

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 5th November, 1935.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, SIR GEOFFREY A. S. NORTHCOKE, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, (Mr. E. J. Waddington, C.M.G., O.B.E.)

The Hon. the Attorney-General, (Mr. Hector Josephs, K.C.)

The Hon. T. T. Smellie, O.B.F. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

Major the Hon. W. Bain Gray, C.B.E., Director of Education.

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

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

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

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

The Hon. J. Mullin, O.B.E. Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

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

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

The Hon. Q. B. De Freitas, Surgeon-General (Acting).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

The Hon. A. R. Crum Ewing (Essequibo River).

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

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

The Hon. S. H. Seymour (Western Essequibo).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd October, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The following Members took and subscribed to the Oath:—

Mr. F. Dias (Nominated Unofficial Member).

Mr. F. J. Seaford (Georgetown North).

Mr. M. B. Laing, District Commissioner, East Coast, Demerara District.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN.

THE PRESIDENT: An item of business which is coming before the Council in the course of this session has become a matter of urgency, and I am going to ask the Council's indulgence to allow the Standing Orders to be suspended to enable it to be carried through. I refer to the Bill which has been published and circulated to Members of the Council for the raising of a loan. That loan, as hon. Members are aware, is to fund the expenditure already undertaken in respect of sea defences and to cover certain future expenditure, and also to finance certain drainage works which have been before the Council for some time as the result of the Report of the Flood Investigation

Committee. Originally the Secretary of State wished this Bill passed by November 6, and it was my intention to give notice to-day of the Bill being introduced to-morrow, but I received a telegram yesterday stating that it was propitious at this moment to raise the loan and the Crown Agents wish to raise it by November 5. For that reason I have no hesitation in doing so as I think all Members are quite familiar with the items which appear in the Schedule of the Bill and there has been no serious criticism of those proposals in the Colony. I will leave the explanation to the Colonial Treasurer when moving the second reading, and I need only say that there will be certain minor alterations in the Schedule.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

EX-GRATIA AWARD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Waddington): I am the bearer of the following Message to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 7.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of an *ex gratia* payment of \$100.50 being made to the widow of the late P.C. 3052 Gravesande who died on the 24th of December, 1934, at Alberttown Police Station.

2. P.C. Gravesande was 39 years of age and had a meritorious record of service both in the Police Force and in the British West Indies Regiment in which he enlisted on 15th August, 1915, and served during the Great War, being demobilised in 1919, with the rank of Sergeant.

3. Deceased is survived by a widow and three children between the ages of 8 years and eighteen months.

4. P.C. Gravesande's service fell short by only 5 months of the qualifying period of 20 years to entitle his estate to the award of a lump sum payment under the provisions of the Constabulary Ordinance, Cap. 30.

5. I have consulted my Executive Council and with their advice invite this Council to approve of payment of this award to the deceased's widow.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,
Governor.

25th October, 1935.

PAPER LAID.

The following document was laid on the table:—

Report of the Select Committee appointed on 22nd October, 1935, to consider the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1936.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

EX-GRATIA AWARD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 7 dated 25th October, 1935, this Council approves an *ex gratia* payment of \$100.50 being made to the widow of the late P.C. 3052 Gravesande who died on the 24th of December, 1934, at the Alberttown Police Station.

SEA DEFENCE AND PUBLIC WORKS
(LOAN) BILL.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) gave notice that at a later stage he would move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable the following Bill to be taken through all its stages:—

A Bill to make provision for the raising of a loan to defray the cost of the construction of sea defences under the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933, and of certain other public works.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

LIABILITY FOR LOANS-IN-AID.

Mr. DE AGUIAR gave notice of the following motion:—

WHEREAS there is a contingent liability for the repayment of Parliamentary Loans-in-aid granted on terms to be prescribed by the Imperial Treasury in liquidation of budget deficits and Unemployment Relief Works in the sum of \$1,679,857.51 as at 31st December, 1934;

AND WHEREAS the estimated deficit for the year 1935 is \$79,639.

