

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Wednesday, 19th August, 1942.*

The Council met at 12 noon, His Excellency the Governor, Sir GORDON LETHEM, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

### PRESENT:

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,  
Mr. G. D. Owen, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Attorney-General,  
Mr. E. O. Pretheroe, M.C., K.C.

The Hon. F. Dias, O.B.E., (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo, O.B.E., (Eastern Berbice).

The Hon. E. G. Woolford, K.C., (New Amsterdam).

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, C.B.E., Colonial Treasurer.

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

The Hon. W. A. D'Andrade, O.B.E., Comptroller of Customs.

The Hon. M. B. Laing, O.B.E., Commissioner of Local Government.

The Hon. G. O. Case, Consulting Engineer.

The Hon. L. G. Crease, Director of Education.

The Hon. Percy C. Wight, O.B.E. (Georgetown Central).

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves, O.B.E., (Georgetown South).

The Hon. J. I. deAguiar (Central Demerara).

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

The Hon. H. C. Humphrys, K.C. (Eastern Demerara).

The Hon. C. R. Jacob (North-Western District).

The Hon. A. G. King (Demerara River).

The Hon. J. W. Jackson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. F. A. Mackey, (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. C. V. Wight (Western Essequibo).

The Clerk read prayers.

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

THE PRESIDENT: It is proposed to move the suspension of the Standing Orders in order that I proceed to the presentation of an Honour.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. G. D. Owen): I move that the Standing Orders of the Council be suspended.

Mr. Dias seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Standing Orders suspended.

### PRESENTATION.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, before we proceed to the business of the Council, it is my privilege and very great pleasure to present on behalf of His Majesty the King the Insignia of a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in accordance with the award made on January 1st, 1942, to the Honourable E. F. McDavid, formerly M. B. E., Colonial Treasurer of this Colony. I shall read the grant of the Honour—

GEORGE R. I.

GEORGE THE SIXTH, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, and Sovereign of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, to our trusty and well-beloved Edwin Frank McDavid, Esquire, Member of Our said Most Excellent Order.

GREETING.

WHEREAS, We have thought fit to nominate and appoint you to be an Additional Commander of the Civil Division of Our said Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, We do by these presents grant unto you the Dignity of an Additional Commander of Our said Order and hereby authorise you to have, hold and enjoy the said Dignity and Rank of an Additional Commander of Our aforesaid Order together with all and singular the privileges thereunto belonging or appertaining.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's under Our Sign Manual and the Seal of Our said Order, this First day of January, 1942, in the Sixth year of Our Re'ign.

By the Sovereign's Command,

(signed) Mary R.  
Grand Master.

Grant of the Dignity of an Additional Commander of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire to Edwin Frank McDavid, Esquire, M. B. E.

Mr. McDavid commenced his service under Government in this Colony more than twenty-two years ago, and ability has carried him to his appointment in 1935 as Colonial Treasurer of this Colony. He discharged not only the duties of that office but many other substantive services to this Colony. In 1933 he was appointed a Member of this Most Excellent Order and since then, by the outstanding competence, integrity and the devotion he has brought to bear on financial problems of the Colony as well as numerous other public services, he has earned this present promotion in the Order with which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to honour him.

Mr. McDavid is moreover not only an able public servant but a man of fine strength of character, (applause). He is a son of British Guiana, and the Colony has reason to be proud of him (applause). (Investing with the Insignia of Dignity and Rank). Mr. McDavid, I am extremely happy, officially as well

as personally, to be able to bestow this honour upon you on behalf of His Majesty (applause).

We will now proceed to the business as in the Order Paper.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 18th March, 1942, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REFUND OF TEMPORARY SALARY INCREASES.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) communicated the following Messages from His Excellency the Governor to the Council :—

MESSAGE No. 13.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The Council is invited to approve of the sum of \$70,471.13 being provided on Supplementary Estimate to cover the refund of certain temporary salary increases which were withheld from Civil Servants and School Teachers in 1922 owing to the exigencies of the Colony's financial position at that time.

2. The temporary increases voted the Combined Court for Civil Servants in the 1922 Estimates were intended to meet the increase in the cost of living which continued as an aftermath of the 1914-18 War, and as such formed an appreciable part of the salaries of the Civil Service at that period. Full details were furnished in an Appendix to the 1922 Estimates, a fixed amount being allocated to each officer on a definite scale.

3. Early in 1922, however, His Excellency Sir Wilfred Collet, anticipating that the revenues for the year would fall considerably below the budget expectations (an anticipation which was subsequently justified), notified Civil Servants that, commencing from 1st February, 1922, a reduction would be made in the rate of temporary increases voted by the Combined Court, an exception being made in the case of salaries not exceeding \$480 per annum. A similar reduction was applied to the salaries of certain Head Teachers, numbering about 100.

4. At the same time, a definite promise was made by Sir Wilfred Collet to refund the amounts deducted either before the end of the year, "if the finances of the Colony recovered so as to justify it," or later, "if circumstances allowed," the latter undertaking being confirmed by His Excellency in the Combined Court

in December of the same year.\* This undertaking both the Civil Service and Head Teachers accepted at the time in good faith and with full confidence that it would be honoured in due course.

5. The deterioration in the Colony's financial position which followed swiftly thereafter made it impossible however for the Government to redeem Sir Wilfred's promise; but in 1924 † His Excellency Sir Graeme Thomson, who had succeeded Sir Wilfred Collet as Administrator of the Colony, renewed this pledge in the Combined Court, with an assurance that the salary reductions made in 1922 would be regarded as a first charge against the Colony's surplus revenue balance as soon as the Colony's Reserve Fund had reached the prescribed limit of half a million dollars.

6. The first opportunity of honouring this obligation seemed to present itself in 1938, at the commencement of which year the colony's surplus revenue balance amounted to just over \$1,000,000, but the Secretary of State for the Colonies with whom the matter was taken up indicated in the course of his reply that while fully appreciating the importance of keeping faith with the Public Service he did not think it could reasonably be argued that the Colony had in fact attained a reserve fund of \$500,000 since its liability to H.M. Government for loans in aid of administration amounted at that date to over £500,000. With the extinguishment of this liability under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940, it has now been possible for the Secretary of State to agree to the Council being asked to approve of this 20-year-old deferred liability being met from the Colony's current surplus revenue balance which, owing to fortuitous circumstances, reached a total of \$2,140,000 at the commencement of this year.

GORDON LETHEM,  
Governor.

17th August, 1942.

\*See Hansard of 7th December, 1922.  
†See Hansard of 16th December, 1924.

#### BULK PURCHASE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

##### MESSAGE NO. 9.

Honourable Members of Council,

Honourable Members are already aware from the announcements which have been made at meetings of the Finance Committee that owing to the exigencies of the War and particularly its spread to this hemisphere, bulk purchase and importation by the Government of a number of essential commodities has become advisable and, in fact, unavoidable. While it is the case that normal trade continues with Canada in some imported commodities, practically all purchases from the United States of America must now be made in bulk on Government account.

2. By virtue of regulation 5 (c) of the Defence (Commodity Control Board) Regulations, 1942, the control of bulk purchases on Government account of essential commodities vests in the Commodity Control Board which has to be provided with substantial financial resources

in order to carry out these operations. While the Board will distribute supplies to merchants solely on a cash basis it may have to pay out in advance large sums before the value of the goods distributed is recovered. On the other hand, it is possible that in a number of cases distribution will take place before the actual cost of the goods supplied has been met or can be ascertained, and, apart from any question of subsidization by the deliberate distribution of goods below cost of supply, the scheme of bulk purchasing involves the acceptance of a financial obligation by Government of unascertainable proportions.

3 It is proposed that the Commodity Control Board should be provided with a working account for bulk purchases to a maximum amount of \$1,000,000 to be financed either by way of bank overdrafts or by direct Treasury advances as may be found most convenient. I accordingly invite the Council to approve of the necessary financial arrangements.

GORDON LETHEM,  
Governor.

8th August, 1942.

#### SUBSIDIZATION OF IMPORTED COMMODITIES.

##### MESSAGE No. 14.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The Council is aware that, in pursuance of the Government's policy to stabilize as far as possible the cost of living, it has become necessary to subsidize the purchase of essential imported commodities vital to the life of the community.

2. Honourable Members have been consulted and generally expressed their concurrence with the action taken by the Government with respect to the subsidization of certain specified commodities namely, Flour, Cornmeal, Condensed Milk, Kerosene Oil, Diesel and Gas Oils, at an estimated cost of approximately \$48,000 per month. The intention has been to apply subsidies in order to "peg" prices as far as may be possible and advisable, having regard to the fluctuating cost of supplies and other relevant factors. Subsidies are at present continuing in respect of all the abovementioned commodities with the exception of Kerosene Oil, as to which, however, the waiver of duty still continues, as also for Sugar.

3. It may become desirable to subsidize commodities other than those referred to above and, should the necessity to do so arise, Honourable Members will be informed before action is taken by the Government. The action taken has been provisional and continuance is a matter of important economic policy.

4. Where supplies obtained by the Commodity Control Board by bulk purchase on Government account can be distributed for sale at prices yielding a profit to the Board, the amount of such profit will be taken in reduction of the general cost of subsidization.

5. I accordingly invite the Council to approve of the appropriation from surplus balances of such sum not exceeding \$300,000 as may be

necessary to meet the cost of subsidization of imported commodities during the current year. Before 1943 the whole question will be reconsidered.

GORDON LETHEM,  
Governor.

18th August, 1942.

#### URGENT SEA DEFENCE WORKS.

Mr. Case (Consulting Engineer) communicated the following Message:—

#### MESSAGE No. 10.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

At a recent Special Meeting of the Sea Defence Board a comprehensive report dated 2nd July, 1942, by the Consulting Engineer to the Public Works Department on Sea Defence Works throughout the Colony was given careful consideration. The Report indicates that owing to changes in the foreshore and sea bed level, erosion and breaching of defences, certain works are urgently necessary to obviate more extensive damage to existing structures and cultivated lands, and the consequential outlay of large sums on repairing and replacing protective walls and dams. The Consulting Engineer further reports that the situation has been aggravated by difficulties in obtaining essential supplies of steel, cement, sheet piling and timber.

The total estimated capital expenditure on the works now recommended is \$72,888 as shown in the Schedule appended hereto and in view of the urgency of the situation the Sea Defence Board recommend that the Consulting Engineer's proposals should be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

The matter has been considered by the Executive Council who advised that in addition to the expenditure authorised in the current year's estimates, a sum of \$20,000 be provided at once (and a further sum, the amount of which can better be assessed in October) to enable such portion of the extra works as can be carried out this year to be executed. Honourable Members are accordingly invited to approve of supplementary provision of \$20,000 for the purpose indicated.

GORDON LETHEM,  
Governor.

11th August, 1942.

#### SCHEDULE.

East Coast...	\$ 7,500
Corentyne Coast	34,998
Essequebo Coast	9,000
Wakenaam	3,240
Leguan	18,150
	\$ 72,888

#### CONTRIBUTION TO W. I. TRADE COMMISSIONER'S SERVICE.

The Colonial Secretary communicated the following Message:—

#### MESSAGE No. 11.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

Honourable Members will recall that this Colony joined the West Indian Trade Commissioner's service in 1937 with an annual contribution of £300 per annum subject to review in 1939.

2. At the close of the two-year period the Chambers of Commerce and the Sugar Producers' Association were consulted and it was decided to discontinue participation.

3. Although receiving nonmonetary assistance from this Colony during 1940, the Trade Commissioner continued to promote the interests of British Guiana whenever possible.

4. In 1941, at a conference held in Jamaica of representatives of the Sugar Producers in the West Indies, the question of the necessity for trade representation of the West Indies in Canada was brought up and it was decided that, having regard to the increase in trade with Canada resulting from the war, representation should be made to Government to rejoin the Service. The Colony of Jamaica has rejoined the Service, and British Guiana is now the only colony of the Caribbean colonies not participating.

5. The matter was considered by the Executive Council who unanimously advised that the Colony should rejoin. It was considered that the services of the Trade Commissioner would be particularly valuable at the present time in connection with securing imports.

6. Council is accordingly invited to approve of the payment of £150 in respect of the remainder of this year. The necessary provision for 1943 will be included in the Draft Estimates for that year.

GORDON LETHEM,  
Governor.

15th August, 1942.

#### GRANTS IN AID OF AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND COMPETITIONS.

Professor Dash (Director of Agriculture) communicated the following Message:—

#### MESSAGE NO. 12.

Honourable Members of Legislative Council,

Honourable Members will recollect the note which was circulated to them on the subject of competitions in connexion with the "Grow More Food" Campaign regarding a proposal to expend a sum of \$2,000 on prizes. Consideration of the matter was deferred by the Finance Committee of Legislative Council as certain members had not sent in their replies. All replies have since been received, and in view of the difference of opinion expressed by members it has been decided that the matter should be placed before the Legislative Council for discussion.

Honourable Members are aware that acute shipping shortage is imposing further restrictions on supplies from abroad. For this reason, therefore, a major problem in this "Grow More

Food" Campaign is that of impressing on the farmer the necessity for sustained and vigorous effort in the all-important matter of production, especially as marketing facilities have been substantially improved and will be improved still further.

Various projects, having for their object the maintenance and further stimulation of interest in agricultural endeavour, have been proposed by the Department of Agriculture and considered by the Department's Food Production Committee. Of these proposals, one which obtained the full support of the Committee was agricultural and livestock competitions on a Colony-wide scale. It is felt that these would do much to influence the total effort both in regard to quantity and quality of produce. Undoubtedly, they provide an excellent means of spreading agricultural education where it is most needed, that is, on the land.

A comprehensive list of these competitions has been drawn up and includes every type of production including stock—cattle, pigs, poultry. The total number of prizes proposed is 209 and the outlay involved is approximately \$2,000 which includes cost of posters, leaflets and other forms of propaganda.

Honourable Members are therefore invited to approve of an additional sum of \$2,000 being included in a schedule of additional provision for 1942 under Head III—Agriculture, sub-head II "Grants in aid of Agricultural Associations, Exhibitions and Competitions,"—in order to encourage production of agricultural products and livestock by the award of prizes.

GORDON LETHEM,  
Governor.

15th August, 1942.

**THE PRESIDENT:** There is one which should have been added, and that is the Rubber Agreement with the United States of America which I had announced here. Later, that Agreement will be laid on the table.

