

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Tuesday, 12th April, 1932.*

The Council met, His Excellency the Governor, SIR EDWARD DENHAM, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. Hector Josephs, K.C., B.A., LL.M. (Cantab.), LL.B. (Lond.).

The Hon. T. T. Smellie (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. P. James Kelly, M.B., Ch.B., Surgeon-General.

The Hon. F. Dias (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. T. Millard, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer.

Major the Hon. W. Bain Gray, M.A., Ph.D. (Edin.), B. Litt. (Oxon), Director of Education.

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

The Hon. R. E. Brassington (Western Essequibo).

The Hon. E. A. Luckho (Eastern Berbice).

The Hon. E. F. Fredericks, LL.B. (Essequibo River).

The Hon. B. R. Wood, M.A., Dip. For. (Cantab.), Conservator of Forests.

The Hon. S. H. Bayley, General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department.

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

Major the Hon. J. C. Craig, M.E.I.C., D.S.O., Director of Public Works.

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

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

The Hon. A. V. Crane, LL.B. (Lond.) (Demerara River).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. A. R. F. Webber, F.R.G.S. (Western Berbice).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves, (Georgetown South).

The Hon. V. A. Pires (North Western District).

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

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

The Hon. G. E. Anderson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

The Hon. F. J. Seaford (Nominated Unofficial Member).

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 27th January, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

## PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The President addressed the Council as follows :—

Honourable Members of Council,

I am now in a position to inform the Council of the precise financial position at the close of 1931 and to indicate approximately the prospects for the current year in the light of the revenue collections of the first three months of 1932.

Honourable Members will, I am sure, be gratified to learn that the revenue and expenditure of the year 1931 after taking credit for the amount of £180,000 received by way of Imperial assistance towards the Budget of that year balanced with a surplus of \$100,590.

The accumulated deficit brought forward at the end of 1930 amounted to \$527,789, from which must be deducted the sum of £50,000 being the extent of Imperial assistance towards the Budget of 1930

which was received early in 1931. The actual deficit brought forward was thus \$287,789.

The surplus of \$100,590 which, as I have already stated, resulted from the transactions of 1931 reduced the deficit to \$187,199, and I am happy to be able to inform the Council that I have been advised by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that an additional sum of £40,000 has now been provided by the Imperial Government in order that the accumulated deficit may be completely liquidated.

I have already expressed to the Secretary of State the appreciation of the Colony of the very generous assistance rendered by the Imperial Government at a time when the whole world watched with admiration the magnificent efforts made by the Mother Country to secure a balanced Budget and I am sure Honourable Members will wish to join in grateful acknowledgment of the measure of Imperial assistance towards balancing the Colony's budgets already provided which, quite apart from grants towards Unemployment Relief and from the Colonial Development Fund for approved works, amount to a total of £390,000 or \$1,872,000 made up as follows :—

For 1930	£ 50,000
For 1931	180,000
To liquidate balance of accumulated deficit to the end of 1930	40,000
For 1932	120,000
	£390,000

I do not propose to attempt any detailed analysis of the financial transactions of 1931 as this will be done, as is customary, in the Colonial Treasurer's report which is now in course of preparation. I will, however, briefly indicate the position regarding ordinary Colony revenue and expenditure and with respect to special receipts and expenditure from Unemployment Relief Grants and from the Colonial Development Fund.

The Colony revenue of the year 1931 amounted to \$4,401,309, being \$245,608 less than the original estimate and \$132,115 more than the revised Estimate prepared when the Budget for 1932 was presented.

The receipt of Imperial assistance to the extent of £180,000 (\$864,000) brought the revenue of the year to \$5,265,309.

The Colony expenditure amounted to \$5,164,719, being \$114,350 less than the original estimate for the year.

As Honourable Members will recollect emergency measures had to be taken in September, 1931, by this Council in an effort to secure additional revenue by increased taxation and these measures coupled with further staff retrenchments and the stringent economy which was enforced in every branch of Government's activities have borne fruit in the production of a balance between expenditure and receipts in the manner already indicated.

Coming now to special expenditure under Unemployment Relief Schemes met from grants from the Imperial Government the position is that we received a sum of \$696,000 during the year 1931 and expended \$696,491 of which \$145,890 was spent in 1930. This money has been expended under the following main heads :—

Roads	\$257,142
Sea Defences	140,703
Buildings	29,275
Advances Sugar Estates ...	187,197
Development of Country Areas	81,174
Improvements New Amsterdam	1,000
	_____
	\$696,491

I am glad to be able to inform Council that the Secretary of State has been able to meet my representations for additional assistance for Unemployment Relief in 1932-33 by making a further Grant to this Colony of £72,000 or \$345,600 for works to be undertaken from this month up to March 31st next year. The sum is to be allotted for :—

Roads	£15,000
Sea Defences ...	£15,000
Development of Country Areas	£30,000
Buildings	£ 7,000

the balance being devoted to the completion of works now in hand. The object of these works, as perhaps I need scarcely remind Council, is to afford the maximum

amount of relief to unemployment possible. It is therefore important that the Grants should be devoted to work on which materials only form a small proportion of the expenditure.

I have suggested various schemes for the consideration of the Committee which was appointed under the Chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary at the last session of Council to advise with regard to such schemes and expenditure on them.

No loan is being made for assistance on Sugar Estates as the Planters did not renew their application for such help from the last allocation for relief. There should be no necessity for such expenditure if as is hoped by us all the preference given to sugar in this year's Budget restores the position which has given cause for much anxiety. The prosperity of the Colony is so closely bound up with that of the sugar industry that I need not elaborate this point further except to say that I trust that any measure of relief given will be of so permanent a nature as to encourage the estates in further development which will both give employment in England in the manufactory of estate machinery and extend the occupation on sugar estates locally. There is every prospect of good crops for 1932 and provided sugar is maintained at an economic rate which more than covers the cost of production there is every hope of its becoming once more the main factor in the prosperity of the Colony.

The expenditure on Roads and Sea Defences is all conducive to progress in the development of the sugar estates. I have every hope that the action taken to form a Board of Commissioners for Sea Defences with the assistance of Mr. Case, a recognised authority on this subject, will lead to this expenditure being placed in a position to ensure against unexpected and further drains on the Colony's resources. It must, however, be recognised that it is only Unemployment Relief Funds and the provision in the Estimates of \$45,650 for Sea Defences, which is only \$10,000 short of the total expenditure on annually recurrent works, which have rendered possible any measure of protection being taken.

The estates, I know, have laboured under the same difficulties as Government

in finding money for special services but I hope that a result of the formation of the Board will be that these works will be undertaken with the full co-operation of and also with financial assistance from the estates.

