

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 30th December, 1942.

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

PRESENT:

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon James Lethem, K.C.M.G.

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

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

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

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

The Hon. F. J. Seaford, O.B.E., (Georgetown North).

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. B. R. Wood, Conservator of Forests.

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

The Hon. J. I. De Aguiar (Central Demerara),

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Clerk read prayers.

PRESENTATION.

MR. A. B. CAMPBELL, I.S.O.

THE PRESIDENT: I have a presentation of honour to make . . . It is my pleasant duty to make the presentation of the Insignia of Honour of a Companion of the Imperial Service Order to Mr. Allan Bolton Campbell, late Accountant of the Treasury. This represents the award of the Honour made to him on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday this year. Mr. Campbell please come forward!

Mr. Campbell has been in the service of this Colony for more than forty years, some thirty of which were spent in the Treasury, and from 1926 until his retirement at the end of 1941 he was Accountant of that Department. On several occasions he acted as Deputy Colonial Treasurer. Throughout his zealous and efficient service Mr. Campbell's loyalty and devotion to duty have been exceptional and have earned him a high reputation. I am happy to know that his devoted work has been recognised by His Majesty in this award. I have the greatest pleasure in making this presentation,

MINUTES.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FINANCE BILL.

THE PRESIDENT: I have several announcements I would like to make today and put on record in the proceedings of the Council.

The business for which we are assembled today, as I hope, to put through before the end of the year, is principally the Finance Bill which is before Members and which in view of our thorough discussions on the second reading and in Committee stage is largely a formality. It has hitherto been the practice in this Colony to delay action on this Bill till the concurrence of the Secretary of State and the Imperial Treasury had been received. I am personally quite unaccustomed to such a procedure, and in several Colonies have seen the practice followed, which appears to be natural and proper, for the Bill to be taken by the Legislative Council immediately after passing of estimates in Committee. To do otherwise and postpone the passing of the Bill for several months into the financial year during which months expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the estimates seems to me rather farcical and I am unaware of any good reason for it.

FURTHER DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION SCHEMES.

We have also in front of us a message in connection with further drainage and irrigation schemes of an im-

mediately practical character. I have explained the policy in this matter so often that I need not say more here. It seems to me very definitely desirable to get the full formalities completed and the approval of all bodies concerned recorded, so that Government could be fully committed to action in this matter and that action should proceed as soon as the departments concerned can get going. Should any member desire to defer opinion on these schemes, we can of course defer the resolution, but as the projects have been thoroughly gone over by the Drainage and Irrigation Board, the Colonial Development Trust Committee and the Executive Council, I should prefer to see action following. Members will observe that several of the schemes should have a definite effect for the betterment of conditions on the East Coast in the year 1943.

BISHOP'S HIGH SCHOOL.

We have before us the report of the Select Committee on the matter of the Bishop's High School. I hope we can present the resolution of the questions touching the Bishop's High School in accordance with the report which is being submitted to Council to-day.

INCREASED WAGES FOR UNSKILLED LABOUR.

Some days ago, I had announced to Council that Government was increasing the wages of its unskilled labourers. I would like to state now that Departments concerned had been instructed to give effect to those wage increases as from January 1st, 1943.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION BOARD.

At the last meeting of Council, I had mentioned something about the personnel of the Drainage and Irrigation Board and I had stated that I wished to strengthen the representation of Members of the Legislative Council on the Board. As the result of a discussion in Executive Council, I will come to the Legisla-

tive Council for a slight amendment of the Ordinance to give effect to the proposal without treading on the usefulness and efficiency of the Board.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

I have another announcement to make of some importance touching the working of Government Departments. What I have now directed is that as soon as possible the Commissioner of Local Government and most of the staff will come into the Public Buildings, the Auditor and his staff being accommodated elsewhere. The records touching East Indian immigration and the staff in charge of them will remain where they are at Crosby, which will be useful both for reasons of old association and for the Commissioner of Local Government.

From the arrangement whereby the Commissioner of Local Government will be located in the Public Buildings, I hope for a very great deal indeed. Both from old papers and from my own experience of the past year, I am very convinced that the practice whereby Local Government and District Administration function as a separate departmental machine has been handicapping to everybody concerned—the Governor, the Colonial Secretary and the Commissioner of Local Government and the District Administration. There is a great deal of business which comes in to Government of an administrative character or touching administrative policy which can be far better handled by close association in one office than under a system whereby there is a passing about of papers and writing of letters and minutes, all requiring registration and the minutiae of Government office procedure, when the offices are separate as they have been here and at a considerable distance from each other. The Commissioner of Local Government will be in a far better position *vis a vis* both the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, Treasurer, and the Governor to put through action

much more satisfactorily and more expeditiously than under the system which seems to have obtained. I am speaking on this matter from intimate personal experience in two very large administrations. In conjunction with the Colonial Secretary and the Commissioner of Local Government I am now engaged in drawing up rules for the procedure which I hope will be helpful.

SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION.

I should add that the Social Welfare Organization will similarly be housed with the Commissioner of Local Government in the same main Public Buildings.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT.

There is one question of constructive policy on which I have promised to make some intimation; it is that touching agricultural credit. I had hoped during my first few months in the Colony to find that the existing Co-operative Banks met or very largely met the need. I have come to the conclusion that this is not the case but that excellent service as these banks are giving, a considerable expansion is required which may require separate machinery. I have discussed this matter with the Director of Agriculture and the Treasurer, both of whom are in agreement and I took particular opportunity of the visit of the Economic Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare to discuss this matter with him. He has now communicated to me a record of conclusions which I would like here to intimate to this Council as an indication of what, as it seems to me, our future policy should be.

I have said that I think that the existing Banks are giving excellent service, but no institution is perfect or cannot be developed to give more useful service. The criticisms which might be made against the system, apart from questions of other ideal objects touching self and mutual

help, thrift and prudence, set out in the prospectus, would be that in effect they make only small loans and there is need for larger loans. This was very well said by the Director of Agriculture himself some time ago in a minute from which I quote:

'Government might however, feel disposed to consider wider use of the credit banks for making larger loans to those capable of utilising them, in which event, the possibility of setting up a special Credit Committee to deal with credit problems outside the scope of existing bank legislation might be considered also. Such a Committee . . . could be legally empowered to make loans through these banks on prescribed forms and conditions. In this last connexion, I would mention the Agricultural Relief Ordinance, Chapter 152, which should prove a useful basis to work on.'

The Banks do not appear to figure nearly enough in our rural economy. They have less than 10,000 members. The total number of loans made, apart from rice, were 1,168 in 1940 and 1,664 in 1941. A typical Bank appears to make less than 50 loans a year, to the value of less than \$2,000. This although, as my predecessor said:

"The extension of better credit facilities to small growers is one of the most essential features in any policy of agricultural work."

"What I should add to that is that it is particularly needed at this present time when greater food production is the primary object of policy. Expansion, which has actually begun in 1944, should be greatly promoted and accelerated.

As to ways and means, let us first admit the necessity of absolute good security. On this basis there must be

(a) more Government loans to banks;

(b) more deliberate stimulation of business; and

(c) easier terms to borrowers.

Interest should be not more than six per cent. The reserve fund should be abolished; at present four per cent. of capital is used to build this, resulting in \$23,000 being tied up paying 3 and 2.4 per cent. which has been borrowed from Government at 4 per cent. If this were lent at six per cent. then there would be an immediate increase of revenue by over \$700 a year. Government assistance to management, and guarantees should be freely given as long as real safeguards of good security are observed. I should be quite prepared to press for such assistance under the Development and Welfare Act.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

A summary of the recommendations would be:

(1) Special machinery to sanction larger loans;

(2) Government to lend to banks freely at 4 per cent. or possibly 3 per cent;

(3) Some full-time officers to be employed so that the whole project is not dependent on part-time and routine work of officers otherwise occupied;

(4) Banks to lend at not more than 6 per cent. and for any purpose;

(5) Abolition of provision for reserves;

(6) Dividends to be limited to 3 per cent.;

(7) Government assistance in management and guarantees.

Proposals along these lines will be put forward

SHIPMENT OF SUGAR.

In conclusion there is one matter of policy of the utmost importance to-day to which I would refer and that is the action to meet the menacing

difficulties as regards shipment of sugar. I wish to recall the attention of Members to a memorandum which I issued to them some months ago in which I stressed the necessity of the diversion of land and labour and capital to local food production and development of local markets, and this policy even for the large proprietor and not merely for the agriculturist.

This memorandum, Members will perhaps remember, stressed the criticism of the policy which led to large proprietors of land concentrating on a single crop, and stressed that it would ultimately be not only in the common interest but the interest of proprietors themselves to have a broader economic basis for use of their land. I am of course very well aware of the extreme difficulty which many interests have in appreciating this and the many interests that work against it. This memorandum was written actually three years ago but it seems to me that now at last our horse is brought right to the fence and there is no alternative except to jump.

It is now vitally necessary that a proper compromise be made as to use of land on which it will only be a waste of time and effort and money to continue to produce full crops of sugar. That again cannot be done overnight and it is important in the common interest to maintain activities which will employ labour which would otherwise not be absorbed.

I am going on to take the liberty of putting on record by quoting some of the more pertinent paragraphs of the memorandum.

RE-ORIENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

I feel, however, that it is very necessary to stress that this matter of increase of local food supplies is not merely or even principally a course forced upon us by war economics, but that it is of much

wider importance and, as it seems to me, demands now almost a re-orientation of Agricultural policy.

It is this aspect of the question as one of future policy with which I am chiefly concerned.

I am not at all prepared to be content with some moderate advance only in producing certain foodstuffs within certain conditions, in effect that certain attention shall not be diverted.

The time has come when we have got to ask for a very definite policy that food production be regarded as a primary object, at least equal in importance to production of cash export crops and not merely subsidiary and secondary to be relegated to peasants only or to spare land which cannot grow sugar.

We are now driven to the conclusion, I believe it is and will be the conclusion of most observers who view from the wider angle, that there cannot be such recovery in prices of sugar, cotton, cocoa, limes, copra, bananas, etc., etc., as will enable such a purely agricultural community as ours to depend on imported foodstuffs and maintain a decent standard of living.

It is far more probable that after the war there will be another slump in the price of primary products.

Nor am I prepared to admit that the estates which have given whole-time attention to export crops are not concerned. I believe the matter is going to be equally important for the benefit of the estates, taking the long view, as for the benefit, of the peasants. It is the concern of the whole community. It may well be necessary for all estates to put a certain amount of decent land under foodstuffs and engage in a more diversified system of agriculture.

The agriculturist who continues to concentrate on his primary produce in exchange for imported subsistence and service must expect (a) either less money (or less purchasing power) and hence a lower standard of living; or (b) increased dependence and hence insecurity, minimum standards of living, and all the deterioration that dependence implies.

The labourer and small holder feel this first, but the plight of the estate owner will in the long run be worse. (He has farther to fall). The middle man will feel it next; the money-lender last. (None can escape).

The agriculturist will never get a fair deal until he is put on equal terms in bargaining with the industrialist; until he is now, dependent on the industrialist for his food. (How absurd this is a moment's reflection will show). Essential food supplies must therefore be localized.

In the production of meat, poultry, dairy and vegetable produce there is obviously at least as much room for the large as well as the small producer. In lively internal exchange there is an opening for business-like organization and inevitable decline for operative.

The choice I believe, is between insecurity, minimum standards of all concerned if an outlook for concentration on export cash crops remains dominant, or greater security and a much more solid and secure advance with a different outlook. The community would be in a position, moreover, far more readily to take advantage of any improvement in world economics or politics, and would not be overwhelmed by their further deterioration.

If we choose the second course the difficulties are formidable enough of course but not insurmountable. Internal marketing, price and currency adjustment, storage, the education of the consumer as well as the producer, are all evidently necessary.

The primary contribution is:-

(a) an understanding by its leaders of the importance for all concerned of a change of outlook on the relative importance of export and local markets:

In my view the war is not a primary motive for the change. But it gives an opportunity and incentive to accelerate the change.

That minute is dated in the Leeward Islands in January, 1940, but it was actually drafted in the weeks immediately after the beginning of the war in my belief then that the war would be a long one and would see a very great change in our economic structure and that the opportunity should be taken to expedite a development which was in any case extremely desirable on grounds of policy for the future. I have now in my hand here a resumé by the Director of Agriculture of first discussions as to what should be done here. I am not going to quote figures as those in the minute must be far from final. It deals with questions as to how much land should be diverted from sugar in the immediate present and in the future, the alternate uses of sugar, *e.g.*, alcohol, whether flour consumption can be met by local products, production of high protein foods, *e.g.*, peas and beans, and stock, particularly pigs, additional pasture to be made available for small holders, fibre production and possibly some rice land.