AND WHEREAS the original Estimates for the year 1936 forecast a further deficit of \$431,102, making a total of \$2,190,605.51;

AND WHEREAS this Council views with grave concern the continued and consistent growth of financial assistance received as Loans-in-aid for the above-mentioned purposes and the inability to control expenditure:

Be it Resolved.—That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to approach the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to make a definite pronouncement as to the Colony's liability for the repayment of these loans.

Mr. JACOB gave notice of the following questions:—

TELEGRAPH RATES.

In view of the fact that the rates of local telegrams have been reduced recently while the minimum rate with respect to the North West District has been increased from sixty cents to one dollar, will Government consider the advisability of reducing the North West District

rates to a figure not exceeding forty cents, and especially so as a telegram can be despatched from Georgetown to Trinidad, B.W.I., at a minimum charge of forty cents?

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

1. How many Voters' names were on the 1934 List of Voters for the Demerara River Electoral District No. 10?
2. How many application forms, duly declared, were received by the Registering Officer for District No. 10 during 1934 for registration up to 1st November, 1934, for the 1935 List?
3. How many persons were registered by the Registering Officer for District No. 10 for the year 1935?
4. Were any applications, duly declared, rejected by the Registering Officer, if so, what were the reasons for such rejections, and give the names, addresses and nature of qualification of each of the rejected applicant?

AGRICULTURE AND ANALYST.

1. What was the actual expenditure under these heads from 1926 to 1934, each year separately, and the estimated expenditure for 1935?
2. What was the total value of all agricultural exports, including cattle, but excluding forest products and sugar and its by-products, during the years 1926 to 1935 (9 months), each year and each product separately?
3. Is Government aware of the fact that frozen mutton and turkeys, corn, peas, sweet potatoes, beet, turnips, peanuts, tomatoes, cabbages, onions, and oranges are imported from various parts of the world, while the items mentioned above including others can be successfully grown and reared here for local consumption and for export?
4. What systematic attempts, in detail, have been made during the last five years to grow corn, peas, potatoes and other ground provisions so as to supply local requirements throughout the year?

EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

1. What was the average cost for 1934 per pupil in British Guiana for Primary Education as compared with Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica?
2. What is the allowance to a British Guiana scholar who has been awarded the Guiana Scholarship, as compared with a similar scholar from Trinidad and Barbados?
3. Is it a fact that Trinidad offers two Scholarships yearly as compared with one offered by British Guiana?

MAGISTRATES.

How many Stipendiary Magistrates have been examined during the last four years, giving their names, by the Medical Board in this Colony as to their medical fitness for permanent appointment on the Fixed Establishment, and have failed to pass the required standard?

MEDICAL.

1. What is the salary, and other fees, and duties in detail of the Medical Officer of the Kitty Buxton, Vigilance-Mahaica and the Mahaicony-Abary Districts, each separately?
2. Will Government consider the advisability of extending the facilities of Dental treatment

given to school children of Georgetown only to New Amsterdam and Buxton?

3. Will Government consider the advisability of replacing the present motor lorry, which is quite unsuitable in every detail, for the purpose for which it is used in the North West District, by an up-to-date motor ambulance?

PUBLIC DEBT.

1. What is the total amount due by the Colony as Loans during the last ten years, and the amount of Interest paid on such loans, each year separately?
2. What amount has been paid as Sinking Fund on the loans mentioned above for the last ten years, each year separately?
3. In view of the fact that the total public debt charges are a burden to the Colony and this has been aggravated by the large expenditure on Sea Defences, will Government consider the advisability of approaching the Imperial Government with a view to getting them to write off all unpaid loans for Sea Defences? It may be explained that protecting the Colony from the incursions of the sea may be considered an Imperial obligation.
4. Does Government intend to approach the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a view to converting all Loans bearing interest above 3% per annum with the object of reducing the interest paid to a figure not exceeding 3%, especially as the two Banks operating here (The Royal Bank of Canada and Barclays Bank (D., C. & O.)) have reduced their savings bank interest to 1½%?