#### THE NEW CONSTITUTION

Addressing the Council, the President said:—

Hon. Members of this Council:—I do not propose to detain you for more than a very few minutes with remarks from the Chair this morning. I regard this as a purely business meeting called to clear off a certain amount of outstanding business before I meet, as I anticipate, Members of the Council under the new Constitution in accordance with a resolution of January last. I had myself hoped that the change yet envisaged could have been made

effective much earlier and in fact that the necessary action, the preparation of the new Order in Council, would have been put through in time for a later meeting of this Legislative Council with the new composition about the middle of the year. For that reason I deferred calling a meeting of this Council until this date. There has not been, however, any particularly urgent legislative business to be put before the Council, but there has been and is, however, a certain amount of financial business of which hon. Members are aware, which we should clear off now, and the opportunity is taken to-day to present certain minor Bills which will be convenient to deal with at this time.

I have just said that the new Order in Council affecting the new composition of the Council is being prepared and in accordance with our resolution of January last. Though I have known by telegraphic communication with the Secretary of State that action is proceeding, I did not receive specific information until late in July that the amendments have been made, as we have requested for a specific objective—eliminating all of the Official Members of this Council except three and giving the Governor power to nominate two further Unofficial Members. The draughtsman to the Privy Council has taken the opportunity to clarify and amend the phraseology in some articles of the Order, such as the titles of offices which are out of date. I have requested the Secretary of State, however, to keep such other amendments down to the minimum so that there should be no delay over the putting through of the new Order in the essential points. I have not to date received replies to my telegrams of the third week in July, but I certainly anticipate that we should receive the Order very shortly and proceed to that new composition of the Council. Hon. Members will appreciate not only the handicap of communication at this date but also the extreme pressure of work

on the machinery of Government in London.

#### COLONY'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

I said that this meeting has been called very largely to finish off certain financial business. The extreme tempo at which the Government machine has had to work these few months and the necessity for urgent action by Government from time to time has made it extremely difficult for myself and the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer to keep full pace with the question as to how the financial position of the Colony may be affected, but I have attempted with the Colonial Treasurer to make a tentative estimate of what our position is at the moment, and we have done it on the most conservative basis. It is quite reasonably satisfactory. If hon. Members remember, we ended last year with a surplus approaching \$2,500,000. We had estimated in December, 1941, for a comfortably balanced budget as between recurrent expenditure and recurrent revenue—revenue, \$7,730,000 and expenditure, \$7,100,000—but we have allowed for an extraordinary special expenditure of, I think, \$767,000 which would be paid for out of that anticipated surplus leaving us with a substantial anticipated balance of \$1,600,000 at the end of 1942. In actual fact had we not to face an expenditure of \$130,000 odd on purely emergency war measures of an advanced kind, the 1942 budget would have been balanced with recurrent or ordinary revenue covering recurrent expenditure as well as special and capital expenditure.

Since that date we have had to realize, with the revolutionary change in conditions brought about by the vast extension of the War in 1942 and all the problems of supply which followed, that we must face a very heavy further special expenditure to meet all these difficulties which we certainly could not have foreseen. We are fortunate, therefore, in having a surplus available and, therefore, not

requiring to turn to the Imperial Government for every item. In actual fact, we have committed ourselves actually or provisionally to a special expenditure of just over a million dollars. To be exact it is \$1,003,000. In addition to that, we have to face a probable fall in revenue from Customs on imports, which we may put at half a million dollars or even more. I put it at the extreme outside figure of three-quarters of a million.

If that were the whole picture it might give us no serious concern, even though our surplus can carry on comfortably, but it is not the whole picture and the favourable balancing features are as follows:—Revenue has kept up very well and for the first half of the year is actually about \$500,000 above estimate. This included Customs receipts which kept up very well indeed. For the latter period of the year we anticipate getting over and above estimate about \$400,000 from indirect tax and perhaps more. That is a conservative figure. In effect, therefore, we can expect a revenue for 1942 substantially above estimate by \$150,000 at least, and probably a good deal more. In addition to that we will make savings of about \$200,000 on special capital expenditure on public works that we cannot carry out owing to priority of certain buildings and so on, and the shortage and difficulties of material.

So you see the extra expenditure of \$1,000,000 is more than covered by increases in revenue and by savings on works that we had expected to do; but we still have to face that potential drop in revenue on Customs receipts, which I put at the outside figure of three-quarters of a million. That being taken from our surplus of nearly two and a half million leaves us with the same sum as we had estimated for in the last budget at 31st December, 1941, the sum of \$1,600,000. To sum up, therefore, in spite of our being provisionally committed to a special expenditure of \$1,003,000 we should

be able to finish the year with a deficit of not more than \$800,000 and, therefore, end 1942 with yet over a million and a half dollars in hand, in effect up to the estimate we made in December, 1941. This is a position which would of course have appeared amazingly satisfactory in any of our recent budgets. It means we shall have maintained our balance as originally estimated last year at 31st December, 1941, when we balanced for a half million dollars, and be very much better than the position on the 31st December, 1940, when our balance was only \$300,000.

I would repeat that these figures are put forward very tentatively and on a most conservative basis. The Treasurer and I put them forward with the utmost reserve in view of the impossibility of exact estimation, but I have thought it better to attempt some such figuration for the information of hon. Members and also that we should feel, as I feel myself, that we have good reason to go forward with necessary and essential expenditure in the very difficult circumstances in which we now find ourselves, without having to depend or to go and beg the Imperial Government.

#### EXTRA SPECIAL & MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

I said we are actually provisionally committed to extra special expenditure of \$1,300,000. The items of which that is composed are as follows:—

Miscellaneous Supplementary Estimates, \$383,000—already known and approved by Unofficial Members of the Council operating as a Finance Committee.

War Bonus to Civil Servants—about \$100,000.

Another bonus dating back to 1922 which was withheld from Government Servants and argued very much in intervening years as a very definite obligation on Government to pay. We have now persuaded the Secretary of State that payment should be made and hon. Members are asked to agree to a figure of \$70,000.

A potential \$150,000 expenditure on Colonial Emergency Votes, military and civil defences, etc., which it is impossible to calculate.

May I say just a word on that as regards military expenditure. The Im-

perial Government is shouldering a very great deal of the burden in that respect. Actually, as we have been going recently, the understanding is about three-quarters of the extra expenditure above normal or three to one of the local expenditure. The new arrangement is now under discussion between the Secretary of State and myself whereby the Imperial Government might leave us with only 25 per cent. over our normal pre-war expenditure to face. That will be advantageous to us.

#### RESERVE FOR SUBSIDIZATION.

The last item is a Reserve for subsidization of essential commodities which has been estimated by the hon. Treasurer at \$300,000 for the rest of the year, or rather for the whole year up to the end of December, 1942. That is a tentative and provisional obligation, and it is a matter of policy as to whether, and how long, and within what limits we should continue that expenditure and what application. The objective that we should bear in mind is the best general advantage to the economics of the Colony as a whole.

There is another factor as to which we cannot be precise at all, that is the degree to which we can look to the Imperial Government for assistance with the expenditure on special war measures. We have got the general assurance of the Imperial Government to stand behind us in an imperative request to expand our rice production. Hon. Members have provided an advance of \$400,000 to bring fresh lands under cultivation so as to increase the possible acreage for rice-growing. We have done that in the belief that the work done would come within the framework of those large drainage schemes which we hope in due time to have financed from England under the Colonial Development Welfare Act.

#### BULK PURCHASES FROM U.S.A.

There is the further matter of bulk purchases from America. A few weeks

ago we appeared to have come to a quite definite conclusion that our essential imports, or most of them, would have to come either direct from or at least through the U.S.A. and that a precondition of that was that they were to be by bulk purchases and taken on Government account. As it would have been impossible to know the costs before distribution and sale—in fact as regards certain things, we were told that we would have to procure blindly and not to expect to get the bill until, perhaps, after the War and that the amount would be a considerable commitment—it was envisaged that this scheme would be a joint one for the whole of the British Colonies in this part of the world, financed where necessary by the Imperial Government. That decision has not been brought fully into effect.

In actual facts, the Canadian suppliers have continued to supply direct and through the ordinary channels and to find shipping. Government has not thought it fit as yet to interfere with that arrangement, and with that understanding we are going on and it would be necessary to face bulk purchases in which we need not lose. We are, therefore, quite unable to foresee anything exact in this matter, but we have the general assurance that the Imperial Government will see it through if and when it may be necessary. The Council is being asked to vote the necessary amount for that purpose—an advance of a million dollars (\$1,000,000) to enable the Commodities Control to make bulk purchases where that is in effect necessary.

#### RICE FARMERS' TENANCY COMMITTEE.

Passing from finance, I do not think there are many other matters on which I need comment to-day, but I may take this opportunity to say that I have just received an official copy of the report of the Rice Farmers' (Terms of Tenancy, etc.) Committee. It is a most interesting document. I have read it

with very great interest and, perhaps, I may quote an important paragraph. I should explain that the Committee divided the classes of tenants, the whole of the rice farmers, into eight. The paragraph reads:—

There is no security of tenure in classes A, B, C, D, E, F and G. The tenant, even though he is a good tenant, does not know or, at any rate, is uncertain whether he will be permitted to occupy the land the subsequent year. There is security of tenure in class H, that is to say at Auchlyne, Crentyne, Berbice.

Class H comprises a single property which happens to be the property of the Church of Scotland Presbytery of British Guiana. I am assuming that Government Estates, such as Anna Regina, Windsor Forest, where I know there is good security of tenure, come into that class or category. This is a sorry picture of conditions in an industry which is, and is to be still more, of vital importance to this Colony. Security of tenure and access to land are the first essentials in any agricultural country, and special measures are necessary where a large number of the population are small holders and where the great bulk of producers are peasants or small farmers. This position must be remedied. The Committee has put up twenty-nine recommendations in detail, generally dealing with the limitations of the conditions under which a defaulting tenant might be evicted from the land, the reciprocal obligations of landlords and tenants and the definition of these as far as possible, questions of landlords, rents and fees and the whole question of credit through the Co-operative Loan Banks. That report will come before us in due course and may need a considerable deal of action. Perhaps I may pass on to local food production.

#### LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

The steps taken to promote local food production are, I think, well known to Members of Council by regular circulation of papers to Council. The movement has received a good reception in principle and a great deal

of public approbation, but we shall have to wait a bit yet to see how soon or when or if there would be a substantial step up in our food production. I should not forget to comment that even before this further drive was commenced it had been estimated by the Department of Agriculture that 2,000 more acres of land than normally before the War had been brought under food production since 1939.

There are of course a number of obstacles to be encountered and got over. I confess I feel no way discouraged by any of these, because largely and almost particularly I do not look on this movement as merely one of war emergency or war crisis but as one of long view policy as well. It is not only the increased production of foodstuffs at which we should aim, but the inculcation and development of a way of life for a great mass of our people. It may not mean prosperity or an increase in actual cash wealth of the Colony, deemed in terms of dollars and cents, and we have to look elsewhere for that. It may mean a simplification of standards in the science of living in the home, and I hope it will mean also a development of the communal spirit, but I do believe it may well mean greater health and happiness, and I do claim to be able to speak with some knowledge and feeling as I have seen it in several parts of the world and even lived it.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE.

Another matter I would like to mention is that of social welfare. Hon. Members are aware of the setting up of a Social Welfare Committee under the chairmanship for the time being of His Honour the Chief Justice, to whom I am immensely obligated for taking charge of the Committee and helping us when senior officers, kept as they are busily engaged, find it difficult to tackle so much new work. This Committee will go through and thresh out all the various schemes, for social welfare which have been put up, and advise Govern-

ment on any such schemes, and I hope they would bear in mind the improving of the amenities of rural life which require to be so much better, so that we can put them up wide support in applications for assistance under the Development and Welfare Act.

#### DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES.

I take this opportunity to state before Council what Development and Welfare Schemes have been approved by the Secretary of State since our last meeting on March 18. I should have said that social welfare would receive, as intended, its executive machinery through the Local Government administration, for social welfare is no longer a matter of charitable organization but needs not only co-ordination but definite machinery to carry through the schemes. The Development and Welfare Schemes approved by the Secretary of State since our last meeting are—

Department.	Nature of Scheme.	Period of Scheme.	Amount
			£
Agriculture	Development of Rice Experiment Station ...		1,000
	Establishment of Marketing Depots ...		2,000
Education	Establishment of a Community Centre at Beterverwagting Primary School East Coast, Demerara ...	5 years	1,103
Medical	Facilities for training Sanitary Inspectors ...	2 years	1,920
	Appointment of Lady Health Officer ...	5 years	5,900
	Appointment of School Medical Officer ...	5 years	3,900
Post Office	Improvement of local broadcasting (Half loan, half grant) ...		2,600
	Provision of communal wireless receivers ... (In addition, a grant of £375 per annum for 5 years for maintenance has been approved by the Secretary of State, a like sum will be provided annually by the Colony for a similar period)		3,700
Public Works	River Surveys ...	5 years	13,600

The last, as hon. Members know, is a long distance project. I would draw particular attention to the first, the development of rice experimentation,

for that is an immediate prospect and I gather may very well result in a substantial cheapening of the cost of production of rice.

#### CIVIL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT.

There is one other matter touching the Government Service I would like to mention. I have said more than once from this Chair that I hope at some time to be able to bring to effect substantial improvement in the conditions of service, methods of appointment, promotion, remuneration, and so on, in the subordinate ranks of the Government Service, by substantial basic improvement rather than merely by way of temporary bonus for indefinite periods after the War. To carry this through the whole Government Service is an extensive piece of work and means inevitable delays. It demands years to do that. I have thought it better to attempt it department after department, and I propose to begin with the Post Office Department. I understand that two Members of this Council will collaborate with the Postmaster-General in going through and checking a scheme he has submitted to me.

In concluding these remarks I would like to say that since our last meeting I have made a very considerable and special endeavour to see personally as much of the Colony as I can within reasonable reach of Georgetown, and I have been able to do that and even to visit Brazil, Surinam, Potaro and to make a second visit to the Rupununi. I confess I have found it in these later weeks exceedingly difficult to make these touring visits without serious interruption of important work at headquarters. But on the other hand I have already felt that the knowledge obtained is quite invaluable to me in some estimation of the devastatingly difficult problems that face us in this Colony. In particular, recent travels during the rainy season and in the period of floods have given me a very lively impression of the drainage and

irrigation problems, so much so that I wish to have at an early date a round-the-table conference with Unofficial Members on the whole question and as to immediate action.

#### DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES.

The present position is as follows: I am pressing the Secretary of State very hard for an early decision on the financing of the Bonasika-Boerasirie scheme, which has so very many and varied advantages to recommend it. But in the light of what I have seen and am beginning to realize, I would wish to make a complete review of the policy, general and financial, as touching the prosecution of the comprehensive schemes put up by the Consulting Engineer for the whole of the coast lands. My feeling is that we have comprehensive and ideal schemes for the whole of the coast lands, but comprehensive and ideal as these schemes may be and quite apart from the fact that many of them are quite uneconomic, it is going to take a period of years before we get any, not to say all, of them put through. That being so, I do feel that there are very clamant needs for improvement in drainage in many areas to be met, if we are going to have much success with our project of growing more food and even, perhaps, more rice.