I think it will be generally admitted that the expenditure on Roads has been well justified by the improvement in our main line of connection with Berbice, especially in the section between Georgetown and Golden Grove.

The East Bank now deserves special consideration and I hope that some portion of the additional funds provided will be devoted to the improvement and extension of the road through this district which the construction of the new Lamaha Conservancy dam should render considerably more productive than it is at present.

In respect of buildings, it will be a matter for consideration by the Committee whether the sum provided should be spent on another Government School at a centre outside Georgetown or in further provision for Trade Depôts for industrial training.

The generous assistance afforded us by the Carnegie Corporation will, I hope, enable the need for a Trades Centre for young women and girls to be met from this grant, an expenditure on which the advice of the Education Committee is now being asked.

I have been informed by the President of the Corporation that the money will be forthcoming as soon as a plan has been submitted for approval and there is reason to hope that a further grant of a like amount may be obtainable if the Corporation is satisfied with the work done in respect of the first £10,000.

I have expressed the gratitude that this country feels to the Corporation for the generous help rendered us at a time when it has been found impossible to meet the desires of the Education Department for further advances in industrial and agricultural education.

In respect of the Development of Country Areas the results of the expenditure on the Corentyne area have already been remarkable. New areas are now

available for cultivation. Should a Colonisation Scheme be undertaken at an early date it is at least certain that land could be found in the extensions opened up in this area.

Work has also been done at Victoria and Golden Grove on a scheme there which is estimated to cost \$27,000 and to which the villagers will themselves contribute by digging the cross trenches.

On the West Coast work is being done at Poudroyen and also at Ruby which should render further areas irrigable and so cultivable.

In Essequibo considerable progress is being made with the Anna Regina scheme for the preparation of 2,338 acres of land which will be rendered available—1,237 for rice growing, 424 for foodstuffs, vegetable crops, and 677 for cattle-grazing.

Applications have been received from over 2,000 persons though the number of lots which can be allotted will, however, only meet the requirements of approximately 500 persons.

On Western Berbice an expenditure of \$19,600 has been incurred which should benefit the population of 24 villages amounting to 4,751 persons.

I regret that it has not been found possible to expend more money on improvements in the Towns—Georgetown and New Amsterdam—but I had hoped that as the result of Sir Wilfred Beveridge's visit the Colonial Development Fund would have been able to have given us further assistance in respect of the Towns. I shall refer later to the help that has actually been afforded but this does not cover the amelioration of town conditions which I trusted to secure. From Unemployment Relief Funds, however, a sum of \$1,000 has been spent on the bonification of the frontal lands of New Amsterdam, a scheme which promises well for the improvement of sanitary and health conditions if its maintenance is assured and further expenditure can be provided.

Under the head of Development of Country Areas an expenditure of \$1,432.70 has been included for opening up trails, financing exploring parties, etc., in gold and diamond areas which have undoubtedly

proved encouraging. The number of men now on the fields is estimated at 2,516 as compared with 928 for the same period last year.

In addition to the assistance that I have already referred to from the Imperial Government, the Colonial Development Fund has helped us with the expenditure on the Bartica-Potaro Road on which to date a sum of \$125,280 has been spent providing a road of 100 miles at an average cost of \$1,252 per mile.

I was able to go over this road recently travelling in a lorry at an average speed of 12 miles per hour and was very favourably impressed by the excellent work that has been done under the supervision of Mr. Aldie.

The road is well worth going to see in order to appreciate the country through which it goes and the difficulties which have to be encountered. It will naturally take time before this road can be regarded as an all weather road and thrown open to motor traffic at all times but it provides now what was urgently required, a direct means of transport between Bartica and the Potaro Landing which avoids the dangerous falls of the Essequibo, which can take heavy lorry traffic and which affords to gold and diamond prospectors outlets by road and trail which will, I am convinced, lead to the discovery of further rich auriferous and diamond-bearing areas. It must be recognised that if this Colony is to secure the capital it so urgently needs it must be by affording the prospector and investor an opportunity of seeing something of conditions for himself and within a reasonable time.

I attach great importance to the fullest particulars being available with regard to the Colony which only needs to be better known to be better appreciated. Members will be given a small leaflet which has been brought out by the Lands and Mines Department giving particulars of the mineral resources of the North West District; that for the Mazaruni and Potaro areas is in proof and further issues will cover other areas of the Colony.

I propose that a further outlet should be taken from the Bartica-Potaro Road to the Potaro river below Tumatumari. This branch road will only be 4 miles in

length and will cost \$5,000 to cut. It affords an alternative route which may be later taken advantage of by the balata crews and which also will enable an excursion to be made to the Tumatumari Falls. The cost can be met from savings on the road.

I should like to acknowledge here the ready assistance which has always been given me by Messrs. V. A. Pires and Da Silva in following up new lines of progress—for example in establishing a shop on this road and in seeking to open up new trails therefrom. The Commissioner of Lands and Mines has recently visited the area in order to correlate the information obtained by individual parties of workers which will be used as additional evidence in support of our need for a further mineralogical survey which has been under the consideration of the Colonial Development Fund.

Other schemes carried out or in progress with the assistance of this Fund are :—

(1) *Rice industry development on which a sum of \$18,903 has been expended.*

The encouragement given to the rice industry in the selection of pure line seed paddy has been considerable. We have now gone far to establish our rice market in these seas. The acreage under cultivation in 1931, was approximately 70,000 acres, the total crop estimated being 76,000 tons paddy and the quantity of rice exported at 23,632 tons valued at \$1,060,338. The prospects of the short crop at the beginning of this year, especially in the Essequibo area, are good, but the present rains are prejudicial to quality.

There has been some delay in getting the new rice mill working at Anna Regina owing to the necessity of blasting operations at the old sugar mill, but it is hoped that it will be ready by the middle of May.

A Plant Breeder has been attached to the Agricultural Department. The Granaries which have been erected for the storage of the seed paddy will also be useful in the encouragement of the growing of beans and pods which can be stored for marketing and export.

(2) *Medical and Sanitary mission, cost of Sir Wilfred Beveridge's visit \$4,252.*

Owing to restriction on the expenditure of the Colonial Development Fund it has not been able to give us the full measure of assistance recommended by Sir Wilfred. I am glad to say, however, that after the Budget was balanced the Secretary of State approved of grants of (a) £10,000 for Water Supplies in Villages. This expenditure is intended to link up villages with artesian wells which have been reconditioned to ensure water supplies along the main road for villagers who otherwise might have to go a considerable distance for their water. It will be a condition in the installation of the stand pipes, etc., that the Village Administration makes provision for the upkeep and maintenance of the connections which will be a further safeguard against their being abused.