CIVIL SERVICE.

1. How many Probationers have been employed in the Civil Service from January, 1934, to date, and with what qualifications, giving names of each, age, and the Department where employed?
2. How many Volunteers are giving service at the present time, with dates of entry, qualifications and the Departments where serving?

PETITION.

Mr. DE AGUIAR laid on the table a petition from Mrs. V. R. Croal praying that she be paid one year's salary of her late husband, Mr. G. L. Croal, Class III. Officer, Lands and Mines Department, under the Pensions Ordinance, 1933.

SEA DEFENCE AND PUBLIC WORKS (LOAN) BILL.

Mr. McDAVID: In pursuance of notice given I move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to introduce and carry through all its stages "A Bill to make provision for the raising of a loan to defray the cost of the construction of sea defences under the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933, and of certain other public works."

Hon. Members are already aware of the reasons of Government for urgency.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY
seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. McDAVID: I beg to move that "A Bill to make provision for the raising of a loan to defray the cost of the construction of sea defences under the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933, and of certain other works" be read the first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY
seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Mr. McDAVID: Sir, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill. The object of the Bill is to authorise the raising of a loan of £251,887 (\$1,209,053) for the purposes which are set forth in the Schedule of the Bill. The Bill itself does not require very much explanation; it follows the usual form of a Loan Ordinance. It provides for the principal and interest of the loan to be a charge on the general revenue of the Colony and for the establishment of a sinking fund from which the loan will be repaid on maturity. I invite attention to clause 5, which authorises the raising of the loan independently of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance. The purpose of that provision is to enable the loan to be raised privately by the Crown Agents without going on the market for public subscription. The reason for raising the loan in that manner is that it usually cheapens the cost. One avoids any expense of issue, brokerage and bankers' commissions, and so on. We have information that the loan will be raised in two portions before the end of the current year and that the terms are likely to be 3 per cent. at an issue price of 98 and the period of the loan will be 25 years. That is quite a good figure having regard to market conditions to-day.

Turning now to the Schedule of the Bill: it sets out the purposes for which the money will be used. Members might refer to the Schedule of loan works to be met from loan funds which have been submitted in a Sessional Paper at the opening

meeting of the Council. That Schedule sets out in detail each work and shows the actual expenditure which has been incurred up to 1935 and for 1936 in respect of each work. The first item on the Schedule is Sea Defences generally and the total to be spent is \$890,407. I also wish to refer Members to Mr. Case's report which was laid on the table at the opening meeting. Those two documents will show that the total capital expenditure by the Sea Defence Board from its inception up to the end of 1936 is estimated at \$1,010,407. Hon. Members will remember that in 1933, shortly after the Sea Defence Board was created and before the sea defence problem became as acute as it is now, we raised a loan of \$120,000. The figure in the Schedule is therefore the difference between that \$120,000 and the total estimate for sea defence expenditure up to the end of 1936.

In regard to the authority of the Council, I might mention that resolutions of this Council already passed carry loan expenditure up to a total of \$933,795. If reference is made to Mr. Case's report and to the minute of the Board which accompanies it, it will be seen that the expenditure for next year is put at \$155,700, but there are savings on the total expenditure up to the end of this year amounting to \$79,088. Therefore, the inclusion of the item at the figure at which it stands in the Schedule is really an excess of \$76,612 on the authority already given by this Council for sea defence works. I shall not touch on any details of these works because they are fully set out in Mr. Case's report and the minute of the Sea Defence Board.

