

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE COLONY OF NIGERIA, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PUBLIC OFFICES, AT 3 O'CLOCK P.M., ON WEDNESDAY, THE 28th MARCH, 1923.

PRESENT :

- The Honourable the Administrator, Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Moorhouse, C.M.G., D.S.O., etc.
 The Honourable the Secretary, Southern Provinces and Colony, Captain W. Buchanan Smith, M.C.,
 The Honourable the Deputy Treasurer, C. W. Leese, Esq.,
 The Honourable the Acting Commissioner of Lands, F. E. Knapp, Esq.,
 The Honourable Mr. E. O. Moore,
 The Honourable Mr. A. M. Harvey,
 The Honourable Dr. O. Obasa,
 The Honourable the Acting Director of the Medical and Sanitary Services, Dr. H. B. S. Montgomery.

ABSENT :

- His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G.
 The Honourable Mr. S. Waring.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Council held on the 31st January, 1923, as circulated to members, were confirmed.

OATHS.

Captain Walter Buchanan Smith, on appointment as Acting Secretary of the Southern Provinces and Colony, subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and took his seat as a Member of the Council.

PAPERS.

The Acting Secretary, Southern Provinces and Colony, laid the following papers on the table :—

- No. 1 of 1923.—Errata in the Annual Report on the Medical Research Institute for the year 1921.
 No. 2 of 1923.—Annual Report on the Public Works Department for the year 1921.
 No. 3 of 1923.—Annual Report by the Police Magistrates for the year 1922.
 No. 4 of 1923.—Annual Report on the Government Printing Department for the year 1922.

BILLS.

His Honour :—Before proceeding to the business of the day, I am asked by the Governor to express his regret that great pressure of work simultaneously with the arrival of Admiral Bentinck in H.M.S. "Lowestoft," has prevented His Excellency from attending this meeting which will be the last meeting of the Legislative Council to take place before His Excellency proceeds on leave. I share His Excellency's regret and would ask the indulgence of Honourable Members in his absence. With the permission of Honourable Members, I do not propose to take to-day the second reading of "The Revised Edition of the Ordinances Ordinance, 1922," which appears on the agenda, but to deal only with the Colony Supply Bill, which I would ask the Council to treat as an urgent measure, so that it may be taken through all its stages at this meeting. As this Bill is to provide funds for the services of the Colony in the coming financial year, I should be glad to hear any comments Honourable Members may wish to make on the Estimates presented with the Bill, before the motion is put to the Council that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow of the passage of the Bill through all its stages to-day.

His Honour :—The Honourable Member is right in his first assumption. The present procedure is the practice elsewhere and was introduced in order to bring Nigeria into line with other Colonies.

His Honour :—Has any other Honourable Member any questions to ask or comments to make on the Schedule ?

Clause 1 passed.

Clauses 2 to 4, the schedule, the preamble and the enacting clause were read and passed.

Title settled : " An Ordinance to provide for the Service of the Colony of Nigeria, for the year ending the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four."

On the motion of the Acting Secretary, Southern Provinces and Colony, seconded by the Deputy Treasurer, the Council resumed.

The Acting Secretary, Southern Provinces and Colony :—I move the third reading of the Bill entitled, " An Ordinance to provide for the Service of the Colony of Nigeria, for the year ending the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four."

The Deputy Treasurer seconded.

Motion put and carried. Bill read a third time accordingly.

Question put that the Bill do now pass.

Agreed to.

His Honour :—That, Gentlemen, concludes our business this afternoon. I declare the Council adjourned *sine die*.

The Acting Secretary, Southern Provinces and Colony:—I move the first reading of the Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to provide for the Service of the Colony of Nigeria, for the year ending the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four."

The Deputy Treasurer seconded.

Motion put and carried. Bill read a first time accordingly.

On the motion of the Acting Secretary, Southern Provinces and Colony, seconded by the Deputy Treasurer, the Standing Rules and Orders of the Council were suspended to the extent necessary to deal with the Bill as an urgent one.

The Acting Secretary, Southern Provinces and Colony:—I move the second reading of the Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to provide for the Service of the Colony of Nigeria, for the year ending the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four."

The Deputy Treasurer seconded.

Motion put and carried. Bill read a second time accordingly.

On the motion of the Acting Secretary, Southern Provinces and Colony, seconded by the Deputy Treasurer, the Council resolved itself into Committee and proceeded to the consideration and discussion of the Bill, clause by clause.

Clause 1 read.

His Honour:—Before putting the question to the Council that clause 1 stand part of the Bill, I would invite Honourable Members to turn, for the moment, to the Schedule, in which are set out the sums to be appropriated under the several Heads of Expenditure. If there is any item of expenditure in the Estimates, the provision in which an Honourable Member desires to alter or amend and such amendment is agreed to by the Council, the total of the Head as it appears in the Schedule, will be correspondingly affected.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Harvey:—I should like to take this opportunity of raising a question which arises on the general expenditure under Head 4 rather than upon any particular item in that Head. There have, I think, been instances recently of individuals who were suffering temporarily from mental derangement being very unsuitably accommodated, owing to the lack of any proper provision in the shape of special hospital wards for such cases. My present remarks apply particularly to Europeans but would be equally applicable to Africans of the better classes. I think I am right in saying that in such cases European patients have been detained in the Lagos prison. There is no separate accommodation for Europeans at Yaba. Other cases again have been dealt with in private hospitals, necessitating a police guard, obviously to the discomfort and possible danger of the other patients.

I hope that steps will be taken to provide some place or institution where such persons can be given suitable accommodation and proper medical treatment under the supervision of qualified attendants, and I should be glad to know that the Government has not lost sight of this, to my mind, important question.

His Honour:—The Honourable Member is quite correct in his statements, both as regards the Lunatic Asylum at Yaba, and the Lagos Prison; but I am able to assure him that Government has not lost sight of the need to which he has drawn attention: for the time being it is receiving consideration with the much wider question of providing a proper, up-to-date institution for mental cases generally.

The Honourable Mr. E. O. Moore:—With reference to item 4 of Head 1, is one District Officer working both the Epe and Ikorodu Districts, and if so, is the arrangement found to be satisfactory and not the cause of delay in hearing Court cases?

His Honour:—One District Officer is at present working both Districts. I have, however, noticed no delay or undue accumulation of cases, and the arrangement has been quite satisfactory in other respects. I hope further to facilitate the District Officer's movements by having a launch placed at his disposal.

The Honourable Dr. Obasa:—In item 8 of the Medical Head, there is provision for five Medical Officers. Are they African doctors and are there actually five now in Government service?

The Honourable the Acting Director of Medical and Sanitary Services:—This provision is for African Medical Officers. There are at present four, but the Government has recommended the appointment of an applicant for the fifth vacancy.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Harvey:—I notice that in item 6 of the Miscellaneous Head, a saving of £30 is effected in respect of funeral expenses which, according to the memorandum circulated with the Estimates, are now treated as a charge upon the estate of deceased Officers. Possibly this procedure has been adopted because it obtains in other Crown Colonies. If, on the other hand, it is merely for the sake of economy, I do not, in view of the very small sum involved, recommend it.