What I wish to emphasize myself is that apart from our most immediate emergency the long term view must be emphasized throughout; and again in time wherever possible, the processing of natural products to replace imports in tins. A special question is that of cane farming and it would appear very clear that production cannot be curtailed here without inflicting impossible hardships. The resulting loss must be spread as widely as possible.

There is one further point that must be made clear. When a decision has been reached as to practical steps, how much land for example can be taken up and not replanted in sugar, there will not be further check on sugar production. While expansion will not be allowed or in fact possible, nevertheless available land not required for foodstuffs or pasture or other purposes as required by Government policy, may be used for sugar production by the estates. This will have two solid advantages, it will maintain the industry in full vigour for post war demands, and conditions whatever they may be; and it will be the simplest and most practical way of keeping a large amount of labour employed. On these conditions and for these purposes His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom is prepared to pay for sugar produced, even if not used. Without this guarantee we should be in a very grave difficulty indeed. Let us be thankful for it: but also let us make the most of a new situation for the ultimate benefit of this country.

GREETINGS FROM MAHAICONY FARMERS.

Before proceeding with the business let me communicate a message from the peasant farmers of Mortice, Mahaicony, East Coast, Demerara, addressed to the hon. the Colonial Secretary:—

“May I take the opportunity on behalf of the peasant farmers of British Guiana in conveying through you the Season's greetings to the President and the hon. Members of the Legislative Council.

The farmers further wish the Council every prosperity in 1943.”

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION WORKS.

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

MESSAGE No. 6.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

At the last meeting of the Legislative Council, the Council approved of an expenditure of \$40,900 in 1943 to improve drainage works in the Ann's Grove-Lancaster Drainage District.

2. The Drainage Board with the Consulting Engineer have recommended that the following works be carried out in 1943 in Declared Drainage Districts:—

Golden Grove-Victoria—		
West side line.....	\$ 1,500	
Check sluice in John		
Check sluice in Craig		
Milne East side line.....	1,500	
Build West koker run at		
Golden Grove sea sluice	800	
Works to improve drainage of the empoldered area at Golden Grove-Nabaclis by utilising the Golden Grove-Path	16,500	\$20,300
Haslington Company		
Mahaica-Helena—Alteration to Verinigen river sluice lifting gear.....		
		500
Johanna Cecilia - Annandale—Works to improve the supply of irrigation water from Oena Creek for Estates within the area.....		
		5,700
Three Friends-Walton		
Hall—New irrigation trench at back of Hampton Court.....		10,000
Canals Polder Area, W.B., Demerara—Intake at top of Canal No. 2.....		
	1,200	
Alterations to existing Store house at Conservancy end of No. 1 Canal		
		300
Drainage and Irrigation canal between No. 1 Canal and “A” Line and weir in “A” Line		
	24,000	\$25,500
Vreed-en-Hoop - Ruimzigt District, West Demerara—Straightening irrigation trench, Ruimzigt to Haarlem		
		6,300
		\$68,300

3. The Consulting Engineer now recommends that the above works should be started as soon as weather conditions permit.

4. It is proposed with the consent of the Development Trust Committee that the cost of the works be paid for from that Fund and I shall be glad if Honourable Members will approve of these proposals.

GORDON LETHEM,
Governor.

29th December, 1942.

PAPERS LAID.

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

The Report of the Lands and Mines Department for the year 1941.

The Report of the Director of Medical Services for the year 1941.

The Report of the Commissioners of Currency for the year 1941.

The Report on Drainage and Irrigation—Paradise to Charity, Essequibo Coast, L/C. Paper No. 9/42.

The Report on Drainage and Irrigation of lands between Friendship and Garden of Eden, East Bank, Demerara River. L/C. Paper No. 8/42.

The Report on Drainage and Irrigation—Estates on the Right Bank of the Berbice River between Plantations Providence and Lighton. L/C. Paper No. 13/42.

Defence (Control of Small Craft) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Change of Title) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Rice Control) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Padi Price Control) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Control of Small Craft) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 1942.

Defence (Control of Wireless Telegraphy) (Amendment) Regulations, 1942.

List of Articles not ordinarily exempt from duty which have been specially exempted by the Governor-in-Council under item 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935, during 1942.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION WORKS.

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

That, with reference to Governor's Message No. 6 dated 29th December, 1942, this Council approves of a free grant of

\$68,300 from the Development Trust Fund to enable execution of the following drainage and irrigation works detailed in that Message:—

Golden Grove—Victoria.....	\$20,300
Mahaica—Helena	500
Johanna Cecelia—Annandale	5,700
Three Friends—Walton Hall	10,000
Canals Polder Area, West Bank, Demerara.....	25,500
Vreed-en-Hoop—Ruimzigt, District, West Demerara.....	6,300
Total.....	\$68,300

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the current session of the Legislative Council.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935.

Notice was given that at a later stage it would be moved that the Standing Rules and Orders of the Council be suspended to enable the Bills to be taken through all their stages

UNOFFICIAL NOTICE.

CULTIVATION AREAS & LIVESTOCK STATISTICS.

Mr. JACOB gave notice of the following questions:—

1. Will Government state what area was under cultivation at 30th September, 1942, or the latest figures that are available, together with the figures for the same period of the previous year, of the

following crops, viz.—Sugar Cane, Rice, Coconut, Coffee, Citrus, Limes, Tobacco, Plantain, Corn and other vegetable crops in detail, in each Constituency in the Colony?

2. Will Government state the number of Livestock at 30th September, 1942, or the latest figures that are available, together with the figures for the same period of the previous year in each Constituency in the Colony, viz.—Cattle, Horses, Buffaloes, Mules, Asses, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, etc.?

3. What is the empoldered area and the area under the various kinds of cultivation in each of the 17 Sugar Plantations in the Colony as submitted under the Acreage Tax Ordinance to the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, as at 30th September, 1940, 1941, and 1942, as follows:—

Acres in Cane cultivation.

Rice

Coconut

Plantain and other Ground
Provision cultivation.

„ used as pasturage for Cattle, etc.
uncultivated.

Total acres employed.

4. What additional area of land is held under licences of occupancy by each of the 17 Sugar Plantations and Associate Companies or Plantations, where situated, and what is being done with these lands at the present time?

5. What quantity of Sugar was manufactured in each of the 17 Sugar Factories in the Colony during the years 1940, 1941 and 1942?

6. Will Government obtain from the B.G. Sugar Producers' Association what quantity of Sugar is estimated to be maintained by each of the 17 Sugar Factories in the Colony during the year 1943?

7. Is Government prepared to allow the large areas of fertile uncultivated lands from East of Kitty Village to the Mahaica Creek to remain uncultivated indefinitely, although drainage and irrigation facilities can be improved at a moderate cost in some cases, while at other places within the area mentioned above, adequate drainage and irrigation facilities are in existence?

8. Will Government consider the advisability of making immediate arrangements with the proprietors of the unoccupied front lands from the Sea Dam

to a distance of about 2,000 feet South of the Railway Line, from East of Kitty Village to East of Clonbrook Village, East Coast, Demerara, for the purpose of laying out and selling these lands at a reasonable price per lot, for building, dwelling and farm houses, so that the unoccupied lands may be beneficially occupied as in the cases of Kitty, Plaisance and some of the other Villages up to the Mahaica Creek on the East Coast of Demerara?

ORDER OF THE DAY.

T. & H.D. LAND AT KITTY AND ALEXANDERVILLE.

Mr. De AGUIAR asked and the COLONIAL SECRETARY replied to the following questions:—

Q. 1.—How many lessees are on land by the Transport and Harbours Department:

(a) within the boundaries of the Kitty and Alexanderville Local Authority (North of the Railway line).

(b) South of the Railway line.

A.—(a) 256.

(b) 88

Q 2.—How many buildings are on the land referred to in (1)? show (a) and (b) separately.

A.—(a) 337.

(b) 90.

Q 3.—What is the amount received for rents for the year 1941 and up to 30th September, 1942? Show each year separately.

A.—\$3,150.52 (1941).

\$2,266.73 (September, 1942).

Q 4.—What is the amount owing (if any) for rents up to and including 30th September, 1942?

A.—\$1,179.84.

Q 5.—Is any contribution made to the Kitty and Alexanderville Local Authority? If the answer is in the affirmative, please state the amount contributed for the years 1940, 1941 and 1942, (separately) and the reason for these contributions.

A—A subvention of \$1,049.68 has been paid annually since 1929 to the Local Government Board. This amount is apportioned by that body to the several villages on the East Coast (including Kitty and Alexanderville) in which the Department owns rateable property. The contribution made to Kitty and Alexanderville Local Authority was \$438.76 in respect of each of the years 1940, 1941, 1942.

Q 6.—Is any commission paid for collecting these rents? If so to whom is it paid, the rate paid, and the actual Commission paid for the years 1940 1941 and up to and including 30th September, 1942. Show the figures separately.

A—Yes. To the officers of the Department to whom the duty of collecting the rent has been assigned. 10 per cent. 1940, \$241.83; 1941, \$315.05; 1942, \$226.67.

Q 7.—Is Government aware that the lessees are on a monthly tenancy?

A—Yes. Under terms of a contract of lease, terms of which approved by Government on its acquisition of the Demerara Railway Company.

Q 8.—Is Government aware that eviction proceedings are usually taken after the expiration of one month's notice?

A—Eviictions have been carried out only five times within the last 20 years, and then for very good reasons, and with the knowledge and approval of the Board of Commissioners.

Q 9.—What steps are being taken to ensure that lessees are given a greater security of tenure?

A—Lease agreement under which land is held guarantees lessees quiet enjoyment of the premises during the continuance of the tenancy on payment of rent and observance of conditions of agreement, free from any interruption by the Department or any person lawfully claiming by, through, or under it.

BISHOP'S HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

THE PRESIDENT: I call on the hon. Member for New Amsterdam to make a statement.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I beg to lay on the table the Report of the Select Committee of this Council appointed

to consider the proposal that the Bishop's High School for Girls should be taken over by Government on the terms and conditions stated in Governor's Message No. 2, dated 13th November, 1942, and established as from 1st January, 1943, as a Government School on the basis set out in the Message.

I have to ask that the Report be printed and circulated. I may inform hon. Members that the Report has to be signed by the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight). He has not yet affixed his signature, but will do so as soon as he comes to the Council.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

“That with reference to Governor's Message No. 2, dated 13th November, 1942, this Council approves of the proposals that the Bishop's High School for Girls should be taken over on the terms and conditions stated therein, and of its establishment as from 1st January, 1943, as a Government School on the basis also set out in the Message.”

I wish to remind hon. Members that this Council was informed earlier in the year that the Governing Body of the Bishop's High School for Girls had informed Government that they would be unable to carry on the School with the small grant which was being made to them by Government. The grant was at that time \$4,000 a year, and they intimated that they would require a 100 per cent. increase if the School was to be kept open after the end of December, 1942. As a matter of fact the amount voted by this Council was \$3,900 odd to enable them to continue the second and third terms of the current school year.

At a meeting of the Finance Committee in June or July the principle of the acquisition of the School by Government was considered. I should have stated that the proposal had been submitted to Government by the Governing Body that as an alternative

to a larger grant the School should be taken over by Government. That question was dealt with by the Finance Committee of the Council and the principle was agreed to, but naturally the Finance Committee asked Government to submit the proposals in writing at a later date. Discussion then took place between representatives of the Government and the Government Body of the School, and certain terms and conditions were agreed to at those meetings. They are briefly set out in the Message of His Excellency the Governor, No. 2, dated 13th November, 1942.

Briefly they are: (a) the purchase by Government outright of lots 82, 83 and 84, Murray & Carmichael Streets, with all the buildings and erections thereon comprising the School, for the sum of \$17,436, including the cost of school furniture and equipment; (b) Government to take over on long lease lots 81 and 80½ known as the "Bishop's Fund Lots", at an annual rental of \$75. Secondly, the acceptance by Government of the responsibility for the staff and pupils as from the date of assuming control, and the maintenance of all existing contracts with teachers, the estimated sum required as salaries in 1943 being about \$14,000. There is no doubt that when Government takes the School over the Governing Body may recommend an increase of salaries as outlined in Mr. Hammond's Report on Education, and so that amount will probably have to be increased. Thirdly, the continuance of such exhibitions and free places as have been regularly granted by the school to pupils on the same terms under which they were originally awarded. Fourthly: The acceptance by Government of responsibility for payment of a pension to Miss Baskett, a former Headmistress of the School, who is receiving a small allowance of \$492 a year which is considered inadequate. The proposal is that this sum should be increased to \$960 a year.