My present inclination after discussion with hon. Members is to approach this Council in the first place, though possibly ultimately the Imperial Government, as it seems to me an absolute and essential capital need for which to ask for funds, for provision of funds to go on with much less ambitious local schemes in all parts of the Colony where we can get immediate results rather than to await the prosecution of the ideal schemes one by one. I have discussed this aspect of the matter with the Consulting Engineer who has told me that we may very profitably be able to spend about \$150,000 in six months or \$300,000 in a year on local schemes of that kind throughout the Colony.

There are conditions, however, from an agricultural point of view that we must be assured of getting fresh extra production of the said crops and from the engineering point of view that whatever we do should fit into the framework of the large and comprehensive schemes for the coast lands which will cost ultimately millions of dollars. For such objectives I should have no hesitation whatever in pressing for free money without repayment but, of course, on condition that we make proper arrangements for maintenance afterwards.

May I say one word about the accelerated tempo of Government business. This is throwing an increasingly trying burden on the key officers of Government, particularly the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Local Government and, I may say, myself. I think we are all faced with the necessity of trying to discriminate between doing some of the important things and of throwing overboard for the present quite a number of others. As it is, a great deal of our time is taken up in the merest trivial details which have to be carried through somehow from day to day. I feel the burden very much myself and, I know, the other officers do too. I am sure I can expect the utmost co-operation of this Council in putting first things first.

I have said the problems of this Colony, as I see them from reading of papers and still more from travelling, are devastatingly difficult. I believe they cannot be solved in a few weeks or a few months. I said something to this effect in my first address to Council on December 3 before the extension of the War and when things were vastly easier than they are now, and that is still more borne in on me because of that reading and travel and I am inclined to form some very strong and definite opinions which, I think, would be quite premature to inflict on you at this date. The one thing that no one will deny is that there is an immense amount to do.

## PAPERS LAID.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following reports and documents :—

Report of the Commissioner of Labour and Local Government for the year 1941.

Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the year 1941.

Report of the Forest Department for the year 1941.

Report of the Director of Education for the year 1941.

Report of the Commissioner of Income Tax for the year 1941.

Report of the Superintendent of Prisons for the year 1941.

Report on the Government Produce Depôt for the period 1st November, 1940, to 31st December, 1941.

Report of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board for the period 1st October, 1941, to 31st March, 1942.

Report of the Directors of the Widows and Orphans' Fund for the year 1941.

Report of the Co-operative Credit Banks Board for 1941, on the Co-operative Credit Banks established in the Colony.

Report on the accounts and administration of the Mitchell Trust Fund for the year 1941.

Report of the Registrar of Trade Unions for the year 1941.

Twenty-second Annual Report of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Seventeenth Annual Report 1940-1941 of the Imperial Forestry Institute, University of Oxford.

Annual Report of the Director of the Imperial Institute for the year 1941.

Fifty-first Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown, for the year 1941.

Report of the Administrators of the Trotman Trust Fund for the year 1941.

Statement of Loans from voted expenditure written off during the year ended 31st December, 1941.

Letter from Captain G. H. Smellie on behalf of Mrs. T. T. Smellie expressing thanks to Honourable Members for their expression of sympathy and regret on the occasion of the death of the Honourable T. T. Smellie.

Post Office (Identification of Illiterates) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Lighting Restriction) Regulations, 1942.

Post Office (Undeliverable Postal Packets) Regulations, 1942.

Parcel Postage Rates (Netherlands West Indies) Regulations, 1942.

Report of the New Widows and Orphans' Fund for the year 1941.

Parcel Postage Rates (His Majesty's Forces) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Commodity Control Board) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Mackenzie Area Lighting Control) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Amendment No. 3) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Restriction of Kite Flying) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Press Censorship) (Amendment) Regulations 1942.

Defence (Padi Price Control) (Amendment) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Restriction of Eviction of Rice Farmers) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Control of Travellers) (United States Air Base), Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Cinematograph) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Rice Control) (Amendment) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Constabulary Ordinance) (Amendment) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Military Prison) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Central Rice Committee) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Control of Travellers) (Amendment) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Restriction of Eviction of Rice Farmers) (Amendment) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Georgetown Emergency Precautions) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 1942.

Defence (Prædial Larceny) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Military Prison) (Amendment) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Amendment No. 5) Regulations, 1942.

Final statement of Supplementary expenditure for the year 1941, additional to that included in the schedule of additional provision for the year 1941 already passed by the Legislative Council.

Statement of supplementary expenditure which has occurred during the year 1941 and which has not been included in any previous schedules for the year 1941 and is now admitted as a charge to public funds under Colonial Regulation 265 (2).

First Schedule of additional provision for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1942.

Second Schedule of additional provision for the period 1st April to 30th June, 1942.

Agreement between the Government of British Guiana and the Rubber Reserve Company, a company incorporated under the laws of the United States of America and an Agency of the Government of the United States of America.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The report of the Education Adviser to the Comptroller of Colonial Development and Welfare is being printed and will be laid in the Council at an early date.

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

Notice was given of the introduction of the following Bills:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Appeals) Ordinance by extending the power of the Full Court of the Supreme Court to include the substitution of more severe sentences.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Prisons Ordinance by making provision for the appointment of prison visitors; and for purposes connected therewith.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to validate all marriages solemnised and all acts performed under the Marriage Ordinance by the District Commissioners of the Georgetown and East Bank Demerara District between the eighth day of March, 1939, and the first day of August, 1942.—(*The Attorney-General*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended the thirty-first day of December, 1941.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance 1940, with regard to the granting of certain loans to the Drainage and Irrigation Board and to the repayment thereof—*Mr. Mc David (Colonial Treasurer)*.

## FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1941.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** gave notice of the following motions:—

**THAT,** this Council approves the final statement of Supplementary expenditure for the year 1941, additional to that included in the schedules of additional provision for the year 1941, already passed by the Legislative Council

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1941.

**THAT,** this Council approves the statement of Supplementary expenditure which has occurred during the year 1941 and which has not been included in any previous schedules for the year 1941, and is now admitted as a charge to public funds under Colonial Regulation 265 (2).

## CONTRIBUTION TO W. I. TRADE COMMISSIONER'S SERVICE.

**THAT,** with reference to Governor's Message No. 11, dated 15th August, 1942, this Council approves of this Colony rejoining the West Indian Trade Commissioner's Service with an annual contribution of £300 per annum and of the payment of a sum of £150 in respect of the remainder of this year.

## FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1942.

**Mr. Mc DAVID (Colonial Treasurer)** gave notice of the following motions:—

**THAT,** this Council approves the first schedule of additional provision for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1942.

## SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1942.

**THAT,** this Council approves the second schedule of additional provision for the period 1st April to 30th June, 1942.

### REFUND OF TEMPORARY SALARY INCREASES.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 13, dated of 17th August, 1942, this Council approves of a sum of \$70,471.13 being provided on Supplementary Estimates for the current year to meet the refund of certain temporary salary increases which were withheld from civil servants and school teachers in 1922.

### BULK PURCHASE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 9, dated 8th August, 1942, this Council approves of the necessary financial arrangements being made to provide the Commodity Control Board with a working account for bulk purchases to an amount not exceeding \$1,000,000 either by way of bank overdrafts or by direct Treasury advances as may be found most convenient,

### SUBSIDIZATION OF IMPORTED COMMODITIES

THAT, with reference to the Governor's Message No. 14 of 18th August, 1942, this Council approves of the appropriation from surplus balances of such sum not exceeding \$300,000 as may be necessary to meet the cost of subsidization of imported commodities during the current year.

### IMPROVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) gave notice of the following motions :—

THAT, with reference to proposals, circulated to Members of the Legislative Council by direction of the Governor and approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for carrying out further improvements and development at the Government Estates, Anna Regina, Essequibo, this Council confirms approval of (a) the grant of \$8,186 from the Development Trust Fund to cover the cost of clearing and fencing 423 acres to provide additional pasturage and breaking down a further 180 acres of rice lands; and (b) Supplementary provision of \$2,000 on the 1942 Estimates for removing, re-erecting and furnishing a house on the front lands of the above-mentioned Estates.

### GRANTS IN AID OF AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND COMPETITIONS.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 12, dated 15th August, 1942, this Council approves of additional expenditure of \$2,000 from sub-head 11—"Grants in Aid of Agricultural Associations, Exhibitions and Competitions"—of Head III—Agriculture in the 1942 Estimates, being included in a schedule of additional provision for the current year to cover the cost of posters, leaflets, and other forms of

propaganda for the carrying out of agricultural competitions in the various districts of the Colony in order to encourage production of agricultural products and livestock by the award of prizes.

### URGENT SEA DEFENCE WORKS.

Mr. CASE (Consulting Engineer) gave notice of the following motion :—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 10, dated 11th August, 1942, this Council approves of supplementary provision in the 1942 Estimates of expenditure of \$20,000 to enable the execution in the current year of certain urgent sea defence works.

### UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

#### DAYLIGHT SAVING.

Mr. HUMPHRYS gave notice of the following motion :—

*Be it Resolved* :—That this Council respectfully requests Government to take all necessary steps as early as possible in order to effect daylight saving to the extent of one hour in every day.

#### MAGISTERIAL WORK IN GEORGETOWN.

Mr. GONSALVES gave notice of the following questions :—

1. Is Government satisfied that there has been an increase of work in the Magistrates' Courts, Georgetown and Providence, during the past year or longer?
2. If the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, does Government intend to appoint an additional Magistrate in order to cope with the work, if so, when?
3. What was the purpose of providing an additional Court room in Georgetown? If it was intended to be used as a third Court, when would it be so used?
4. How much money has been spent in building the Court room referred to in the preceding question?
5. Have the Magistrates in Georgetown made any complaints of the present congestion or accumulation of work?
6. Is Government aware that complaints are being made by litigants with regard to the long delays in the trial of cases as the result of the excessive amount of work which the present Magistrates are called upon to do?
7. Is the Honourable Attorney-General satisfied with the present arrangement whereby the Magistrates in Georgetown change over from civil to criminal work and *vice versa*, monthly?

#### PETITION.

Dr. SINGH laid on the table a petition from Charles Henry Cyrus, praying for assistance.

## ORDER OF THE DAY.

## RICE TRANSACTION.

Mr. JACOB asked and the Colonial Secretary laid over replies to the following questions :—

Q1. (Disallowed).

Q2. (Disallowed).

Q3. (Disallowed).

Q4. Is it a fact that the Firm of S. E. Lee & Co.,.....(Part of this question disallowed) supplied the Board with about 20,000 bags of rice as from 1st December, 1939, if not, what quantity of rice was actually supplied to the Board by this Firm, and what amount was paid by the Board to the Firm ?

A—(Part of question Disallowed). Please see replies to Question Nos. 5 & 6.

Q5. Is it a fact that this firm also sold in the open market at prices fixed by the Board for the sale of rice a large quantity of rice which the Board was unable to take over on account of infestation by weevils after the Board assumed full control of the rice industry ?

A—The answer is in the negative. In accordance with the provisions of regulation 26 of the Defence (Rice Control) Regulations, 1939, the Board purchased all the rice in the possession of the firm named on the coming into force of the Regulations.

Q6. How many bags of rice were purchased and the amounts paid to the 34 Licensed Rice Exporters, including Messrs. S. E. Lee & Co., when the Rice Marketing Board took control of the rice industry, on 1st December, 1939, each exporter separately ?

A—The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer to his precisely similar question No. 1 of Questions (No. 3) laid in Council on 5th December, 1940, in which he was informed that the information could not be disclosed.

Q7. Are the Income Tax Commissioners satisfied that the firm of S. E. Lee & Co., submitted correct returns of Income for the years 1939 and 1940 ?

A—Yes.

Q8. Whether the Income Tax Commissioners are satisfied or not, will the Government cause an enquiry to be made to ascertain what amount was paid by Messrs. S. E. Lee & Co., to the suppliers of the rice and what amount was received by the firm from the B. G. Rice Marketing Board for all the rice supplied to the Board, including empty bags ?

Q9. Will the Government cause a further enquiry to be made so as to ascertain to whom the surplus was paid from the rice transaction mentioned in Questions 4 & 5 ?

A 8 & 9—The answers are in the negative.

Q10. How many times the Hon. E. M. Walcott, Nominated Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, Governing Director and later Liquidator of Messrs. E. M. Walcott & Co., Ltd., was appointed a Member of the Rice Marketing Boards since 1932, giving the periods of his service, and the reasons why he resigned, or whether he was asked to resign in 1939, on account of the fact that his Company was licensed to export rice ?

A—The Honourable E. M. Walcott was originally appointed a member of the Rice Marketing Board in 1932 and relinquished his seat on appointment in August 1933 as a member of of the Advisory Committee to the Board established by Ordinance No. 21 of 1933. He resigned from the Advisory Committee in November, 1937.

Mr. Walcott was appointed a member of the Board on 23rd May, 1939, during the absence on leave of Mr. R. V. Evan Wong, On Mr. Wong's return to the Colony Mr. Walcott was appointed on 30th September, 1939, a member of the Board in an existing vacancy.

Mr. Walcott resigned from the Board on 21st November, 1939, for reasons of a personal nature which he stated in his letter of resignation. He was not asked by Government to resign.

Q11. (Disallowed).

Q12. What amounts were paid by the B. G. Rice Marketing Board for lightering rice from the various wharves to exporting vessels during 1939 and 1940, each month separately, and to whom were the amounts paid ?

A—Information with respect to the individual payments made by the Board cannot be made public

## BILLS—FIRST READING.

The following Bills were read the first time :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Constabulary Ordinance by providing that certain services outside the Force shall be counted as service for pension.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Militia Ordinance, Chapter 29, with respect to the payment of gratuities on death of members of the Band.—The Colonial Secretary.

Bills read the first time and motion moved for the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to enable both Bills to be taken through all their stages.

Question put, and agreed to.

Standing Rules and Orders suspended.

CONSTABULARY (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 1942.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : I move that the following Bill be read the second time—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Constabulary Ordinance by providing that certain services outside the Force shall be counted as service for pension

The object of the Bill is to preserve

the pension rights of the members of the Police Force who are serving now with His Majesty's Armed Forces. Similiar provision is made in the Pension Ordinance, Chapter 204, and this Bill is to bring the members of the Police Force into line with other Government Officers.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

The Council resumed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : With the consent of the Council I move that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

THE PRESIDENT : No objection is taken by hon. Members to the railroad-ing of this Bill and I propose to put the question "That this Bill be read a third time and passed"

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time.

#### MILITIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1942.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : I move that the following Bill be read the second time :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Militia Ordinance, Chapter 29, with respect to the payment of gratuities on death of members of the Band.

Not very long ago similar provision was made in regard to the other non-pensionable employees of Government, and it is only fair and reasonable that members of the Militia Band should benefit in the same way.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Mr. GONSALVES : I would like to know whether this is the carrying out of the request made more than once by members of the Militia Band for treatment similar to that accorded other members of the Service. Government had expressed the view that it was not practical to grant the prayer of the petition which had been submitted. I do not know whether this grants to them what they had asked for many years past.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : It depends on what the prayer of the petition was.

Mr. GONSALVES : The prayer was that they be given a pension and gratuity on retirement from the Service, and the answer given was that they were governed by a certain Ordinance on the Statute Book and Government did not propose to change the law.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : The hon. Member for Georgetown South (Mr. Gonsalves) anticipated me in what I had to say. The last time I raised the question I was told by the hon. Colonial Treasurer that to which the hon. Member made reference and that the men should allow matters to remain as they were because they obtained more benefit by that. I do not know whether this Ordinance was in the mind of the hon. Colonial Treasurer when he gave that answer to the question I raised. I do not think we need add that the hon. Colonial Treasurer seems to be unaware of the petition or of any question raised. Unfortunately I have not the Hansard at hand, but in a few minutes I will be able to refresh his memory as to what was raised and what answer was given. The men desired to be placed on the same footing as the men of the Police Force in respect of lump sum pension and gratuity. Do not let us wait for the men to die in the Service to do something as we are doing in the present Bill before the Council.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) : As my name has been freely mentioned, I may mention what my recollection is. The prayer of the petition was for pension with lump sum gratuity. At the time I pointed out it might be advantageous for them not to press for that, because the pensions to which they are now eligible under the Ordinance are more advantageous to them than if they came under the ordinary provisions governing employees of the same status and salaries in the Government Service. They are already better off in getting a fixed statutory pension under a Pension Ordinance of their own and will be ill-advised to raise any such question at the present time. This particular Bill does not cover that point. This gives gratuity on similar lines as the gratuity given to all Government Officers even those on the Unfixed Establishment. They are well-advised not to press too hard in regard to the other matter.

Mr. GONSALVES : The first request made was for treatment in the same way as members of the Police Force who enjoy pension and lump sum on retirement. It was pointed out, as the hon. Colonial Treasurer has done now, that they were in a better position under the existing Ordinance than if they were treated as Police Constables. The men are quite aware of that, but if they prefer the worse position it seems to me that it is up to them. The view of the men is that if on retirement they got a lump sum they would have something to start off their new life with rather than having to continue to play an instrument of some kind. That is really what they want to get the lump sum for. But Government is advised through the hon. Colonial Treasurer that it is not in their interest to ask for it and that is where the position stands.

THE PRESIDENT : I am not sure that the question raised is relevant to the question before the Council. I would suggest that we proceed with the Bill

now without prejudice to the question raised by the two hon. Members. If the Council is agreeable I propose to put the question for the second reading.

Mr. ELEAZAR : With reference to what the hon. Members said, I would like the Bill to stand over so as to incorporate what has been said in the Bill. The one Bill was railroaded so smoothly that when it was finished something came into my mind which, it might have been found possible to incorporate.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : Supposing someone dies in the interim? I see no harm in passing it now. Supposing between now and the next meeting of the Council a Bandsman dies, his people would suffer if the Bill is not passed.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : May I state to the hon. Member for Berbice River that perhaps he may let us get this done, as at least it will be something done. As the hon. Colonial Secretary has said, someone may die. I do not know if anyone died when the Bill was being drafted. Let us get on with this Bill, and then Government can consider the other points raised by the hon. Member for Georgetown South and myself. Perhaps another Bill may be placed before the new Council.

THE PRESIDENT : I think that will be a simple procedure.

Mr. ELEAZAR : After a little consideration I will not press it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

The Council resumed:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

THE PRESIDENT: With the consent of hon. Members I propose to go on with the motions in the Second Schedule, leaving the Bills for a little bit more notice.

FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE,  
1941.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move the following motion:—

That, this Council approves the final statement of Supplementary expenditure for the year 1941, additional to that included in the schedules of additional provision for the year 1941, already passed by the Legislative Council.

Copies have been laid on the table and hon. Members will see that the total is \$102,732.60. I would like to draw attention to the fact that five items, which I will refer to, total \$66,756. Two of those five items are on the first page. Under Agriculture, \$12,300 in connection with advances to Co-operative Credit Banks, and under Medical—Hospitals, etc., \$11,250 for dietary. The increased cost of supplies precluded Government from keeping the figure any lower than that. Over the page there is an item for £4,854 in respect of refunds of Income Tax. That is a token vote which cannot be controlled. On page 7 under Pensions and Gratuities there is an amount for \$11,499 due to officers retiring from or dying in the Service unexpectedly and not provided for when the Estimates were prepared. The final amount is on the last page under Colonial Emergency Measures, a sum of \$26,853. As I have stated before, these items were urgent

expenditure incurred eight months or more ago, and unless hon. Members want to deal with the schedule in Committee item by item I suggest that the motion be put to the Council without going into Committee, otherwise I would move that the Council go into Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: I think all of these matters have been before the Council, and the hon. Colonial Secretary's suggestion would expedite business. I therefore call upon him to move the adoption of the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the motion standing in my name be passed.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1941.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That, this Council approves the statement of Supplementary expenditure which has occurred during the year 1941 and which has not been included in any previous schedules for the year 1941 and is now admitted as a charge to public funds under Colonial Regulation 265 (2).

The total of this schedule is \$29,736.04 and the two principal items are— "Loss of stores at sea due to enemy action, \$21,529." Government does not insure goods coming out. This loss could not be foreseen and was not known until after the close of the year; and under Post Office on Page 2, "Cost of supplying stamps (Reserve Stock), \$4,255." The Secretary of State for the Colonies advised this Government to lay in a very large supply of stamps, and that is what this Council is now asked to vote. Unless hon. Members particularly want to debate any particular item, I would move that the motion be adopted and passed.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

THE PRESIDENT: These are items which could not get into the previous schedules. Hon. Members may take advantage of the hon. Colonial Secretary's suggestions and pass the motion for the adoption of those items. I will ask him to move the motion accordingly.

Mr. MACKEY: I would like to ask one question. I fully appreciate the fact that in normal times Government does not insure against the ordinary risks at sea. Surely in these days Government should seriously think of taking out War Risk Insurance. Bringing it down to brass tacks, the taxpayers of this Colony have to find funds to replace those goods and, speaking from personal knowledge, it is far cheaper for the Colony as a whole to take out War Risk Insurance. That is my own opinion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I doubt very much it would be cheaper. The hon. Member is well aware that the rates are very prohibitive and Government has been advised to carry its own insurance in these matters.

Mr. MACKEY: \$21,000 lost by enemy action. That does not say it would cost \$21,000 to insure that loss. It is only 15 per cent.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to hear the hon. Colonial Treasurer.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): It is not only a policy taken up by this Colony but a general policy on the advice of the Crown Agents. He would be a very bold man who would say that it is cheaper to insure the vast volume of goods passing across the waters to this Colony. It is no good going into figures because one cannot judge. You have to take a hypothetical case. Paying premiums to Insurance Companies for these risks would, we fear, cost this Government an enormous sum of money and, I think, Government is fully justified in car-

rying its own risk. That is the general policy of this Colony and of most Colonial Governments at the present time.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am quite surprised to hear the remarks of the hon. Colonial Treasurer. I wonder if he would be surprised to know that certain firms doing business in this Colony who had in the past assumed the risk have found it more profitable to be covered by insurance rather than carrying the risk themselves. That is a well-known fact. If that is so, then from what the hon. Colonial Treasurer has said, to cover \$21,000 worth of goods lost, it would require the insuring of \$144,000 worth of merchandise at 15 per cent. This is not the first claim we have had to meet, and I feel certain we will have more later on. I join with the hon. Nominated Member in his suggestion as to whether Government will not reconsider the question in the light of the needs of this particular Colony and see whether it will not, be advantageous to cover our shipments by insurance rather than carry the risk ourselves.

Mr. C.V. WIGHT: I would like to ask the hon. Colonial Treasurer one question. Has he investigated by comparative table or by questioning those experienced in this Colony to learn what their experience is, or has he blandly accepted the statement of the Crown Agents who have so advised? We have had that so often in this Colony that I hope it is going to end some day. We are advised from away and therefore the advice is accepted without question or investigation.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: I desire to say, that not for a moment I am going to accept what the hon. Colonial Treasurer has said, because I am in a position to make the statement that he has said something that he does not practise himself. I know he is insuring all the rice that goes from Georgetown to Trinidad and at a very high

rate. I desire to say emphatically that I am against bulk purchase, if we are not going to insure the goods. I think that is the method we should adopt.

THE PRESIDENT: That will be all right. The bulk purchases will be covered. The question of policy is not the immediate question arising on this motion. I will put the question of the motion and leave the question of policy to the Government Officers concerned.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### WEST INDIES TRADE COMMISSIONER'S SERVICE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move—

That, with reference to Governor's Message No. 11, dated 15th August, 1942, this Council approves of this Colony rejoining the West Indian Trade Commissioner's Service with an annual contribution of £300 per annum and of the payment of a sum of £150, in respect of the remainder of this year.

In the year 1937 it was decided that this Government should contribute towards this Service on the understanding that at the end of two years reconsideration would be given to the matter as to whether it had justified that expenditure. Government at the end of 1938 consulted the various interests in the Colony—the Chambers of Commerce of Georgetown and New Amsterdam, the Sugar Producers Association—and the feeling then was that the benefits derived from that contribution were not sufficient and did not justify the continuation of the expenditure. The amount was, therefore, not voted in 1940 nor in 1941.

In 1941 when the Sugar Conference was held in Jamaica, this matter was brought up. At that time only British Guiana and Jamaica were not contributing, and representation was made after that meeting to both Governments of British Guiana and Jamaica with the view of these two Colonies contributing once more. Jamaica, more or less immediately agreed to contribute, but this Colony hesitated for some time. It is now felt that we should make that contribution, as the services of the Officer who does the work are being

utilized now. As stated in the Governor's Message it is felt that at this time when we are trying to increase trade with Canada, we should have someone over there to look after our interests. Although the Council is only asked to vote £150 for 1942, the intention is, if the Council agrees to the expenditure, to make it £300 a year, as it was before. I move the motion standing in my name.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I would like to ask the hon. Colonial Secretary why only the Chambers of Commerce and the Sugar Producers' Association were consulted when it was decided to discontinue the contribution? I would like to know whether this Council was consulted in the matter. It seems to me that paragraph 4 of the Message—I do not know whether Your Excellency wrote this Message yourself after having made the necessary enquiries, I presume you did it on the advice of your Officers—is not clear. According to paragraph 5 the matter was again considered by the Executive Council when after the Conference in Jamaica in 1941 representation was again made by the Sugar Producers. If the advice of the Chambers of Commerce and Sugar Producers' Association to discontinue it was accepted, it is to be taken for granted that they have now advised that this Colony should participate and we should vote the money.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am indeed sorry that I have to take up the same position as I did on a previous occasion when this matter was before Council. At that time—I do not want to go back into history, but the real facts of the case are these—when the suggestion of representation of the British West Indies in Canada was first mooted, it was done at the instance of our friends in Trinidad, and when the proposal was put forward to us the President at the time rather suggested that this Colony may accept it as a friendly gesture to

them. The baby belonged to our friends in Trinidad and we were asked to nurse it. There was considerable opposition in this Council at the time, but in deference to the wish of the Governor at that time, hon. Members agreed to give it a trial and, I think, a period of two years was suggested.

It is true that long before the two years had expired, everybody realized that a mistake was made and it was decided to drop the contribution. I can only believe that, perhaps, when the Conference was held in Jamaica our friends in Trinidad came back with the proposal and, as usual, made quite a number of promises. I do not know if they made any this time, but they certainly did so on the previous occasion. Now we are asked again to contribute to this Service. That leads me to this question. What interests in Canada at the present time would this office be in a position to represent on behalf of this Colony? Are they going to represent the needs or requirements of this Colony in so far as supplies from Canada to this Colony are concerned, or are they only expected to foster the interests of our export trade? I have the answer to both of these questions. In so far as the needs of this Colony are concerned in regard to imports, I doubt very much whether it would be of any help—and I say that after having given the matter every consideration—that this office can be of no assistance to us whatever. I say that from my knowledge of the facts as they are at the moment. In so far as the second question concerning the export trade is concerned, I again repeat that they are not in any position to assist us at this time because we have nothing to send to Canada except, perhaps, sugar, and even in that case their assistance would hardly be required.

If these are the facts, can we justify this contribution for this office? We have already walked out of the picture, so to speak. If we have done so why go into it again? I think

the time is most inopportune to approach this Council for a vote of this kind, and we should tell them that. I do not know, however, how far this Government is committed in this matter, and I must pause to mention this. It would be a matter of regret if we are asked now to vote a sum of money, if Government has already committed itself to it.

THE PRESIDENT: Government is not committed at all!

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am very pleased to hear that Government is not committed to this expenditure. I appeal to hon. Members not to allow it to go through. If what I say are the facts, and I say they cannot be contradicted, there is no reason why this Council should be asked to pass this vote.

Mr. AUSTIN: The name of the Sugar Producers' Association has been brought into this debate and I should like to explain that they have no interest whatever in the appointment of a Trade Commissioner in Canada. As a matter of fact, the Sugar Producers' Association has always had their interests served by other representatives in the Dominion and only supported this Service for the reason that it was felt it would be helpful to the Colony, and especially at this particular moment when there is a war on and importations from Canada cannot be got unless they come through the U.S.A. In other words, the Canadian stuff which we would like to get down here from Canada cannot be brought down by Canadian steamers and, unfortunately, have to come through the U.S.A. and from there to be brought here after a very long interval. It was felt that the sugar interests should in no way interfere with the efforts of those who are looking after the interests of this Colony for the time being and, perhaps, for another couple of years those efforts should be in no way estopped by a shortage of money or energy if not supported. I think it is a small sum

that is being asked for. It is not a question of sugar but it is a question of colonial effort by this small sum to see what can be done now and after the War is over in establishing the same trade with Canada as we had before the War.