After consultation with the Director of Public Works and Mr. Harrington it has been decided to make a start on the West Bank where the need for a pure water supply for the villagers is perhaps greatest. A commencement will be made with the wells at Bagotville, Vreed-en Hoop and Fellowship and further work will be done on the West Coast in linking up Fellowship and Anna Catharina wells.

Mr. Harrington has achieved considerable success in the use of Everite piping.

After the further experience to be obtained by these additional connections he will probably be going on leave and will be able to discuss further with the Consulting Engineers the results achieved in the re-conditioning of the wells. Three wells have now been so treated. To complete the programme a further sum of \$210,000 will be necessary. It is of interest to record that the average cost of wells drilled between 1929-1930 was \$9,600, from 1930 to February, 1932, \$6,930 and that the average cost of re-conditioning was between 1929-1930, \$5,507 and for the period 1930 to 1932 (February) was \$2,200.

We shall hope to obtain further assistance in this direction from the Colonial Development Fund.

(b.) A sum of £18,000 has been provided for pumps to drain the Thomas Lands area in Georgetown. These are now on order.

(c.) £500 for the establishment of a Health Centre in Georgetown.

(3) *Moth Borer investigation £1,933.*

The Colony has also received assistance from the Empire Marketing Board in grants of £1,000 for Sugar Cane Research which it is hoped may be extended over a period of at least 5 years and for the study of insecticidal plants. This latter grant, however, has now been withdrawn in view of financial considerations.

There is much interest being displayed at present in the medical properties of Curare believed to be (*strychnus toxifera*) which was used by Indian tribes to poison arrows. Medical science is investigating the properties of this plant which is known to be found in this Colony and only in very few other places. A small supply has already been obtained and sent to England for investigation.

The Colony's financing arrangements have been during 1931, and still are, a matter of some anxiety to Government. In the absence of a surplus the Colony is without any working capital and must consequently borrow to meet its ordinary needs in the way of advances, till money, unallocated stores, etc. It must also borrow to cover the temporary deficiency between revenue and expenditure which must occur at various periods during the year. Until recently we have been able to meet all our needs in these respects by advances from the Crown Agents' Joint Colonial Fund. But, with the severe—though temporary—depreciation in gilt-edged securities which took place on the departure of the United Kingdom from the gold standard, the Crown Agents had perforce to restrict the measure of floating loans carried by the Joint Colonial Fund in order to limit the necessity for the realisation of investments of that Fund and as a result a proportion of the Colony's floating debt has been transferred to the local Banks. This proportion at present extends only to the estimated sum needed to cover any temporary deficiency between revenue and expenditure during the year and is to be cleared by the end of the year. The remainder of the borrowing is still with the Crown Agents where I trust that it will remain and it is still secured by the investments of various funds held by the Crown Agents as authorised by this

Council in 1930. The extent of the floating debt at the end of last month was \$756,046—\$556,800 being due to the Crown Agents' Joint Colonial Fund and \$199,246 to the local Banks.

Reverting to the position in respect of the current year, revenue receipts under the head of Customs for the first three months of the year show a small decrease except in respect of *ad valorem* duties which have increased by about \$5,000 and export duties which have increased by about \$3,000, as compared with the collections for 1931 and with the proportion of the estimate normally collectible during the first quarter but this is more than covered by the increase under Rum Duty. Under this head there has been a substantial increase over the 1931 figures and over the estimated revenue for the quarter. The position actually is in respect of the gross Customs receipts for the first quarter that the increase on 1931 is \$37,279—it must be remembered that the estimate was based on a 5 per cent. decrease while the actual excess on the estimate for the year calculated on a proportion of one-third is \$16,813. Under the head Excise and Licences collections have been well maintained except in respect of the new Sugar Duty the bulk of the revenue from which will accrue rather later in the year.

It is as yet too early to make any general forecast of prospect for the remainder of the year but I see no reason to doubt that the budget anticipations will be fulfilled.

It is a matter, however, of some concern that the Municipal and Village collections should be promptly recovered. The arrears, I regret to say, in some cases are considerable. Those in the villages have now been placed on a funded basis which has been well received in several of the villages but if this is to continue it is clear that the full sums due every year must be paid up and that the villages cannot be allowed to increase their indebtedness. The basis which has been accepted by Government, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, is that recommended by the Austin Commission.

There are two Bills with regard to Village rating which have been held up for the approval of the Secretary of State which will strengthen the position in

regard to general assessments but they do not affect the assessments made in respect of the larger villages which have always acknowledged their liabilities and whose pride it has been in the past that they are financial.

The introduction of the District Administration Scheme is undoubtedly improving the position in all these respects for it has already considerably tightened up collections; the recoveries for the first quarter of the year are reported to be higher in all cases than for the same quarter of 1931, while schemes have been introduced for improvements in village drainage and irrigation which are conditional on the villagers undertaking certain work themselves.

Agreements have been reached in respect of Victoria, Nabaclis, Golden Grove and Pouderoyen. It can only be on such a basis of co-operation that Government can afford to contribute sums for village works.

The allocation of the Sewerage Costs in Georgetown has long been a matter of considerable discussion. I do not wish to go into the past history of the Sewerage Scheme as it has already been thrashed out at considerable length, and the first agreement which I was able to reach in respect of this debatable subject was on the appointment of the Bain-Gray Committee which agreed to concern itself with recommendations as to the allocation for the future. I may remind Members that the allocation recommended by this Committee was on the basis of fifty per cent. of the cost of the main drainage portion of the scheme being borne by the general taxpayer, and fifty per cent. by the municipal ratepayer, and that forty per cent. of the final cost of the house connections should fall on the taxpayer, the remaining sixty per cent. to be borne by the property owners.

This recommendation was examined by the Financial Commissioners, as it was clear that no decision could be reached until they were able to report on the general financial position of the Colony. In view of the serious financial position in England at the end of 1931, help from the Imperial Government towards the cost of the scheme was not obtainable while

the Colony was hard pressed to make its Budget balance. The Municipal Council was informed that the allocation in respect of 1931 must stand, but that Government was prepared to consider granting reasonable terms of payment in respect of persons who were not in a position to pay the full sum due, as it was recognised that there might be a certain number of hard cases. It was further decided to appoint special Commissioners, representing Government, the Municipality and the ratepayers, to put forward fresh proposals for a re-allocation of the Sewerage Rate and for the adjustment on a fairer basis of the cost of the house connections in respect of individual properties. The Commissioners have given much time and thought to this difficult problem, and I desire to express my appreciation of their efforts.

I was informed after their last meeting which was held on March 11th, that a stage had been reached where it became necessary to determine a basis upon which their calculations could be made. I found it incumbent upon me therefore to address the Secretary of State again in this matter and endeavour to obtain a decision which would be available both in assuring the Colony generally and the ratepayers of Georgetown of a basis of allocation which could be accepted by Government for the future.