The main school building, as hon. Members are aware, is in a very bad condition and will have to be rebuilt and re-equipped. The estimated cost when prepared a few months ago was \$77,385. The Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies is prepared to recommend a free grant to the extent of \$50,000 to meet the cost of rebuilding and equipping this school. I should have said at the outset that the proposal to take over the school had received the support of the Comptroller for Development and Welfare.

The immediate financial implications are set out in the Message. They are—

Capital Expenditure—

Purchase of land		
and building	\$17,436.00	
Estimate for re-		
building and		
equipping	77,385.00	\$94,821.00

<i>Less</i> free grant under the		
Colonial Development		
and Welfare Act.....	50,000.00	

Net total..... \$144,821.00

Recurrent Expenditure (1943 only because the Governing Body have not been appointed and the School not taken over and they may come forward with other recommendations)—

Salaries, etc., of		
Staff	\$13,904.00	
Contingencies (in-		
cluding pension		
to Miss Baskett)	4,861.00	
Rent of land		
(Bishop's Fund		
Lots)	75.00	\$18,840.00

<i>Less</i> Estimated re-		
ceipts from fees \$	8,000.00	
Text Books	200.00	8,200.00
Net Total.....		\$10,640.00

The Select Committee of the Council has submitted its report and I do not intend to touch on the questions mentioned therein. The hon. Member for New Amsterdam, the Chairman, can deal with that. If the recommendations are to be carried out, it seems that it may be necessary to amend slightly the resolution after it is finally put before the Council. It is proposed that the School should be run on the lines of the Queen's College for boys. A Governing Body will have to be appointed and the Select Committee has made a suggestion as to the number of members of the Governing Body and to the persons who, in their opinion, should be appointed. I hope that hon. Members of Council will not hesitate to support this resolution because it would mean if it is not passed that there will be no secondary school of that description for girls and, I think, it is agreed that it is essential that this Colony should have not only a secondary school for boys but one also for girls. I move the resolution standing in my name.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) seconded.

Mr. LEE: I have read the Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council and would like to be informed a little more as regards paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Report. If I am permitted I would read the portions of which I would like some explanation. It reads:—

At the time of our visit the School was in session: and we then had an opportunity of forming some idea of the present accommodation offered by the existing buildings. It is obviously deficient in many respects—the class room spaces more particularly, being inadequate to provide for the efficient instruction of 180 pupils—the present enrolment, a number that would have been greater had the restricted accommodation and inadequacy of staff not made this impossible.

I would like to know whether the Committee went into the question of

how many students had been refused admission into that school as it would show to this Council how many more students we must expect at this School if accommodation can be provided, and further, whether in the purchase of the buildings it was seen that there is space or room for extension in order to accommodate those students who had been refused admission. After all, the school will be financed from public funds apart from the help given under the Welfare Act for the accommodation of students, and we should therefore see that as far as possible the buildings to be acquired can be extended in order to accommodate those students who were refused admission, otherwise we would get into the same position as that existing for boys, at Queen's College where the accommodation is inadequate and the classes cannot be properly housed in order to be properly instructed. I am not saying anything against the Masters who are very efficient. If we purchase and take over this school and find that that exists there, it might be said later that the Members of this Council did not consider all the aspects of the situation before acquiring the property. If the buildings cannot accommodate 180 students now and there are girls who had been refused admission, then the accommodation will be inadequate after a year when more liberal terms are afforded girls for the admission to the School. I feel in that respect that this Council would be in a better position if it allows the Bishop to carry on for another year and in the meantime look for another site to establish a proper school built on up-to-date lines, including a spacious playground. The cost can be estimated by the Engineers and Experts of the Public Works Department. I feel sure that this Colony would benefit materially if such a course is adopted.

In respect of paragraph 3 of the Report, if the present Staff has the required qualification and is giving good service and Government intends

to take over that Staff, I would like to find out from the Committee why the Headmistress only is to be re-engaged under a contract for a period of 3 years and not the others? If it is intended to be a trial for the purpose of seeing the efficiency of the School under Government control, why should not the entire Staff be re-engaged under contract for 3 years? If I am satisfied on those questions that I have asked I will certainly support the motion.

Mr. AUSTIN: I am not altogether clear on one or two paragraphs of the Committee's Report which I have only just seen. As regards the re-engagement of the Headmistress under a contract for a period of not less than 3 years, that is quite clear, but paragraph 3 goes on to say "and on a salary scale to be determined later; but that in the interval she should be given a commencing salary of £350 per annum." That means that if the contract is made she will get a salary of £350 per annum up to the 31st March and from then onwards she will get something more which may be put into her contract. "To be determined later" I take it means when the contract is signed. Is that a provision of Government contract or is she under the Bishop's High School Regulations entitled to passage and is therefore able to claim that? That also refers to what appears in paragraph 6 relative to the various agreements or contracts of service of the ladies now engaged there. Are their passage rights to be altogether cancelled and some additional remuneration or other arrangement made therefor, or are they going to be given special facility for travelling home when their leave is due?

I see it is believed that a suitable additional Mistress can be secured at a salary of \$60 a month. Is that a salary one should give to a qualified individual selected for an important position such as a Mistress at the Bishop's High School? Is that

a proper salary to pay a person who has been educated at some expense and obtained special training? \$60 a month for an individual of such qualifications does seem miserably small and not within reason. The Committee, I think, should give that further consideration. The Chairman probably will be able to give a reason for fixing that amount, but I do think that \$60 a month for a Mistress at Bishop's High School is very much on the small side.

Mr. De AGUIAR: Before this debate continues along lines as begun by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee), I think it ought to be clearly stated what this Council is asked to accept. As to whether or not the Government should establish a secondary school for girls in Georgetown, is a question which should first be agreed upon. If that question is answered in the affirmative, then the second question, to my mind, is whether Government should acquire the premises known as the Bishop's High School and the conditions under which the premises and the School should be acquired. In so far as the first question is concerned, I think it will be generally agreed that the establishment of a secondary school for girls in Georgetown is very desirable indeed, and so we can at once accept that principle. As a member of the Committee which examined the proposals then put up to Government for the acquisition of the Bishop's High School, I would like to say that the proposals put forward are to my mind in favour of the Government. It may be termed a fairly good and reasonable bargain. I do not think we can to-day go into the details as required by the hon. Member for Essequibo River and the hon. Nominated Member.

The position, as I understand it to be, is this. We have got to make some sort of temporary arrangement so that in taking over this school from the 1st January it will be able to function.

The continuance of this secondary school is a matter to be gone into later. The question of salaries, the question of rebuilding the school and things of that kind are all matters which we cannot certainly go into now. In Your Excellency's Message before the Council provision is made for purchasing the land and rebuilding the school, and here I would like to say that this Colony should be very grateful indeed for the contribution of \$50,000 that has been made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. We should record our appreciation and thanks for this grant because, undoubtedly, it is a very valuable assistance for the establishment of the school. We are only being called upon at present to provide \$44,000 towards the capital expenditure, and I do not think the taxpayers of the Colony will object or offer any serious objection to the expenditure of that sum. So far as the current expenditure for 1943 is concerned, in Your Excellency's Message the position is set out very clear. It is estimated that the school would cost in 1943 a sum slightly over \$10,000, and when that is placed alongside the grant in 1942 of \$7,920 there is not much of an increase. Then again, there is not much to complain about. As a matter of fact, as one who opposed the contribution by Government, I did so as a principle. I want to make that perfectly clear because to-day I am supporting the project. Although the expenditure in 1943 will be greater than the grant given by Government in 1942, the administrative side of the school is going to be strengthened, and that is what I am particular about.

I have always held the view that where the taxpayers' money is being spent, there should be some sort of control, and I opposed the grant to this school in the first instance on the ground of control. I say an expenditure of \$10,000 in 1943 for carrying on a Secondary School for Girls

is money well spent, having regard to Government control of the institution as from that date. I think that if hon. Members to-day accept the resolution as it stands, we can proceed later on to discuss the details when the question comes up.

Mr. PIER BACCIUS: The Message, I think, will get the full support of the Council. So far as the acquisition of the buildings is concerned, I do not agree with my hon. friend that we cannot go into the details to-day, whereas in the Message itself we are asked to vote an annual expenditure on this School. Therefore, if we are to vote only an amount to meet expenses I think it is time that we discuss the details. I am not in opposition to the expenditure in so far as the furniture is concerned, nor to the acquisition of the buildings, nor to the School being taken over and run by Government as such should have been done years ago, but I must say that I really would like some more information in the light of this Message. Government is taking over the existing Staff and I think we should be told what will be our obligations, whether those employed will be entitled to pension, as in the case of Queen's College, from the date Government takes over the School or from the date of their employment by the Bishop's High School.

Another matter that puzzles me a little, I must admit, is that the hon. the Colonial Secretary says this School will be run on similar lines as Queen's College. I take it that every employee of this School will be treated as a Civil Servant, as stated in the report of the Select Committee. If I remember correctly, there is a restriction in so far as Civil Servants are concerned against the employment of married women. Will those employed at this institution be immune from such restriction? If that is so, then this Council should be told that the Regulations governing the Civil Service of this Colony

will not apply in the case of this School on its being taken over by Government. In so far as the pension to Miss Baskett is concerned, she was receiving a certain sum from the Bishop's High School and now that obligation will be on Government, it is thought wise to increase it. So far as Miss Baskett personally is concerned I would say here that I would like to see her pension increased, but I am thinking of the principle. We are taking over an institution and certain liabilities but in the face of that we are increasing our liabilities by extending facilities and increasing the pension of certain of its pensioners. That, I think, in principle is wrong. However much I feel that Miss Baskett was not receiving as much pension as she should have been, I do not think there is an obligation on this Government to increase it. This Government is taking over liabilities as they exist, and no reason has been given as to why this Government must increase its liabilities in so far as Miss Baskett is concerned. I think that it is wrong in principle. So far as the Message itself is concerned it will receive my wholehearted support.

Mr. JACOB: As a member of this Select Committee I would like to reply to one or two of the points raised by some hon. Members who have spoken. In regard to the question by my hon. friend, the Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee), as to whether the site is suitable, whether there is a sufficiency of land for extension and whether there will be sufficient accommodation for the pupils now and in the future, I would like to say that I am satisfied that the site is very suitable, that there is a sufficiency of land for extension and for the accommodation of 250 to 300 pupils. I am not in a position to say that the present buildings or the proposed buildings would be the more suitable, but I think those who have planned

it have made provision for extension along proper lines. As regards those pupils or students who have been refused admission in the past, I think provision is made now to increase the number on roll from 185 --the number on the date of our visit there--to 250. I think the public should be grateful to the Bishop for the very kindly gesture and for the arrangement made with this Government. I think Government has secured a very good bargain, and I feel that the thanks of the community and particularly of this Council are due to those who made this arrangement. As a matter of fact several of the Members of this Committee felt that if they had owned the land they would never have sold it. As regards the pension to Miss Baskett referred to in the Message, I think that if there is any difficulty about the payment to her of this amount, then whatever Government may lose in that respect has been gained by the acquisition of the land and building at such a low price.

As regards the staff I am not quite in agreement with everything in this report. I agree that \$60 a month is a little too small for a competent teacher, but the Committee had not the time to go into all aspects of this matter. What should be considered is that Government is taking over something that has been in existence for several years, and that in the short time at its disposal the Committee was anxious to conclude the arrangements to take over the School as from the 1st January. Therefore, whatever comments hon. Members have to make as regards the adequacy or inadequacy of the salaries should be deferred until a later date. The main point is that Government should take over the School and run it as efficiently as Queen's College. Whatever obligations Government may have should be met without any restriction or unfairness to anybody including the staff.

So far as the married women are concerned I am not in agreement with my friend the hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peer Bacchus). I think that as soon as arrangements can be made the present staff should be replaced by unmarried women. I do not wish it to be understood that I want any injustice done to those already employed. All existing arrangements must be honoured to the full, but as soon as Government takes over the School arrangements should be made to fill vacancies with single women. I am not too sure that it would not be well to have a few male teachers on the staff. I do not know whether there is any precedent for it, but I think it would be well to have some male teachers as well. It may not be quite in accordance with the practice in other parts of the world, but in this Colony I am afraid we may not be able to get the class of teachers desired from the female sex. In conclusion I would ask hon. Members to accept the principle of this report and give Government an opportunity to take over and reorganize the School for the benefit of the community.

