

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.***Friday, 4th October, 1939.*

The Council met at 10.30 a.m., His Excellency the Acting Governor, SIR JOHN WADDINGTON, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., President, in the Chair.

**PRESENT.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. N. M. Maclellan, Director of Medical Services.

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

The Hon. E. M. Walcott, (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. G. O. Case, Director of Public Works and Sea Defences.

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

The Hon. B. R. Wood, Conservator of Forests.

The Hon. W. A. Macnie, Commissioner of Labour and Local Government (Acting).

The Hon. Percy C. Wig'it, O.B.E. (Georgetown Central).

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus, (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. G. H. Smellie, (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. F. H. Martin-Sperry, (Nominated Unofficial Member).

**MINUTES.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 3rd of October, 1939, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

**ORDER OF THE DAY.****GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Owen): I move that "A Bill intituled **An Ordinance to amend the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Ordinance, Chapter 96, with respect to the Constitution of the Commissioners thereunder**" be read a first time.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I give notice that at the next or a subsequent meeting of the Council I shall move that the Bill be read a second time.

**GAMBLING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that "A Bill intituled **An Ordinance to amend the Gambling Prevention Ordinance, Chapter 95, by exempting certain lotteries and sweepstakes from the operation of the provisions thereof**" be read a

second time. This Bill gives effect to a resolution which was passed by the Legislative Council in December last to vest in the Demerara Turf Club, Ltd. the exclusive right to organise lotteries in connection with horse-racing both in this Colony and in England. Clause 2 of the Bill prescribes those lotteries which are to be exempted from the provisions of the Ordinance. Clause 3 sets out the terms and conditions that must be observed by the Club in the conduct of any lottery. Provision is made for the books and accounts of the Club in connection with any lottery to be open for inspection at any time by the Colonial Treasurer.

It is proposed that 10 per cent. of the gross receipts from any lottery or sweepstake organised by the Club shall be paid over to a Committee to be called the Charities' Committee, and that Committee shall consist of three persons (as set out in clause 3, sub-clause 5 of the Bill) to be appointed by the Governor in Council, who shall decide what charitable organisations are to benefit from the proceeds of lotteries or sweepstakes and fix the percentage of that amount to be paid to each charity. Sub-clause 6 sets out that any charitable organisation which claims to be entitled to receive benefit under the provisions of the Clause shall make application to the Charities' Committee. A charitable organisation is defined in sub-clause 7 as any charitable organisation which during the past three years has received any money from the proceeds of any lottery or sweepstake held in this Colony. Government is of the opinion that this Bill should be tried out for a period of two years and provision, therefore, has been made in clause 4 of the Bill for the Ordinance to be in force until the 30th June, 1941. Prior to that date the whole question will be reviewed as to whether the Ordinance should be extended for a further period or not. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Professor DASH seconded.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not wish it to be thought that this is a Government measure, as the hon. Colonial Secretary has said this Bill has been introduced as the result of a resolution of this Council. At the debate on that resolution the Official members were allowed to vote as

they wished. I wish to say before the debate takes place on the Bill, that although the Bill is introduced by Government, hon. Official members may vote as they wish in the matter.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The fact that the hon. Colonial Secretary has just mentioned that the measure is only a temporary one and will come up again for consideration has disarmed me and, I think, I shall let it go through. However, I never like the idea of a club being given the monopoly to hold sweepstakes. Those who want to carry on horse-racing should do so at their own expense. They are racing their horses not as sportsmen for love of the sport but for the purpose of making money. They would not think of racing their horses at all if they did not make sufficient money. That was not the idea of the people of old who raced horses. In the days of Governor Durban and those following him races were held by sportsmen. The men who kept and raced horses in those days won and lost at times, but did so out of their pockets. I know of my own knowledge that a very popular racecourse in this Colony was abandoned because no one wanted to enter horses unless he was sure that his horses would win. They wanted to enter their horses on credit and if they did not win they would not pay the entrance fees. Later on they found that races held elsewhere were giving larger prize money, and instead of entering their horses for the local races kept them back for the other races with the view of earning larger stakes, with the result that the local concern naturally died. With due deference to some of them, what class of individuals comprise this Club? The majority of those people are only racing for the purpose of making money and not for the sake of the sport. That being the case they should do it out of their own pockets, but in some way or other they have got Government to make this law that only they—the Turf Club people—should carry on sweepstakes in this Colony.

Here you have education going a-begging, but no sweepstake is to be run in its aid; also there is no orphanage in the Colony and no sweepstake can be run for that. There are a thousand and one other things for which sweepstakes can be run and the proceeds profitably utilised, but they are left out. A few people with

gambling propensities have got Government, however, in an unguarded moment to accede to their request and allow them and them only to run sweepstakes. They are not even contented with that, but want to get a share of everything else that is going around. That is what this Bill is giving credence to—the Demerara Turf Club to monopolize the running of sweepstakes and to share the proceeds with everybody else. The Bill is only for two years, however, and so we will wait and see.

Mr. MARTIN-SPERRY: There is only one suggestion I would like to put forward. I do not think that the percentage to be given to charity is large enough. I would like to suggest that the percentage—I do not know whether it comes within the scope of the Council or not—should be larger.

Mr. KING: So far as the percentage to charity is concerned, I may state for the benefit of hon. members that the amount was arrived at between the members of the Committee of the Turf Club and those representing the more responsible charitable organisations in this Colony. They arrived at the figure mentioned in the Bill as one they considered should be granted from the returns of the sweepstakes in compensation for the loss which those organisations would sustain as the result of not being able to run sweepstakes on their own as hitherto. I can assure the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Martin-Sperry, that the figure mentioned was arrived at after a certain amount of consultation and that the various charitable organisations were satisfied with the percentage allotted to them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like to refer the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) to clause 2 of the Bill, as he had referred to the necessity for raising money for educational purposes. He will there see it stated:—

Nothing in this Ordinance contained shall apply to (a) any lottery organised with the permission of the Governor in Council and controlled by a committee of three responsible citizens for the purposes of raising funds for the building or repair of any Church or School; . . . .

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and proceeded to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 3—Exemption of lotteries of Demerara Turf Club from provisions of the Ordinance.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am asking Government to make the percentage 15 instead of ten, and the hon. member for Demerara River (Mr. King) to consent to it and support Government in the change. I move that, because I happen to know that when the Cinema was first permitted to hold Sunday shows the bait had been held out that charity would be given so much per cent. Sunday shows were allowed, but the share received by charity went right down to zero though the shows are still being continued. I do not know if charity is still being given anything from those shows, but that was only a sop to get Government to allow such shows. In this case 10 per cent. is to be given to charity, to which those organisations agreed because they could get no more. They, however, will not refuse 15 per cent. if they can get it. I am asking Government to make it 15 per cent. instead of 10.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. member state exactly his amendment?

Mr. ELEAZAR: I move as an amendment that the word "ten" in the fourth line of subclause 4 be deleted and the word "fifteen" substituted therefor.

Mr. LEE seconded.

Mr. KING: I am sorry I have to oppose this amendment. I appeal to the hon. member for Berbice River to bear in mind that that figure was gone into very carefully both by the Executive of the Turf Club and those representing charity. I can assure the hon. member that those representatives insisted on every possible percentage that could possibly be obtained from the lotteries and sweepstakes. It must be borne in mind that at least 50 per cent. of the proceeds goes in prizes, 10 per cent. is allotted to expenses—the payment of commission to the people who sell the tickets, advertisement and the printing of circulars—10 per cent. goes to charity and 10 per cent. to the owners of

horses on a pro rata basis as is done in Trinidad for the encouragement of horse-racing. When all these percentages are taken out the amount left to the Turf Club is not very large, and to increase the amount to charity from 10 to 15 per cent. may probably so affect the funds left for the Turf Club as to endanger the whole Bill. The matter was not gone into light-heartedly, but was thoroughly discussed. It was agreed that charity would get more than it used to get from its own sweepstakes, which after a time became exceedingly difficult to run on account of the enormous number of them. I can assure the hon. member that the various charitable organisations represented are perfectly satisfied with the percentage granted them, and feel that they cannot honestly ask for more. I appeal to the hon. member not to press his amendment.

Mr. MARTIN-SPERRY: We can reduce the sellers' commission in order to increase the amount to charity.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have to vote on the amendment as it stands.

Amendment put, and the Council divided, the voting being—

*For*—Messrs. Lee, Jackson, Peer Bacchus, Eleazar, Macnie, Wood, Crease, Case, Dr. MacLennan, Messrs. D'Andrade, Austin, Woolford, Luckhoo, Professor Dash—14.

*Against*—Messrs. Martin-Sperry, Smellie, King, Humphrys, Percy C. Wight, Walcott, McDavid, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Secretary—9.

Mr. De Aguiar did not vote.

Amendment carried.

Question "That clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill" put, and agreed to.

The Council resumed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I give notice that at the next or a subsequent meeting of the Council I shall move that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

#### INCREASED GRANT TO BISHOP HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Mr. CREASE (Director of Education): I beg to move:—

That with reference to the Acting Governor's Message No. 22 of the 30th August, 1939, this Council approves of an increased grant of \$4,000 per annum being paid to the Board of Governors of the Bishop's High School for Girls as from 1st January, 1939.

Before I formally move this motion, there are one or two observations I would like to make in order to clear up some misapprehension, which at present exists. In the first place I would point out that this application from the Board of Governors of the Bishop's High School for Girls is not a recently thought out thing. It was first made in December, 1938, and was considered by the Education Committee in January, 1939. At that meeting those present were in agreement with the application, but it was thought necessary before giving a final decision to secure further information with respect to the financial position of the school. Consequently the Board of Governors were asked to submit this information. It was produced and considered again by the Education Committee. The Education Committee unanimously recommended for the favourable consideration of Government an increase of the grant of \$1,500 then paid to the Bishop's High School to \$4,000 per annum with effect as from the 1st January, 1939.