Proposals had been made that the whole question should be treated as a Colonial Question,—that is to say, that the whole cost of the scheme should be borne by the taxpayers of the Colony. It is obvious that the cost of the scheme has to be met. It is equally obvious that the scheme has proved a successful one, and that both the Colony and Georgetown have benefited by it very considerably, both in respect of health and the general amenities of life in the capital of the Colony. It must, however, be recognised that practically half of the cost of the scheme represents house connections to property in Georgetown, which have undoubtedly improved the value of this property. It cannot, I think, be reasonably contended that the cost of this portion of the scheme, which practically represents the sum which has always been accepted, even by critics of the present scheme and allocation, as being the sum to which the Municipality had originally committed itself, should be

borne by the Colony generally or that the taxpayers of the Colony who are already bearing a heavy burden should be called upon to bear an increase to relieve the property owners of Georgetown of any direct contribution to improvements to their properties beyond that which they would make with all other persons in the Colony liable to taxation.

It must be further recognised that any such allocation would also necessarily create difficulties in the future when expansions of house connections in Georgetown would be a matter not merely of local but of Colonial concern. A problem which should certainly remain a local one would be complicated by the fact that development by property owners in Georgetown would have to be paid for by all the taxpayers in the Colony, who might reasonably ask that they should be consulted before any such undertakings were approved by the Municipal Council or any health authority responsible for the control and the working of the Sewerage Scheme in Georgetown.

In respect of house connections we are dealing with services rendered to a body of persons in respect of private property. This is not a charge to which the taxpayer throughout the Colony can be asked to contribute as if he was a landowner directly benefited. A different question arises in respect of the cost of the main scheme. Undoubtedly it is to the advantage of every taxpayer in British Guiana, that Georgetown, the capital and port of the Colony, should be in possession of a Sewerage Scheme, ensuring healthy conditions in this important centre. This is the concern of everybody—even though it may only be the inhabitants of Georgetown who have received the direct benefit therefrom. Such being the case, it may, I think, be reasonably argued that the property owners having linked up with the scheme and placed their houses in order, the Colony may well be responsible for the cost of the main drainage part of the scheme. That is to say, that in the opinion of Government an adjustment on a basis of 50-50 would be equitable.

In view of the representations which I have made to him and of the present financial situation, the Secretary of State has now authorised me to announce that

Government will agree that the charge for main drainage and house connections for the years 1932 and 1933 should be shared on a basis of equal division between Government and the Municipality, provided that the question of the final allocation of the total cost of the scheme be further considered in the Autumn of 1933. It is a further condition that the cost to Government be met by an increase in taxation to bring in the requisite amount. Government is therefore proposing to consider an increase in the Bill of Entry Tax, which at present stands at the low figure of 1½ per cent. to 3 per cent., which if introduced this month—and it is proposed to take the earliest steps in the matter—should yield a sum of approximately \$68,000 which together with a consequential reduction in the amount of Municipal rates which will be payable on Government property should provide a sum of \$75,000 which represents the amount of the relief to be given to the Municipality this year.

With regard to the temporary nature of the agreement, this need not in any way prejudice property owners in the transfer or disposal of properties in Georgetown. The Secretary of State considers that in allowing for a 50 per cent. contribution the cost of the house connections should be a charge on the Municipality. It is in any case essential to re-distribute such charges on an equitable basis. This is a question which should not be beyond the wit of the Commissioners to solve. It should be possible to evolve a basis of settlement which should enable property owners to be put in a position to exercise an option to relieve their properties of a part at all events of the house connections by a system of commutation which would help to reduce the burden of the loan, and would at the same time settle once and for all the charge on the property in respect of its house connections. If the Commissioners, with the assistance of the Municipality and the representatives of the property owners, are enable to evolve such a scheme or to submit one which Government can approve, it may be necessary to appoint a special Commissioner *ad hoc*, but I do not consider that the problem is so difficult as to render such a course necessary. It will therefore only remain in the Autumn of 1933, for the consideration of the Secretary of State whether the taxpayers should continue to bear the

whole cost of half the scheme, that is to say of the main scheme, plus any contribution necessary to make up the quota, or whether assistance can or cannot be given in other respects.

As Members are aware the question has been raised with regard to licences which might reasonably be transferred to the Municipality. It has not been found possible for Government to sacrifice any revenue under this head at the present time in view of the necessity of balancing the Budget, but there is every hope that in considering the Estimates for 1934 it will be possible to give some assistance to the Municipality under this head without increasing the burden on the taxpayer. It will also be necessary before that date to consider again the whole question of incidence of taxation. It is clear, therefore, that nothing is lost by further consideration at the end of 1933 being provided for. This Colony has gone through a period of very severe financial stress and it would, I think, be unwise to commit it in respect of future taxation, without giving an opportunity for further consideration in regard to meeting a burden which must be spread over a period of over 35 years.

The position in respect of Georgetown will now be fairly established. It will have been made clear that in respect of house connections, owners of house properties will be required to meet these charges, but on a basis more equitable than that which prevails at present.

A considerable relief will be given to Municipal ratepayers by their being relieved of any contribution to the main cost of the scheme, except such as they will necessarily bear as taxpayers. The relief is immediate and will also extend over next year.

It is, however, essential that if the Municipality is to receive this assistance from the taxpayers of the Colony, it should not further delay the collection of the sewerage rate in the town of Georgetown. It is only increasing the burdens on the poorer persons in the town to encourage them to defer payment, which can only involve them in additional expense in the future by the payment of interest on the money outstanding, to a time when they will be required to meet the annual

charges of the year and the arrears of the past. It is an entirely different matter from granting some measure of relief to the small house owners or persons, who through no fault of their own cannot pay a full instalment at once, to postpone payment by firms, property owners and other persons who are quite capable of making payment at the due date, and who in a number of cases have already shown themselves willing to do so.

It must be recognised that the burden of the Sewerage Rate generally falls on property owners who are in possession of assets from which such payments can be made; it is recognised that relief should be given them but it is not intended or proposed that they should not be required to pay amounts due from them to meet charges which have been duly accepted and the liability for which has been recognised.

The relief now granted is more than was originally proposed by the Bain Gray Committee. It means an immediate reduction in the Municipal contribution from 80 per cent. of the total charges to 50 per cent. and an increase in the Government contribution from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent. The Municipality will now only be required to raise approximately \$125,000 as loan charges (interest) on the Sewerage Scheme or  $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of what it has hitherto paid on this account. The assistance approved is, I consider, reasonable and justified in the light of present circumstances, but it would not either be just or reasonable to increase further beyond the point now proposed the burden of taxation on the whole Colony, a burden which must fall immediately the addition to taxation is made—even though it may be slight—while collections are not being made in the town of arrears due for services rendered. The taxpayer might well assert that he alone was paying while the ratepayer, irrespective of his capacity to pay, was being allowed to get further into debt in respect of his liabilities.