Mr. JACKSON: I rise to support the motion. I am satisfied that Government is taking the right step to acquire this School and run it as a Government institution on the same conditions on which Queen's College is run. I feel that every opportunity should be given to our girls to qualify themselves and make themselves efficient for the positions they have to occupy in this community. I know as a fact, and perhaps the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) will support me, that in respect of a certain race in this Colony the absence of real educational qualifications among the women precludes the young men who are sufficiently qualified, from perhaps making partners of the young women of their own race. I am also in agreement that all praise and credit should be given to those who

established the Bishop's High School and laboured for many years, one of them at least at personal expense to himself, to keep it up, and I believe that if the School is continued on the lines suggested it will have a very great effect.

With respect to the question of salaries I think that is a matter which should be considered later on. I was asked whether any of the Masters at Queen's College received salaries as low as \$60 per month. On the question of salaries for men and women there are two schools of thought. There are some people who feel that men should receive larger salaries than women doing the same work, but there are others who feel that the same salaries should be paid to both. I am not prepared to enter into a discussion of that point today. What I do feel is that this Council should accept the principle that Government should accept the offer to take over the School and run it on proper lines. I feel that it is a step in the right direction and I support the motion with all my heart.

Mr. SEAFORD: I should like to reply to certain of the comments made. I have been a member of the Board for a little time, and I also sat as a member of the Committee. With regard to the question raised by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) about the situation like to endorse the remarks of the of the School and the grounds I would hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob). The present building is not only entirely inadequate to house the present number of children but its condition is so very bad that constant repair would be necessary, and I am satisfied that it would have to be rebuilt in a very short time. The other building which is known as the Parry Hall is in good condition, and a very good type of building for its requirement, but the other building will not remain standing very much longer.

As regards the present number of pupils (185) there had been an increase of 40 during the last term, and if the hon. Member visited the School and saw two classes being held in the same room he would realize that the scholars are not getting the benefit they should from their tuition. It is proposed that one reason for enlarging the School is because they wish to widen the scope of the education in it generally. At present the pupils are only taught certain subjects, and we are told that the girls do not get a chance to compete with the boys for the Guiana Scholarship. No Science is being taught at the present time, and it is hoped that the general scope will be widened.

A certain question was asked by the hon. Mr. Austin. I think he said he could not quite understand the position with regard to the Headmistress. The position is that at present there is no agreement with her at all. Her agreement has come to an end and it is thought that Government will have to make a temporary arrangement with her until a new agreement is made. Government takes over the School on the 1st January, and she would like to know whether she will be employed or not. The Committee has recommended a salary of £350 a year to commence with until Government makes a new agreement and fixes her salary.

Mr. AUSTIN: Isn't it assumed that provision will be made on the 1st April, and that she will get back £500? Will the increase of salary take effect as from the date of the signing of the new contract?

Mr. SEAFORD: That depends on the agreement Government makes. It was rather difficult for the Committee to go into all of that. The Committee felt that that question would have to be decided by the Board of Governors who would make a recommendation to Government,

As to the other question with regard to the adequacy of the salary of \$60 per month, perhaps it might have been clear if the report had mentioned that the Mistress, who is to get \$60 per month, is not a whole-time Mistress. She will only give a certain number of hours' work a week for that salary. There will have to be a certain amount of reorganization of the staff. We tried to get teachers locally and an advertisement was put in the newspapers in an effort to get teachers from abroad, but it has been found quite impossible. I think we are fortunate to get as a Mistress there a lady who belongs to the Colony and has done extraordinarily well in her work abroad. That will go before the new Board of Governors. Some arrangement had to be made for carrying on the School next term, and the Committee recommended the appointment of a temporary Mistress at that salary.

I think the hon. Member also mentioned about passages. To start with, unless Government had come to the rescue of the Bishop's High School I am afraid that it would have gone out of existence, and the girls of this Colony would have been left without any secondary school whatsoever. I feel that Government had no option but to take over the School, and in doing so I am satisfied that no Member of the Council or the Government would wish to shirk any obligation to any member of the staff. They were engaged on certain conditions, and I think everyone here would like to honour these arrangements. It is for that reason that the Committee recommended that those Mistresses be given return passages as provided for in their contracts, and also their leave.

The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) asked why the Headmistress alone was offered a 3-year contract and not the other members of the staff. The reason is that the Headmistress has no contract, but all the others have, and the Committee felt

that it would be better for Government to make new contracts at the end of the existing ones.

I know that the question of married Mistresses is rather a controversial one, but I feel that in a girls' school it is of advantage to have a certain number of married Mistresses, but there again I do not think that need disturb us now. It is a matter for Government and the new Board of Governors to decide.

One other obligation referred to is the pension to Miss Baskett. I agree with the hon. Member for North-Western District that Government has made a wonderfully fine bargain, but not for that reason do I feel that we can afford to pay. I think this Colony owes a moral obligation to that lady who has worked so faithfully for the Colony, and I think this Council will have no hesitation in granting her what I feel she so well deserves.

I would also like to pay my tribute to those Bishops who have carried the School on their shoulders out of their own pockets. I think we owe them a debt of gratitude, and I think it is time that Government should give the girls of the Colony the education which we all wish to see them have.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I would like to make some general remarks in relation to the School itself, and as I think the Colony would like to see it in the future. I do not think there can be any objection to the site. The School is situated in a central part of the City, but I think what we have to consider is that there will be erected on that site a building which will provide accommodation for a larger number of pupils than was perhaps envisaged by Mr. Hammond who contemplated a building to accommodate 250 pupils. I believe that the enrolment of that School, when it becomes a Government School, will be double that number, and in any event very ample provision must be made in the building of that School to provide

adequate accommodation for classrooms and for the accommodation of some of the staff.

It has always been a matter of controversy in this Colony whether married women should be engaged to teach at that School, and I think we have to look at the future and try to engage single women as far as possible. Where are the single ladies to be recruited from? There are very few in the Colony, and they have to be recruited from abroad, in which case I think that one of the terms of their engagement will be that they will be provided with quarters. I can readily understand that those quarters should be looked for in the School buildings. I can see myself that the demand made by the public for converting the School into a boarding school in part, so as to accommodate children from Essequibo and Berbice whose parents do not live in Georgetown or on the East Coast, will be renewed. That has been the demand on the Government in relation to Queen's College. It has always been an insistent demand, and I have no doubt that simply because Queen's College exists where it is that representations are not being made along those lines. In the building itself Government will have to provide for a largely increased number of pupils and accommodation for some members of its staff.

So far as the existing buildings are concerned I really do not know how much longer the main building is going to remain the principal instruction hall. I suppose we will get that \$50,000 which has not yet been obtained, but so far as I know no plans for that building have yet been made. All of that will take a considerable time. One hon. Member says that plans have been made, but Mr. Hammond's proposal was to provide accommodation for 250 pupils, and if plans have been made I think they will have to be altered with a view to extension. It is going to be a long number of months before the general lay-out will be determined.

The question of the staff is more important. The Headmistress's contract has just expired. She is a graduate. There are two other ladies whose terms of engagement under a contract or some informal document expire, one in May and the other in September. There are also various Mistresses who are part-time officers, and those vacancies will have to be filled. Mr. Austin enquired why the suggestion was made in the report that the Headmistress should be paid a commencing salary of £350. It is because at the present moment she is getting £300 a year, and the Committee had in its mind the recommendation of Mr. Hammond that all graduates should be on the salary scale of £300 to £400. She is a graduate and would come within that scale, and if she remains as Headmistress—and I think it is desirable that she should—and Mr. Hammond's scale is adopted, she would then by reason of being Headmistress come within the scale £400—£500, which is what Mr. Hammond recommends. If graduates are to be appointed they will naturally expect to be paid between £300—£400 a year, so that in suggesting a commencing salary of £350, which really is only £50 a year more than she got in the past, while the Mistress next to her, who came out under contract, only gets \$5 per month less than the Headmistress, it is not a disparity of any consequence to suggest that the Headmistress should get £350 a year.

So far as conditions of service are concerned, I do not know what Government will decide, but I have no doubt that most of the Mistresses from abroad, and those engaged here, will be engaged on some form of contract and will come under the ordinary rules and regulations of Government dealing with contracts. The question of pensions will only arise if and when Government decides when those contracts should be determined, whether in one, two or three years, and whether they should be employed on the Fixed Establishment. What we ought to

address ourselves to is the question of enabling the School to function as from the first of the year with some kind of staff.

Reference has been made to the inadequacy of the proposed salary to the additional Mistress. What the Committee found was that the School authorities had already entered into an arrangement to take on a certain lady at that salary. After all she has not had any previous experience in the School, but she is ready and willing to commence her apprenticeship and training, and I think she is quite right. She has a good future to look forward to. She is a native of the Colony, and I think it is to her credit that she is ready and willing to teach in the School in which she was educated, and which was responsible for the position she occupies today. I think she is to be congratulated on coming to the School just at this moment. It is not expected that a graduate of her distinction should continue to enjoy a salary of \$120. At present she is willing to join the School staff as from the first of the year.

Reference was made by the hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peter Bacchus) to the proposed pension to Miss Baskett, which he said was not right. That is the pension which the School proposed to pay her or has paid her, and it is one of the obligations which this Government assumes, to pay Miss Baskett \$80 per month in future. Miss Baskett is not a young woman, and I do not think the pension is inadequate or can be considered inadequate under present conditions.

I suggest that the motion should be passed. The estimate may be wrong: it probably is, but that can always be dealt with by supplementary estimate later on. I have no doubt there will be many changes. I do not think the estimate of the cost of construction of the new building is right; I think it

will be largely exceeded. My friend says that I have not seen it, but it must be based on existing costs, otherwise I do not see how one can determine what the cost will be in the future. I have every respect for the hon. Member's engineering qualifications, but I do not think he would care to submit a firm estimate for the construction of anything now, and I think I am right in saying that this estimate will be exceeded.

Mr. GONSALVES: I find that I am the only Unofficial Member who has not spoken on this motion, and lest it be thought that I am not in sympathy with it I have risen to say that I support it heartily. The impression I have gained from what the last speaker has said is that the Committee seemed to have felt some uneasiness about the motion being put through, because I observe that four of the five persons who signed the report have spoken on the motion and the report. The fifth member of the Committee is absent. I am glad to find that to-day at least it is definitely recognized that there should be a Government secondary school for girls in this Colony. This matter has engaged the attention of the Council before, and has also been discussed in some way by the Education Committee. A previous Committee also went into the question of the in-ability of the present Bishop to carry on the School. The Committee made certain recommendations and was of the opinion that Government would have to carry on the School. I am glad to find that Government, through its foresight in appointing to this Committee certain Members of the Council who were opposed to it, has been able to convert those Members to the view that Government should run a secondary school for girls. It seems to me that Government has learnt a good lesson. (laughter).

With regard to the recommendations in the report, I am inclined to the view of the hon. Mr. Austin with

respect to the salary of \$60 to be paid to one of the teachers. I should not like to be a teacher at any price, and \$60 per month does seem a small salary. I think, when the time comes to fix the salaries of the staff something on the basis of Queen's College might be considered, and a more adequate scale adopted for this School. One hon. Member suggested that it would not be a bad idea to have a male teacher on the staff, but I observe that it is proposed in the report of the Committee that the Board of Governors should include three Members of the Legislative Council, so that what the School will lack on its staff it will have on the Board. I have great pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. LEE: Lest a wrong impression be created by what I have said I wish to say that I am in agreement with the principle of Government carrying on this girls' school. I was only enquiring whether the members of the Committee had gone into all the details and the adequacy of the proposed new building. I am glad to hear from the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) that he has seen the plan, and that adequate provision has been made for the accommodation of the pupils.

I am also glad that the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) has mentioned about the teaching of Science. I sincerely hope that the Board of Governors will consider whether arrangements cannot be made for the Science Master at Queen's College to give the girls instruction in Science until proper provision can be made for such tuition at the School.

Mr. SEAFORD: That matter has been considered, but it would mean additional laboratories. As an alternative it is being considered whether it would not be possible for some of the girls to make use of the laboratory at Queen's College,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In moving the motion I stated that it might be necessary to amend it to include one or more of the recommendations of the Committee. I agree with the hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) that we might pass the motion as it stands, and when the time comes to introduce the item of expenditure—I understand that the Treasurer will move in an item in the First Schedule of expenditure for the coming year—the amount might be increased by the sum mentioned in par. 7 of the report. I think it would be quite simple to deal with the matter in that way.