The question of establishing a Government Secondary School for Girls in Georgetown has been discussed on many occasions since I have been in this Colony, and unfortunately Government has not been in a position to undertake the establishment of such a school. It is on that ground chiefly that the application from the Board of Governors of the Bishop's High School for Girls has been supported by Government, and with the present situation I fail to see how it is possible for Government to look forward to establishing such a school in the near future. The question now before hon. members of the Council, therefore, appears to be the choice between two alternatives—either to increase the grant, or to refuse it in which case, as was pointed out in Your Excellency's Message, the Board of Governors will be unable to carry on

the school and as a consequence it will naturally have to be closed down. To my mind the increase asked for is definitely an economy. By granting the application Government will be spared the expense of establishing a Government Secondary School for Girls in Georgetown. I feel quite sure that no hon. member of this Council would like to see the Bishop's High School go out of existence. Government on its part is not in a position to supplant this institution by the establishment of a Government Secondary School for Girls.

I have gone very carefully into the question of the establishment of such a school by Government, and I have come to the conclusion that to do so on modern lines it will cost Government an amount in the vicinity of \$30,000. This is for the erection of school buildings and equipment alone. In addition to this there is the question of maintenance and, of course, the question of staffing. With regard to staffing if ever such a school is established, I estimate it will cost this Government \$6,000 per annum above the actual salaries at present paid at the Bishop's High School.

Relative to the question of the staff, I would like to bring the following figures to the notice of hon. members of this Council: The salaries of the present staff at the Bishop's High School are as follows—Headmistress, £250 per annum; four Assistant Mistresses (Graduates), £200 per annum each, and one Assistant Mistress (a non-Graduate), £125 per annum. In addition to these salaries those Mistresses who have no homes in Georgetown receive a house allowance of \$15 per month each. The total salaries for the whole staff amount to £1,375 or (\$6,600), while including house allowances the total amount is \$7,320 per annum. I said just now that if a Government School had to be established to take the place of the Bishop's High School I estimated that there would be an increase of \$6,000 on to the salaries at present paid. My estimate of the cost for the present staff would therefore be in the vicinity of \$13,200 per annum. I would like to point out that I consider the salaries which are now paid are definitely inadequate considering the qualifications and the experience required of these Mistresses. I feel that as far as

the Headmistress is concerned, it would be impossible to secure the services of a highly qualified and experienced person under a salary of £600 per annum, and with regard to the Graduate Assistant Mistresses who are in the majority of cases well qualified I do not see how one can expect any Government School to pay them a salary less than £400 per annum. For comparison I would point out that the total personal emoluments for Queen's College—a school with which the Bishop's High School for Girls can be favourably compared from every point of view—instruction, efficiency and general working, for both schools follow the same syllabus, the London High Certificate examination, which is the examination for the British Guiana Scholarship—amount to \$37,780 per annum.

There has also been a considerable amount of discussion in the newspapers and elsewhere generally in regard to the fees. At Queen's College the average fees amount to \$13.50 per term, at the Berbice High Schools for Boys and Girls \$9 per term, and at the Bishop's High School for Girls \$16.75 per term. It would appear that if the suggestion were adopted that the fees at the Bishop's High School should be raised, naturally the fees at the other institutions would also have to be raised. With regard to the question of the cost per caput to Government at these institutions, the 1937 figure for Queen's College is \$116.05 per pupil, and for 1938 the latest available figure, it is \$121.75. That figure, I may say, is a little higher than the figure which the Government in England has to pay in regard to secondary schools supported by Government. At the Berbice High Schools the cost per caput to Government is \$40.01, and at the Bishop's High School for Girls at present the cost to Government is \$11.31 per caput. Should the grant be increased to \$4,000 it would work out at \$30.30 per caput.

If this increased grant is approved—and I sincerely hope and trust it will be—it would mean the retention of this Girls' Secondary School which, in my opinion from the work done there and the results secured, is second to none in the Colony. Furthermore it would mean the expansion of the school by the Board of Governors who have given an undertaking—I think

reference was made to that undertaking in paragraph 3 of Your Excellency's Message—to renovate the classrooms at a cost of \$16,000. The increase in the grant would further mean a corresponding increase in the number of free places which have to be reserved in accordance with the Regulations governing Grants to Secondary Schools. The Regulations state that for every \$500 grant one free place must be reserved at the school. This means that while at present there are three free places at the Bishop's High School for Girls, these will be increased to eight free places.

Furthermore it is Government's intention, as has been expressed in the Message if this grant is approved, to appoint a Government representative to be a member of the Board of Governors, and to this His Lordship the Bishop of Guiana has readily agreed. I would like to repeat that this Government has not been able to erect, equip, staff and maintain a Government Secondary School for Girls, nor do I see any possibility of such a proposal being fulfilled in the near future. If such an occasion does arise I will support it, for I am convinced there is plenty of room in Georgetown for a Government Secondary School for Girls and also the Bishop's High School for Girls. I therefore beg to move the motion standing in my name.

Mr. MACNIE (Commissioner of Labour and Local Government, acting) seconded.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : I think it would be generally agreed that Government should contribute within the means at its disposal to the continuation of secondary education for girls in this Colony. I rise to make a few observations in connection with this motion before the Council, but before I do that I must express a certain feeling of disappointment in the hon. mover of the motion not indicating to this Council and to the country at large as well Government's policy in regard to Secondary Education in this Colony. I agree with him that perhaps at the present time owing to financial reasons it is impracticable for Government to consider the establishment of a Secondary School for Girls, in view of other demands that may have to be made on the Colony's financial resources. I had hoped the hon.

mover of the motion would have indicated the lines on which such a school would be established, within the near or distant future it was found to be within the realm of practicability for Government to establish a Secondary School for Girls in this Colony. I do not think the problem is solved merely by brushing it aside and by pointing out that through bankruptcy the Government will not be able to establish such a school.

In so far as this particular motion is concerned, there is one primary objection I have to this vote in that it is sought to make this increased contribution retrospective. I have understood from the hon. mover of the motion that it is nothing new, as the matter was previously suggested or rather put before the Education Committee but for one reason or another an increased contribution was not favourably considered. It seems to me that this Council is entitled to a little more courtesy and reasons should be given for making the increase retrospective, having regard to the dangerous precedent that may thereby be established. If it is thought fit that the contribution to the Bishop's High School for Girls should be increased, it seems to me that this Council should be furnished with more information than has been placed at its disposal this morning. It is not sufficient, I submit, for the hon. mover of the motion to state that Government had an opportunity of examining the financial statement of this school for the period October, 1938, to September, 1939. It would be more reasonable and in fact desirable to check the financial position over a period of three or five years, as it is only in that way one can arrive at a reasonable annual average of what it costs to run such a school. How are hon. members of this Council to know that no items of a recurrent nature have been included in that statement? It is reasonable for hon. members to think that certain items of expenditure have been included which are not of a recurrent nature.

Capital is made of the fact, from the figures produced or given by the hon. mover of the motion, that the grant to the Bishop's High School for Girls will now average \$30.30 per pupil as compared with \$121.75 for Queen's College and \$40.01 for the Berbice High Schools.

Those figures look very well on paper, and sound very nice indeed uttered by the hon. mover of the motion, but I venture to suggest that in making the comparison he should not only submit figures that are suited to the point at issue in order to bolster up a case. I submit that before figures are given to the Council showing the per caput cost, the hon. mover of the motion should have gone a step further and told us how many pupils are at Queen's College, what are the subjects taught how many Masters and what are the fees and so on at Queen's College, and similar figures in respect of the staff and pupils at other secondary schools to which this Government contributes an annual sum. Failure to submit those figures, I submit, does not make a true comparison. Such a comparison, if I may use the term, would be odious. One must be guided in arriving at a conclusion by the figures submitted in connection with the whole matter, and not by the selection of a certain set of figures which will make it appear justifiable, and leave out of consideration figures which will show the comparison in a different light altogether.

Capital is also made of the fact that it is now proposed, if the motion is accepted by this Council, to appoint a Government representative on the Board of Governors of the Bishop's High School for Girls. The answer to that is "I would sympathise with that Government Nominee, whoever he may be whether a Government Official or a member of the Legislative Council," for the simple reason that his voice will be as one crying in the wilderness. I certainly do not think that the general taxpayers of this Colony, who are contributing \$4,000 per annum to the school, should be only entitled to one representative on the Board of Governors which may be comprised of four or six members. What proposal can be carried by a Government Nominee in such a case? I know I shall be told that if that Government Nominee proposes a measure and it does not find favour with the Board representation may be made to Government. Perhaps in that way a certain amount of pressure may be brought to bear upon the Board, but that alone will not be sufficient. That alone will not make for the satisfactory and smooth working of that institution. More than that will be required where the greater number of representatives on the

Board will be clergymen. I am, however, not prepared to express any further opinion at this stage on that phase of the matter, but it does seem to me that the appointment of one Government representative on the Board of Governors of a school is not sufficient justification for the grant to that school to be increased from \$1,500 to \$4,000 per annum.

As regards the number of free places that are going to be allowed in this school—I am referring to the Regulations dealing with this matter—this Council has been told that according to those regulations one free place will be allowed for every \$500 contributed. It seems to me that there must have been some reason for allotting one free place for every \$500, but the greater the contribution the greater should be the number of free places, instead of arriving at the number by the simple method of multiplication. The Bishop's High School for Girls is a secondary school for girls, and what I am interested in at the present moment is the number of scholarships that will be tenable there. There are likely to be five girls per annum winning Government County Scholarships, and it seems to me, therefore, that the number of free places will be too small. That point should be looked into a little more carefully. If the vote for \$4,000 is passed, as I believe it will—I may be in the same position here as that Government Nominee on the Board of Governors as, perhaps, my voice may be the only one to-day against it, but I do not mind—it seems that the number of free places for our girls at that school should be increased above eight, unless there can be reasonable argument advanced as to why that should not be done. Will it interfere to any extent with the revenue earning of the school? I am afraid I am unable to answer that, as we have no information whatever as to the revenue earnings of this school. We have only been told what the cost of the staff is but no further details have been given, and it is for that reason I am unable to express an opinion on it. It does seem to me that merely dividing 4,000 by 500 and arriving at eight is wrong in principle. If you are keeping to the Regulations, then it seems that the sooner those Regulations are amended the better it will be. I am quite sure that a careful study of the point will reveal that when we are

contributing a larger sum of money we ought to be entitled to a larger number of free places *pro rata* to the contribution that is being made. It is so clear that it does not require too much argument.