Since the last meeting of the Council a notable event has occurred in the history of the British Empire—February 4th as being the date on which the new Tariff proposals were introduced which gave free entry to all articles in the cash tariff if produced or consigned from a British

Colony or Protectorate and March 1st the day on which the new system of Protection began will always be Red Letter Days in Empire History. The expressed desire of the Home Government for reciprocity with the Colonies which are giving preferences to the Mother Country has been greatly appreciated in this Colony which gives a special preference of 50 per cent. to great Britain and Canada. British Guiana awaits with special interest the results of the Ottawa Conference as a party to the Canadian-West Indian Agreement and as one who has given in the largest measure owing to the high general rates charged here. In view of the generous measure of assistance granted by the Home Government it is obvious that our aim should be to give every possible preference to goods imported here from the United Kingdom but the effect on the local revenue and prices should not be lost sight of.

What is required is to negotiate on the basis of exchange of products to the advantage of both contracting parties. In the case of Canada we can offer land for development and openings for the investment of capital on a scale which is beyond the possibilities of any of our Colonial neighbours—a point which I stressed on the occasion of the visit of the "s.s. Northland" which was welcomed here.

As it is to-day British Guiana imports are divided in the proportion of 59 per cent. British, 14 per cent. Canadian, and 19 per cent. countries other than British Dominions—the proportions in respect of aggregate trade are United Kingdom 43 per cent., Canada 27 per cent., Foreign Countries 20 per cent.

Of British Guiana products Sugar of course takes first place and we anxiously await developments in respect of this our main product. Balata has been granted a 10 per cent. preference which should eventually prove useful but the market at present appears to depend on other factors and until there is some indication that submarine cables may be renewed or extended the market for Balata is likely to be little affected by any preferential duties though as Balata is practically a monopoly industry for British Guiana in the Empire—competing as it does only with less esteemed products from other parts of South America—it certainly deserves the

encouragement which the tariff policy of to-day appears willing to accord it.

In respect of our other main products, Rice, Cocoanuts, Coffee, we have either to compete with other parts of the Empire or else produce on so much smaller scale than elsewhere in the Empire that we are content to follow rather than to lead. A market for the Colony's Rum is however an urgent need and the enterprise and energy displayed by the West Indian Association in putting this article in the forefront of debate on preferential treatment deserves the full support of this Colony. In any reconsideration of the Customs Duties every effort will be made to give further preferences wherever possible to British goods but it must be remembered that the same preference must at present be given to Canada and that competition may thereby be excluded.

While its Customs Duties are higher than in any other Colony in this part of the world the prosperity of British Guiana relies on its exports being able to pay for its imports—on the success of its agriculture this Colony must mainly depend.

First comes sugar for which another excellent crop may be anticipated this year. The yield per acre continues to increase—these last few months have witnessed a very considerable impetus to cane-farming and special efforts have been made to encourage cane-farmers to extend the cane cultivation on a co-operative block system—an increase in the price will mean an immediate response and prove of the greatest value in the extension of this cultivation at a time when expansion on these lines may be anticipated with consequent beneficial results on the village as well as the estate population.

I have already referred to the Rice crop—which constituted a record for the Colony both in respect of total yield and exports.

Mr. Stockdale's visit to the Colony will be of much value. He was able to visit all the main agricultural centres and from his previous knowledge of the country was in an excellent position to gauge the progress made. He was encouraging in his appreciation of the work already done by

the Agricultural Department and in the support he gave to new lines of cultivation as, e.g., oil palms, vegetable and fruit growing particularly plantains, onions, chillies, etc.

There is every possibility that the embargo on fruit and vegetables from British Guiana to the West Indian Islands will be removed which will afford opportunities for obtaining further markets. It is satisfactory to record that every year the plantains from the Colony are securing the markets in the Caribbean Seas—60 per cent. of those now imported into Trinidad come from this Colony.

Mr. Stockdale was able to visit the Pineapple Concession on the Demerara River and to express his satisfaction with the enterprise shown though it is too early as yet to say whether the cultivation will produce the hoped for results. The Agricultural Department will assist in manorial experiments on these lands.

It is satisfactory to record that the allotments started at Lodge Village to assist the unemployed are now fully occupied and have been generally successfully cultivated.

It is proposed to extend these and to give assistance in seeds and tools to men recommended by the Labour Union and other bodies who are willing to take up agriculture.

I took the opportunity of the visit of Sir William Robertson, Governor of Barbados, to discuss informally with him, representatives of Government Departments and Elected Members representing some of the country districts, the questions of Colonization and Settlement as affecting the Colony and the possibilities of agricultural workers being attracted here from Barbados and elsewhere.

I desire to make it clear that there is no intention of giving out to settlers from abroad lands which can be taken up by the people of this Colony, who must always have the first claim on them. But it is only necessary to visualize the area and extent of land in this country, to appreciate the fact that there must be land available which our own people cannot work.

There is no proposal to bring in further population to the towns—it is a serious problem for the future that one-fifth of the population of the Colony is now resident in Georgetown—to do so would only be to increase the problem of unemployment. An addition to our agricultural population of families, who would remain and work on the land, would not, however, prejudice this problem and indeed would be likely to relieve it.

For the larger the body of workers the greater the number of producers, of consumers and of contributors to the revenue of the Colony.

At the present time the low prices obtained for food products tend to discourage their cultivation. Every self-contained family able to provide for itself means a further contribution to the revenue and production of the country.

It was established from our discussions that the first essential required is a definite plan of operations. While Government has considerable data it has not got schemes worked out for districts showing exactly what lands are available for settlement from within and for Colonisation from without.

It has also to be determined that such lands have been irrigated and drained to enable a permanent crop to be planted and temporary cultivation to be taken off the land, which will assure food supplies for the settlers, that there are high lands suitable for house sites and that marketing facilities are available.

I informed Council last session that I was proposing to second the Assistant Director of Agriculture for this work. This has now been done and he has been associated with the Commissioner of Lands and Mines in the immediate preparation of particulars in respect of certain lands which it is believed, with the expenditure of sums from Unemployment Relief, can be rendered available for families of settlers who will require to be carefully selected with the assistance of the local authorities, and possibly representatives of this Colony.

The present opportunity is one which must not be lost, for a situation has arisen

in respect of West Indian labour employed in South and Central American States and elsewhere which is threatened with loss of employment while further immigration has been stopped in several of these countries.