I am not quite clear about the recommendation in par. 3 of the report. I understand from the Chairman of the Committee that Government will have straight away to inform the Headmistress what we are prepared to pay her for the whole period mentioned. Is it wise to tie the hands of the Board of Governors with respect to one Mistress? Could not arrangements be made to engage the Headmistress for a year at the salary recommended by the Committee, instead of engaging her for a period of three years? I think it should come forward as a recommendation from the Board of Governors when appointed. It would be a simple matter to inform the Headmistress that Government proposes to employ an additional Mistress.

There is one question which has not been answered. The hon. Mr. Jackson asked whether any Master at Queen's College is paid a lower salary than \$60 per month. In the 1942 Estimates there were two Junior Masters on the scale \$570 to \$820. I am not suggesting that it is a right and fair salary to pay them, but as the question was asked I think it is only fair to say that.

Mr. WOOLFORD: With regard to the salary of the Headmistress it is only a recommendation. We under-

stood that she is quite prepared to remain in her present position as from the 1st January until these matters are settled. The last sentence of par. 3 of the Committee's report states:—

we suggest that she should be re-engaged as Headmistress under a contract for a period of not less than 3 years to take effect as from the 1st day of January next, and on a salary scale to be determined later; but that in the interval she should be given a commencing salary of £350 per annum."

She is ready and willing to carry on so as to allow the School to function as from the 1st January.

Motion put, and agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (No. 2) BILL, 1942.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I move that the Standing Rules and Orders of the Council be suspended to enable the following Bill to be taken through all its stages:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the current session of the Legislative Council.

Mr. AUSTIN seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. McDAVID: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the current session of the Legislative Council" be read the first time."

Mr. AUSTIN seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Mr. McDAVID: As the Council is aware, this is the final act in authorizing the appropriation of moneys which have been voted in the Estimates for the year 1943. As the motion approving those Estimates was passed only recently I do not think it is necessary

for me to go into any question of finances. Your Excellency has already intimated to the Council the reason for bringing forward this Bill so early. I think I may add that in theory at least, until this measure is enacted the Governor has no power to authorize expenditure on the Estimates; therefore I am very happy that this Bill has been advanced; and I hope that in future it will always be possible to pass the Appropriation Bill immediately after the Estimates have been approved by the Council. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. AUSTIN 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.

Mr. McDAVID: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the current session of the Legislative Council" be read a third time and passed.

Mr. AUSTIN seconded.

PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATIONS.

THE PRESIDENT: Before putting the question finally I would wish to detain Members a few minutes with some observations of my own on the debate on the second reading, and on the numerous comments, enquiries, criticisms and proposals which have come forward in discussion in Committee. I had made voluminous notes of remarks of Members, but I have had no adequate opportunity elsewhere to make these comments of my own.

I would refer first to one feature of the discussions to which I have listened, and that is that no Member

speaking appears to me to have shown full realization of the complexity and potentialities of the burden of financial obligations which we have to face, or may have to face in the very near future. Very frequently in the discussion on the Estimates individual Members, or the general sense of the Committee has indicated very ready willingness to commit Government to added expenditure on some particular project dear to the individual, or which all of us would like—sentimentally—to see undertaken. There have been many instances.

COST OF PRIMARY EDUCATION.

On the other side of the picture I do not think I heard a single reference to the alarming prospect and astronomical figures of the cost of primary education if brought in any way up to the standards recommended, and if the Colony has to bear the costs. That question is still on the knees of the gods, but I cannot for one moment expect that the whole of this bill can be borne by outside funds, and that some substantial proportion will not fall on local revenues.

SUBSIDIZATION.

Much nearer is the question of the need to "peg" some at least of the prices of essentials at reasonable prices, that is, by subsidization, and I am one of those who hold that if we do not do this—*e.g.*, if we allowed the price of flour, bread, kerosene, to soar or even jump about, the financial cost to Government and to the Colony would be heavier still. Again, I stated very early in these proceedings that Government must grant some increase in wages to unskilled labour, and the size of that bill is not yet before us in figures. We have again in mind the recasting of salary votes for lower paid Post Office employees, and that may take us further.

SPECIAL DEMANDS.

There is again the question of drainage and irrigation schemes, and

Members last August had agreed in principle to an expenditure of some \$300,000 from local funds on the smaller schemes to be begun early, apart from the costs of the more ambitious ones. There are again numerous revotes of provisions made in 1942. Certain services, *e.g.*, transport, are in bad need of expensive replacements. These are particular projects only of several others. It is obviously essential when we are approving extra expenditure to keep one eye at least on the relation of it to our surplus and our revenue. But in these years it is next to impossible to budget with any accuracy for our revenue, just as it is impossible to judge fully in December the numerous special demands that may come upon us in this wartime period and at short notice, both of which make the scientific budget, for which one Member called, out of our power. Our revenue may go down substantially on certain things next year, though it may recoup something in some directions. The abolition of the exemption from excess profits tax as regards mining may be one.

EXTENSION OF DIRECT TAXATION.

More important in my view is this—that in principle, as I have already said once in one part of our proceedings, we must get it into our heads that we are not going to be able to carry out successfully a policy of social security, to give it its widest term, on our present basis of taxation and private property ownership. Social security is an ideal very expensive indeed. Unless we are to be completely pauperized by begging the funds from outside, we will have to get accustomed to the idea of revision of taxation with steep increases in direct taxation, *e.g.*, income tax. I hope that will be set off to some extent by substantial decrease in the extensive system of indirect taxation which is widely inflicted in this Colony by way of tariffs, fees, licences: it is the old-fashioned colonial system of taxation. But the extension of direct

taxation will have to be faced. I personally would go further and say that if we are to carry out ambitious schemes of social reform and pay our fair share of the cost, it will mean specific taxation of capital, of profits going out of the Colony, and of other new sources. However, this is not the place to dwell on that. I would merely reiterate that our surplus cannot be relied upon to take us very far, and we may very well need all of it for obligations we cannot possibly escape.

“THIS BENIGHTED COUNTRY.”

I would turn to another feature of the observations to which I have listened; it was already the subject of some brief comment by my hon. friend the Colonial Treasurer, who deprecated the continuous use of such phrases as “our parlous condition” or “this benighted country.” Such phrases are common in the jeremiads of my very good friend, the hon. Member for the Berbice River—I am sorry not to see him here today—and I do not think they do us any good. The latter phrase was his parting shot with which he ended his speech to us, as he sat down, metaphorically, in a flood of tears. “Benighted Country,” surely not. If I understood him correctly in what he said on December 2, it was to the effect that the problems and difficulties which beset us in this country are wholly due to “the administration.” I have listened to other remarks that bear the same interpretation, that this country has therefore made no progress for a hundred years and for the same reason.

The follies of the greatest and most liberal minded governments of the world, gross follies both in policy and execution, are partly responsible for the tragic conditions in the world today. I am not going to pretend that this country has been or is ideally administered, and I have said more than once that the Governor has peculiar opportunities of seeing and realizing deficiencies in the Govern-

ment machine. But it is quite impossible for me always to, in honesty to myself or to the post I hold, sit by and listen, as I have so often done in this last year, to this one-sided recrimination. I feel I begin to know and have read, much of British Guiana, and know there is very much to be said from another angle.

A VERY GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO DO.

What I did say in my first address to this Council, and repeated again when I addressed it at the opening meeting of this present session, was that it is no use spending so much energy in putting all the blame for this or that deficiency in our Colony on this or that class of the community or Government, or "sugar economy" or slavery, which is more than a hundred years past, or the indenture system, now also dead. We are living in the present and we should be trying to build up the future, and there is a very great deal of work to do.

We all know that this country, as several others, has suffered from the mistake of reliance on one export cash crop and from the manner in which that aim was pursued, and we all know that these Colonies are greatly unfortunate in their past. But when the need is for hard work by the whole community the time has surely come to end the habit of tearing passions to tatters about old bogies, or flogging dead horses or blaming or distrusting the intentions of people of to-day, or putting everything down to the relative failure of Government to cure all troubles any more than it would be right to blame the relative failure of religious bodies for not producing a more religious race.

SUBSTANTIAL STEPS FORWARD.

I should also like to say that it is wickedly unjust, whether to the Government of this country or to its people as a whole, to go on pretending that there is no progress, and has been none for ten or fifty or a hundred

years. No person in his senses will pretend that this country has not made substantial steps forward in very many ways from year to year, and without more than temporary setbacks in particular things, not as a whole.

Georgetown is in many ways the pleasantest, healthiest and cleanest city or big town in the British or other colonies in the Western Hemisphere. There is probably no country where the relative improvement in health conditions in recent decades has been so great. There is no place where its principal industry is more scientifically successful; there is no place with a more notable development of a wholly worthwhile industry in rice cultivation, and I am quite sure the British Guianese of all races from decade to decade have shown a steady advance in personal qualities. There is a class of East Indians who have risen in one generation from indentured labourers to capitalist land and mill owners, and Africans to the highest positions in the professions and service of the State. And this, to a degree, I would say, relatively greater than in any country.

I should be only too glad myself to stress only, if I could, the progressive and optimistic outlook, and gloss over faults. But quite apart from defence of Government in particular and in general, it seems to me proper and necessary in honesty not to gloss over—though it might be much more tactful or discreet to do so—faults or deficiencies in the set-up of the country or of our community as a whole, where I have observed them in an endeavour to grasp something of the fundamental conditions of the Colony. I have seen, of course, that such observations are certainly liable to considerable misconstruction when a single remark or phrase or sentence is taken out and considered separately and not with the whole.

NEW GOVERNOR'S WAND.

Again I have been most anxious to disabuse that attitude of mind which has impressed me so very forcibly in my first few months here, that a new Governor can come with a wand to wave, and in the next few months this and that and everything will be revolutionized. I have said that I believe it will take a generation and millions of dollars to produce the improvements that many people here would wish to believe can be evolved in a year or two. I have made no promises and I make none, and would repeat that achievement will demand patience and tolerance and continuous hard work, and will not be attained without discomfort felt and dislike aroused.

COSTS OF ADMINISTRATION.

I would turn to another notable contribution to our debates, that of the Member for Central Demerara. It was indeed interesting, but I felt as I listened to him that he was more than a little of an old-fashioned Whig, anxious to be liberal, who is always ready to criticize the expenditure of progressive steps by Government if they be novel, but is not very prepared to put up a practical alternative of his own. He betrayed a good deal of concern over rising expenditure, and not very much welcome of the new steps taken. He seemed to me to repeat an ancient misunderstanding of why Government expenditure in all countries is rising, which was in fact clearly indicated in my own address. It all reminded me very much of what I read six years ago in another Colony on a similar kind of complaint, but as to which investigation by economic advisers had quite clearly shown that the costs of administration *per se*, that is the overhead costs of the bare framework of Government had either not increased or had gone substantially down proportionately to total expenditure. That could be easily proved in this Colony.

The real reason shown over and over again in a series of colonial units was that in recent years Government had undertaken obligations by way of social services, education, medical, agricultural and the whole lot of them, services which had at one time either not appeared at all or were confined to a small scale or a small skeleton staff. The whole picture has completely changed in these last twenty years, or even ten years, and Government's obligation to run full developmental services is now admitted and the cost must be faced. I speak from personal experience in one Colony of making a deliberate attempt to reduce expenditure comfortably without revenue. I did so by lopping and pruning certain services, but the upshot of my effort was that I had to report that the policy could only mean complete and absolute stagnation and therefore that funds from outside must be given.

COLONIES TO HAVE SERVICES THEY NEED.

We have now the very definite assurance of the policy of H.M. Imperial Government that these Colonies are to have the services they need, and not merely the services for which they can pay, and this Council and I would be utterly false to that policy if we do not go on supplying these services, paying for them as far as we can, but supplying them. In my address on November 18 I drew a clear distinction between the older and the newer principle of colonial policy, and I think I made it fairly clear that that means a constant and extending degree of State intervention and responsibility, and with it goes expanding costs that will not be wholly met from increasing revenue, at least not for a long time to come. I think that is the answer to the tenor of a great deal of what the hon. Member said. He was good enough to say as regards some of it that he would not oppose but would hope that the investment would be good expenditure and would pay good dividends.

SMALL LAND-HOLDERS.