Mr. LEE: The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Austin, tried to convince this Council for the grant of this £150, but in his argument he has not refuted the argument of the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. deAguiar). What are we going to pay this money for? We will be paying it for nothing, and in that case I cannot as an Elected Member sanction this vote.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I feel it is very graceless to bring this motion before the Council to-day, when the project had been given two years' trial in the hope that it would have been of some service, but it was found to be of no service and was discontinued. Government now comes to a dying Council before we fade out—and Government knows this—and says "Give this fellow something for the last." That is not the way to trifle with money. What has been discovered, what has been shown that we would get now what we could not get when conditions were normal? The sum is small, I agree, but the principle involved is very large—the principle of bringing it back to this Council and asking us to give away a small sum although it is not seen what benefit is going to be had for it. I do not think it is doing this Council the justice it deserves. The Council deserves from Government fair and just treatment. When it is asked to vote money it should be given reasons which would satisfy any honest person. I do not know why we should vote this money and I am voting against it. Your Excellency, I am voting against this motion.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I may intervene at this point and explain us

to the reason which lies behind this Message. The hon. Member asked for what we are paying the money, and I say "Representation in Canada of which we have none at the moment." Several things have come to me, recently referred by the Canadian Government, questions touching British Guiana. We have no representative in Canada and so those things have been referred to the Trade Commissioner and dealt with by him for nothing. That is going on now. I have had one such matter to-day, dealing with the taking of West Indian recruits into the Canadian Forces for which arrangements are being made. The Canadian Government finding no representative of British Guiana in Canada has addressed the matter to the Trade Commissioner who expressed his willingness to carry on. But we cannot allow that to go on, unless we are going to pay for such services as the other West Indian Colonies are paying. If where the British West Indian Colonies have joined in a Service and it is thought it is not worth while our going on with it also, then we must stand alone outside, but when we do that we must refuse any service the Trade Commissioner has been doing for us.

I would have liked to hear the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) who attended the discussion in Jamaica when the other Colonies consented to it. I would have liked to have the Chairman of the Commodity Control Board here, because when the question arose as to action in behalf of the Colony in Canada it was proposed to have an agency there for which we have to pay, and it seems to me so simpler that we should make use of the Trade Commissioner's Service rather than to pay an agent separately. As it appears on these facts, either we have no service at all in Canada and make no use of the service of the Trade Commissioner, *e.g.*, in the recruiting of West Indians in the Canadian Forces, or we have to pay separately for a man to represent the Colony. I am talking

without the papers being in front of me and from general knowledge from what I have seen in the last few weeks. It is comparatively more advantageous to get that representation in Canada which we will be able to use for quite a number of purposes. If hon. Members have considerable doubt in the matter, I propose postponing it until we get the views of the hon. Member for Georgetown North who has knowledge with which I am now armed.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I am very grateful to you, sir, for your decision to postpone the matter, but I hope it will be brought up afresh so as to allow any Member who has already spoken another opportunity to speak on any point which the hon. Member for Georgetown North may refer. I have already spoken and I would be very much obliged if I would be given an opportunity to reply to any point that might be raised by the two hon. Members to whom you referred.

THE PRESIDENT: That would be quite easy. Would hon. Members leave it over until we have those two Members present?

With the consent of the Council the debate on the motion was deferred.

#### FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1942

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I should like to take this opportunity to explain to the Council and to place on record the procedure which has been adopted in regard to these Supplementary Estimates or to give them their formal title these "Schedules of Additional Provision". In the first place, it is intended that a schedule would be prepared and submitted in the Council for each quarter of the financial year. The one before the Council now is for the first quarter. Normally, a schedule will contain only items of excess expenditure which have been authorized by

the issue of a Governor's Special Warrant, but it has been decided that the Governor will not, except in most exceptional circumstances, issue a special warrant authorizing excess expenditure unless and until the item has been referred either to the Finance Committee which has been set up or has been circulated to Unofficial Members of the Council and their prior approval obtained. As hon. Members are aware, the Finance Committee has been already established and has met several times, and it is proposed that the Committee shall meet regularly in order to have placed before it items which require supplementary provision. The arrangement is a very valuable one and certainly of great assistance to the administration in dealing with these matters.

The items contained in this First Schedule have all been approved in advance either by the Finance Committee or in circulation among Unofficial Members of Council. It would be noticed that the total of the Schedule is \$30,387.40. Of that total several items represent revotes, that is revotes of unexpended balances of provisions in the previous year's estimate. These total \$22,000. There are a few items in respect of provisions for the completion of works which were in progress last year and were held over for completion in the current year. These total \$3,175. There is one item in respect of refund of revenue which is provided for by law, and there are sundry small items totalling \$1,334.

It would be seen that most of these items are merely revotes or have been approved in advance and, therefore, it is quite unnecessary for the Council to go into Committee to consider the Schedule unless hon. Members have any particular question they desire to raise in respect of any item in the Schedule. I move—

That this Council approves the first schedule of additional provision for the period 1st January, to 31st March, 1942.

Mr. AUSTIN seconded.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I merely wish to make one observation and that is in respect of items for which supplementary provision is now required. I am referring particularly to the three items dealt with by the hon. Colonial Treasurer. In this statement here I have not been able to find any reference to the original vote and, as the particular items referred to deal with constructional work such as the erection of buildings, I throw out the suggestion that it would be of some interest to hon. Members to have some idea as to what the original vote was, so as to be able to form an opinion as to whether the expenditure under that particular Head was in any way excessive. For instance, under Head XLVI—Public Works, Extraordinary—there is an item of \$2,000 required as a supplementary provision for the completion of work, and the work is the extension of wharf, decking, shed and wired enclosure at the Customs Department, Colonial Bonded Warehouse. I would like to know what was the original provision made in this case.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. Member would like to see reference to the previous vote!

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Yes, sir. We know to our cost how much we have to pay for these things after the work is done. We would like to know the original vote so as to form some idea of the total cost.

Mr. McDAVID: I have no doubt that will be done in future. I think most of these items were not in the original estimate for the current year. In every case where the amount has been provided for it will be shown.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: If there is any original estimate to it, it would be shown in the next column.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

## SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1942.

Mr. Mc DAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I move —

That, this Council approves the second schedule of additional provision for the period 1st April to 30th June, 1942.

The items comprising this Schedule have all received the prior sanction of Unofficial Members of Council either in Finance Committee or circulated documents. The total to be met from Colony funds is over \$350,000, and there are two small items which relate to items under the Colonial Development Welfare Act and are therefore recoverable. An analysis of this Estimate will show there are items for completion of works which were in progress last year totalling \$3,790, items which have been already approved by Council amounting to \$27,532, two items which relate to the purchase of reserve stock of quinine—one is for \$10,000 for the use of the hospitals and the other is for \$32,000 for the purpose of commercial use, a two years' supply. A certain amount of revenue is there involved.

One interesting item is the grant to the Bishop's High School. Hon. Members are fully aware of that. There is another grant of \$12,500 to the United Nations Mariners' Club. For Sea Defence works there is a vote of \$31,680, and there are three items in connection with buildings—Erection of Rice Bond at the Georgetown Steamer Stelling, \$10,000; Extending bond at Springlands, Berbice, \$8,200; Purchase of building for the Teachers' Training Centre, \$14,000. There is an item for the purchase of 2½ miles of submarine cable, \$15,000. We are very glad we have been able to get it. There is one item for the purchase of a steamer which has been acquired for the Transport and Harbours Department to replace the vessel which has been lost.

Lastly there is a large item of an excess vote for Colonial Emergency measures of \$100,000. Your Excellency indicated in your analysis of the position

that we should require an additional \$180,000, but nothing has been done to move that into the figures of the Schedule for the reason that only those items already covered by warrant are included.

I take it that the Council would grant approval of Your Excellency issuing a warrant for the additional amount required. All the items have been approved and I do not know whether hon. Members of Council would like to take the items individually or prefer to take the Schedule on the motion. Unless there is any point that requires discussion we could take it without going into Committee.

Mr. AUSTIN seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I would like to enquire under the Head of Agriculture, item 25—Tobacco Industry Development—whether this is the last time we would be hearing of this expenditure which has now reached \$6,644. It is stated in the remarks column: "Additional amount required to cover the cost of the return passages of Mr. T. W. Bradshaw and family to Nyasaland by air." I would like to know whether this officer has already gone back to Nyasaland and it is the last we are hearing of this.

THE PRESIDENT: As I explained at the Finance Committee meeting, we have an obligation to send him back and, as things are, it is pretty hard to say when and how much it would cost to send him back. He has now left and is on his way to Nyasaland. It would be no surprise if he experiences difficulty and additional expense before he gets to Nyasaland. This is the first stage of it and I hoped it would be the last, but I would not promise that. If it was left under the Colonial Development Fund it would have been all right, but we took it on ourselves.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I wish we had given this gentleman a present and not had him sent to this country.

Mr. JACOB: I find myself at a little disadvantage. It is true that certain papers were circulated in connection with this item, but I did not expect to find it on this supplementary estimate which has been laid on the table and, so to speak, being rushed through. I have to compliment Government on the expeditious way in which things are being done in this Council. We have passed three supplementary estimates already without going into Committee. That is all right so far as Government is concerned. Government knows all about them, has seen them and checked them, but so far as the majority of Unofficial Members are concerned I do not think any of us knows exactly what is going on. All this expenditure has been approved of already. This is a dying Council, practically dead, and I hope this system will not be pursued later on. Since certain papers have been circulated I think this provision might have been circulated too, so that Members could have had an opportunity of making notes about certain items of expenditure. I believe papers were circulated during the last few months and I made certain notes of objection to certain expenditure, but frankly I cannot remember those objections now.

I do want to make a few points in respect of this additional provision which totals \$355,713. I want to refer particularly to an item on page 7 under the Head—Transport and Harbours. It is item 8—"Erection of Rice Bond at the Georgetown Steamer Stelling, \$10,000". I think there had been general dissatisfaction in regard to the removal of rice to the bonds of the Rice Marketing Board. The erection of this bond at the Georgetown Steamer Stelling at a cost of \$10,000 is not going to improve matters. The dissatisfaction is in regard to the payment of growers for the rice shipped to the Georgetown Steamer Stelling. If a bond is necessary, I think it should be erected somewhere else. The rice should be expeditiously handled, but it is not, and this dissatisfaction has been

going on for the last six or seven months if not longer. Growers have to wait weeks if not months for payment for their rice. I am opposed to the expenditure of further money which will cause this dissatisfaction to spread. If the Rice Marketing Board finds that it wants an additional bond, it should not be erected at the Georgetown Steamer Stelling. The bond should be erected near where there can be better supervision of the receiving of the rice from its source. I think the Board ought to agree to this statement which I am making. If they must have bonds at different places then they must increase their supervision. I am taking a long range view of this matter. I think it would be a mistake to spend \$10,000 in erecting an additional bond there.

It is not practical for me to go through this supplementary provision consisting of ten pages in this manner, and I am going to appeal to Government to give hon. Members an opportunity to look at each vote in Committee.

Mr. LEE : I would like an explanation on two points before I agree to the passing of this Schedule in bulk. One is with regard to an item under Head VIII A—Education, etc.,—“Grant to the Bishop’s High School for Girls, \$3,920.” I do not agree with it, and I would like some explanation so as to see if my opinion can be changed.

THE PRESIDENT : There is an explanatory memorandum at the back of the Schedule.

Mr. LEE : I am not satisfied with that memorandum. The other matter is the contribution of \$10,000 towards the construction of a building for the United Nations Mariners’ Club under Head XXV—Miscellaneous—Subventions, etc., other than Municipal. If I remember rightly, I said in my minute that I do not approve of the expenditure in respect of the two items referred

to. When they asked that a subsidy or a grant be given to the Bishop’s High School for Girls they had gone carefully into the figures and informed this Council that a certain amount would do. Now they are asking for a further sum and have said that if the sum is not granted they will close down the school. I would like to get some explanation about that. With respect to the Mariners’ Club I feel that this is a poor Colony and, although I think it is a good cause, we have not the money to spend in this way. Quite recently I visited the Public Hospital and found that the nurses are insufficient in number to cope with the number of patients, and further the hospital is sadly in need of more beds, surgical appliances and instruments. When there are such things needed for the proper medical care of the people who are contributing towards the revenue of this Colony. I do think those should be attended to first. I may say now that I would like Government to make enquiries as to the insufficiency of nurses at the hospital, and I do ask Government to do so. It is painful to see one nurse looking after so many patients. I hope Government will consider that matter very seriously before the next meeting of this Council.

Mr. DEAGUIAR : I think it would be agreed that this Schedule is not on the same footing as those which have gone before. As I understood, those which have gone before were more or less in the nature of revotes and, therefore, there was very little need for discussion. But this particular Schedule before us has general items, some of which are of a very contentious nature.

THE PRESIDENT : The only point is that they have been before hon. Members in Finance Committee. I am quite prepared to go into Committee and take the Schedule item by item, if that is the feeling of the Council. Why the hon. Colonial Treasurer suggested that we need not go into Com-

mittee on the Schedule is because we have had three meetings in Committee over these contentious items. We fully discussed them, but if the feeling of the Council is that we should go into Committee then the procedure is to move that the Council go into Committee.

Mr. DEAGUIAR : That is what hon. Members would like to do. I would like to have an opportunity of recording my vote against Head VIII A.

THE PRESIDENT : It will be remembered that I engaged only on getting the approval of Members of the Committee would I sign special warrants. It means more time and my proposal was to expedite things by having meetings of the Finance Committee where there would be free discussion and, if there were general approval, then I would proceed to sign the warrant and get the work done. I would not sign the warrant unless I know the vote is going to be passed by hon. Members.

I am concerned about the status of the Finance Committee and the record of dissenting votes. I do not know whether it would be found later, whereas the record of dissenting votes in this Council can certainly be referred to at some later date. I think the schedule would meet with quicker despatch if it is put in Committee at this stage.

Mr. McDAVID : I move that the Council resolve itself into Committee and consider the Schedule.

Mr. AUSTIN seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR : To go into Committee at this stage presupposes opposition. These amounts have been passed and the usual warrant issued for them.

THE PRESIDENT : What it has come to is that certain Members would like formally to record their views in

Committee that they are not fully in accord with the votes.

Mr. ELEAZAR : Cannot they express their views, as they are doing now, unless they vote ?

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT : I think the headline is very misleading. It says : "Schedule of additional provision for the quarter 1st April to 30th June, 1942, required to meet expenditure in excess of the provision made in the Estimates for the year 1942." I am satisfied on looking at this Schedule that certain expenditure there cannot be made by the end of December, 1942. Is it because we want this expenditure passed by this dying Council ?

THE PRESIDENT : I have to sign the warrant and then the money is issued.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : I expect to see three-quarters or one-half of the amount finished by December not before.

Question put, and agreed to.

Council in Committee.