It does not, of course, follow that British Guiana should open its doors to all such prospective immigrants, but the occasion offers an opportunity of choice of agriculturists who can be settled on land here and who will not merely come in to swell the body of labour seeking employment. Such immigrants we do not want. Unemployment Relief is for the unemployed residents of British Guiana—it is the unpopulated; uncultivated and locally unwanted and yet rich cultivable areas of the Colony which require to be settled and colonized by agriculturists.

I am afraid that we are still some way off the establishment of a Cattle Industry which will allow for an export on any considerable scale. Both Trinidad and Barbados are favourably inclined and ready to give us increased preference if we can ensure the supplies needed. Here lie our difficulties. Until we can give these Governments an assurance of a regular supply it cannot be expected that they will increase preferences against other countries merely in anticipation of British Guiana cattle eventually coming into the market. Two important steps have, however, been taken which may, I hope, lead to successful results. Free importation of Brazilian cattle has been allowed up to a fixed maximum and on the condition that they are detained in quarantine for a certain period and then transferred to local pastures to be fattened up for foreign markets. An agreement has been reached with the Rupununi Development Company by which Government has taken over a portion of the trail from Kurupukarri to Takama which is the most difficult portion and where the heaviest losses are incurred amongst the animals driven down the trail. Major Bone has fully reported upon the steps that were necessary and Mr. Haynes, who has had considerable experience of work on the trail, will be in charge of this portion. A sum of \$4,000 was provided this year for the upkeep of the trail of which \$1,500 will be retained by the Rupununi Development Company for their portion, the balance of \$2,500 being spent by Government on the lower portion of the tract while the toll

now imposed by the Company will be taken off and all animals will be required to pay a toll of \$1.50 to Government at Kurupukarri. The total available with the portion of the subsidy is estimated at \$5,000 which will all be spent on the Kurupukarri-Takama trail. Losses amounting to as much as 12 per cent. of the animals driven over the trail have occurred in the past. It will also be required that cattle should spend a certain time on the trail and not be driven over it at a rapid rate which is further prejudicial to them. It is believed that there will be a considerable saving of life by the new arrangement and also that the animals will arrive at Takama in much better condition.

Proposals have also been sent forward to the Colonial Development Fund for the establishment of a Government Stock Farm outside Georgetown which will, I am sure, receive the support of Mr. Montgomery. The Secretary of State has informed me that consideration of the application has been deferred until Mr. Montgomery's return from West Africa early next month which will enable him personally to support the proposals and thus enhance the chances of the application being successful. I hope also to be able to push this project further while in England and secure some assistance for the Rupununi for fencing and in the importation of bulls.

It is pointed out in the Census Report that the Rupununi area which is 10,000 square miles larger than Scotland has a population of only 1,030 persons.

There is no reason why there should not be further developments in the pig industry and in curing meat, etc., in this Colony. There has been distinct development and enterprise in this direction.

While the Carnegie Corporation's gift should give an added stimulus to vocational training in this Colony, steps have also been taken in the same direction by the Director of Education with success during the past fifteen months. The Trades Dépôt in Georgetown has been very successful. The course has been satisfactorily completed by 19 teachers; it is also attended by classes of 20 boys; and the night classes where instruction is given in technical and geometrical drawing, English and Mathematics, secure average attendances amounting to 70 per

week. There is every reason to believe that there is a distinct demand for such education now amongst the youth of the Colony and with the stimulus which will be given it by the training of the teachers it is hoped that carpentry and industrial schools will develop alongside elementary schools in the principal towns and villages of the Colony affording an outlet for boys and girls after they have passed the ages of 13 or 14.

The Director of Education hopes to have eight Centres opened this year—four for boys and four for girls.

The Government School in Broad Street, Georgetown, is now nearing completion and I hope to be able to open it before I go on leave. It has 10 classrooms, some of which may be sub-divided, and is built to accommodate 600 children. I believe it will be found to be a worthy monument to the assistance rendered to the unemployed in this town and also to the work of our artisans and tradesmen. Colony wood only has been used in the building. It is proposed to remove the dispensary which occupies a part of the school-yard which will necessitate application to the Council to pay the rental of a building in the immediate neighbourhood to take its place.

The Census figures show an increase in literacy from 47.9 to 69.9 which may be regarded as satisfactory. Only 34 per cent. of the East Indians in the Colony can, however, read or write a language and I trust that more enthusiasm will be shown by this important community (which the Census shows is now the largest in number in the Colony) in securing education for their children.

In Secondary Education the Queen's College staff has been strengthened by two Assistant Masters with Cambridge degrees and it is hoped to add an Elementary Department.

The health of the Colony has been generally good during the first quarter of the year as indicated by returns and vital statistics received to date which show that the births are double the deaths.

Considerable interest has been taken in Maternity and Child Welfare both in the

towns and on the estates. The attendance in Georgetown is very satisfactory and the report from the new clinic shows an average of 240 attendances weekly and the number is increasing. All estates now devote special attention to the antenatal and child welfare. Baby shows are becoming a regular feature of estate life. The result is being seen in a decrease in infantile mortality and in improved conditions for mothers and children.

1931 may be regarded as one of the best years in the Medical History of the Colony and it can be confidently stated that the Census increase of 4.45 per cent.—the highest recorded—has been further augmented by a natural increase of over 3,000 births over deaths for last year.

I propose going on leave on May 3rd and travelling via the United States which may afford me the opportunity to discuss further with the Carnegie Corporation the proposals to be put forward for the expenditure of their grant and secure an early start in the approved schemes being made, and also possibly interest other Foundations in work being done in this Colony.

I hope to take advantage of my leave to arouse further interest in Great Britain and abroad in the possibilities and potentialities of this fine land of ours. I am as firm a believer in its future as when I first landed on these shores nearly two years ago. I share your keen desire to see capital invested in British Guiana, big schemes afoot, and the influx of men and money to these shores. But our main responsibility and duty during these years of financial stress have been to keep going, to prevent the country falling into a complete state of disrepair—I am afraid, however, such is the case in respect of many of our buildings—to preserve communications, maintain our sea defences and encourage local production by the drainage and irrigation of country areas and secure a measure of employment in all parts of the Colony.

Let me repeat to you the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in addressing the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce: "Be of good cheer there is a better time coming. How soon depends partly upon others but a good deal upon ourselves.

"Let us therefore maintain our efforts and our sacrifices as long as they may be necessary to preserve harmony among ourselves and above all to prepare ourselves at every point to be ready to seize our opportunity the moment it appears."

I desire greatly to acknowledge the help which has been given me in all these different directions, firstly by the Imperial Government in the generous financial assistance which has made productive expenditure possible, to Council and people for their readiness to meet the financial position and endure sacrifices which hard times have necessitated, to the Government Service for their ready, generous and helpful co-operation and for the fine spirit shown throughout the Service in the Colony—which has won the special appreciation and acknowledgment of the Secretary of State—in their loyal acceptance of considerable, though I hope only temporary, reductions in salary and to the estates' population who have cheerfully accepted severe economies necessitated on the sugar estates, and which must necessarily continue unless very substantial assistance is afforded to this industry.