I would like to say a word or two also on a factor to which I made reference in my own address, and which has cropped up several times in the discussions in Committee, namely, that principal asset of our country, land. What I had attempted to do myself was to state quite frankly certain facts or impressions of facts as I see them which are of absolutely the first importance to our immediate future. I venture to say that I believe in many places in the colony there has been a deterioration in recent years, and I gather that that has not been palatable and was taken as if I had intended that as an argument to oppose certain inevitable trends in our development. Such an inference, for example, that the Government was opposed to the development of the passing of the land into the hands of small holders and would prefer to see it in the hands of the large estates is entirely contrary to what I said. I had actually stated that this evolution is ultimately to the good though it brought with it many difficulties now, and I went out of my way to say that I was not decrying any particular class or classes concerned. I endeavoured to state a social evolution in this matter as I see it, I gave credit to the sugar estates for the fact as I see it, of good husbandry of land on their part, because I think it fair to state it and I would even regard it as a model for Government to follow. I was very far from saying that I should prefer to see the country monopolized by such a system. God forbid it. I went on to accept the inference that the small holder without capital cannot carry the duty, and specific assistance must be given, and to say that the next step is a wide increase of Government responsibility and control for and of land. I added that assistance carries with it the need of safeguarding conditions.

AGRICULTURAL FUTURE OF THE COLONY.

What I would like to say here is that whatever we retain of our sugar

industry, the agricultural future and happiness of the people of this country will largely depend on the development of the smaller agriculturist, whether East Indian or African, who can show himself fitted by aptitude and turn of mind for the development of rice and mixed farming, and that way of life. Government policy in my view above all things requires the encouragement and development of our rural economy of the smaller land-holder, the betterment of conditions in our villages and for that, as fundamental to these things—we must always come back to it—the establishment of a drainage and irrigation system on a comprehensive scale.

I am afraid I have detained Members some time, but I should have thought these matters of importance which I should like to put on record as affecting Government policy and touching our finances before we close our sittings for the present year.

I do not know whether what I am going to say comes within the term of "dividends," as stated by the Honourable Member for Central Demerara, but it might be interesting news to Members to know this. We had expected a balance of \$2,400,000 at the end of the year, and I am now able to tell them that we are going to reach that comfortably and in fact go above it. The surplus will be certainly over three million dollars and possibly a little more when our final figures come out.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

DRAINAGE & IRRIGATION WORKS FROM D.T. FUND.

Mr. CASE (Consulting Engineer) :
Sir, I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 6, dated 29th December, 1942, this Council approves of a free grant of \$68,300 from the Development Trust Fund to enable execution of the following drainage and irrigation works detailed in that Message:—

Golden Grove—Victoria	\$20,300
Mahaica—Helena	500
Johanna Cecelia—Annandale	5,700
Three Friends—Walton Hall	10,000
Canals Polder Area, West Bank, Demerara	25,500
Vreed-en-Hoop—Ruimzigt District, West Demerara	6,300
	<hr/> \$68,300

All the works detailed in the Message, No. 6, were decided on after very careful consideration by the Drainage Board, and in every case they were unanimously approved, and recommended. The Board has under consideration certain other improvement works in declared areas and in the Craig District. I would like to mention here that I have the figures of rainfall up to 7 a.m. to-day, for the month. In Georgetown—39.29 inches (the previous record in 62 years being 32.38 inches in 1891), on the whole of the Coast of Demerara. The figure of 38.37 inches recorded in 1933, the year of the great flood, has already been exceeded by practically one inch. Although there had been exceptional heavy rains this year on the East Coast, the rainfall was not so heavy in other parts.—the West Coast Berbice, the Corentyne and the West Coast Demerara.

On the East Coast, Demerara, although there was heavier rainfall than in 1933 there was not so much damage done. I think this was due to three or four causes. First of all, in the 1933 flood the water came over the East Demerara Conservancy. Since then three sluices have been built, two paid for by the Sugar Estates and one by Government from the Colonial Development Trust Fund. The result is that no water came over and we were able to relieve the land of all the storm water. The reason for that is the reconditioning works carried out by the Drainage Board. The next reason is that in the past there had been a certain amount of flooding of the area aback of the Shanks Canal. The Drainage Board dredged the Craig Milne Company Path

and the consequence is that area has been relieved. I would also like to say that the Drainage Board very properly cleared all channels wherever it was possible to get gravity drainage and the consequence is that the declared drainage areas are better drained than the private estates. Some of the private estates have had very bad luck in the breaking down of their pumping plants.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests) seconded.

Mr. JACOB: I wish to take this opportunity to make a few remarks on these drainage works. When I read this Message, No. 6, I noticed Craig Milne and wondered if I had not seen Craig Village. I take this opportunity to say that the hon. Consulting Engineer invited me to Craig Village a week or so ago and we had the pleasure—I do not think it was a pleasure—and I would prefer the hon. Member to say whether he considered it a pleasure—of travelling in a small boat in a small trench and then walking on muddy roads for a distance of about four miles. I would like the hon. Member to say something about what we heard during the trip. But what I would like to say is this. I am not at all satisfied up to the present that the majority of these Drainage Schemes are properly designed with the object of assisting the small farmers. I make that definite statement because of what I and the Hon. Consulting Engineer saw not even two weeks ago at Craig Village. The trenches dug there are not wide and deep enough, the dams are not sufficiently well made up for the transportation of ordinary farmers' produce, and at a certain point there is neither dam nor trench.

While we were on the cross-dam between Craig and Ph. Diamond, we met two African farmers who complained that there are absolutely no facilities to transport their plantains and other ground provisions. I sim-

ply smiled and passed along. While we were halfway back over the road between Pln. Diamond and Craig Village, there was one of these men with a bunch of plantains on his head and a quantity of cassava and other stuff strung across his back. When we looked at the plantains I wondered how many pounds they weighed. I was told that the bunch was not fully ripe but that the tree had fallen down and the bunch had begun to yellow. I asked what it weighed and I got the information that it weighed 121 lbs. without the stalk. The point is this. Here was a strong healthy farmer having to fetch a bunch of plantains on his head for a distance of about two miles when this Government with all its experts is advocating that the people should grow more food without providing proper facilities for them. There was nothing else for that farmer to do than to fetch that bunch of plantains on his head to the public road. There are no dams, no trenches. This Government continues after a whole century to tell these farmers, these hard-working people, "We are making conveniences for you."

When Your Excellency spoke just now on the passing of the Appropriation Bill for the year, Your Excellency made certain remarks in which this Council is interested. I would like to ask, on whom must the blame be put? It must be put somewhere. Government has been governing this country all this century and continues to do so. Certain hon. Members make complaints and absolutely no notice is taken of them. So far as I am concerned, that is my grievance. The situation at Craig Village has been drawn to Government's notice by letters. Representations were made directly to the hon. Consulting Engineer who visited there with myself but the conditions remain as they were. When is it going to be changed? I do not know. As an accredited representative of the people it is my privilege to enquire of Government. I was on this tramp for

three hours. I do not know what happened to my hon. friend when he got home, but I know what happened to me. It was all brought about by a few experts. I see one hon. Member, an expert here, laughing. It is pleasure to him but pain to me and hundreds of people. It is a pleasure to have these people in this state. Given a piece of land with properly laid out drains and facilities to transport their produce, it would be all right, but when they apply to their neighbours to allow those facilities they are denied.

The hon. Consulting Engineer and I, accompanied by twelve farmers, heard comments throughout the journey. It is for him to inform this Government. I do believe he will, and I hope he will put forward a proper picture to this Government. It is not necessary for me to do so, it is not my duty. It is essentially the duty of the hon. Consulting Engineer to transmit the remarks we heard during the trip and let this Government know what the people are thinking. It is time Government realize that it has a sacred duty to the people and not to a few capitalists. That is what is ruining this Colony. Everything is being done to keep the people down. My remarks may be considered heated, but they are not. They are 100 per cent. true and without rancour at all. I ask this Government to have a complete change of policy during next year. Let the people who have been hindering the agricultural progress of this country and the progress of the small farmer be removed. It is time that they be removed from where they are. Let the farmers look after their business and not engineers — mechanical and civil engineers—to arrange and organize drainage and irrigation schemes, something they know nothing about. I would like the hon. Consulting Engineer to say whether these schemes have been properly designed and have the consent of those who will benefit from them. I am sure the consent of those people has not been sought. I take count of this aspect

of the matter. Let the people be apprised of the way you are going to help them, otherwise you are heading for disaster. At Craig Village \$17,000 has been wholly mis-spent as the entire cultivation there has suffered loss by flooding.

Reference has been made to the rainfall. Figures can be made to read anything. I can do that. We have had 39 inches of rainfall, but it has been extended over a period of 30 days. If you have 10 inches over two days on saturated land it is said to be a lot of rain. I am not saying the rainfall was not excessive, but it would not be if you have proper drainage facilities. I want to repeat that in a letter I sent to the Secretary of the Board I asked for an investigation to be carried out at Craig Village. The cultivation at Pln. Diamond and the cultivation at Craig Village should be examined, to see what is the effect on the cane cultivation at Diamond as compared with the provision cultivation at Craig Village. Get an uninterested person to do that. It is not fair to have a member of the Drainage Board which is under a charge going there to give a report. Is that British justice? I do not think it is. The people have reported and have asked that an investigation be made, and the hon. Consulting Engineer telephoned one of the members of the Board, a Mechanical Engineer at that, and asked him to report on it. That member went to the wrong place and so reported wrongly. I am not going to argue that matter as results will prove it. I take this opportunity to advise very strongly that this expenditure will be wasted unless these schemes are properly designed and approved by those who are intended to be benefited by them.

Mr. SEAFORD: I regret considerably I did not know the hon. Member had enjoyed his walk so much. If I had only realized that, I would have

asked him to accompany me on Boxing Day when he would have to walk considerably more than four miles.

Mr. JACOB: I am sure I can walk more than my hon. friends, but that is not the object of this debate.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member said he walked four miles and his condition apparently was that of a state of collapse. I saw the hon. Consulting Engineer. He came to visit me after he returned from that trip and he was very fit and well. I would suggest to the hon. Member that instead of sitting in his office and listening to complaints he should take a little more exercise in the countryside and see things with his own eyes. The hon. Consulting Engineer and I walk very often more than fourteen miles together, and I do not think we are any the worse for it. The next time I am going I shall ask the hon. Member to accompany me, and we shall enjoy it together.

As regards the flooding of Craig, surely if you have a member of the Drainage Board in the area it is quite natural to ask him to report to the Board on the conditions there. That member has lived all his life there and naturally will be asked by the Board to look at conditions and report on the flooding. It has been reported to me that there was actually no real flooding at Craig. There was a bit of flooding on the low pegass land which is two feet or more below the level of the surrounding land. That same bit of land stretches through the sugar estate which is on the north side and it is not planted because it is too low to grow anything. The hon. Member is perfectly correct when he says the trenches are too narrow to bring the provisions down by boat, but the Drainage Board has nothing to do with navigation. The Drainage Board advises on trenches for drainage and irrigation purposes and not for navigation purpose.

Mr. JACOB: To a point of correction! I would like the hon. Member to carry that a little further and say who is responsible for that.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member knows all about that. That is a matter which must go to Government. The District Commissioner or someone else will have to look after the navigation trenches, but that has nothing to do with the Drainage Board.

Mr. JACOB: That is a backward principle you have adopted there!

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member knows everything and so the whole basis of his argument is undermined and falls to the ground.

Mr. JACOB: To a point of correction! My argument is not undermined but remains.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the hon. Member is interrupting unnecessarily.

Mr. SEAFORD: I do sympathise with the man having to carry a bunch of plantains on his head from aback. But I can assure hon. Members that that has nothing to do with the Drainage and Irrigation Board. I was very surprised at the remarks of the hon. Member because of his wonderful knowledge of agriculture—asking Government to go and look at the cane cultivation and the ground provisions cultivation. I thought anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of agriculture would know that cane stands up to water very much longer than ground provisions. I see the hon. Member is smiling. I have not cut his argument from under his feet. Have I? I think I have said enough about Craig.

I am definitely in favour of these drainage schemes being carried through as they will greatly assist the districts, but I want to sound a note of warning in this Council that hon. Members must not think these schemes are going to cure all the evils which

exist. They will alleviate the position and help to give better drainage but will not meet every condition you are likely to get in this Colony. It will be no good hon. Members coming here in future and saying this or that has not been put right. Nothing can be done in that respect unless you are going to spend millions of dollars to get efficient drainage for this Colony. We have seen in the papers that in India 11,000 people were drowned and 3,000 homes carried away by floods. When I was in Washington, the capital of the United States of America, they had four feet of water on the streets and much damage done by flood. The most we can cater for is ordinary conditions, but we cannot hope to cater for abnormal conditions in this Colony. We have been hearing about drainage here before I came into existence. Reports have come to the Legislature from various parts of the Colony under water, asking the Governor to do something in the matter. It is nothing new. In the old days I used to go and examine the pumping plants in some of the villages and I know their condition. I do say that conditions in the villages are not 100 but 1,000 per cent. better to-day than they were in those days, especially on the East Coast.