If Members will now look at item 2 (a) of the Schedule of the Bill they will see that the sum of \$10,140 is included as a reimbursement which has already been approved by resolution of this Council—reimbursement of expenses incurred by the East Demerara Water Supply Commissioners in repairing damage to the dams of the canals caused by the floods of 1934. That figure is not precisely right because the actual payment may be some \$2,000 less. If that turns out to be correct the loan will be raised for that amount less. Item (b), Canals Polder Drainage \$181,808, has already been approved by the Council. That, too, is still under consideration, and

it is quite possible that some variation in the character of the works will have to be made. Items (c) and (d), La Bonne Mere Canal \$112,000 and Grazing Areas, Mahaica, \$14,698, taken together, represent the work of which Your Excellency has already told the Council the character might be changed somewhat. It is proposed that the canal which will be dug to relieve the Conservancy should empty into the Demerara River instead of into the sea, and that there should be certain other works on the Shanks Canal to provide for the grazing areas. I should mention that when the Bill is in Committee I propose to move as an amendment that items b) (c) and (d) be carried out at a total figure for the three items. The reason for that is that these estimates are approximate only, and if it is done in that way any saving on one item might be applied to a possible excess on any other item. With those remarks I beg to move the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY
seconded.

MR. DE AGUIAR: I appreciate the necessity for putting through this Bill today, and I shall offer no serious opposition to it on the question of cost. But it seems to me in respect of one or two items included in the Schedule that this Council has not been afforded an opportunity of giving full consideration to the new works proposed. I refer particularly to the proposals to spend \$112,000 on the construction of an additional relief canal and \$14,698 on the construction of a communal grazing area in the Mahaica district. Much as we would like to raise all the money we can under existing favourable conditions, it seems that we are putting the cart before the horse. I think this Council should have had an opportunity of considering these two items very fully before an attempt is made to raise the loan. So far as the amount required for the improvement of the drainage of the Canals Polder is concerned, I know as a fact that the expenditure has already been voted, but since then opinion is divided as to whether the expenditure will be of benefit to the Canals Polder. As a matter of fact, sir, I have been reliably informed that even after the expenditure of this money there would still be floods in that area. If, as I understood at the time the resolution was before the Council, the

object of spending the money is for the purpose of relieving the farmers of the district of annual disaster, it seems to me that further consideration should be given to the expenditure of this money. As regards the amount to be raised for sea defences, I happen to know of the necessity to raise that money just at this time. As a matter of fact the Sea Defence Board has been receiving advances, which have now reached a very tidy sum, and the time is more than overdue for raising a loan for this work. I shall offer no objection to the raising of the loan, but I should like to hear something more from Government with respect to the items I have mentioned, as well as that further consideration will be given to the expenditure in the Canals Polder.

MR. ELEAZAR: I am afraid that my complaint is very much the same as the hon. Member for Central Demerara. I do not know whether Government would undertake the right, when the loan is raised, to divert it to other channels which may be more beneficial if the emergency arise. I cannot conceive, for example, that \$181,000 will be spent beneficially on that part of the country, and first things should be first. As regards the canal on the East Coast, it is very necessary to have that part of the country drained, but the suggestion to drain it through the Demerara River is moonshine. People who live in Georgetown and on the coastlands can hardly conceive what happens in the upper reaches of the rivers. During the rainy season there is no ebb tide at all. You can barely perceive in the water a kind of movement because the distance is so great that it does not feel the effect of the ebb tide. If you attempt to drain that large area before you feel the effect of the ebb tide the tide begins to flood again. The idea is impracticable, and the money is earmarked for that purpose and nothing else. Government should reserve the right to investigate these propositions and change them as the necessity demands. It would be better not to let the loan go through at all until Government satisfies itself. Government should reserve to itself power and if it is necessary put it in the Bill, or let it be understood that we are getting this money for certain purposes and Government will investigate and decide whether it should be spent in the way proposed or otherwise.

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works): I do not think I can give a clearer explanation than has been submitted to Members in the reports which have been laid on the table. The suggested expenditure of \$181,000 on the Canals Polder is an expenditure, in my opinion, that will not prevent flooding. It will only improve conditions, but if it is expended as suggested in the report it will undoubtedly effect very great improvement to the district, provided that the proprietors do their share of the work in keeping their inter-lot drains clean and in a condition that will carry a certain amount of water during heavy weather and so graded that they will drain into the canals.