Much more remains to be done. There can be no measure of self-congratulation on the part of any one of us until we can show that these days of retrenchment have taught lessons of economy in expenditure and increased efficiency and energy in work, but we can at least look to the future in a spirit of gratitude for help and co-operation when these were most needed and hope for renewed prosperity to enable us to consolidate our energies, co-ordinate our efforts and combine our resources to the general advancement of this Colony to which we all confidently look.

It is in this spirit and with God's help that our labours should be directed in this and the ensuing sessions of the Council.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. C. Douglas-Jones) communicated the following Message from the Governor to Members :—

#### MESSAGE No. 9.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the postage rate on letters from this

Colony to the United States of America being brought into line with the rate charged on letters from this Colony to other foreign countries and by neighbouring British Colonies, i.e., of an increase in the present rate of 4 cents for the first ounce to 6 cents for the first ounce. The U.S.A. Post Office has, on and from the 1st July next, required the payment of higher terminal rates on parcels forwarded from British Guiana to the U.S.A. and U.S.A. possessions, and this increased postage on letters will cover the payment of these higher terminal charges on parcels and also provide additional revenue of \$1,000 approximately per annum to the Colony.

2. In connection with Resolution No. III. of the 2nd of December, 1931, the Secretary, General Post Office, London, has drawn attention to the fact that the distinction recently made by this Government between " Newspapers " and " Other Printed Papers " is not in accordance with the Postal Convention, and it is therefore necessary to revert to the rate of 1 cent for every 2 ozs. for external " Printed Papers " which includes " Newspapers."

3. These rates will come into force as from the 1st May, 1932.

EDWARD DENHAM,  
Governor.

8th April, 1932.

Mr. MILLARD (Colonial Treasurer) communicated the following Message from the Governor to Members :—

#### MESSAGE No. 8.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,  
I have the honour to inform the Council that the Director of Colonial Audit has brought to notice that the items of supplementary expenditure for the year 1930 shown on the attached schedule have not received the formal approval of the Legislative Council.

2. The excesses in question were omitted from the final statement of Supplementary Expenditure for 1930 reported to Council in Message No. 23 of the 29th April, 1931, and approved by Resolution No. XXVII. of 28th May, 1931.

3. In the case of the first eight items the amounts are negligible, being in each case under one dollar while in the case of the last three the expenditure is provided by law.

I invite the Council to approve formally of the additional expenditure as detailed in the Schedule.

EDWARD DENHAM,  
Governor.

29th January, 1932.

#### SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1930 OMITTED FROM FINAL SCHEDULE APPROVED BY RESOLUTION NO. XXVII. OF 28TH MAY, 1931.

Head	Excess.
II. Legislature, Sub-head 8	...57 cents.
VII. Commissaries, ,,,	20 ...93
XIV. Registration Births, etc., Sub-head 11	...54 ,,

XXV. Medical Sub-head	40	...50 ..
XXX. Education, "	60	... 1 ..
.. XXXVIII. Analyst,	17	... 4 ..
XLI. Subventions—Municipal, Sub-head 7 ...		...10 ..
LII. The Great War, Sub- head 5 ...		...12 ..
X. Colonial Transport Department, Net Defi- ciency		*\$11,265.42
XI. Pensions and Gratui- ties, Sub-head V.		1,741.20
(The total excess is \$22,741.20 but \$21,000 was provided for in 2nd Supplementary Estimate).		
XLIV. Public Debt Charges, Sub-head 1, Interest on Bonds, Loan Ordin- nance No. 6 of 1916 ...		9,209.30

\*The net deficiency on the Colonial Transport Department is less than the amount of capital charges provided by law.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) communicated the following Message from the Governor to Members :—

#### MESSAGE No. 10.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the placing of the post of Assistant Agricultural Superintendent, Demerara, which carries a salary of \$1,680—\$120—\$2,160 on the Fixed Establishment.

Mr. H. D Huggins, the holder of the post, desires to enter Cornell University in the United States of America to take a post-graduate course in Agricultural Economics and Marketing with a view to applying for a Commonwealth Scholarship (Commonwealth Fund Service Fellowship). The course will be taken at the Officer's expense.

3. Mr. Huggins is a graduate of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, has served for more than four years in the Agricultural Department and has given good and useful service; he is deserving of being placed on the Fixed Establishment. Further if Mr. Huggins' post is placed on the Fixed Establishment he will be eligible for the grant of a term of leave sufficiently long to enable him to enter the University and take the course mentioned above.

EDWARD DENHAM,  
Governor.

March 29th, 1932.

#### PAPERS LAID.

The following documents were laid on the table :—

Report on the results of the Census of the Population, 1931.

Report of the British Guiana Militia Force for the year 1931.

Sixth Annual Report 1929-30 and Prospectus of the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford.

Report of the Trustees, Berhice Lutheran Fund for 1931. (*Colonial Secretary*).

Report of the Select Committee of the Council on :—

A Bill for regulating Pensions, Gratuities and other allowances to be granted in respect of service in offices held by Civil Servants in this Colony ; and

A Bill to amend the Law relating to Pensions with regard to the computation of Pensions of re-employed pensioners. (*Attorney-General*).

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move the following motion :—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 9 of the 25th February, 1932, this Council approves of the postage letter rate from British Guiana to the United States of America being increased from 4 cents to 6 cents for the first ounce, and of the postage rate of external "Printed Papers," which includes Newspapers being fixed at 1 cent for 2 ozs. instead of 2 cents for 2 ozs.

Further, that these rates shall come into force as from 1st May, 1932.

Notice was given that at the next meeting of the Council or at a subsequent date leave would be asked to introduce and have read the first time the following Bills :—

A Bill to amend the Electric Lighting Ordinance by extending the New Amsterdam Electric Lighting Order, 1900, for a period of twenty years from the 23rd day of August, 1930 (*Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill to amend the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance by validating the proceedings with respect to the declaration of certain areas as declared areas : by vesting the works area in a declared area indefeasibly in the Director of Public Works ; and by providing for the deposit with the Registrar of Deeds of copies of Orders in Council declaring areas to be declared areas.

A Bill to amend the De Saffon Trust Ordinance with respect to the accounting by the Trustees.

A Bill to amend the Stamp Duties Ordinance, Chapter 42.

A Bill to amend the Law relating to children born out of wedlock.

A Bill to amend the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1929, with respect to powers of entry and inspection and to the punishment of offences against the Ordinance.

A Bill to amend the Deceased Persons Estates' Administration Ordinance, Chapter 149, with respect to the Guardians Fund and the filing and examination of accounts.