There is another thing I wish hon. Members of this Council to realize and that is, whatever you do, however much you are going to improve the drainage conditions now, it means you are always going to have to subsidize local products. I think it is admitted that ground provisions and such things can never pay for adequate drainage and irrigation in this Colony. I do not want it to be thought that local farm products can ever pay for it because the returns per acre can never pay the cost. We know on the East Coast it is \$4 to \$8 per acre of land. Can those provision farms pay that? I think it is necessary that Government face the fact that it has got to subsidize local products and to

carry the drainage cost very largely on its shoulders, and that it will have to do so more in the future.

The next question which is going to arise and which you, sir, have already mentioned, is that the more you have to subsidize the more one wonders where the money is going to come from. If we are going to look with all our eyes to the Mother Country to give the money, we are hoping a lot. I cannot help feeling that it should be the ambition of every part of the Empire to support itself. We have got to do that. I can say this, that this Colony is very different from other parts of the Empire in that it is below sea level and small farming is not going to carry this Colony. You have got to depend on major industries for the sale of products in the world market. We can never compete against the imported goods. Our living conditions are better than those of the surrounding Colonies, better than in the East, and what we produce we have to sell at a cheaper rate than it costs to produce. If you put up trade barriers the money has got to come from somewhere, because the cost of living goes up automatically then.

As I have said before, I am in favour of it. We must face up to the position and to the fact that we will have to carry our own burden if we are going to be able to hold our heads up in the British Empire. It is so easy to speak and say we have got to do this and to get that on a different basis and this is an agricultural country. Unless we remove from the coastal belt and go to the highlands we can never grow rubber except in abnormal times, and we can never grow cocoa to pay. With none of these things are we in a position to compete in the world market. We have to leave the coastal belt and get away from the ordinary conditions. Even in the dry season our water level is only about eighteen inches below ground level. What are we going to do?

We are going ahead with these drainage schemes and I am very glad. We have to go ahead with much bigger ones too in time to come. Another expense for a new department in this Colony we have to look forward to is on a Drainage and Irrigation Department. Your present staff and Board cannot possibly carry on and look after works that are gradually growing from day to day. That has got to come, and you may be able, in time to come, when you have major works and bigger works, to do by mechanical means, a lot of what you are doing by hand, and so reduce your cost. I repeat once more that unless we in this Colony are going to do things on a big scale it is no use attempting them. We have got to do things on an annual basis. Government has got to father the whole thing and it must be done on an annual basis. It is no use hiding the fact and getting up in this Council because we get information about some available money and saying we are going to do this and that. We must face the facts and see on which side our bread is buttered. Without that we are bound to go under. For that reason I make these remarks today. I hate to talk about it unless one is very careful. At the present time, I can see a little ahead. I can see where the wind is blowing. This will be a very much more benighted country before many years have passed.

Mr. LEE: I would like to say this: When schemes are proposed like these Government should carefully consider them before the money is spent. I can only say what I know as a fact. It is here proposed to spend \$6,300 between Vreed-en-Hoop and Ruimzigt for digging an irrigation trench. If you pass along the public road when there is high spring tide you will see the waves coming over the concrete wall and washing away into the trench the earth that is against the wall. If we are going to spend this money, it means throwing it away unless we are going to prevent the sea water from going

into the trench. I feel that is why certain Electives knowing certain things are saying that Government in considering these schemes did not properly survey or inspect the places and see conditions. I certainly say the expenditure is necessary, but let the Department do its job in a proper manner. When these irrigation canals are dug, it is absolutely necessary to keep them in a clean condition during the year, but that is what the Department always fails to do. When you drive along the West Coast Demerara you see the irrigation trench from Crane to Windsor Forest in a very bad condition. If these trenches are kept clean it would induce the proprietors to keep their internal trenches in a proper manner. Unless Government takes the responsibility by legislation to clean these internal trenches when they are not kept in proper order by the proprietors and to compel the proprietors to pay for it, we will never progress; we will never have a proper irrigation scheme. I ask Government and the Board to consider that question.

If you take the Canals Polder, is there any regulation or law whereby the proprietors there are compelled to keep their internal drainage and irrigation in proper order? In my opinion,—and I have told the hon. Consulting Engineer as Director of Public Works I will support that view at all times,—you cannot spend huge capital on big irrigation and drainage works while the proprietors stand by and laugh and the small farmers who rent their lands are not protected. If it is done in one way it must be the proper way, and then you will never find the Electives coming here and saying that the expenditure is wasted on irrigation and drainage schemes. Unless these difficulties are overcome this \$6,300 will be wasted.

THE PRESIDENT: All these schemes refer to Declared Areas in respect of which there is ample power to see that drainage is properly maintained.

Mr. CASE: That is so. There is no power over proprietors where it is not a declared area.

Mr. LEE: Is there any power to compel proprietors to do their internal drainage?

Mr. CASE: Only in the Canals Polder.

THE PRESIDENT: I have taken a note of what the hon. Member has said and will comment on it.

Mr. De AGUIAR: It is not surprising despite the cold weather, that there should be such a heated discussion on this motion, especially coming at this time when there are flood conditions in the areas. But, I would ask hon. Members in considering the motion to address themselves to the need that exists for flood relief where the relief is most desirable. I was quite surprised to hear the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) say that the works proposed here will not benefit the people for whom they are intended. I do not claim to be an expert on drainage matters and I always prefer to lean upon the advice of those who are best able to give it, but I do not share the view just expressed by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) that this is something that has been rushed. I am perfectly satisfied in my mind that these are works which have been under consideration for some time and that it is only now possible to begin them. As far as I am concerned, I would prefer to say that having regard to the need which exists we should proceed with these works as early as possible. I believe Government has this object in mind and, therefore, this motion will receive my support.

On the other hand, I think Government should also address itself to the conditions that are existing at the present time and consider what relief can be afforded those people who have

suffered as the result of the heavy rainfall. I think it can be stated that the loss in some areas—and I refer particularly to the East Coast district—is likely to be exceedingly heavy. There has been extensive farming of ground provisions on the East Coast, and we know, as the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) stated just now, these crops cannot stand up to the existing weather conditions. It is no fault of the Government, it is true, and it is no more the fault of the people who have toiled in those areas and have lost their crops. I think, perhaps, Government in carrying out these works should also address itself to giving relief or assistance to those people who have suffered through the loss of their crops. I do not know how far Government has considered the matter, but I do urge that something be done in that direction for more reasons than one. Apart from the assistance that will be afforded those people it will act as an inducement and encouragement to them to carry on their cultivation. It must be very disappointing to them to suffer these reverses every now and then, and when we realize that they cannot afford to carry themselves and have to depend on the fruits of their labour, it seems to me that something should be done by way of giving them some assistance.

I repeat that I am not going to lay a charge at the door of Government at all. We suffer here from conditions that are, perhaps, not comparable with many other places and it will be wrong to my mind to say that these conditions could have been averted. I would like to know who could have told me that in the months of October and November there would have been such extraordinary rainfall as to flood the East Coast in the way it has done. I am no expert, but I doubt very much if we had a very adequate scheme in that area now, whether it would have been able to take off all the water that has fallen on the land there, I doubt it very much

and, as I said, I am no expert but I do know that our land level is very low, especially on the East Coast, where you have to drain out to sea. I know that river drainage is much simpler and easier to work, and it seems to me that if that is so it is wrong and unjust to lay a charge at the door of the Government. I do not propose to do that. I say, we should commence with these works if we are advised that it will bring relief in these areas, and in that respect I am prepared to accept the advice of those competent to advise. But I once more urge upon this Government to give particular consideration to the rendering of assistance in these areas that have been flooded out. I should also urge that an investigation be made into the loss that has been suffered and Government should try to render assistance to those people not merely to carry them on in the way they had been carrying on, but also to encourage them to cultivate fresh crops. Perhaps, if that investigation is made early I am sure that the people in the districts will welcome any officer of Government who may be instructed to investigate their conditions and render them all the assistance they may require.

Mr. JACKSON: When difficulties arise and measures are on foot for relieving those difficulties it is heart-rendering to feel that attempts are made to lay blame on this or that. The conditions on the East Coast are abnormal, and if any attempt is made to relieve those conditions I think everyone should set aside whatever feelings he might have as to the cause of those difficulties and encourage such attempt. What is the use of our considering who is to blame for that and who is to blame for the other, when the places are flooded? What benefit can the people derive from violent attacks upon Government and upon Government Officers or anyone, when the difficulties are there and attempts to remove them are

available? I for one think that the amount is necessary and timely, and I would be very glad if these measures that are to be adopted are put forward immediately.

I am of the opinion, like the hon. Member for Central Demerara, that while these measures are being put on foot a survey of the loss sustained by the people in the district should be made, and Government might consider what relief could be given them in order that they might tide over the hardship which they are enduring. Undoubtedly, the rainfall has been exceptionally heavy, and however well drained the place might have been the water could not have been taken off immediately and, therefore, suffering of some kind must be endured. My only hope is that the efforts to be put forward would be strenuously undertaken and followed up so that very soon the relief needed might be given. Let everyone set aside what he considers the cause of these difficulties. Do not go back 100 years and blame this or the other. Let us rise up to the present situation and do the best we can to relieve the suffering. I support the motion. I think it is timely and I hope immediate efforts will be made to carry it into effect.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I rise to give this motion my wholehearted support. I might inform hon. Members who think that these schemes have been rushed, that these schemes have been carefully and fully considered, and portions of expensive and elaborate schemes are to be done now so as to warn the community that these schemes will not cure all our ills. They are part and parcel of schemes that have been considered to give much more relief, but we all know that even if the Colony can afford to undertake these big schemes only one can be undertaken at a time and even on that single scheme you will be running into years before its com-

pletion. You, sir, made some time ago a public pronouncement in this Council that you thought it was in the best interest of this Colony that portions of these elaborate schemes should be considered and done so as to give immediate relief to different portions of the Colony. That instruction has been passed on to the Drainage and Irrigation Board and in view of that, these schemes have been considered and that very carefully, before they were placed on the schedule.

Really, up to now I do not know where the hon. Member for North-Western District stands. I think he should be consistent. If he believes that the expenditure on these schemes will be money wasted he should be bold enough to vote against the motion. So far as the remarks of the hon. Member for Essequibo River about internal drainage are concerned, I quite agree with him that that is, where most of the trouble lies. The Board is responsible for the main drainage of any area, but the responsibility for internal drainage lies with the proprietors. I think that the question of dual responsibility needs reconsideration. I quite agree that after these works have been done and proper maintenance is not kept up, the people will not get the benefit intended by these schemes. I would implore hon. Members to appeal to the people in their respective constituencies to lend their co-operation by looking after their internal drainage so as to get the maximum result.

A lot has been said about defective drainage and bad control by the Board in so far as the East Coast is concerned. I wonder where one could expect to get perfect drainage after such a heavy downpour of 13 inches with the channel silted up. The only means of opening the channel is with a volume of water obtained through rainfall. It is unfortunate that when the rains fell the channel was blocked and,

therefore it was only natural that the areas were flooded. The proprietors themselves did not contribute to the flooding of those areas because of the neglect of their internal drainage. I have been told that even though they were under water the people refused to work because they were not given fourpence or fivepence a day more. It is all well and good when one looks for a fault to say they have found it somewhere, but I feel certain you will find it elsewhere in this case. It is only regrettable that Government does not see its way at the present time to do more schemes. I hope, as in this case, two or three other areas will be benefited rather than direct attention should be given to any one area with a comprehensive scheme.

Mr. JACOB: I wonder if I may be permitted to say a word of explanation. The hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peer Bacchus) challenged me to say whether I support this motion or not. I believe in the whole of my speech to-day I said nothing to show I am against the motion. What I did say, however, was that proper steps have not been taken to see that the people's rights are protected, and I maintain that has not been done in this instance. It is true that these works cannot be carried out all over the country. but I do hope that these works will at least cure the difficulties in the particular areas. My point is, I am not against the works being carried out, but I am afraid they are not being properly done.