The relief canal at Pln. La Bonne Mere is a recommendation made by the Floods Investigation Committee last year, and I understood it was accepted with acclamation, but apparently it is not. The construction of that canal was to relieve the Conservancy in times of heavy floods by carrying the water northwards along the backdams of La Bonne Mere through Clonbrook into the sea. But in view of the possibility of the extension of the East Demerara Water Supply and the construction of a dam parallel to the East Bank, the matter was reconsidered and in view of the fact that the water comes from the East and the distance from that dam to the Demerara River was shorter than the distance from the East Conservancy dam to the sea there will be, if the relief is put on the East Bank, a considerable saving on that sum of \$112,000.

In connection with the original proposal, which included the reconstruction of the southern end of the Shanks Canal which is required for irrigation of the adjoining areas in that district, it will still be necessary to reconstruct that portion of the Shanks Canal and to do certain other contingent works. The total cost of those works, speaking from memory, is in the vicinity of \$46,000, and the cost of the canal which will be constructed into the Demerara River will be \$32,000, which gives a saving on the \$112,000 of \$24,000. Contingent on that, however, there will be, if the grazing area is to be proceeded with, necessary works in getting into the new Shanks Canal which is estimated at a sum of \$15,000, so that the total cost of

the works under (c) and d) will be \$103,000 instead of \$116,000 as estimated.

If these works are carried out, sir, I am definitely of the opinion that there will be considerable improvement of the area, and relief through the Demerara River will be of more advantage than it would be if taken out to the sea. One reason for that is that if taken out to the sea it would necessitate a sluice on the sea defences, with the possible result of erosion of which we have had plenty on that Coast.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: May I enquire whether any Report was circulated to Members or published in connection with the three proposals—the La Bonne Mere canal, the grazing area and the Canals Polder drainage? I have no recollection of seeing any of the Reports to which the Director of Public Works has referred.

Major CRAIG: The proposals referred to are in the Floods Investigation Committee Report, 1934. On page 3 of that Report appear the following items: “(b) Additional relief canal estimated to cost \$112,000;” “2. Mahaica District, Communal Grazing Area, Estimated Cost \$14,698;” “6. Improvement of drainage of the Canals Polder Area, West Bank, Demerara, estimated to cost \$181,808.” That Report was laid on the table, I think, early this year.

Mr. SEAFORD: With regard to the works on the Canals Polder, I happened to be a member of the Committee that dealt with that question. That Committee would have liked to have gone rather further, but in considering expenditure in this Colony we have also got to consider the economic results, and as far as one could see there is no good spending \$500,000 when it is going to give a return of only \$100,000. As regards the Canals Polder there are two canals, known as No. 1 and No. 2 Canal, which are supposed to give drainage to estates into the Demerara River. There used to be a dredge to keep the canals open. That dredge has been out of commission for a considerable number of years, and the canals have gradually silted up and become smaller and narrower and are unable to-day to take off the surplus water from the lands on either side of them. The scheme is intended, therefore, to deepen those canals

so as to give very much better drainage to the lands there. That is the inherent object of the proposal and the loan.

As regards the construction of the relief canal, I do not think the hon. Member for Berbice River is quite clear on the object of it, judging from his remarks. First of all, it is proposed to bring up a Bill in this Council, as I think is known by everybody, to increase the Conservancy area for the East Coast so as to be able in a case of drought to give more water to the estates that draw from it and also Georgetown. The second object of it is that at the present time the lands on the East Bank of the Demerara River in times of very heavy weather are continually under water and no cultivation can be carried out there. It is proposed, therefore, to put up a dam along the western boundary which will protect those lands from inundation and at the same time conserve more water. If you are going to conserve more water extra relief will have to be put in. The idea originally was to give further relief into the sea between Bee Hive and Clonbrook, as explained by the Director of Public Works. When you go a certain distance in from the sea you come to high lands which are much nearer the Demerara River than the sea. The water which causes flooding on the Mahaica Creek and Mahaica area comes from those high lands and goes right across into the sea, but as those high lands are 11 miles from town it is proposed to make the outlet into the river because it will get rid of the water quicker, but chiefly because of the saving to be effected and also because it would avoid further erosion of the foreshore.