We have not been told whether it is proposed also that this increased subvention should be a perpetual commitment on the financial resources of the Colony. I am aware that hon. members will be entitled to deal with the matter every time the Estimates come up for consideration, but I would like to know how far is Government's obligation towards making it a perpetual commitment, otherwise I fear that it will be extremely difficult to remove this large item from the Estimates later even when it is decided by Government to establish a secondary school for girls. I speak in all sincerity. I would like to hear Government's views as to whether or not it is intended that Government's subvention of \$4,000 to the Bishop's High School for Girls will be one in perpetuity.

I was also very much disappointed to learn from the hon. mover of the motion that in his opinion the increased grant is really in effect an economy, as this Colony will be saved the establishment of a Government Secondary School for Girls in Georgetown. It follows, therefore,—as I had started off by saying at the very beginning that Government appears not to have given the subject sufficient thought—that there is no decided policy on the part of Government as regards secondary education for girls. If that is so, my disappointment is all the greater. I was hoping there was a policy, and that this arrangement for contributing to this or any other school was only a makeshift and that at some time or other that policy would be produced and a Secondary School for Girls established by Government in Georgetown. I do hope that in the reply to these remarks the hon. mover of the motion will perhaps find it possible to enlighten hon. members of this Council in connection with that particular point.

There is only one further point I wish to make in connection with this matter, and it is this: I do not think it is a fair comparison to make between a secondary school for boys and one for girls, whether

the figures given are in respect of per caput or total cost. We all know that the two institutions are entirely different. The maintenance charges, staff requirements and equipment for a boys' school are entirely different from those of a girls' school. (Laughter). In quoting those figures I do think it was an attempt to bolster up a case for this Council to increase the contribution to this school. I want to repeat what I said at the very beginning. I am entirely against any vote—and I do not speak particularly of this particular vote alone—for the payment of money by this Council to be made retrospective unless there are extraordinary or very special circumstances warranting such a payment. In my view even after a further examination it is considered desirable to increase the vote to the Bishop's High School for Girls, it seems that may be done commencing from 1940. I am against the principle of it. I am convinced that it establishes a most dangerous precedent, and I will not be surprised if it is the forerunner of many applications of this nature. It is a dangerous precedent for money votes initiated in this Council to be retrospective, and I do not think it should be done. I have raised my voice in this Council before, deprecating very strongly money being authorised—in this case I know it is not authorised—for payment on a retrospective basis. I do not think it is the correct principle to adopt, whatever hon. members may say in favour of this motion. They are at liberty to support it as they like, but I personally am against it for the reasons I have given.

Mr. ELEAZAR: It is very seldom that I sit back and wait to hear what hon. members have to say before having my say. It is the first time I have done it, and I compliment the hon. member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar). I was under the impression that he intended to vote against the motion and I wanted to hear the grounds on which he was doing so. I have a recollection that from time immemorial I and others have been urging that the girls in this Colony are not well served by way of Secondary Education. I have had promises from Government—Your Excellency's illustrious predecessor, Sir Edward Denham (dec'd), in particular a few years ago—that Government will go into the question of establishing a Secondary School for Girls in Georgetown.

I happen to know that actually certain preliminary steps were taken. The Heads of the Denominational Bodies were got together to find out which of them would undertake to run the school, and, I think, the Canadian Presbyterian Body—I speak subject to correction—said they would do it. That, however, did not fructify as Sir Edward left the country before the proposals were completed. The question arose when at the Bishop's High School for Girls a certain child, though a member of Christ a child of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven, was considered not fit for admission as a pupil. I was so incensed at the idea then that I pressed on Government to establish a Secondary School for Girls in Georgetown. Government saw the force of my argument and the impossible nature of the embargo and agreed that such a school should be established. Everybody was happy and thought it would come off, but it did not.

I agree with the hon. member for Central Demerara that the increase should not be made retrospective. The objection I have is to the giving of public money to a private institution to spend as they like. I agree that Government should contribute in this particular instance to the maintenance of that school but not so long as it is run purely as a private institution. I think Government should have seized the opportunity, now that His Lordship the Bishop of Guiana has said that they cannot run the school any longer if they are not given more money, to say: "Hand the school over to us; we will be at least partners and we will give whatever money is required." I strongly feel that religious domination is a very necessary adjunct to a school, and I have always had at the back of my head that a purely Government institution without the Church having anything to do with it will be a danger, I always believe in the idea of Education and Religion going hand in hand and, therefore, I will not urge that there should be a Government Secondary School for Girls, as I cannot see how you can have a purely Government School without the Church being relieved of its responsibility to that school. I think Government missed a good chance to tell His Lordship that Government will take over the school and run it as a Government institution but under his benigning influence. At present

the Denominations are running the Primary Schools but the appointment or employment of the teachers is in the hands of Government. In this case Government has no voice in the appointment of anybody on the staff of the school. The Berbice High School for Girls gets Government money, but the Headmistress is only taken on for three years and she usually takes all that time to learn local conditions and the temperament of the children with whom she has to deal, and by the time she understands the position and can be of any use she is taken off. The last instance of that was a scandal. Within two or three months of the examination for which the children were being prepared for a whole year, that teacher was cashiered and sent back to Canada, and strange to say she was one of the few teachers of the school to be beloved by both parents and children. The matter was one of much discussion, and when the time comes for considering a subvention to that school I would like to know whether Government countenances a private institution in receipt of public funds treating the public in that way. The time has not come for that question to be raised as yet, but I am only giving the warning now.

I do not think that in this instance we ought to make this increased grant retrospective. The Bishop's High School for Girls is not a Government institution in any sense of the word, so that having overspent its money it can come back to Government for more. We do not know how they spend their money, and why they have spent more than they can afford. The fact, however, that they have asked for the increase to begin from January, 1939, shows that they are spending money as they like. It was only rhetoric when His Lordship said that those people who are here from England to teach in this school have come at a great deal of sacrifice. I know the statement has aroused a great deal of feeling in this Colony, but it cannot be taken seriously. I regard it as rhetoric, and His Lordship must be pardoned for it. The fact, however, remains that this is a private institution though it is not all Archbishop Parry's money that has established the Bishop's High School for Girls. The present premises was that of the old Queen's College, a Government institution, and the buildings had belonged to Govern-

ment. Because it was known that it was going to be used for educational purposes, it was given as a "song" to Bishop Parry. If it had been purchased by another person for another purpose, that person would have had to pay very much more for it. Therefore the people who come to-day and find things as they are should enquire how such came to be. It will not be fair for the public to contribute to the school and not have a say in its management. The Bishop's High School for Girls is as much ours as it is the Bishop's, because its compound was public property and had been given for a mere "song" so as to have it used for this particular purpose.

The hon. member who has just taken his seat has indicated that no vote of his will carry it through. If my vote can carry it through it will go through because I am going to support it. I do not think it will be establishing a dangerous precedent as the hon. member claims. Even though it is serving a useful purpose in the community, it is still to all intents and purposes a private concern to which Government is contributing, and it will not be fair for Government now that institution finds itself in financial difficulty to say: "Go back and enlarge your fees and carry on." \$4,000 is not too much to contribute annually to that institution, but I think we have to consider a good many things before doing that. The hon. mover of the motion said the fees are \$16.75 per term. I was told by his predecessor in office (Major Bain Gray) that the fees were \$24 per term. He gave it to me in writing and I repeated it in public, and shortly afterwards I saw in the newspapers that I did not verify my facts as the fees were only \$18 per term. It seems to me that that school was getting \$24 per term from one set of scholars and another amount from another set of scholars. I also understand that the children of Clergymen receive tuition at the school for a mere "song." Though a single Government Nominee on the Board of Governors of the school cannot remedy a thing of that kind, let Government by all means maintain this institution and assist it to expand, because the girls of the country are not well served by Government in respect of Secondary Education.

It is an unfair comparison to place the Bishop's High School for Girls alongside

Queen's College, because the management of Queen's College is in the hands of a Board of Governors appointed by Government and they should not fail to urge upon Government to get a decent school, but they take the opportunity of keeping the children out of the school by having accommodation for just a few so that the fees must be high in order to carry on. If they had a proper building they would be able to accommodate hundreds of boys. I know there is quite a deal of wastage of secondary education at Queen's College. I know that Queen's College can have twice the number of boys and that will have the effect of lowering the fees of that institution as well as Government's contribution, but that is not done now because of neglect, wilful and deliberate. The country can give away \$21,000 for a man to live in the Colony, and so it can afford to erect a decent school. What is required is more Government control at the Bishop's High School for Girls and not a single Government Nominee on the school's Board of Governors. Government cannot shirk its responsibility in this way. Let Government face the music. This is a great chance for Government to say: "Very well, Government is going to audit the figures submitted, study the fees that ought to be charged, and see that the management is fair and proper." A single Government Nominee on the Board of Governors of the Bishop's High School for Girls is there as a layman among parsons who will always disagree with him.

I am going to ask the hon. mover of the motion not to urge that this increase be retrospective. Let it be from 1940 and on the condition that Government obtains a little more control in the management of the school. I am glad the hon. member, who spoke before me, did not urge what I thought he had in mind, and that is to oppose this motion. He said: "I believe it will be carried." In that he is correct this time (laughter). I agree with him that it should not be retrospective and that Government should certainly claim some more control, because I do not think we are getting sufficient Government control.