A Bill further to amend the Deeds Registry Ordinance, Chapter 177, with respect to Transports and Mortgages and the distribution of the proceeds of sales in execution.

A Bill to make provision with respect to the recording of powers of Attorney, their effect and their revocation (*Attorney-General*).

A Bill to apply the provisions of section twenty of the Pensions Ordinance, Cap. 204, to Sir H. K. M. Sisnett.

A Bill to make provision for granting a Pension for Captain A. Fawcett, Bandmaster of the British Guiana Militia Band.

A Bill to authorise the Governor in Council to grant Pensions or Gratuities in certain cases to Officers on the Fixed Establishment who voluntarily retire from the Public Service before they have qualified for pension. (*Mr. Millard*).

A Bill to amend the Law relating to the employment of children of school age. (*Major Bain Gray*).

Mr. MILLARD gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would move the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 8 of the 29th of January, 1932, this Council approves of the additional items of supplementary expenditure for the year 1930 shown on the attached Schedule\* which have not been included in the final statement of supplementary expenditure for that year approved by Resolution No. XXVII. of the 28th day of May, 1931.

\*Already produced

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council or at a later date he would move the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 10 of the 29th of March, 1932, this Council approves of the post of Assistant Agricultural Superintendent, Demerara, which carries a salary of \$1,680—\$120—\$2,160, being placed on the Fixed Establishment.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) gave notice of certain amendments to "A Bill to amend the Petroleum Ordinance, 1930, as to storage of petroleum and other matters."

#### ORDER OF THE DAY.

##### PETROLEUM BILL.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of "A Bill to amend the Petroleum Ordinance, 1930, as to the storage of petroleum and other matters."

Mr. WEBBER: In view of the extensive nature of the amendments which were only put in our hands when we took our seats this morning, and occupied practically the whole of that time listening to the important statement by Your Excellency, we have not been able to digest those amendments and I fancy the House would be disposed to ask Your Excellency to adjourn the Council now.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have no objection to doing so. It is a quite reasonable request, and if it is the desire of the Council certainly.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: These amendments do appear to be rather formidable, but I do not think hon. Members will find any difficulty in them. The amendments have been suggested by persons interested in the importation of oil and are designed to assist the industry. If the Council wishes generally to have the matter deferred there is no reason why it should not adjourn.

Mr. CRANE: For myself, I take the position of the hon. Member for Western Berbice. It does not appear to me sufficient that the interests specifically concerned with the Bill should be satisfied with the amendments. If we are called upon to assist in making legislation we ought to have a full opportunity of considering its effect upon the public.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am in favour of a postponement. The amendments were only available this morning, and where hon. Members ask for an adjournment in matters of this kind I am quite prepared to give them.

Mr. WEBBER: I raised the question merely in the interest of the Opposition, if I may so call it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Don't say that. Say in the interest of the House (Laughter).

The Council resumed.

##### THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

Mr. WOOLFORD: Before the Council adjourns I would like to know whether the address which has been delivered by Your Excellency will be printed and circulated in time for the next meeting. For twenty years I have hardly listened to an address more stimulating and encouraging, at any rate at this time of the year, and I am sure Members would like to have an

opportunity of reading it and expressing in more formal language than I can now our appreciation of Your Excellency's efforts to serve the Colony and its inhabitants. We would certainly like to have an opportunity of saying something about it before your departure.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : Normally the Governor's address will be printed as part of the minutes of to-day's meeting and will be available to-morrow. If the Council decides to meet to-morrow the speech will form part of to-day's minutes.

Mr. WEBBER : We will only get the minutes when we take our seats.

THE PRESIDENT : We don't want to lose any time and I would have liked to go on with the ordinary business. As regards the speech I appreciate the remarks of the hon. Member for New Amsterdam and would be glad to give hon. Members an opportunity to study the speech, but as regards discussion I think there is plenty of time for that. We might go on with the normal business.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I suggest Thursday. There is so much that requires consideration that a day would give us an opportunity to go into the business with despatch.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : There can be no objection to an adjournment until Thursday, but I would like to point out the nature of the business. Notice has been given of the introduction of certain Bills which will be ready to-morrow and will be the only business before the Council. If we do not meet to-morrow and do that business, which will probably take half-an-hour or less, a whole day would be wasted. As Your Excellency said there would be plenty of time for dealing with your speech. I suggest that the business of the Council be accelerated by not having too many days of short hours.

THE PRESIDENT : I think that would be met if we meet to-morrow and put the first readings through.

Mr. CANNON : I suggest that we suspend the Standing Rules and Orders and take the first readings to-day.

THE PRESIDENT : If there is no objection to the Council doing that it would meet the situation very well.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : I move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to enable the Bills of which notice has been given to-day to be introduced and read a first time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### BILLS.

The following Bills were introduced by the Official Members who had given notice of them and read the first time :—

A Bill to amend the Electric Lighting Ordinance by extending the New Amsterdam Electric Lighting Order, 1900, for a period of twenty years from the 23rd day of August, 1930. (*Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill to amend the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance by validating the proceedings with respect to the declaration of certain areas as declared areas; by vesting the works area in a declared area indefeasibly in the Director of Public Works; and by providing for the deposit with the Registrar of Deeds of copies of Orders in Council declaring areas to be declared areas.

A Bill to amend the de Saffon Trust Ordinance with respect to the accounting by the Trustees.

A Bill to amend the Stamp Duties Ordinance, Chapter 42.

A Bill to amend the Law relating to children born out of wedlock.

A Bill to amend the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1929, with respect to powers of and inspection and to the punishment of offences against the Ordinance.

A Bill to amend the Deceased Persons Estates' Administration Ordinance, Chapter 149, with respect to the Guardians Fund and the filing and examination of accounts.

A Bill further to amend the Deeds Registry Ordinance, Chapter 177, with respect to Transports and Mortgages and the distribution of the proceeds of sales in execution.

A Bill to make provision with respect to the recording of powers of Attorney, their effect and their revocation. (*Attorney-General*).

A Bill to apply the provisions of section twenty of the Pensions Ordinance, Cap. 204, to Sir H. K. M. Sisnett,

A Bill to make provision for granting a pension for Captain A. Fawcett, Baudinaster of the British Guiana Militia Band.

A Bill to authorise the Governor in Council to grant Pensions or Gratui ties in certain cases to Officers on the Fixed Establishment who voluntarily retire from the Public Service before they have qualified for pension. (*Mr. Millard*).

A Bill to amend the Law relating to the employment of children of school age. (*Major Bain Gray*).

Notice was given that at the next meeting of the Council or at a subsequent date it would be moved that the Bills be read the second time.

The Council adjourned until Thursday, 14th inst., at 11 a.m.