The Shanks Canal is supposed to be the canal to give water to the Mahaica villages and estates bordering the Mahaica area. That canal is really supposed to be a conservancy, but in my opinion and the opinion of others it is no conservancy at all. There are no dams to the canal and there can be none because there is 18 feet of peggass on either side of it. When it was proposed to bring in a Bill to amalgamate with the East Demerara Water Supply Scheme it was made a condition precedent that the canal must be put in order. It is impossible to take over a conservancy which is wasting water, flooding out the area, and doing everything which it is supposed not to do. It was

therefore proposed that the Shanks Canal should be put in order, and the \$14,698 is the amount estimated to put it in order for the benefit of the Mahaica area.

Mr. JACOB: As one of the youngest Members of this House, sir, I desire to assure you, if assurance is necessary, of my loyal co-operation with Government in all schemes that might be introduced for the benefit of the Colony as a whole. I have read your very interesting address at the opening of this session, and I desire to repeat that portion of it where you say "It is my earnest desire that we may work together successfully in British Guiana's interests and that the life of this new Council may witness the Colony's emergence in a great measure from its financial difficulties: so stubborn and so great are the latter that I dare not venture the hope that in the short space of five years we shall be clear of them." As I happen to be a member of the Canals Polder Authority I have no desire to retard the progress of this Bill, but I cannot, without your assurance, agree to the expenditure of \$181,000 on a scheme which the Director of Public Works says will not prevent flooding in that area. Government is supposed to be the guardian of the people, and I take it that Government is guided by the wishes of the people in any particular area. As a member of the Polder Authority for over two years I can say, almost definitely, that the three members of that Authority who represent the farmers have not had the pleasure of going through the scheme in detail. Whose fault it is I do not know. I am concerned with the fact that if the Colony is to emerge from its difficulties we must go warily in raising loans and spending money.

I will support Government in every measure to help the people to get out of their difficulties and to plant and produce more than they do at the present time. The position in the Canals Polder is very deplorable, but if any money is to be spent in that area the first thing to be done is to make it free from flood. Drainage opportunities there are so limited that it is impossible to expect drainage at all. When it comes to irrigation the farmers get absolutely no irrigation water. If any scheme is undertaken I would like to get Your Excellency's assurance that no

money will be spent until ample opportunity is given to the parties concerned to say how that money is to be spent. When the farmers agreed to this scheme without going into the details they said "The Imperial Government is going to give us this money and we will benefit by the employment it will provide." They were not concerned so much about the drainage of the Polder because they were satisfied that they would not benefit very much, but they were prepared to benefit by the expenditure of the money. If the Colony has to repay this money I oppose the raising of the loan because the majority of the inhabitants will not benefit. As a matter of fact the financial position of the Colony is so bad that I shudder to think where we are leading to. I cannot conceive of Government attempting to spend money without having proper schemes and the approval of the people whom the schemes are intended to benefit. I am happy to learn from the Colonial Treasurer that certain new proposals have been put up and Government is prepared to consider them. With these suggestions and Your Excellency's assurance that no money will be spent until the people thoroughly approve of the schemes I am prepared to support the Bill.

Mr. SEYMOUR: I presume that the schemes have been gone into very carefully and Government is satisfied that the people in the particular areas would be benefited. The people themselves must also be satisfied because they are the people who have to foot the bill. Government has an example in Essequibo. There large sums of money have been spent on schemes which are of no benefit to the people, and we have a burden around our necks for many years, but the chances are that we shall never be able to pay back that money. I throw out the suggestion that Government might use the dredger in the Pomeroun for dredging the canals in the Polder. I see no reason why that dredger should not be utilised in the Canals Polder. It will effect a big saving, and if money can be saved in that way it should be done. The dredge might also be used in connection with the works on the East Coast.

Mr. WALCOTT: I came here this morning with the idea of supporting this Bill, but after listening to the remarks of

the Director of Public Works I am afraid I cannot do so. The Director has damned the whole scheme. He told us as regards the East Coast that more satisfactory results would be obtained with the outlet on the Demerara River.

