nicholson (Georgetown, North)
" " T. Lee (Essequibo River)
" " V. Roth (Nominated)
" " T.T. Thompson (Nominated)
" " G.A.C. Farnum (Nominated)
" " D.P. Debidin (Eastern Demerara)
" " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)
" " Dr. G.M. Gonsalves (Eastern Berbice)
" " Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara)
" " W.O.R. Kendall (New Amsterdam)
" " G.A. McDoom (Nominated)
" " A.T. Peters (Western Berbice)
" " W.A. Phang (North Western District)

The Clerk read prayers.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, the 6th of May, 1948, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

Dr. Jagan gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS it is the desire of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization that every country should rationalise and re-organise its productive resources in man-power, land and machines towards increased food production so as to alleviate the world food shortage and thereby overcome starvation, misery and death to millions of inhabitants of the world;

AND WHEREAS sugar is an all-important item of food of which world demand is far greater than present world output;

AND WHEREAS the production of sugar in this Colony has been declining and compares most unfavourable with pre-war production;

AND WHEREAS this decline in production has to a great extent resulted from a prolonged, strained relationship between the sugar producers and the sugar workers;

AND WHEREAS this strained relationship has been the result of unfavourable wage, working and living conditions generally, and has been responsible for the present strikes at all the sugar estates on the East Coast of Demerara and may be responsible for future strikes throughout the Colony;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council strongly recommends a Committee be set up immediately to consider all the factors leading to present and past disputes and an examination of the present cost of production prices and profits to determine whether

whether the sugar industry can afford increased wages and better working and living conditions for sugar workers;

• AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforementioned Committee consider the desirability of abolishing the present plantation system of sugar-cane cultivation and substituting thereof a system of cooperative cane farming, the latter to be accomplished by the acquisition and distribution by Government of estate lands to sugar workers;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the investigation by the Committee the reports be submitted to the Legislative Council for consideration and action.