There is one other matter I desire to mention. There are some restrictions at the Bishop's High School for Girls, which I describe as unchristian, whereby illegitimate children are not admitted as

students. Here is a case in which innocent children are made to suffer for the sins of the parents. I understand that representation was made to His Lordship the Bishop of Guiana in the matter and he gave his word that the restrictions would be removed. Although the school's prospectus was issued after that undertaking had been given, it was seen to contain a proviso that every applicant for admission must produce the marriage certificate of the parents. If you are going to admit illegitimate children into that school, where can they get the marriage certificate of their parents to produce. I understand, however, His Lordship has agreed to waive that objection. It is an unchristian objection, and His Lordship has seen that and, I believe, will keep his word. Those are things which are permissible in private institutions, but when those institutions are to be assisted from public funds they cannot have those restrictions. The people who are denied admission merely on those grounds are also contributors to public funds. Those restrictions should be removed, and Government should have sufficient voice in the control, management and policy of the school in return for the contribution Government is making to it from public funds.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I hope, sir, that the remarks made by the hon. member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) and the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) are not seriously entertained by hon. members of the Council. I was a member of the Legislative Council when this proposal was first introduced, and could recall the warnings given to Sir Cecil Clementi, who was then Colonial Secretary of the Colony, that a very dangerous precedent was being created by persuading the Government to make this contribution. It was then the Woodside School. The position that has been created by this subvention of Government to the school arose as the result of the inability of Government in those days to establish a Secondary School for Girls. The whole position had been examined by a Committee, the personnel of which I cannot remember now but I know I was a member of that Committee. I am under the impression that Professor Sir John Harrison was also a member. The position then was that at no time in the near

future Government would be able to find the necessary funds to establish a Secondary School for Girls and, therefore, it was agreed that the sum of \$1,500 be given to the school. Some hon. members may not know the history of the Bishop's High School for Girls.

The hon. member for Berbice River has referred to Bishop Parry. I may remind him that there have been two "Bishop Parrys" in this Colony. The first made it possible for the old Queen's College buildings to be purchased and for this school to be founded. Miss Vyfluis would have been unable to do it. She it was who conducted the Woodside School. His Lordship Bishop Parry, who subsequently became Archbishop, placed at the disposal of the institution a portion of his private fortune which enabled it to continue. It is generally known that his successor in office, the second Bishop Parry, for many years made it possible for this school to continue its existence with the aid of his own private funds. It therefore follows that the request that is being made by the School Authorities for an increased grant is the direct result of Bishop Parry's death. It is well known that but for the original foundation by Archbishop Parry and the subsequent contribution made by his successor, Bishop Parry, this school would have long ceased to exist.

I wish to warn hon. members of the grave danger of this institution disappearing as the result of lack of public support. There is no other secondary educational establishment in this Colony at which it would be possible to prepare girl students for the Guiana Scholarship but this one. The situation amounts to this: You would have promising young girls from the Primary Schools winning Government County Scholarships and being entitled to go to a Secondary Institution for the continuance of their educational training left without any academy to go to. If the Bishop's High School disappears, there is no other institution in this Colony that would admit girls of a certain persuasion into their establishment, and these girls form a very large proportion of those who win Primary Scholarships. What do hon. members think will happen? I cannot understand the attitude of the hon. member for Central Demerara who represents so large a

number of possible Scholarship girls who will be unable, if this institution is not maintained, to get a secondary education elsewhere. The hon. member for Central Demerara is no doubt a frequent and regular attendant at his Church but a less frequent attendant at schools. I go to neither. He does not appear to have derived any benefit from such christian training as is supposed to be given at the former institution. Perhaps the hon. member would like this vote postponed. He must know and ought to know that but for the continuance of this support the institution may cease to exist at the end of the year. What other institution is there? The Ursuline Convent is a Roman Catholic institution. It is a religious educational establishment and has not the necessary staff to train a girl to win the Guiana Scholarship. If, therefore, you make it possible to limit the possibilities of these girls going to the Ursuline Convent, you would never have a recurrence of the three instances in which girls have won the Guiana Scholarship. I am speaking of Miss Tengeley, Miss Hale and more recently Miss Dewar, all of whom received their training at the Bishop's High School. I am more in favour now of voting funds for the establishment of a Government Secondary School for Girls than for the erection of a new Queen's College, necessary though the latter is.

The hon. member for Berbice River referred to what was a handicap to some people—the denial of admission to illegitimate children at the Bishop's High School for Girls. His Lordship Bishop Parry, feeling that the existence of the school was entirely dependent upon private benefaction and in conformity with his Christian principle of not wishing to subsidize illegitimacy, made it a condition that these children should not be admitted in the school. One can understand this attitude of his. In those days they were receiving limited financial help. There were no graduates at the school in those days: it is only now that they have commenced to come. As the school has progressed and has become one of the institutions where Government Scholarships are tenable, it becomes necessary for the Authorities to relax in their stand against the admission of illegitimate children. It is, I think, to the credit of

the present Bishop that he should have been persuaded to drop any religious opposition there was in favour of this restriction being removed. I do not at all agree that Government should not continue to subscribe to that institution, as the alternative will be that these girls will not receive a secondary education. We need not, however, consider that difficulty as the restriction has been removed. While it does exist, it is true, it denies admission to a large number of inhabitants who will have no other place to go to. I deplore what looks to be a desire on the part of members of the community to oppose any help to that institution. I hope it will never happen. I happen to know it is a matter of very great interest to the educational heads of that institution that this vote should continue.

What is to be gained by increasing Government representation on the Board of Governors of the school? Do you think for example it is likely to have Greek substituted for Latin, or Latin for History, or to get History abolished? What can a Government Nominee do on that Board? He can to some extent exercise some control over the selection of the staff, but there is one thing he will never be able to do, and that is to prevent what is the greatest handicap—these young lady-teachers coming out here and falling in love with gentlemen and eventually being persuaded that sharing life with them is better than teaching. The misfortune is that after they are here for a while they have to leave the institution not for educational reasons (laughter). I do not know what special form of equipment is needed in a Girls' School, and I do not know whether the hon. member ever enjoyed the benefit of being in a mixed school, but there are no handicaps, no special equipment that I know of. There are no special classrooms. I do not quite know what form of control the hon. member suggests should be introduced at this institution, because it happens to be a High School for Girls. It is a fact that the Colony has to face this increased subvention to the school or find means for the establishment of a new educational centre for girls. To pay a graduate £200 per annum as an Assistant Mistress is absurd, and it is only because they are ladies it has been found possible to do so. Whether a graduate is a lady or a gentleman, she or he is entitled to a

good salary, and I do hope so far as I am concerned that I shall remain a member of this Council long enough to see this subvention increased to a much greater figure than the one proposed at present. To say that we should postpone this benefit to the school because it is retrospective is a very unhappy idea. What ought to happen is this: This vote instead of being \$4,000 should have been \$8,000 five years ago.

Mr. JACKSON: I must confess that I am indebted to the hon. member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) for the fervency and zeal with which he has supported the motion before this Council. I have never heard him to better advantage. It is no secret; I have always suffered from not hearing his views properly from my place here. I have always endeavoured to hear what he had been saying on previous occasions, but have only heard a part of what he said. I do not know if it is because the question to-day is mixed up with the female element that he has been able to rise to the occasion (laughter). His speeches in the past might have been quite as eloquent and quite as convincing as his address was to-day, but I have never heard him to greater advantage and I am mindful it is my duty to congratulate him on getting the mastery over his voice.

There is no doubt that there is absolute need for a good Secondary School for Girls in this Colony, and what really would be an ideal thing is for Government to establish such a school on the lines on which Queen's College is conducted. If Government is not in a position to do that, then Government is quite at liberty to adopt any makeshift that will supply the present need at the present time. When this matter was brought before the Education Committee, there were several points on which I desired information. I had my views, and I had my doubts. I expressed quite freely and frankly what my doubts were, and to a certain extent they have been removed. \$4,000 may not be regarded as a very large sum to be expended in connection with the secondary education of our girls. That, however, is a large increase upon the amount presently granted, it goes without saying; but I do think if all that is desired from a school of that kind receiving public funds is attained, then certainly the amount will be money well spent.

Despite what the hon. member for New Amsterdam has said, I am strongly of the opinion that a school of that kind does necessarily require a measure of Government control. I agree with the hon. member who said that a mere Government Nominee on the Board will not be sufficient, and I would be very glad if Government would consider the proposal to have a larger measure of control over the institution. Government must certainly take notice of the several points that have been raised in connection with this matter, and I know, perhaps as Government also understands, there is a strong public opinion in connection with this question. Letters have been appearing in the Press, and while the situation in many instances may have been overstated, yet one cannot disregard public opinion. Perhaps Government may well consider the various points raised so as to come to some definite conclusion regarding the part Government may play in the control of this institution.

I am supporting the motion. I am always pleased to do the best I can for the education of the people of this Colony. What was perhaps very interesting to me was the comparative statement by the hon. mover of the motion regarding the cost per caput of the Secondary Schools mentioned—Queen's College, Berbice High Schools for Boys and Girls and the Bishop's High School for Girls. It would give me a little more force when matters come up for supporting the claims of the Primary Schools, as I may be able to point out the cost per caput of the Secondary Schools compared with that of the Primary Schools. I am not going to ask the Council not to agree to this increase, because I know that Government has been somewhat sympathetic towards Primary School teachers quite recently as the result of the investigation of the Committee on Primary Education, but I do say that while I agree to the increase of this vote I also hold that there should be a larger measure of control over the institution on the part of Government than obtains at the present time.