#### EDUCATION—SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Item 34—Grant to the Bishop's High School for Girls, \$3,920.

Mr. DEAGUIAR : I wish to enquire whether the proposal referred to in the Explanatory Memorandum has received consideration by Government, and what would be the position in regard to this particular school.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : A memorandum has been received from the Governing Body of the School and certain questions arising out of it have been referred back to that Body for further consideration. The answer is being awaited from the Governing Body of the School.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I take it the Council will be consulted before any action is taken.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. LEE: I did not quite realize when the circular was being sent around for the approval of this expenditure that Government would have taken the majority vote there for action. I feel that unless it is a unanimous vote for any expenditure Government should not act on it. I would ask Government in future not to approve of any such expenditure before coming to the Council for the reason that we may have one view when the circular is sent and, when we come to this Council and hear the views of the Government side, we may change that view. At the present time I am still of the opinion that Government has no right to spend this money, and I would like to have a record of what Government has not spent.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is opposing the item of the Bishop's High School for Girls!

Mr. LEE: Yes, I am.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very good!

Mr. DEAGUIAR: May I ask permission to say something with reference to the remarks made by the hon. Member, lest my silence be taken that I am in agreement with his views. I think I understood him correctly to say that if in the circulation of papers there is not the unanimous support of all the Members no action should be taken. I would like to say that I do not share that view. It is against all democratic principles. In every assembly where there is a majority vote the proposition is carried. I do not think the individual vote of a Member should be permitted to hold up any action that this Government may desire to take which, in the opinion of Government, would be in the best interest of the people of this Colony. I think it would be a very sorry day indeed if the single vote of a Member should be

taken to mean that work should be held up. I desire to make it perfectly clear to my colleague that I do not share his view.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is a lawyer and is thinking in terms of the jury system.

Mr. KING: I am voting against this item. When the proposal was first brought forward for assistance from this Government, I protested most strongly against any interference by Government with this school. They came to this Council for financial help on the first occasion in 1941, and this Council on a majority vote decided to help the school. Less than six months afterwards to my horror and amazement I saw advertised that scholarships were being given for free tuition to three or six scholars. That was not quite the correct thing for them to do. If they were unable to meet the financial burden of the school and had to appeal to this Government for financial support, they should not increase their financial difficulty by giving such free tuition. As long as that is so, I have not the slightest intention to agreeing to money being voted by this Council to this school. If it is unable to carry on, it must try and seek help elsewhere. I am wondering whether Your Excellency is aware that only recently a petition by another secondary education school for financial help was turned down. The decision of this Government is that this school must be helped. I sincerely hope, as requested by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. deAguiar), Government would not pledge itself in any way to take over this school or to assist this school in the coming year without first giving this Council every possible right to discuss any proposal that Government may suggest to it.

THE CHAIRMAN: That will be done!

Mr. KING: I appreciate Your

Excellency's assurance on that. I trust it will be done, and not that only, as I sure it will be done, but that every opportunity would be given us to study any proposal Government desires to put forward to this Council.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: If I remember correctly when the Bishop's High School for Girls sought assistance of Government early in the year, they gave an undertaking that if they got a contribution of \$4,000 they would be able to run the school. I think it is a breach of faith on the part of those responsible for the running of the Bishop's High School for Girls, after taking a contribution from Government and giving an undertaking to carry on the school for the year, to come back and ask for a further contribution. It is a breach of faith to such an extent that this Government should not tolerate it. For that I am not supporting the vote. They should be made to carry out their undertaking.

Mr. ELEAZAR: On the first occasion we gave them what we usually give, but later on they discovered they could not carry on unless they got an additional amount. That is how I understand the situation.

Mr. JACOB: If by advertising or by giving free tuition to certain pupils in the school means they are actually giving away money, I cannot follow that. Several secondary schools in the past have been in the habit of offering scholarships or free tuition to pupils year after year so as to encourage a larger number of pupils attending those schools. I may not have understood the hon. Members, but I think the giving of free tuition should not be confused with the statement made that they are actually giving away money by such action. I think, if the school is very small pupils would be encouraged to go there by the giving of free tuition and so ultimately increase the numbers of the pupils. I would be glad to get a further explanation from the hon. Member.

Mr. KING: I am not surprised that the hon. Member does not understand what I said. What I endeavoured to say, which he evidently did not understand, was that after the grant from this Government the school advertised those scholarships. As far as I am aware, no scholarship was awarded by this school before then.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am surprised at the hon. Member trying to explain what is inexplicable—that the giving of 20 scholarships will not increase the number of teachers in the school. The giving of scholarships does not affect the question of the amount of the grant at all. A school is not given help by Government because it gives scholarships.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I hope that before this school and its future is again discussed in this Chamber some members will endeavour to make themselves acquainted not only with the circumstances under which the school is being carried on, but will so inform themselves as to render it possible for it to be continued in the future. This school is the only institution in the Colony which provides a real secondary education for the girls of this community up to a standard which would at least fit them for a bright future career, although I know that there are some people in this Colony who would deny to its inhabitants the opportunity of even competing for the Guiana Scholarship, on the ground that even education of that kind is beyond the Colony's needs and should not be offered to the general community. It must not be overlooked that in the past history of this school two girls have won the Guiana Scholarship, and have in their careers shown great promise. I believe one is dead, but the other is a girl of very great promise and likely to have a very bright future. There is on the school roll at the present moment a girl who was *proxime accessit* at the last Colonial Scholarship examination. She very

nearly won that scholarship, and I can not think that the gallant Member who raised this discussion would deny that girl an opportunity at least of sitting for the examination for which she is now reading, and which the denial of this vote would not render possible.

There is no other institution in the Colony where the staff can provide anything like the basis for higher education which the Scholarship standard requires. It is also the case—and I am sure hon. Members are overlooking it—that it is the only institution where our girls of the primary schools have their scholarships tenable, and have the opportunity of obtaining a higher standard of education which would otherwise be denied them. We must not as a community allow the view to obtain that religious bias of any kind should hinder the progress of the girls of this Colony. I personally should do all in my power to prevent it. It has been known that poor girls in the country districts who have won scholarships have been denied admission to a certain secondary establishment. I personally will not allow that to continue as long as I am alive. I do not wish to raise any delicate questions, but I know that there are other reasons which have already been mentioned in this Council, and which make it absolutely obligatory on the people of the Colony to continue the maintenance of this institution. I hope that those references will not have to be made; they can only be made with some delicacy.

It is to the credit of this institution that, although it is conducted under Church patronage, certain unprivileged children, of whom the community has so large a number, and of whom we as a community ought to be ashamed, it accepts children of high mental calibre and great promise who are denied admission to another institution which has always received every kind of assistance. The hon. Member knows the institution to which I refer, and I

hope he will not close the door to those children who will and must, and are entitled to claim equal benefits with their male companions in their educational career. If you close the Bishop's High School you close it to those unprivileged children; you close it to children who belong to certain races, and you close it to a people who pretend to have a certain religion only. I hope that such a disaster will never occur in my time. (applause).

Mr. LEE: My friend has not answered the question which has been raised in respect of the statement which was made in this Council. When the authorities of the Bishop's High School asked for the sum of money they said that it would be sufficient to carry the school on throughout the year. It is not a question of closing the school. The question is whether the statement made to this Council was an honest one or not. (Mr. Eleazar: Question). They said they required \$4,000, which would be sufficient to carry them through the year. Now they have come back and said that it is not sufficient; let them have \$3,000 more or they would have to close the school. In effect they have pointed a revolver at us. If the Board of Governors of the school, among whom are two Government members, cannot estimate properly and tell us that the original sum asked for would be sufficient, what are we to do? Nobody denies that it is a good object, but when the authorities of the school approach this Council in this manner how can an Elected Member in a democratic country agree to the vote of this money?

Mr. GONSALVES: A point I think Members have not considered in this matter is the question which I believe is under consideration, as to whether there should be a Government school for girls or whether this school should be maintained with the support of Government in order to provide the necessity. The question of whether

there should be a Government school is one which I know has been put up by the Educational Adviser, and it seems to me that if Government cannot at the moment see its way to establish a school for girls in the same way as it has one for boys at Queen's College, some provision should be made to carry on the present institution at the Bishop's High School which has been carried on for many years.

The point was raised by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) that the Board of Governors having decided that the original amount asked for was quite sufficient to carry the school on, they should not ask for more. I do not think that statement is correct. They did suggest an amount to Government which was approved by this Council, but I do not think it was said that it would be sufficient to carry the school on for all time. The late Bishop Parry financed the institution himself. As a matter of fact the Committee was told that he drew his cheque for whatever was required and kept no account of what was spent. The present Bishop has made it perfectly clear that he is not in a position to give open cheques at any time, and if sufficient Government assistance was not given the school would have to be closed. If Government cannot provide a secondary school for girls then some consideration must be given to the question as to whether the Bishop's High School should be maintained. At any rate some secondary school might be subsidized for the purpose of carrying on secondary education for girls. I do not wish to go into the things which the hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) says this community should be ashamed of, because there are many things we do in this Colony which we might very well be ashamed of. Let us approach the matter from the broad principle as to whether a secondary school for girls is a necessity or not. It seems to me that a happy solution would be for the Government to establish a school, in

which case the question of a subsidy would not arise.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: The hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) in his usual eloquent and adroit manner pointed out that the mental faculties of the female must be trained and given the fullest opportunity in this Colony as that given to the male. He did not pursue the subject further and say what is to happen when those female students from the Bishop's High School have developed their mental faculties—whether they are to be thrown back to work for a mere pittance of \$10, \$12 or \$15 per month. Only recently I had a communication from Government with regard to a runner-up for the Guiana Scholarship who asked for a job at \$17 per month. That is what the hon. Member seems to be advocating. Has he visualized what is going to happen after those girls' faculties have been developed? Is it going to be the policy of this Government to establish a secondary school for girls on the same lines as Queen's College? These are all matters to be considered before this money is granted. Have we had accounts to satisfy us that the money granted to the school has all gone to the benefit of the institution? We have been told that certain private funds have been used.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: With regard to what has been said by the hon. Member for Demerara River (Mr. King), I would like to refresh his memory, because he feels that the Board of Governors of the school had committed a breach of faith by advertising free places immediately after having the grant increased. The matter was dealt with in this Council in September, 1939, and paragraph 7 of the Governor's Message of August 30 reads as follows:—

7. The Board of Governors have been informed that in the event of the grant being increased 8 places will have to be reserved for free scholars nominated by the Director of Education in accordance with Regulation 20 of the Regulations governing Secondary Schools receiving Grants in Aid from Colonial Revenues. There are 3 such places reserved at present.

I cannot put my hand on the Regulations, but I rather think that they require that for every \$500 voted by this Council one free place should be reserved, so that for a grant of \$4,000 eight free places would have to be reserved. If I am right about that I do not think the Board of Governors are to be blamed by Government for demanding as many as eight places.

Mr. JACOB: I have merely risen to support the remarks of the hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford). I am surprised that the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) has spoken in the way he has. Whether we can find places for children or not they should be educated. If girls should not be educated for the reason that we cannot find suitable jobs for them then let us close Queen's College too and have no secondary schools at all. Maybe that would suit certain people in the Colony. If this amount is considered too high I think the alternative scheme would cost ten times \$8,000.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I do not know if the hon. Member is advocating the policy of educating children and not finding jobs for them. If that is his educational policy then I commend him to read certain books on the subject.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I had hoped that this debate, unsavoury as it is and showing up the wisdom or unwisdom of certain people, would have ceased. I am the oldest man in this Council, and in 1911 or thereabouts when I wrote my first manifesto I told the community that if I were elected I would advocate the establishment of a secondary school for girls on the same lines as Queen's College. That was 31 years ago. The necessity existed then, but to hear persons who have received secondary education questioning the wisdom of a secondary school for girls is astounding. The time is long overdue. The Colony has been shirking its duty to girls for years. The late Bishop Parry, with his

own private funds, led the way. A new Bishop has taken over the institution and we all know that he is not in the same financial position as his predecessor. The authorities of the Bishop's High School have been carrying on for years something which the Colony has neglected to provide. They are now appealing for help and some Members are questioning whether girls should be educated in the same way as boys.

In the United States of America the State educates the children up to the Universities. I am astounded to hear Members asking what will become of the girls after they have had a secondary education? They must find a way to make a living, and education will equip them for that purpose. We must make it possible for them to educate themselves and improve their way of living. I remained silent because I did not wish to prolong the debate, but I could not allow it to be said that I sat here and allowed those reactionary remarks to go without protesting against them.

I am supporting the motion with all my heart and I hope I will be here long enough to see Government either take over the Bishop's High School or establish a decent institution of its own to provide secondary education for girls on the same lines as Queen's College.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I would like to know why was it that in the first instance the authorities of the school only asked for \$4,000, and before the year has expired they have asked for another \$4,000? Surely their accounts must have been properly gone into at the time. I would like to be satisfied on that point. I am not against the continuance of the school or its being taken over by Government.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will answer that as far as I can. I propose to add to that this word of explanation. The question has been raised as to whether Government is going to run a secondary school for girls, and the answer is "Yes."

That is the recommendation of our advisers generally, both within the Colony and outside, and a proposal will be put to the Council to take over the Bishop's High School and run it on exactly the same lines as Queen's College as from January next. The proposal will be put to the Council which will have ample opportunity to accept or reject it. If the Council rejects that proposal it means that the Bishop's High School will be closed. This vote is merely to keep the school going until the time when we will decide whether Government should take it over or not.

As regards the question of the accounts I do not think anybody will flatter the authorities of the Bishop's High School on their financial ability, which has been very conspicuous by its absence. We have gone through their accounts and satisfied ourselves that the school requires this money to carry on as it is at present until the 31st December. The financial position of the school was not known until now. The proposal is to vote this amount to enable it to be carried on. I therefore propose to put it to the Council that we vote the sum of \$3,920 as a further contribution to the school to the end of the year.

Item carried, Messrs. Lee and de Aguiar dissenting.

MISCELLANEOUS — (b) SUBVENTIONS,  
ETC., OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL.

Item 73—United Nations Mariners' Club (a) Contribution towards construction of building, \$10,000; (b) Contribution toward annual running expenses, \$2,500.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: I oppose this item on principle—not because I do not think it is necessary to have a Club, but we were given an undertaking in Committee that Government would not contribute more than \$10,000 under any condition. A Committee was appointed to supervise the erection of the building and I would like to know

whether the value of the land is included in the amount of \$10,000, or whether the land has been given in addition?

THE CHAIRMAN: The land is Government land.

