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.

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. Haope, C.H.C.
• the Attorney General, Mr. W.L. Hoanc,-C.H.G.
• the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. L.J. McDavid, C.B.E.
• C.V. Vight, 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.F. Debidin (Eastern Demerara)
• J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)
• Dr. G.M. Goncalves (Eastern Berbice)
• Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara)
• W.O.R. Kendall (New Amsterdam)
• C.A. McDoom (Nominated)
• W.T. Peters (Eastern 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 rationalize
and re-organize its productive resources in man-power, land
and machines towards increased food production so as to allevi-
ate the world food shortage and thereby overcome starvation,
necrosis 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 been 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 respon-
sible 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.