May it not be well for Government before pressing the matter to finality to consider the various points raised? It may be beneficial if the decision on the motion is deferred for a little while, and

in the meantime Government may be able to get the votes of the whole Council apart from those hon. members who have expressed themselves in the matter. I throw it out as a suggestion. Whether it is adopted or not the motion will have my entire support, but I am of the opinion that Government will be inclined to have the opinion of the whole Council on the matter and will readily defer any decision thereon so as to get the support of everyone. The question of making the vote retrospective is one that should not be thought over lightly, and I am of the opinion that it needs some careful consideration more of a round table nature than in this open Council. I throw out this suggestion with the hope that its adoption may assist in meeting the points raised.

Mr. GONSALVES: This motion is of a much more controversial nature than it appears to be. The little warmth in which it was started was compensated for by the humour we had from the hon. member for New Amsterdam. With regard to the motion itself, it seems that everyone is agreed that the existence of a Secondary School for Girls is something that is very desirable, and it would be very regrettable if it became necessary for this school to be closed down. It is also admitted, I think, by everyone that at the present moment it is difficult for Government to consider the question of establishing a Secondary School for Girls in this Colony. With regard to the amount to be voted by the Council as help for the carrying on of the school, we have had from the hon. member for New Amsterdam information as regards the running of the school and how Government came to give the first contribution of \$1,500. We all admit that times have changed and that conditions are much different than they were in those days, and a further increase of the amount, if one is to run a better school, must naturally follow. Those are facts which ought not to be lost sight of.

This matter came before the Education Committee of which I happen to be a member. I remember that certain information was given to that Committee. I must admit that the full detail of the amount required by the motion is not quite fully before this Council. The hon. Nomi-

nated member, Mr. Jackson, rather anticipated me with his suggestion. I had in mind two suggestions, either of which Government may have accepted. One suggestion is that in view of the points raised by the hon. members for Central Demerara and for Berbice River as regards the amount involved for the running of the school, a small committee of three members of this Council be appointed to go into that question and also the question as to whether the amount voted should be retrospective from January of this year or from 1st October. I make that suggestion on the ground—if it is correct to say that unless this \$4,000 is obtained the school will have to be closed down almost immediately—that what has been spent is spent already and the amount required, if the school is not closed down immediately, would be required from now onwards. I do not suggest that it is a difficult proposal but I do think that in the light of the points raised a small committee of the Council may be appointed to go into them and in the meanwhile this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Council. The committee may be convinced that the increase should be retrospective as from January 1, and report to the effect to this Council who, I have no doubt, will accept their recommendation.

With regard to the remarks made by the hon. member for Berbice River as regards Queen's College, the question of the erection of a larger school has long received the attention of the Governors of Queen's College and has since then received the attention of Government. No one is more anxious to have it done than the Governors of the school. The hon. member need have no fear that the Governors of Queen's College have not been thinking of the education and accommodation of the boys at Queen's College. My suggestion is that the motion be deferred for a short time, and it coincides with the suggestion made by the hon. Nominated member, Mr. Jackson.

Mr. KING: During the short space of time that I have been a member of this Council I have seldom opposed a measure brought forward by Government in all sincerity for the welfare and benefit of the Colony or its inhabitants, but I am exceedingly sorry I must oppose the motion which is at present before the

Council, feeling easier in my mind as regards my opposition that this is not really in the nature of a Government measure but has been made so through Government having been persuaded by authorities outside to help in a measure of this kind. A great deal has been said that it is essential for this Colony to have a Secondary School for Girls. With that I agree, partly but until and unless I am convinced that any Government is bound to provide a secondary education for the inhabitants of the country I will contend that it is not right and proper for Government to support this motion. Secondary education everywhere is a matter for private enterprise, whether the Government can provide it or not. Is it necessary to educate the people of the Colony to such an extent that they will be unable to find employment for their brains when they get through school? Is Government going to turn out a professional man and woman of every boy and girl? That is what you are going to do. Government is already spending the sum of \$450,000 a year on the education of the people. We are not considered one of the wealthy places of the world; we have been known for years not to be able to balance our Budget—and it may be years more before we will be able to do that—so that no one can say we are niggardly when it comes to providing education for the masses. We are spending nearly ten per cent. of our annual revenue on education, and as a Colonist I am satisfied that Government is doing everything in its power to help in educating the masses, but I am not yet convinced by anything I have heard in this Council this morning that this vote is a proper one.

For the secondary education of our girls we are at present giving to the Bishop's High School the sum of \$1,500 per annum, and I consider that if the people were made to pay proper fees for secondary education there would be no need for this Government to help the school to any other extent. We are obtaining for the boys and girls of this Colony secondary education at a cost of \$15 to \$18 per term—a matter of \$5 to \$6 per month. To me that is so ridiculous and absurd, and yet some hon. members state here that the fees are high. Others, however, have admitted that the fees are low. I say they are so low that

they are absurd. To get secondary education anywhere else in the world one has to pay far more than that.

I am in great sympathy with His Lordship the Bishop of Guiana in this matter. He has the alternative of raising the fees of the school or reducing expenditure to meet income. That, is, however, a matter for him, but it is not for him to come to this Government and say: "I am unable to carry on this school because the fees are so ridiculously low it is impossible for me to balance its budget." If the Bishop finds the school cannot be carried on in any other way, then let the school be closed down, however regrettable that step may be. If the people of this Colony are not prepared to pay sufficient to give a secondary education to their children then it is a matter for them. Rather than seeing this money spent on secondary education for girls, I would favour its expenditure on vocational education. That is why I have always supported the Carnegie Trade Centre for Women—an institution which is doing good and solid work for the people of the Colony. I would rather see the money spent on education of that kind for girls. The hon. member for New Amsterdam, who I feel sure said it facetiously, said the Bishop's High School is the only school in the Colony to educate girls to a sufficiently high standard for the Guiana Scholarship. I make the statement that the remark is absolutely untrue.

Mr. WOOLFORD: Name another!

Mr. KING: I can name another. I name the Ursuline Convent, and can say that it is quite capable of training girls for the Guiana Scholarship provided they have the necessary intellect.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Question!

Mr. KING: In the course of over forty years that the Guiana Scholarship has been in existence only two girls have been successful. Is that what this Colony is going to do—spend a matter of \$4,000 a year so that every 20 years a girl should win the Guiana Scholarship? It would be far cheaper if every year you give a girl the amount of the scholarship for the purpose of carrying out studies abroad. Another statement was made by the hon.

member for New Amsterdam, to whom I always listen with the greatest respect but whom like the hon. Nominated member, Mr. Jackson, I very seldom hear, but I know he is gifted with speech and also with a sense of humour and I therefore endeavour to pay the strictest attention to what he says. Like Caesar's wife however, his remarks made in this Council should be beyond reproach. He has said that in another school (presumably referring to the Ursuline Convent) which is run by the Roman Catholic persuasion girls not of that persuasion are not admitted. There are numbers of girls not of the Roman Catholic persuasion who have gone through the Ursuline Convent, and to-day there are numbers of them at the Convent. I do not know if his support of the motion is on the ground that the Ursuline Convent excludes girls who are other than Roman Catholic.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I regret I have to rise to a point of correction. I was not referring to religious persuasion. The hon. member must accept that statement. The statement I made is absolutely correct and is known not only to Government but to every man in the Council.

Mr. KING: I certainly understood the hon. member to say religious persuasion. If I am wrong, I withdraw it from my mind. Only yesterday the Government of this Colony found it necessary in its wisdom to introduce legislation increasing the possible Revenue of this Colony by nearly \$200,000. The measure was considered necessary for the welfare of this Colony. We are all only too well aware that the British Empire to which we are happy to belong is going through a very serious time at present and, while we may look forward in our minds with hope to the early termination of the War, our better judgment must persuade us that we cannot look forward to as early a termination as we would like. This Colony like other parts of the Empire will be faced with commitments resultant from that War, and at this time of stress, when people are finding it difficult to live—when the poorer classes are finding it difficult to eke out an existence—is this Colony as a matter of largesse, going to pay the sum of \$4,000 per annum for the secondary education of some of the girls of the Colony? I am appealing to hon.

members of the Council as I have never done before not to be persuaded by sympathy in this matter. While we all sympathize with His Lordship the Bishop of Guiana in this particular matter, we cannot allow our sympathy to so persuade us as to blind our better judgment. The Colony is in need of money, and will be in need of money for many years to come.

The expenditure of \$4,000, small as it may be to the revenue of the Colony, is nevertheless large when you look at it as a single unit. There are lots of ways in which Government can spend this \$4,000. (Mr. Eleazar: Question)! There is no one keener and more anxious than I to see the people of the Colony educated, but I am not going to blind my eyes to the fact that over-education is almost as great a curse as little or no education. So long as we educate the people of this Colony sufficiently for them to know what is happening around them and to take an intelligent interest in the affairs of the world and to earn a living, I think Government will be doing its utmost for the inhabitants of the Colony. I am in touch to a great extent with the people outside of this Council, and I know that the young boys and girls who are passing out of school every year are finding it more difficult to obtain employment compatible with the education they have received. In some instances I know personally, they are educated beyond the sphere of their parents. It is a natural thing for parents to give their children the best education they can afford, but I always feel that every parent should consider when educating a child that he is fitting the child for the life within which it is accustomed to live and not to a life outside of that sphere. I cannot help feeling that it is far better for this Colony if Government consider and give effect to some form of vocational education which would be far more advantageous to the young men and women of this Colony than, to a certain extent, the secondary education of which they get the benefit through small fees and the generous assistance of Government.

There is nothing more I can say on this matter, but to stress my strong opposition to this motion, not because I have any particular feeling against the school. Every man is entitled to his own religious

belief, and I respect every man's religion just as much as I expect him to respect mine. My opposition to this motion has nothing to do with my religious persuasion, but is merely a means of stating to this Council my idea of secondary education which I feel sure Government has no necessity to provide at this moment.

The Council adjourned for the luncheon interval to 2 p.m.