Mr. WIGHT: Then the land is a further contribution by the taxpayers. After all the land has some value. Is Government satisfied that the Committee will secure the balance of money from the merchants? First of all I certainly object to the site selected. I observe that the pillars of the building have been constructed and I would like to know what is going to happen if the Government's contribution of \$10,000 is exhausted before the building is completed. I fear that is going to arise.

A further question I would like to ask is what is to become of the present Club? A certain number of people have contributed to the Club in Water Street, and certain articles have been given to that Club. Are those things being taken over by the new Club? I fear that this Club is going to cost the taxpayers much more money than is put down here, and that Government will have to come back to the Council for more money.

Mr. LEE: I have previously made some remarks in respect of this item. I desire to record my protest against the vote. I agree with the hon. Member for Georgetown Central (Mr. Percy C. Wight). If \$10,000 will be a sufficient contribution from Government funds to complete the building perhaps I may change my view, but knowing how Government spends money in certain Departments I feel that this amount is perhaps one-fourth of what the Council will eventually be asked to vote. This Club will only be required during the war, and while I think it is the duty of the Colony to provide some place for seamen to go I do not agree that Government should

bear the whole burden of the erection and maintenance of a Club of this kind.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I am very grateful indeed for the opportunity that is now afforded me to say publicly that this effort on the part of the Colony is but a very humble mite in the cause of the Merchant Navy. Those of us who have had to pass through some of the trials of those men realize that we have done so little in the past for them. What we are trying to do now in order to provide them with a little bit of comfort when they come ashore is perhaps very small indeed when compared with the risks those men have to face. I venture to suggest that that is even the view of those Members who have spoken, but they probably fear that perhaps the cost of erecting the building is one which this Colony cannot bear. Even if that were so it would still be a very humble contribution to those men. For myself I know that Your Excellency is personally interested in this matter, and there is hardly any necessity for me to ask the Committee to see that every penny they receive from Government or from the public is spent in ameliorating the condition of those men when they come ashore. I do not think any Member of the Council or the public will grudge any expenditure from public funds in support of such a worthy cause.

Mr. DIAS: I feel very much the observations made by certain Members in opposition to this vote. I had thought that anyone who would pause for a moment to consider the risks, the dangers and adversities with which those men have to contend every hour of the 24 hours of the day, except on the occasions when they are ashore, would support any effort to provide them with some comfort, some change in their daily lives. Anything in the nature of opposition to the erection of a Club savours—it may not be so meant—of some intention to do nothing for those unfortunate people

who are perhaps the most important unit of the forces engaged in the war. They are the people who carry the food, munitions, and everything required to fight this war, but they are the least spoken of. Those who have read the newspapers and reports from England know that several of these Clubs have been established there, and quite recently a very substantial one was opened in Liverpool when an appeal was made that every assistance should be rendered the institution, and it was suggested that the Colonies might see if they could do something in the way of providing comfortable homes for seamen.

A fund was started in this Colony by the offer of Government first of all to contribute \$10,000 towards the erection of a Club for seamen, and also to provide accommodation for people who have been rescued from torpedoed ships, some of whom we have among us to-day. Those people have been accommodated under conditions which are not satisfactory, and not what the Colony should be proud to provide. One hon. Member is opposed to the idea and talks about providing a home after the war. He also has fears that it will cost Government four times as much as \$10,000 as a contribution towards the erection of the Club. I am in a position to tell the Council that the building will be erected for very much less, and that we are more or less satisfied that the cost will be within the figure estimated. The arrangements are in the hands of a Committee of about 20 persons, and the contributions received from the commercial community have been very generous indeed. An appeal has not yet been issued to everybody because it is hoped to have the building in course of erection so that people may be able to see and appreciate the fact that progress is being made in the erection and completion of the building. Perhaps the Treasurer may be able to give Members more information on the question of finance.

The hon. Member for Georgetown Central (Mr. Percy C. Wight) has referred to the question of the site; he is not the only one who has done so. I may tell him that there was considerable debate on the Committee as to the site chosen for the Club. The site selected is land which belongs to the Colony and on it we were invited to consider the erection of the Club. Several suggestions were made about sites, and among them was a proposal that we should purchase a suitable property in some particular locality in Georgetown, dismantle the building and then erect the Club. We began with a limited sum of money and had an estimate for the erection of the Club. If we had to buy land here and there we would have been met with this difficulty, that we would have to acquire the property as a whole, abandon the building on it and erect the Club. In that case the cost would be twice \$25,000. There was another difficulty that there is no property in Georgetown which has sufficient land on which to erect a building of that size and yet leave some space for recreation. All those circumstances having been taken into consideration it was finally decided that the erection of the building should be on the spot of land where the work has already commenced.

It pains me really to hear any objection being raised to a cause of this nature which deserves every assistance, and I think it is the duty of every citizen to contribute towards the comfort of seamen when they are here, because each individual in the community depends upon the work and sacrifice of those men. If we can do the very little we have been asked to do we ought to be proud of the opportunity to contribute, and still feel that we should like to contribute more.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Hon. Members have had the experience of being asked to vote small and large sums of money for certain work, to discover afterwards that they were asked to provide several

times the original amount. As to the necessity for a building of this nature there can be no doubt. I do not think any Member of this Council will feel otherwise than that he is doing his duty to the mariners who come here from time to time, by providing them with some comfort when they are ashore. They have to face not only the ordinary dangers of the sea but the additional dangers of enemy action at this time, and we fully realize that these men risk all when they go to sea. I think we cannot do too much in providing comfort for them when they are on land. We once had in this Colony what was known as a Sailors' Home, but it was reduced to—I do not think pandemonium would be the correct term.

The site chosen for the Club is unfortunate, but it appears to be the best that could be found. Men who have been rescued by Divine Providence and brought to shore should not be placed in a locality where they would be continually reminded of the dangers of the sea by looking at the sea all the time. I think if they could be spared that it would be a blessing.

I have great pleasure indeed in supporting this motion, and if I am here when the time comes for something additional to be voted I should be very willing to support it. There is no real opposition to the motion.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I happen to be associated with the Committee of the Club, and Chairman of the Finance Committee, and I sincerely thank the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) for his expression of willingness to contribute a greater share of Government funds to the Club. I hope that will not be necessary. I think the hon. Member for Georgetown Central (Mr. Percy C. Wight) is unduly apprehensive. In addition to the \$10,000 the Committee has been able to obtain by subscription in cash something like \$13,000, and there are also a few gifts in kind in the

form of material used in the erection of the building. So that we have a fairly substantial sum, and we have reason to hope that the building will be erected well within that figure.

There is also the question of equipment, and as Mr. Dias said, we have not yet appealed for subscriptions. We hope very shortly to launch an appeal as soon as the building reaches the point where people become interested. We have sufficient to go on with at the moment and, as I said, I have every hope that the building will be completed within that figure. I do not think, and I sincerely trust we will not have to come back to the Government for additional funds.

Mr. LEE: I would like to have an assurance that \$2,500 per annum will be sufficient to run the Club.

THE PRESIDENT: To the end of this year.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: I do not think that anything I have said should have led anyone to misunderstand me at all. I am not against the idea for one moment, but strict principles of business have been imbued in me from my youth. As I have said, my serious objection is to the site. I say it is a mistake to erect the building in Kingston, and I shall vote against it on the principle that I think it should be somewhere else. I have not had an answer to my question as to what has become of the present Club and the rental to be paid for the premises.

Mr. JACOB: At one stage I was opposed to the site and to the erection of a building, but I think it is all right to erect a building, because it will remain there forever and may be of use later on even if seamen do not occupy it. The point I wish to make is that in the erection of buildings from now on they should be put up at least 10 feet from the ground so that the bottom could be used. Government has been erecting several buildings throughout

the Colony just 6 or 7 feet from the ground, which seems to me a waste of space, because two-storeyed buildings would be more economical. Several police stations have been built 6 or 7 feet from the ground. Even if a two-storeyed building is not required, a height of 10 feet would provide sufficient accommodation beneath the building for a garage or something like that. I would like an assurance that attention would be given to my suggestion.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is seriously felt by the Council or the public that we should grudge this expenditure in respect of those unfortunate mariners. The public is putting up over \$13,000, the Imperial Government \$5,000, and the Aluminium Co. \$7,500, and I do not think Government should grudge \$10,000 as its contribution towards the maintenance of the Club.

The question of the site has been much canvassed. We know there has been a lot of opposition to it, but when a decision has been come to we should abide by it. In view of the very pronounced character of the opposition I was asked to decide and I decided in favour of the majority vote. I myself made a very considerable examination of the alternatives, and one of the principal things that weighed with me was that none of the critics of the site had put up anything in the way of a substantial alternative. Everything was vague and uncertain, and in the face of that I had no option but to accept the practical proposal which the majority of the Committee had put up.

Various questions have been raised by the hon. Member for Georgetown Central (Mr Percy C. Wight) that the land was Government land and that Government was also contributing \$10,000. That strikes me as somewhat of a quibble. The original proposal was that the Immigration buildings should be utilised, which would have meant buildings as well as land.

As regards the arrangement for the collection of the balance of the money

from the public, I think that point has been answered by the Treasurer who is the Chairman of the Committee. As far as I know, the other Club is a separate entity and will go on for the time being. When the new Club is erected Government will withdraw its contribution to that Club.

As regards the height of the building, I think that is a matter for the Director of Public Works.

Item put, and agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS—ANNUALLY  
RECURRENT.

Item 15—Roads, Rivers, Creeks and Portages, \$1,053.

Mr. LEE : I would like to know what is the amount paid to each labourer as ration allowance. I am told that when that allowance is given to them they have to purchase their foodstuffs at Bartica and pay freight on the lorry which carries the things up. In my opinion, if the allowance is given on the Government scale it is impossible for those men to feed themselves on the allowance and pay freight.

THE CHAIRMAN : This question was raised with me when I went up the Potaro road. It seemed to me that the labourers of the Public Works Department were at a disadvantage and I made the proposal that they should have free freight. The Transport Department was not in favour of that because its experience was that there had been substantial abuse of that concession. The alternative proposal was this ration allowance. It is somewhat startling to see it costing \$1,000 as against free freight.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : It was considered advisable that they should pay for their freight instead of having free freight, and the Public Works Department was asked to prepare an estimate, and this is the figure submitted to provide a ration allowance:

Mr. LEE : I think it is a hardship, because they cannot buy rations in the interior ; they have to purchase them at Bartica and pay freight on the lorries.

THE CHAIRMAN : Have you any alternative proposal ?

Mr. LEE : I suggest that a ration list be given to the overseer in charge, and there can be no fraud in that.

THE CHAIRMAN : Then we will pass the item and consider the matter again.

Mr. LEE : I would be thankful, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN : It is a substantial concession to the men, resulting from representations made to me, and I should be sorry to withdraw it.

Mr. LEE : Let it go through and Your Excellency might consider the suggestion I have made.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : These men do not come from Georgetown on every occasion. Some of them live on the road or at Bartica. I think the matter was raised by the workmen on the Potaro road.

THE CHAIRMAN : Representations were made to me by the men on the Potaro road.

Item put, and agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS.

Item 8—Erection of Rice Bond at the Georgetown Steamer Stelling, \$10,000.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : I would like to know whether any alternative sites have been considered. For instance, there is the question of delivery of rice alongside the wharf at the vacant spot in the vicinity of the Petroleum Bond, where I understand rice is now being stored.

Mr. McDAVID : One of the points made by the hon. Member for North

Western District (Mr. Jacob) was that he thought the bonds should be more centralized, and in that respect I agree with him, but this is not a bond so much for the Rice Marketing Board as for the Transport Department. What is happening is this: In view of the fact that the Rice Marketing Board is paying on a scale which allows a very much higher price for better rice, every grower is trying his best to sell his own rice to the Board. In other words, the growers are trying to be producers themselves, and one cannot blame them, because they are getting better results.

The Board's report was laid on the table this morning, and in paragraph 50 there is a table which gives a comparison of the number of consignments actually received by the Board in various periods. For the first four months of the Board's working we received 2,000 consignments, and there were 70 bags of rice in each consignment. That is the average number. For the last six months the Board received 10,000 different consignments, and the average number of bags to a consignment was 16. In other words, the Board was dealing with a vastly increased number of individual people, and so is the Transport Department in transporting bags of rice over the West Coast railway to Georgetown.

When 100 bags of rice are carried across the ferry it is rice belonging to 10 or 12 different people. It follows, therefore, that before the Board can deal with those consignments they have to be properly assorted. Each consignment has to be graded, weighed, sampled and dealt with separately. That is one of the chief reasons for the delay in dealing with the receipt of rice and paying for it. Consignments of rice come over in bulk on the railway and have to be sorted at the Georgetown bond before they can be received by the Board. After considering the problem with the General Manager of the Transport Department it was decided that the best thing would be for the Department to erect a rice bond at the

steamer stelling where all the sorting could be done, and where the Board, in order to speed matters up, would allow some of its employees to go and take samples, and thus do part of the work at the bond.

The real reason for this item is for the erection of a bond to enable the Transport Department to sort and distribute rice received across its service. It is not so much a Rice Marketing Board matter as a Transport matter, but it will go a long way in helping to speed up the receipt of consignments of rice.

As regards the site I think I have dealt with that, because it is really a bond for working the Transport services as they are now, but at the same time the Rice Marketing Board has been seriously considering the question of asking Government for the use of the site in Kingston on the south of the timber-curing ground for the erection of a bond. That, of course is a long-range policy. A large sum of money would be required to erect a central bond, and it would have to be a bond at which not only colonial steamers but ocean-going steamers could moor to take produce away.

Mr. LEE: I would like to draw Government's attention to the fact that the Rice Marketing Board does not hold itself responsible for rice damaged by sea or rain whilst in transit from the country. Rice belonging to several growers on the West Coast was lying on the Vreed-en-Hoop stelling for several days, and in one instance the Board gave the grower an allowance in respect of rice which had got wet. There should be a bond erected at Vreed-en-Hoop for the protection of growers' rice, which should not be left to the mercy of the Transport Department.

Mr. McDAVID: There is at present shed accommodation at Vreed-en-Hoop, but it is not large enough. I hope

that when this bond is erected in Georgetown there will be a great speeding up of transit of rice across the river. At the same time, if rice is damaged before delivery to the Board it is quite impossible to hold the Board responsible for that. The growers may blame the Transport Department, but the hon. Member will agree that the Board could not be responsible.

Mr. JACOB: I am not at all convinced by the reply of the Treasurer. If I understand him rightly there is going to be additional supervision at the Government steamer stelling by the Rice Marketing Board, which will mean the employment of additional people. In the same way as that could be done at the steamer stelling I think it ought to be done at the Rice Marketing Board's premises. The sorting of rice at the stelling is going to be somewhat expensive. Overhead expenses will be increased, and I am satisfied that the inconvenience the growers are suffering now, and have been suffering for the past five or six months, will not be minimized. If anything, it will be increased.