Mr. CASE: I was very glad when the hon. Member for North-Western District referred to the Craig Drainage area. At a recent meeting of this Council he stated that the whole of that area was under water and that crops had been lost. That statement was absolutely untrue. What happened is

this. Craig has very high land in front about 54 G.D., and also high land at the back. Craig front lands have not been flooded and no crops have been damaged. The back lands are also quite good and the crops I say there were not damaged, but the middle portion which is very low, about 49 G.D., is only slightly high above neap tide level and cannot be properly drained unless a large amount of money is spent on pumps. In the areas on both sides of it they have never attempted to plant because they knew that. The District Commissioner informed me that proprietors have been repeatedly told that adequate drainage is not obtainable in that area, and my view is that it will never be unless expensive pumps are put down. That will cost much to instal and maintain. A Committee of the Board examined the district a few weeks ago and the matter will come up for further consideration at the next meeting of the Drainage Board.

With regard to his remarks about the trenches, my view is that those trenches are adequate to drain the whole area including the middle area if the lands were higher. These low lands only have drainage during the spring tide and not during the neap tide. I agree with the hon. Member that the proprietors have asked for larger trenches. The reason is they want to transport their products. It is true that transport facilities there are entirely inadequate, but, as the hon. Member for Georgetown North stated, it is not part of the duties of the Drainage Board to provide means of transportation. I do feel, however, that the people are suffering through lack of transportation facilities.

The hon. Member for Essequibo River questioned about the \$6,300 for straightening an irrigation trench on

the West Coast and asked whether proper surveys had been made. I can assure him that proper surveys were made.

The hon. Member for North-Western District asked whether that expenditure would give proper irrigation. It will improve it, but until the Bonasika scheme is carried out you will not have perfect irrigation there.

The PRESIDENT: Is not the Johanna Cecelia—Annandale scheme going to cause a certain amount of flooding of the cultivated lands?

Mr. CASE: My opinion is that it will not, but a survey is to be made.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to be sure when the work starts.

Mr. SEAFORD: There is one point made by the hon. Member for Essequibo River. He referred to the high tide coming over the Sea Defence wall. The position is that there are certain places like that, but the great difficulty is we cannot get cement at the present moment. I think several cables have been sent to the United States to get some. I quite appreciate the situation.

Mr. LEE: I am glad for that explanation.

The PRESIDENT: I have followed very carefully the remarks of the hon. Member for North-Western District and personally I would like to repeat that if I believe these schemes or any other would not produce their fair share of benefit to the small farmer I would not support them. I would like to thank the hon. Member for Georgetown North for his opinion and also his comment that these works must be regarded from the wide angle of big—scale comprehensive works to cover the whole country. That must be borne

in mind, I have taken a note as to proprietors being appealed to to keep their internal drainage in order. I repeat that we have to take definite powers to cover such cases. I would like to thank the hon. Member for Central Demerara and the hon. Member for Western Berbice for their helpful comments. I shall now put the motion standing in the name of the Consulting Engineer.

Motion put, and agreed to.

CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT
No. 3) BILL, 1942.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs): I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935" be read the first time.

Mr. LAING (Commissioner of Local Govt.) seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Customs Duties tariff in respect of the duties on pickled beef and certain iron and steel manufactures. Pickled mutton, an article of food which has been imported into the Colony for the first time within recent months, is not specially provided for in the Customs tariff and therefore comes under the general item "Meats—other kinds," the duty on which under the General Tariff is \$4 per 100 lbs., plus 30 per cent. surtax. The total amount of duty payable on a barrel of pickled mutton of 200 lbs., including surtax, is \$10.40 as compared with a duty of \$2.60 payable on a barrel of beef or pork of the same size. The object of this amendment is to bring the three meats into line. They are all imported from foreign sources.

With regard to the duties on iron and steel manufactures which are enumerated in item 31 of the First Schedule, those were imported almost, if not entirely, from Empire sources, and if Members compare the duties in the Bill with those which appear in the Principal Ordinance it will be noted that the rates in the Bill under the General Tariff are exactly the same as those which appear in the Principal Ordinance under the British Preferential tariff. In fact these metals will be paying the same rates of duty.

Clause 3 of the Bill provides that the duties on pickled meats will take effect as from the 6th January, 1943. The reason for that is to allow merchants to dispose of their importations of pickled mutton, on which the higher rates of duty have been paid, before the fixing of prices based on the new duty-paid costs. I move that the Bill be read the second time.

Mr. LAING seconded.

Mr. De AGUIAR: I have not risen to oppose the Bill but rather to lend my support. I would like, however, to take this opportunity to make a few observations on Customs Bills generally, and to ask that some consideration might be given to previous requests for the consolidation of the various Customs Ordinances which have been passed in the last few years, in order that one might be able to understand them a bit more clearly. As a matter of fact I did not know that there was a Bill coming up to-day, otherwise I would have had another suggestion to make. However, I am tempted to make an observation in view of clause 3 of this Bill which makes the new rates effective on some date hence.

The suggestion I want to make is briefly this: Having regard to the turn of trade since the original Orders were introduced, which really

gave effect to the Canada-West Indies Treaty, it seems to me that at this stage Government might well take power in Executive Council, for example, to afford relief in special cases. As Your Excellency is aware, we are obtaining a great deal of our foodstuffs from foreign sources, and we may have to do that for some time to come. It seems to me that we might be afforded some relief if the Governor-in-Council were empowered in certain cases to order that the preferential tariff should apply instead of the general tariff. I do not want it to be thought that I am making the suggestion as a counter move to subsidization, but I would like to say that if my suggestion is at all practicable, and I think it can be made practicable, there would be a certain amount of relief under the Customs duties.

We have it here in this Bill, for example, that in the case of pickled meats when imported from British sources the rate of duty is 50 cents per barrel, but from foreign sources the duty is \$2 per barrel. I have probably selected the wrong item, because it is well known that even before the war we have not been able to obtain any large quantities of pickled meats from British sources. Nevertheless, the point is still there—that there is a very wide difference in the tariffs, and in cases where we obtained our supplies in the past from British sources which are now closed to us, and we have to depend on foreign sources entirely for those essential articles of food, I think this Council might well delegate the power to the Governor-in-Council to permit the entry of those foodstuffs under the British preferential tariff. I am sure the question of our Treaties might have to be examined to see whether that suggestion can be adopted. Nevertheless, I think a very strong case can be made out for relief in the cases I have in mind, and I do hope that if we

have to meet again shortly to consider further amendment of the Customs Ordinance the suggestion I have made might be considered.

Mr. JACOB: I am a little amazed that my friend has been bold enough to suggest here to-day that certain powers of this Council should be delegated to the Governor-in-Council, particularly the power to impose taxation. I could see how diffident he was in making the suggestion. I am entirely opposed to it. I am inclined to oppose the inclusion of mutton in this Bill. Mutton was kept out with the object of encouraging local people to rear sheep and other stock, but now I find that in spite of all I am told is being done, and in spite of the fact that the war has been going on for over three years, we find ourselves in the position of having to import pickled mutton. I wonder when we will import pickled chicken and other things. I have been looking at the report of the Department of Agriculture for 1941 during the festive season, and I am glad I have brought it with me today. On page 11 of the report, par. 69 says :—

Pigs.—The demand for breeding stock is still somewhat greater than the supply, although the breeding herd has been increased in 1940 and four more young gilts were reared this year. 106 pigs were sold to farmers for breeding purposes.

If this Department has not played with this livestock situation for a century I do not know what else it has done.

Mr. SEAFORD: Are we discussing the Department of Agriculture, sir?

Mr. JACOB: I am talking about pork, the flesh of the pig.

Mr. WOOD: I would suggest that the hon. Member return to his mutton. (Laughter).

Mr. JACOB: I know it is definitely unpalatable to refer to matters of this kind because, putting all joke aside, if the ordinary farmer is able to get good grass to rear cattle, especially goats and so on, certain interests would have to look around and decide what to do. It was boasted not very long ago that we can grow the best sugar cane in the world, and the best rice in the world, but we cannot grow enough grass for cattle or sheep, so we have to import meats from foreign sources. I hope we will abolish the Department of Agriculture so that we will not have to worry about having a greater demand than the supply of pigs, poultry, cattle and so on.

It is time that Government looked back. When I refer to the past I want to make it clear that I am not referring to what is going on at the moment. We have absolutely no guarantee of the present regime continuing. We have had changes so regularly in the past that we have to expect them almost as regularly in the future. I want to make it perfectly clear that I do admit that we are going forward and very rapidly at the moment, but I have absolutely no guarantee—I am sorry to say it—that this state of things will continue for some time to come. That is why I take every opportunity to place these things on record. I have an abiding interest in the future of this Colony. I am concerned with the future advancement of this country, and if we are now importing pickled meats, including mutton, from foreign sources there is something sadly wrong with the Administration. We are probably reaping the legacy of the recent past. I want to stress as much as possible that something should be done to improve livestock and increase the production of pickled meats. We have a good Meat Co. here and we can do with another. We want to cure our own meat and stop this importation. I

urge upon the Department of Agriculture to see that importation of meats is stopped. I wish I could get this Council to agree not to pass this Bill. Maybe some people would starve, but I do not think a large number would starve.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: The hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) has suggested that the Council should give the Governor-in-Council power to admit under the preferential tariff any article imported from foreign countries which is not obtainable from Empire sources. It would be very good if we could do that but, unfortunately, we are prevented by our obligations under our Treaty with Canada. In one or two instances, such as fertilizers and rubber boots and shoes, we approached the Secretary of State who in turn approached the Canadian Government, and with their approval the tariff was amended so as to fix the rate of duty under the general tariff the same as under the preferential tariff. It means that in every case where any amendment of that sort is contemplated we will have to go through the same course. It might be effected by an amendment of the Customs Duties Ordinance, as was done in the case of metals in which the duties have been reduced, but there would be difficulties where goods are imported sometimes from foreign countries and at other times from Empire sources. Each particular article would have to be very carefully considered.

In regard to the reduction of duty on mutton I would point out that, as I stated in moving the motion, it is only within recent months that this particular kind of meat has been imported into the Colony, and I believe it is owing to the difficulty of obtaining beef and pork. Pickled beef and pork is largely used in the interior, and I think it is very desirable that if we

could get mutton as a substitute for these other meats we should put it on the same basis as beef and pork.

The PRESIDENT: I have listened to the various remarks made by the hon. Member suggesting that we should stimulate the production of livestock. It is a matter which the Director of Agriculture has very much in hand and with respect to the subject I spoke on this morning, and I have concluded arrangements with the Director to have a Committee meeting under my Chairmanship every fortnight in conjunction with the Legislative Council Committee on Food Production.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

The Council resumed.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935" be read a third time and passed.

Mr. LAING seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

The PRESIDENT: We have now come to the end of the business which we can take today, and I propose to adjourn the Council. I would like to thank Members of the Council very warmly for having assisted Government in getting through our business up to the end of the year and bringing us up to date. I share the satisfaction of the Treasurer in being able now quite legally to give him a special warrant on the 1st January. I would

also like to thank the hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) and his Committee for submitting the report and the motion with regard to the Bishop's High School, and also the Drainage and Irrigation Board and the Development Trust Committee for getting the business touching drainage and irrigation through to-day. I propose to adjourn the Council to a date to be announced later, probably during the second or third week in January.

Mr. JACKSON: Sir, we have just come to the end of our business and we are very near to the end of the year. May I be permitted, Your Excellency, to offer you our best wishes for a prosperous New Year. Your Excellency's work has been very onerous during the year, and I have often wondered how it was possible for you to get through the volume of work which you have undertaken and still maintain your health and strength. The older I grow the more I realize that it is not work that kills anyone or makes anyone ill, but it is really the absence of work. I hope that during the coming year Your Excellency will have a great deal more work, and a great deal more zeal and

strength to perform that work. It has not been all pleasant, I know, but I trust that the troubles Your Excellency has had during the year will only nerve you for greater efforts and consequently greater success during the coming year. Although there has been a small setback to the Grow More Food Campaign I am positive that with Your Excellency's energy and the zeal of your Committee and the Sub-Committees all over the Colony we shall put aside the loss we have sustained and work with might and main for the success of that great campaign.

The PRESIDENT: I must thank the hon. Member very warmly for his kind words and good wishes for the coming year which I should like to reciprocate very heartily to Members of the Council. I will certainly promise to do less work next year. (Laughter). I got a nice letter the other day wishing me the compliments of the season and ending up with a real back-hander in the last line which said: "I hope you will conduct yourself with more zeal and energy next year." (Laughter).

The Council was then adjourned *sine die*.