2 p.m.—

MR. GONSALVES: In view of the discussion which has taken place I would like to move an amendment at the present stage in order to simplify the matter. The amendment I propose to move is that further consideration of the motion be deferred, and that His Excellency appoint a Committee, consisting of not more than five persons, to consider whether any increase and what amount of increase should be made by Government with regard to the grant to the Bishop's High School, and if the grant is to be increased, from what date should that increase be given. I think if the suggestion put forward in my amendment were adopted the Council would be better informed on the subject and would be able to arrive at a more definite decision with regard to this matter. I think we have had quite a long discussion on the matter already. I think the feeling is that the school should be kept. I am not going to go into the question of the denomination of the school because I think it would be much better if perhaps that aspect of the matter was not considered.

MR. JACKSON: I beg to second that amendment. There is no need for me to make a speech on this occasion; I think I have said all that can be said.

MR. ELEAZAR: I rise to a point of order. I do not know how the hon. member can move an amendment to the motion which is before the Council. He can make a suggestion to the Council and leave it to Your Excellency or the mover of the motion to adopt it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think what the hon. member wishes to move is that a Select Committee of this Council be appointed to consider the motion which is before the Council at present.

MR. GONSALVES: That is the purpose of my amendment, sir, and I would like to tell the hon. member that I have not done worse than he has done. Yesterday he moved that consideration of the Petroleum Bill be deferred for six months.

MR. ELEAZAR: That was not an amendment to anything. If the hon. member does not know the procedure he should not challenge what I have done.

MR. LEE: If Government intends to accept the hon. member's amendment I will not say anything on the subject, because it will come up again when we will have full details.

THE PRESIDENT: I am not regarding the hon. member's proposal as an amendment but a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee of this Council to consider the motion before the Council at the present time, and of course a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee can be moved at any time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I can assure hon. members that before the Council was asked to vote this sum of money the matter was very carefully considered and all figures available were thoroughly investigated, but as some unofficial members have expressed doubt as to whether an increased grant should be made as from the first of this quarter or from the 1st January, I am authorised to say that Government will accept the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to enable the unofficial members to go carefully into the information which will be placed at their disposal by the Director of Education, and see for themselves that it will be necessary to grant this increased sum as from the first of the current year.

With regard to the remarks made this morning by the hon. member for Demerara River (Mr. King), I agree with him that the fees for secondary education in this Colony are extraordinarily low, but I cannot agree with him that while there should be secondary education for boys there should not be for girls. At the present time girls have to make their way in the world just as men have to, and probably by the end of the war a good

many more will have to be looking for a living elsewhere and not depend upon others to support them.

Motion put, and agreed to.

THE PRESIDENT: I will announce the personnel of the Select Committee before the Council rises this afternoon.

#### GRATUITY TO MR. EDWIN HAMILTON.

Mr. CASE (Director of Public Works and Sea Defences): I beg to move:—

That, with reference to the Acting Governor's Message No. 23 dated 2nd September, 1939, this Council approves of the payment of a compassionate gratuity of \$324 to Mr. Edwin Hamilton in respect of his services as Section Ganger (Driver), Public Works Department.

Mr. Hamilton has served in the Public Works Department faithfully and continuously for 18 years, and is unable to carry on on account of impaired sight. He is not entitled to a pension, and I therefore ask hon. members to support this motion.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests) seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL VOTE FOR DEFENCE MEASURES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

Whereas it is necessary to make further provision for extraordinary expenditure in connexion with the War in which His Majesty is engaged:

*Be it Resolved*,—That this Council authorises His Excellency the Acting Governor to expend a further sum of \$15,000 on defence and other necessary measures connected with the War.

Hon. members will recollect that a short time ago a vote of \$25,000 was passed to enable measures to be taken for the defence of the Colony and for other emergency measures. That sum will be exhausted in the course of the next week or so, and it is necessary to ask for a further sum to carry us on, possibly to the end of November, but I hope until the end of the year. The amount required is estimated at \$15,000.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### REVOLVING FUND FOR TIMBER SEASONING.

Mr. WOOD: I beg to move:—

That, with reference to the Acting Governor's Message No. 24 dated 23rd September, 1939, this Council approves of the provision of the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of establishing a revolving fund to supply the Public Works and other departments with supplies of seasoned local timbers sufficient to fill their requirements without using any imported lumber.

The Message, sir, to which my motion refers is, I think, more or less self explanatory. Hon. members are aware that a free grant was received from the Colonial Development Fund to enable the reclamation of certain lands to be undertaken at the Fort, and that one of the objects of that work was to provide stacking ground where the Forest Department could season stocks of local timber for the Public Works Department, and that the aim of that work was to abolish entirely all imported lumber from use by Government Departments. There is a considerable quantity of imported lumber which in past times the Public Works Department and other consuming Departments have had to use simply because they were unable to obtain seasoned local lumber with which to substitute for the imported material. I am going to ask the Director of Public Works to second the motion so that he can speak on the subject from the Public Works point of view. The position now is that it is hardly possible to ask the local mills—they hardly have the facilities or the ground to enable them to season local timber themselves and supply it to the Public Works Department immediately. That is, of course, our ultimate aim, so this is in the nature of a vote for unallocated stores. Green timber will be bought and seasoned, and as it is taken out fresh purchases of green timber will be made in its place. What timber is taken out by the Public Works Department will be charged by them at cost to the various works for which it is used.

As the Director of Public Works is going to refer to his side of the question I would like to refer to the broader aspect

of it. This particular vote really has nothing whatever to do with the war. The whole thing was worked out originally and a proposal put up in 1937 when even Hitler himself was not quite certain there was going to be a war, and the grant from the Colonial Development Fund was obtained a considerable time ago. The necessity for this has arisen because we are very nearly ready with that ground to start this work, and the situation which has arisen, following on the declaration of war, renders the work still more necessary. For reasons which I have given to the timber trade, and which I need not go into at length, I have formed the opinion that if this Colony is going to continue to use imported lumber during the war the price is going to rise to unprecedented heights, in my opinion to greater heights than in the last war when it rose high enough. On the other hand I am not at all sure that we will be able to obtain any lumber at all. Germany has established a blockade in the Baltic and is sinking all neutral ships trying to carry timber to England, and Russia seems to be closing the White Sea ports. If that is the case England will have to obtain the whole of her normal supplies and war supplies from Canada and America, and if we are to get any we will have to pay high prices.

That throws the local industry into the position of being able to produce timber at rates which are not very much higher than they were selling before the war broke out, and with those rates they will be able to compete against the tremendously high rates in the Islands, possibly to the extent that the Islands will not be able to obtain anything else but our timber. So far as scantlings are concerned we are in the position that if we are quick enough and wise enough in the uptake we would be in a position to start selling to the Islands. That would be about one-third of the Islands' requirements, but I think we have to look farther ahead. If we can supply the Islands with seasoned local lumber, and they are using it because they cannot get what they are accustomed to, they are liable to become accustomed to our local woods, and are likely to discover that they are not liable to be attacked by woodants. If we seize our opportunity now we would be able to hold those markets after the war. If we asked the mills to season lumber for us it would mean that the

whole of our requirements would be occupying space in the mills which they ought to require, and which many of them are going to require for seasoning lumber in order to endeavour to capture the West Indies market, and that is certainly a reason why we should do this work ourselves on the ground we have prepared. We will soon be ready with three acres of land alongside the Public Works yard where anybody can take up land and put their stacks, with ingress and egress both by road and water, where they can season lumber under our supervision if they wish, and where we would be on the spot to give them the moisture content.

I would like to say what I have told the whole Street, and that is that I do hope that the local trade will seize what I believe to be a very great opportunity, but they can only seize it by going after it. I want to point a moral about it. I have sent letters of advice to all the members of the timber trade on what my personal views are on the matter, and I have received polite letters of thanks, and encouraging ones too in many cases. I think that in certain cases they are going to get orders from the Islands, but every opportunity I get I tell them that they cannot get business in this modern world without looking for it. One letter which I received from a nameless firm thanked me very much for my letter which they had read with great interest, and if any order happened to come to them they would endeavour to fill it. I have quoted that but I would not comment on it except to say that if we are ever going to capture any market in this world, for heaven's sake let us go and look for it. I now formally move the motion.

Mr. CASE: I have great pleasure in seconding the motion. I do not think I can add very much to what the mover has said. Recent experience has shown quite conclusively that this Colony possesses timber suitable for all requirements of the Public Works Department if they are properly seasoned. Last year the Public Works Department spent \$13,700 in purchasing imported timbers. If this motion is passed no more timber will be imported by the Public Works Department, and that will mean that an additional amount of \$5,800 per annum will be spent here. Another point is

that there is a considerable amount of imported timbers used generally in the Colony. The last report shows that in 1938 a sum of \$160,592 was spent by people in this Colony in purchasing imported timbers. I am quite convinced that local timbers, if properly seasoned, are quite suitable. If the amount spent last year in purchasing imported timbers had been used in the Colony it would have meant that \$64,000 would have been spent in wages in this Colony.

MR. DE AGUIAR: I do not think there is any member in this Chamber who will offer any opposition to this measure. The only point that occurs to me is how is it proposed to purchase the timber required for this work? I know that a good deal of valuable experience will be gained, and I expect that the timber dealers will be very grateful for that experience. I would like to see the scheme extended a little more, but perhaps it would be better not to make too big a bite. I have a faint recollection of what happened to a revolving fund provided some time ago for seasoning timber. I think the original fund was \$25,000, but that fund gradually revolved and revolved, and I do not know where it is now. It presumably revolved itself out. (laughter). I think it was discovered that the lumber that was cured was too expensive, but perhaps we will benefit from the experience gained then.

One other observation. I would like to know whether it is proposed to allocate this amount to the Public Works Department under Unallocated Stores, or whether it is proposed to establish a fund outside of the Public Works Department into which the Department will pay the amount of money represented by the quantity of timber required from time to time. I am very jealous about the fund and I propose to ask some questions about it later on, having regard to what I have said about the previous revolving fund.