The Treasurer has been giving figures as to the number of consignments. That is how Government goes about these matters. I am concerned with the quantity of rice handled. The Treasurer admits that rice is shipped in bulk; it is put into the railway trucks in bulk and could be assorted on the Board's premises. To assort it at the steamer stelling and again at the Board's premises means additional labour and expense. Of course, the Board is concerned with spending as much as possible and doing everything to decrease rather than increase production. I say that because I have been hearing about increased production year after year, but while the production figures at the moment look somewhat better I am wondering—I have not been able to look through this report—

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member should keep to the question of the bond.

Mr. JACOB: I am dealing with the quantity of rice handled. I am wondering whether the quantity will be 25,000 tons this year. Before the Board assumed control individual merchants and buyers handled as much as 30,000 tons of rice, and there was no difficulty at all. With less rice being handled now the Board finds it possible to erect bonds here, there, and everywhere. I look forward to seeing another bond at the Georgetown railway station. As a matter of fact I think the production of rice is increasing in Berbice and East Demerara particularly, and the Board will want an additional bond there. I am not at all satisfied that there has been increased production on the West Coast of Demerara, or that a bond is necessary at the Georgetown steamer stelling at a cost of \$10,000. What I want to impress on Government is the waste that is going on. I am leaving out altogether the question of control. I am concerned with the unnecessary labour, transportation, and waste of money which can be more profitably spent.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I am a little doubtful whether the hon. Member who has just taken his seat has fully understood the explanation given by the Treasurer. The quantity of rice shipped by individual shippers has increased within recent months, and that necessitates more handling. If the rice is not sorted at the steamer stelling the employees of the Board would not be able to take delivery from the Transport Department of individual shipments. If the Board took delivery of 200 bags of rice from the Transport Department and the consignment slip shows that "A" owns 50 bags, the Board would not know how much of that shipment belonged to "A" and how much to "B". By weighing and taking samples of the rice on the stelling the Board is facilitating the Transport Department and the growers. Rice has been handled by individual exporters prior to

the existence of the Board, but in those days the greater portion of the rice was shipped by the millers. Therefore, if a miller milled 200 bags of rice for half a dozen growers that rice was shipped direct from the miller. To-day those 200 bags of rice are being shipped by individual growers and may be divided into 20 or 50 consignments. It is not a question of increased production, but I hope the hon. Member will be satisfied that there will be no reduction in production.

Mr. LEE: If it is the intention of the Board to take samples from consignments of rice at the steamer stelling, and those samples are to be graded, I sincerely hope that the old system does not occur again whereby substituted rice is sold to the Board instead of the rice from which the samples were taken. It has occurred in the past, and it may and will occur in the future.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: The hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peer Bacchus) discussed the question of the facilities of the transport system. I do not know whether the Board is facilitating the Transport Department or the Transport Department is facilitating the Board. I would like to ask why doesn't the Board charter a schooner which could collect all the rice from Essequibo or Berbice and bring it down to the bond? Why all this handling of rice from steamer to rail? Surely that means increased overhead cost. I know it is going to be said that it would mean too much work for somebody, but Heads of Departments are well paid and should do a little extra work.

Mr. McDAVID: At the risk of prolonging the debate I must say a few words more. I am sorry I did not succeed in making myself clear. It is not a question of increased production at all. If, for example, 5,000 bags of rice owned by 50 persons are being taken across the ferry, and there are 100 bags to each consignment, it is

very much easier for the Transport Department to handle each consignment than if those 5,000 bags are owned by 1,000 persons. The Transport Department is responsible for the delivery of each consignment. It cannot deliver those 5,000 bags of rice, or any portion of it in bulk. It has to deliver what it received, and similarly the Rice Marketing Board has to pay for each consignment. It is not so much a question of increase in quantity as increase in the number of people with whom we are dealing. This proposal is merely one to provide accommodation at the steamer stelling where certain processes can go on, and where at the same time the Board can start its sampling process so as to expedite payments.

I welcome the remarks of the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee). That point has to be watched. If samples are to be taken at the stelling very great care will have to be taken to see that they are not tampered with. I can assure the hon. Member that great care will be taken to see that that is done.

The hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) referred to the question of transporting rice from Essequibo. I am dealing with rice transported from West Demerara. The rice is brought over by punts or by the ferry steamer.

Mr. JACOB: I do not know if Your Excellency thinks this debate should be limited. I am very much concerned about the present situation. I think I can say something useful still. The report of the Rice Marketing Board to the 31st March, 1942, has just been issued, but I see no reference to probable crop figures, and so on. I am wondering whether the Board is still in doubt as to what the outturn will be this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: I must ask you to keep to the immediate question

before the Council, that is the erection of a bond. I cannot allow you to discuss any question of policy or extent of production.

Mr. JACOB: I would then say that we have had no opportunity to discuss this matter, and I feel that the question of shortage might very usefully be settled here to-day. There is a distinct shortage of rice.

THE CHAIRMAN: You can raise it on a separate motion if you wish.

Mr. JACOB: In a dying Council? I would only take five minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: You can raise any matter you like by separate motion.

Mr. JACOB: Very well, sir. I see that Government wishes to stifle discussion. I wish to inform Government of the shortage of rice and Government says I must raise it on a motion. I have been a Member of this Council for some time and I claim that I know something about procedure. I have the right and I think it is my duty to inform Government.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have already told you that you can raise it on a separate motion. We are now discussing the question of a bond, and I am not going to have the discussion widened beyond that.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I admire the patience of the Colonial Treasurer. The Rice Marketing Board is not liked—

THE CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. Member to stick to the question of the bond.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The bond is necessary but some people will never see it.

Item put, and agreed to.

Item 9—Purchase and re-condition-

ing of motor and auxiliary vessel—"Sea Wolf D"—\$26,500.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I would like to know what this vessel is going to do. My suggestion about the schooner was to relieve the steamer. If the Board had a schooner it would relieve the ferry steamer of a lot of its cargo space.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This vessel is to be used for the very purpose which the hon. Member has suggested—to transport rice from one side of the river to the other.

Item put, and agreed to.

#### COLONIAL EMERGENCY MEASURES.

Item 1—Colonial Emergency Measures, \$100,000.

Mr. MACKEY: How much of this amount is being spent on all those buildings which are being utilised for military quarters?

THE CHAIRMAN: Those are entirely at the cost of the Imperial Government.

Mr. MACKEY: I realize that in these days certain things have to be done and that we should not ask for details.

THE CHAIRMAN: It includes expenditure on food production, expenses of the District Rice Committees, and everything of that kind.

The Council resumed.

Mr. McDAVID moved that the Schedule be approved.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### REFUND OF TEMPORARY SALARY INCREASES.

Mr. McDAVID: I beg to move:—

That, with reference to Governor's Message No. 13 of 17th August, 1942, this Council approves of a sum of \$70,471.13 being provided on Supplementary Estimates for the current year to meet the refund of certain temporary salary increases which were withheld from civil servants and school teachers in 1922.

The history of this matter will be familiar to hon. Members, although I think only one Member remains who was a Member of the Combined Court in 1911-22 when this occurred. At the end of the last war civil servants and primary school teachers were granted certain permanent and temporary increases of salary. The temporary increases for 1922 were voted by the Combined Court and included in the Draft Estimates for that year. The Estimates contained a schedule which set out the amount payable to each officer, and from that it is reasonable to conclude that the officers were individually entitled to their substantive salaries plus the amount of such temporary increases. Those increases were granted in order to meet the very high cost of living at that time. In February, 1922, a previous Governor, Sir Wilfrid Collet, anticipating a short-fall in revenue, issued an executive order removing those temporary increases, except in the case of civil servants with salaries of under \$40 per month. That was done by a completely executive order. It is quite unnecessary for me to go into the question now whether that was or was not constitutionally right. The fact remains that it was done. At the same time Sir Wilfred Collet announced that he undertook to refund the amounts deducted later in that year, should the revenue improve, otherwise he would refund them in a subsequent year. I have here the actual words of his minute, and they are very interesting. He wrote:—

“ If the finances of the Colony recovered so as to justify it I would, before the end of the year, refund the amount deducted. Otherwise I would make a recommendation to the Combined Court to permit a refund in later years if circumstances allowed.”

The matter was raised in the Combined Court in December, 1922,—the question of the deduction which had been made—and the Governor repeated that assurance in the Combined Court. Some time later Sir Graeme Thomson, who succeeded Sir Wilfred Collet,

actually gave a specific undertaking to the Civil Service which is contained in a letter he caused to be addressed to the Civil Service Association. In that letter he undertook that if and when the Colony acquired a reserve surplus of \$500,000 he was prepared to regard a refund of the amounts deducted as a first charge against the excess from that surplus, and submit the matter to the Combined Court and the Secretary of State for the Colonies for their consideration. The Secretary of State was informed of that pledge, and I think a little later in the year Sir Graeme also repeated that assurance in the Combined Court. I know it has been suggested that there should be some sort of book for the purpose of recording Governors' pledges. This is one particular pledge which was very carefully recorded. Civil servants and teachers made repeated representations to Government in the hope of getting this refund made, and the first occasion which it seemed possible that it could take place was in 1938 when our surplus reached a total of about \$1,000,000. Representations were made to the Secretary of State, at that time but the Secretary of State, whilst admitting that one condition had been fulfilled, namely the question of the surplus, expressed the view that it was not possible to consider the refund then because the Colony was still under a contingent liability to His Majesty's Government of above £500,000. That contingent liability has been graciously removed by Act of Parliament, and the surplus at the beginning of this year exceeded \$2,000,000. So that Government has at long last succeeded in obtaining the approval of the Secretary of State to approach this Council to authorise the refund.

Your Excellency has made an analysis of the financial position of the Colony, and in doing so you have taken this particular item into account as a liability. Speaking for myself, I should be personally very glad to receive the small sum due to me but, as Colonial

Treasurer, I shall be very happy to have this long-standing liability written off the books, and I trust that the Council will see its way to approve of this act of justice to civil servants.

Mr. AUSTIN: I beg to second the motion, but in doing so I would like to know from Government whether the promise was given on the understanding that taxation should be increased. Taxation has gone up since Sir Wilfred Collet left the Colony, and it is due to the taxation now existing—and it is rather heavy—that this considerable sum is to our credit, and furthermore the war has brought us in sums of money which we otherwise would not have been able to collect. Other promises have been made by Sir Wilfred Collet which have not yet been redeemed. The Treasurer has not referred to them. For instance, he increased the cost of postage and gave an undertaking—we have it in writing at the Chamber of Commerce—that when times got better it would be reduced. That was since 20 years ago, but we have the same postage rates now. Something might be done in that direction if we propose to carry out promises which Governors have made.

I am not against this motion, but I think we should take into consideration whether the public of the Colony, who have been compelled to pay increased taxation, should not be given some relief also by way of a reduction of duties or something of that sort. The civil servants of the Colony are not very well paid, and are having a hard time in these days. Many of them will not get very much as the result of this refund, but it is the principle I am thinking of—whether the public should not also be given consideration by a redemption of promises made.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I feel like supporting this motion. It seems to me to be an endeavour on the part of the

present Administration to redeem all the pledges of previous Administrations. It is going to be an expensive process. During the last war the temporary increases and war bonus did not stop at \$60 per month; they went through the whole Service. That does not obtain to-day—why, it is difficult to say. One can only hope that at the appropriate time further increases on the same principle as obtained in the 1914-18 war would be granted. I think there was no income tax at that time.

Are these refunds to be made free of income tax? Are any of the persons who are entitled to refunds dead? If so, are their dependents to receive the amounts to which they are entitled? If so, will estate duty be paid on those amounts? The Message has either been written by a lawyer or has been vetted by a lawyer. There are lots of points to be gone into; lots of questions to be asked, and I am satisfied that the Treasurer will be burdened with a lot of questions when the distribution of the money is being made. Are there any persons resident out of the Colony? When the pledge was given why wasn't a special tax raised to redeem it? If the Colonial Development Act had not been passed would those people have been deprived of this money? All those are questions which should be considered and answered, but as this is a redemption of a pledge I am going to support it.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The hon. Member who has just spoken has not had the experience I have had in this Council. It is not the first time that a promise of this kind has been given and redeemed. When promises are made by Government, or even by individuals, they should be redeemed. I have known of pledges given, not by the Governor or by this Council, but by responsible Government officials who were the only persons who knew about them, but this Council has redeemed those pledges. I remember

the case of a Director of Public Works in which only the Colonial Secretary of that day knew that he had given an undertaking. People should have some confidence in the word of Government. Schoolmasters have never been overpaid and will never be overpaid because, no matter how much they are given, they will always ask for more. Some of the people have no doubt died, but their legal representatives will be entitled to receive the amounts due to them. If there is nobody to receive the money it will go back to the Treasury whence it came. The hon. Member knows there is a thing called escheat.

Mr. JACKSON: I am supporting this motion (laughter). I do not know whether I will get anything from it, but I will see the Director of Education and find out later on. When the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) got up I thought he was going to suggest that as this money has been kept away from civil servants and teachers so long, Government should pay interest on it. I think it is quite reasonable that those who have been kept out of this money for such a long time should get it now.

With regard to the question of income tax raised by the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) I do not think there is any need to raise it, because it is money which was payable at a time when the Income Tax Ordinance was not in operation. I am not a lawyer, but I think that is a commonsense view to take of it.

I am very pleased that Government has found it possible to redeem a promise which was made twice, and I know that Government will be making

many homes a little happier in these distressing circumstances which beset us all.

Mr. McDAVID: I am very pleased that this motion has received such general support. There are one or two points which I would like to deal with. The hon. Mr. Austin referred to the question of taxation. I can find no record whatever of any condition of taxation attached to Sir Wilfred Collet's pledge, but I can see the hon. Member's point, that in order to achieve this surplus there has been additional taxation, and that might be held against civil servants, but, of course, civil servants have also contributed to that taxation, and in some cases very largely too. They are not as a class exempted from taxation. Therefore, it is no argument against their getting their fair due to say there has been increased taxation.

The hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) raised one or two points. He asked whether the amounts to be refunded will be free from income tax. They will be entirely free from income tax for the reason mentioned by the hon. Mr. Jackson. It is not income, but the payment of an old deferred debt. The legal personal representatives of deceased persons will also be entitled to collect the amounts. Similarly, people who have retired on pension will also be entitled to receive refunds. The hon. Member said it would be an enormous burden on the Treasury, but I can assure him that the officers of the Treasury would be willing to accept the burden of distributing this money. (laughter).

Motion put, and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned until the following day at 12 noon.