MR. ELEAZAR: The hon. member was a little bit too optimistic when he said that no member of the Council would object to this motion; he could not have been looking at this side of the table. (laughter). With all due deference to the Conservator of Forests I have always maintained that there are much more im-

portant offices in which he can serve with great distinction, but Government insists on keeping him in the Forest Department to carry coal to Newcastle, to plant wood when we cannot get rid of what we have. There was a Forest Trust which went on revolving until it went out of existence. Now we are called upon to find \$30,000 to put into another revolving fund to buy wood and stack it. We should not have been importing wood into this country; it was Government's fault in not having placed an embargo on wood coming into the country. We have a country teeming with wood yet we are importing wood all the time. Now we are told that it is because our wood is not seasoned. I would like to see the Conservator sawing a piece of bullet wood, and I would like him to tell me when it would be cured. It would be in the same condition years after. I do not know what is written in the books, but I know about woods from my own experience. This is not the time for this kind of speculation. Put \$30,000 into circulation and let the Public Works Department continue to get its supplies from the firms. It is true that when this scheme was mooted there was no war, but now that a war is on we want all the money we can get for circulation in the Colony.

Instead of remaining in a breezy office in Kingston the officers of the Forest Department should go into the interior and plant more trees. The Public Works Department should buy more wood from the local firms so as to enable them to increase the wages of their labourers. This revolving fund is only another name for the Forest Trust which Government has abandoned. These extraneous votes for which we have to increase taxation are not desirable at all. The Conservator's arguments are always very good, but the facts do not bear them out. I have always complimented him on his success in securing votes here, but I cannot compliment him on his failures. When we desire to keep out unnecessary imports I see no reason why Government should go to the trouble of making this experiment at all. Government should put a heavy duty on imported woods. Some of our woods are too hard, and that is the reason why they are not wanted in Great Britain. They say that their machinery was made to deal with softer woods. I appeal to Govern-

ment not to spend this money at the present time.

Mr. WOOD: I am bound to express grievous disappointment in the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar). He has reiterated throughout his speech that what he wants is to see money in circulation all the time. I thought it would have been pretty obvious to this Council without my drumming it in with quite as much reiteration as the hon. member employed, that if we purchased 300,000 board feet of lumber from the local mills with local currency we would be putting more money into circulation than if we attempted with our not very great resources to purchase timber from the United States at a depreciated rate of exchange. I may be wrong and the hon. member may be right, but I think that is just what we were trying to do.

What the hon. member has been referring to as the Forest Trust was a grant for unemployment relief. That grant, of which \$25,000 was actually spent in curing and sawing by hand and seasoning experimentally to see if the work could be done on a large scale, was a revolving fund applied as a grant for unemployment relief. We were told we must saw by hand in order to provide employment. We had to do all that, and apart from that we were told what price the boards must be sold at. At the present moment the fund shows a loss of about \$19,000, and very nearly \$60,000 revolved in wages to the unemployed in replacing imported wood with local wood at the Public Works Department, the Education Department, Oudernceming and with the general public. We ran at a loss of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent per board foot, and then the fund revolved itself out in much the same way as that of the Forest Trust. The point was also raised by the hon. member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar). I am not a business man; I have been told that often enough here, but you do not have to have a very good business brain to realise that if you must do all that without modern machinery you are bound to run at a loss. We were not allowed to sell at prices at which the Public Works Department was purchasing foreign lumber in the open market. The hon. member for Berbice River said that to deal with timber out here we were carrying coal to Newcastle. I think I have just said that

I tried to advise the timber trade to carry coal away from Newcastle to the Islands.

Another question raised by the hon. member for Central Demerara was the question of accounting of the fund. To that I can only say that it is a question of accounting instructions. Whether it will be worked as an unallocated fund, or whether we will be ordered to establish a separate fund into which payments will be made I cannot say. We have no instructions as yet on that subject. I want to stress that we are going into the open market to purchase sawn boards. We are going with money in our hands; we are not even buying on credit, and money will go into circulation. If we do not do that the lumber will have to come from New York, and our money will again go into circulation in America instead of in this Colony, and at a depreciated rate of exchange.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### DISTRICT BY-LAWS, 1939.

Mr. MACNIE (Commissioner of Labour and Local Government, acting): I beg to move:—

That, the Districts By-Laws 1939, as made by the Local Government Board under the authority of the Local Government Ordinance, Chapter 84, as printed and circulated be hereby confirmed.

subject to an amendment of a printing error in Regulation 57 (1), in the third line of which the words "for the purpose of sale" and the commas before and after, should be deleted. Those words do not appear in the By-laws made by the Board, but have been included by error in printing.

I think it would be well for me to briefly explain the need for these By-laws. Since 1911 the village councils and local authorities have worked under By-laws made in that year which have now been found to be quite unsuitable. About two or three years ago Mr. Laing drafted the original of the By-laws which are now before the Council. They have been considered first by the Board and also by all local authorities and by the District Commissioners, and they will replace entirely the 1911

By-laws, with the exception of certain clauses which deal solely with public health matters. Under the Public Health Ordinance it is provided that the By-laws dealing with public health should continue in operation until regulations are made under the Public Health Regulations. These By-laws have been carefully considered by all the bodies concerned, and I do not think I need say any more.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I would like to second the motion and compliment the hon. member who has just sat down. He is a chip from the old block, a clergyman's son, and apparently obeys the scriptural injunction that you should court with your adversary. He courted me here before he started off and asked whether I would oppose the By-laws. I told him I intended to second his motion. That is a bit of wisdom. I do not however agree with him that the words "for the purpose of sale" should be deleted. A man who kills a pig for Christmas should not be compelled to search for a member of the local authority to examine it, or take it to a slaughter house, but if he was killing it for sale then of course he would have to take it to the slaughter house. The word that should be left out is the word "intended."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Speaking from memory, when these Regulations came before the Local Government Board the words "for the purpose of sale" did not appear in the draft, nor did the words "intended for human consumption," and it was decided, speaking from memory, to insert the words "intended for human consumption" and to omit the words "for the purpose of sale" because it was felt that the same Regulation which applies to animals killed by persons wishing to eat the meat themselves should also apply to meat when it is put up for sale. It was therefore decided to insert the words "intended for human consumption" and not to include the words "for the purpose of sale."

Mr. MACNIE: The words "for the purpose of sale" were in the 1911 By-laws and, as the Colonial Secretary has explained, they were deleted for the definite reason that animals should be treated in the same way where a slaughter house existed, whether they were killed for sale or not.

Motion as amended put, and agreed to.

#### INCREASED GOVERNMENT COUNTY SCHOLARSHIPS.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I beg to move:—

Whereas there appears to be a general awakening and a genuine desire among the people of the Colony to provide their children with Secondary Education;

And whereas there is a healthy response from the Primary Schools as evidenced by the number of entrants and the results of the County Scholarship Examinations:

And whereas there is a continued increase in the number of children attending the Primary Schools.

And whereas the number of free places provided annually for Secondary Education is insufficient to meet the needs of these children, and are less in number than in the British West Indies and other Colonies:

*Be it resolved*,—That this Council is of the opinion that provision should be made for increasing the number of Government County Scholarships to twenty-four and that opportunity should be taken to consider with a view to re-adjustment if necessary, of the regulation dealing with the number of Scholarships to be awarded annually to each of the Counties of Demerara, Berbice, Essequibo, and that His Excellency the Acting Governor be respectfully requested to refer the matter to the Honourable the Director of Education and the Education Committee with directions that early steps be taken to give effect to this proposal.

I would invite the attention of hon. members to the preambles of the motion, and if the reasons stated therein are supported by the facts I would ask them to give the motion their favourable consideration. I think it will be generally agreed that there is a genuine desire among the people of the Colony to provide their children with secondary education, and this desire is supported by the fact that there are many entrants at the examinations which take place from time to time. Furthermore the number of children attending the primary schools of the Colony has increased, and more especially during the last three years—1936, 1937 and 1938, as the figures which I propose to give will show. In 1936 there were 48,244 children in the primary schools of Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo. That number increased in 1937 to 49,322, and in 1938 there was a further increase recorded, the number of children attending school at the end of the school year being 50,264.

The Regulations provide for 12 County Scholarships to be awarded annually to the three Counties, and in respect of the years 1936 and 1937 the full number were

awarded. In 1938 there were actually 13 awards due to a lapsed scholarship in the previous year. A more important point to be considered is that in addition to those awards which were made there were a number of children who actually reached scholarship standard during that period, but by reason of the fact that the number of scholarships were fully taken up no awards could be made to those children. The qualifying standard is that a child must obtain 60 per cent. of the marks given at the examination. Actually the position has been that in 1936 there were seven more children, eight in 1937, and in 1938 the number rose to 36 in Demerara and 2 in Essequibo who actually qualified. Still further, this year there were 40 in Demerara and 10 in Berbice who reached scholarship standard but were unable to obtain the benefit. I will quote some further figures lest hon. members think that because the qualification for the scholarship is only 60 per cent. of marks those children who attained scholarship standard were within that low figure. Those children who were qualified in 1936 in Demerara actually obtained 79.3 per cent. of marks. In 1937 the percentage fell to 67.7, in 1938 it rose to 72.7, and in 1939 it is very pleasing to record that the percentage of marks gained by children in Demerara was 81.

I think those two points I have mentioned, the standard and the number of children who qualify, are of sufficient importance to obtain the support of hon. members for my motion. It might be thought that to increase the number of County Scholarships from 12 to 24 would be too great, but if members considered what obtains in Trinidad they would not think so. In Trinidad there are actually 40 scholarships at present for secondary education. There are various bodies giving scholarships, and in Trinidad and Tobago there are altogether 40 scholarships available to the elementary school child every year. Some time ago this Colony only awarded six scholarships to pupils of the primary schools, but later it was realised that that number was inadequate, and the County Scholarships were introduced and the number of scholarships increased to 12. It seems to me the time has come when we should increase that number still further, and I am suggesting that the number should be increased to 24. On the ground

of expense it might be thought that it is inopportune to increase the expenses of the Colony, but I should like to remind hon. members that boys who win County Scholarships go to Queen's College, so that it is a question of taking money out of one Government pocket and putting it into another.

As regards the motion itself I am also asking that the Regulation dealing with the number of scholarships to be awarded to each of the three Counties might be re-examined with a view to adjustment if necessary. I am not suggesting to day that some adjustment is required but it does seem to me that the matter might be considered, and if adjustment is necessary it might be done at the same time. While I do not wish to do other candidates out of their scholarships I think it is well known that there have been candidates who have sat for the scholarship in Demerara and actually reached scholarship standard but were unable to obtain scholarships, while one of their more fortunate brothers in another County who had also reached scholarship standard but with a lower percentage of marks was able to receive a scholarship. That state of affairs might be remedied by an increase in the number of scholarships, and it may not be necessary to make the adjustment I have in mind, but I am still asking that when the matter is referred to the Department concerned that phase of it might be looked into with a view to making any adjustment that might be considered necessary.

With your permission, sir, I would like to make a slight amendment to the motion. I think it would be more happily worded if the words "early steps be taken to give effect to this proposal," which occur in the last line, were deleted and the following words substituted "earnest consideration be given to the matter as soon as possible." I think I have said enough to convey to hon. members the desirability of increasing the number of scholarships.

Mr. JACKSON: I have very great pleasure in seconding the motion so ably moved by the hon. member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar). It is a motion that must appeal to the members of this Council; his reasons are cogent. There has been a remarkable increase in the attendance of pupils of the primary

schools, and I am quite sure the Director of Education will bear me out when I say there has been a corresponding increase in efficiency generally. I think the idea of making it possible for a larger number of pupils to have the opportunity of going a little higher in their education is a very good one indeed. At present the number of scholarships is 12, and although we are asking for an increase of 100 per cent. it should be understood that with such a large number of pupils attending the schools, and with such a large number qualifying for scholarships, Government would be doing well by making it possible for a dozen more children to obtain free secondary education. I can assure you, sir, that those of us who move among the people are convinced that there has been a remarkable awakening in the desire of the people to obtain the best education they can for their children. There are those who should provide secondary education themselves; there are others who have promising boys and girls who would no doubt make good if opportunities were given them, but they are unable to provide secondary education for their children. It would be an incentive to pupils of the primary schools to make good, and I am quite sure that a liberal education of the people is a wonderful asset to the Colony in general. There is no need to say much on the question because it should be evident to members of the Council that the increase asked for is comparatively small.

Mr. ELEAZAR: There is very little to be said on the motion. I think everybody is in sympathy with it or ought to be. I think the hon. member for Demerara River (Mr. King) made a mistake this morning when he said it was not the duty of Government to provide secondary education. It is desirable that children should be given an opportunity to obtain it.

I would like to give a hint to the Director of Education. I observe nowadays that a boy who wins a primary scholarship and goes to Queen's College does not always come out on top at Queen's; very often he drops back. It is a peculiar thing. In my day a boy who won a primary scholarship generally followed it up, and in nine cases out of ten he won the British Guiana Scholarship. It is the reverse now, and I think one

reason for that is that the curriculum is too overcrowded. In the days I am speaking about, when a boy went to Queen's he was sure that in reading and arithmetic he was going to hold his own. In these days he goes with a smattering of knowledge which he begins to forget when he gets there. The Director might take the hint and enquire whether that is so. I do not think Government will have any objection at all to increasing the number of scholarships; they are not so many after all.

Mr. KING: Lest by my silence it be thought that I agree with the motion I desire to say I do not. I all the more regret that I cannot support it because of the fact that it has come from one of the elected members. This morning we had expenditure on secondary education going beyond the point, I think, of Government control, and here we have another instance where a member of this Council is seriously asking Government to encourage and foster, through the monetary support of Government, secondary education for boys and girls in this Colony. I really think we are going too far on the question of education. If Government wishes to revise the policy of education throughout the Colony, and is honestly of the opinion that secondary education should be given to the people of the Colony, it is not fair to pick out one or two children who may appear bright but in after life may prove failures. We know that it is not always those who have been brilliant boys at school but those who have not always been at the top of the class who have been successful in after life. The question of secondary education is a matter entirely for parents if they think they can afford to educate their children up to that standard.

I do not think the mover of the motion has ever made a less enthusiastic speech than he has made this afternoon in bringing forward this motion. I am accustomed to hear him speak with far more eloquence and sincerity in his tone than he has done in the somewhat dead effort I had the misfortune to listen to just now. I can only conclude that his lack of enthusiasm was due to a lack of sincerity on his part. He has made one or two statements which rather surprised me. One is that when a boy wins a scholarship and goes to Queen's

College it is simply a case of Government taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another. I do not quite follow his argument because, if Government did not give a scholarship and that same boy went to Queen's College Government would get the benefit of fees he would have to pay, so that it would be really a loss of revenue to Government if the number of scholarships were increased.

The hon. member has advanced no argument why the number of scholarships should be increased from 12 to 24. He might well have asked for 200 or 2,000. Presumably he thinks that 24 scholarships could be better divided among 50,000 children, but I think the proportion of children who could obtain scholarships out of 50,000 would be so small as not to be really worth while. The hon. member said that in Trinidad there are 40 scholarships. There are several Universities I know which are well endowed and which can give more handsome scholarships, but there are schools which are so poor that they can give no scholarships, but they give the same standard of education. Trinidad is so beyond comparison with this Colony that it is impossible to imagine that we can afford to give 24 scholarships when Trinidad can only give 40 with the money it has. Trinidad is a wealthy place. I was there only last week and it surprised me to see how it has developed. They are spending money, but they are not throwing it away on secondary education. The fact that they only award 40 scholarships a year shows that they feel that that number is ample, having regard to their resources. I think 12 scholarships in this Colony are ample for the number of children here. I am against this system of Government-aided secondary education. If the Colony is going to provide secondary education let it be generous and give it to any and everybody. In some cases it is very much to the detriment of children to give them secondary education. A boy goes through a primary school and he is suddenly thrown into secondary education, a thing he never wanted, and it sometimes does him harm. It is far better for them to win 6 out of 12 scholarships than to have an opportunity to win 24. It is much more creditable to win one prize out of 100,000 than to win one out of 109.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am

afraid the last speaker will be disappointed to hear that Government is prepared to accept the motion as amended. That is to say Government will give the earliest consideration to the question of increasing the number of scholarships from 12 to 24. With regard to the allocation of the scholarships, under the Regulations that exist at present I think hon. members are aware that five go to Demerara, four to Berbice and three to Essequibo. It is possible that when this matter is further considered recommendations may be made that if the number of scholarships is increased to 24 the additional 12 should be awarded in order of merit irrespective of the candidates' domicile. I am only informing the mover that it is possible that that will be done. I am not at the moment committing Government to that undertaking.

MR. DE AGUIAR: I wish first of all to express my gratitude to Government for accepting the motion in its amended form, not only on my own behalf but on behalf of the thousands of parents in this Colony. I am very sorry that my hon. friend, the member for Demerara River (Mr. King) has afforded me the opportunity to make a few remarks, otherwise I would have spared the Council the pleasure of listening to some of the replies I shall make to his contribution to the debate. I think the hon. member overlooked the fundamental principle which underlies the award of scholarships generally. It is in order to provide an opportunity for those children whose parents cannot afford to provide them with secondary education. People like the hon. member can afford to provide their children with secondary education, but there are large numbers of people in this Colony who cannot afford to do the same thing for their children.

MR. KING: Do I understand the hon. member to say that these scholarships are going to be limited to the children of the poorer classes, or will they be open to all children?

MR. DE AGUIAR: I said the fundamental principle underlying these scholarships is to afford an opportunity for children whose parents cannot provide them with secondary education. I am afraid the hon. member pays very little attention to what is being said in this

Council. I gave several reasons and I am very pleased to say that those reasons were supported by those hon. members who immediately followed my speech. If the hon. member could not appreciate my points I am exceedingly sorry, but I can hardly be expected to assist him any further. I think the points were well put, and as regards his suggestion of lack of enthusiasm and sincerity in my speech I must remind him that towards the end of his own remarks I could hardly hear him. This morning I think we could have heard him 50 yards away. All over the world it is recognised that scholarships are offered to pupils as a means of improving their outlook, and I consider it is extremely reactionary for any member to attempt to say anything to the contrary. A pupil need not take a scholarship if he does not want it. Having reached scholarship standard he need not take the scholarship.

There was one other point. The hon. member referred to poor students. The suggested increase in the number of scholarships would give a poor child an opportunity to use its qualifications. A boy may be a bright scholar but too poor to proceed any further with his education. A scholarship would afford him an opportunity to continue his studies. I am very glad that no other member saw wisdom in the remarks of the hon. member, and I feel sure that if he obtained advice from those who are more competent to express an opinion on educational matters he would

probably appreciate the value of scholarships awarded to children of the primary schools. I do wish to express my gratitude to Government for accepting my motion, and also to those members who supported it. In doing so I include those poor and unfortunate parents who are saddled with the education of their children.

Motion as amended put, and agreed to.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) is not in his place. The motion standing in his name on the Order Paper is therefore deferred.

SELECT COMMITTEE *re* B. H. S. GRANT.

Before Council adjourns I wish to nominate the members of the Select Committee which was approved by Council to consider the motion for an increased grant to the Bishop's High School for Girls. The members of the Committee are:—

Mr. Crease (Director of Education),  
Chairman.

The Member for Georgetown South (Mr. J. Gonsalves).

The Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. H. C. Humphrys).

Mr. J. W. Jackson, and Mr. F. H. Martin-Sperry.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.