Major CRAIG: I said more satisfactory results in the event of the dam being constructed. If there was no dam the relief canal would still flow into the East Coast.

Mr. WALCOTT: Perhaps I did not hear the Director correctly; he certainly said it would cost less and be more effective. I can understand that if the grazing area is to become an established fact they must have a canal on the East Coast, although the Director of Public Works has pointed out that the opening up of another outlet to the sea would perhaps cause more erosion on the East Coast. We have had enough of that already; that is a distinct danger, and it is better to put the outlet on the Demerara River. With regard to the Canals Polder, when the Director of Public Works tells us that we are going to spend \$181,000 and we are not likely to stop flooding, I look upon it as a positive waste of money to do something which is not going to give the result that the people of the district have the right to expect of it. It is worse than speculation because the Director says positively that it is not going to stop flooding. We are going to spend \$181,000 for nothing. It would be better to initiate a scheme costing \$1,000,000 if it is going to ensure the stopping of flooding and the garnering of crops every year than to spend \$181,000 and still have crops ruined. I would be surprised if any intelligent person or Member of this House voted for a scheme of that kind.

Major CRAIG: With reference to Shanks Canal, the original proposition was to relieve flood waters from the conservancy through Bee Hive and Clonbrook by the construction of a canal from the conservancy dam to the sea, which included the reconstruction of a portion of the Shanks Canal and several bridges and aqueducts on the way to the sea. That work would have provided at the same time the necessary drainage for the grazing area, which is referred to in (d) of the Schedule of the Bill. The construction of

the dam and the extension of the conservancy make it an easier and cheaper proposition to construct the relief into the Demerara River, but that relief would not be effective until the dam is constructed because the water at the present moment flows over the whole of the East Bank. Any Member who visits the East Bank on days when the rains are falling very heavily will see the havoc and impossibility of farmers doing anything in the way of cultivation unless some means are taken to dam that water. The extension of the conservancy will have that effect, and by the construction of that dam it will be possible to put a cheaper relief canal into the Demerara River. The work I have referred to to cost \$15,000 is the work that will be required to give the drainage facilities for the grazing area and was included in the estimate of \$112,000. Therefore, by the construction of the proposed new dam we are getting relief from the flood waters of the conservancy, the reconstruction of the Shanks Canal, necessary drainage for the grazing area, all for a sum less than the \$112,000 which was estimated originally for the relief of the canal only.

With reference to the Canals Polder, in 1929 I submitted an estimate of what I considered would be the remedy for the flooding there. That estimate was \$500,000. This estimate of \$181,000 is portions of that estimate which have been picked out as being the most essential and presented in the present scheme, and, as I said before, it will give a very definite benefit to the area but will not prevent flooding. It is impossible to prevent flooding unless additional sluices are put in, and there is no suggestion of putting in additional sluices in the proposed expenditure.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: Speaking subject to correction, I am under the impression that when the question of the Canals Polder was before the Council in July or August last, the proposed expenditure was put down as coming from the Colonial Development Fund. I had no idea it would be a matter of a loan. If that is not so then I am wrong. I would like to know more definitely what benefits exactly the Canals Polder is expected to receive from this scheme. We have been told definitely that it will not prevent flooding, but we have been told that it will give definite

benefits. I ask the Director of Public Works to condescend to some particulars as to what those definite benefits will be. As regards (a) (c) and (d) I am in entire agreement, but as regards (b) I should like to know exactly what benefits the people will get from that expenditure.

Major CRAIG: The benefit that will be derived from the expenditure of this money on the Canals Polder is the overtaking, to my knowledge, of eight years of arrears in maintenance, which really means the re-digging of Nos. 1 and 2 Canals, which were originally intended to be drainage canals. These canals, as every hon. Member knows, if they are not maintained will ultimately return to the level of the land on either side of them. That is practically the position of the canals at the present moment. There has been little or no work done in that respect. I think it is quite common knowledge that sugar planters estimate that it takes \$2 per acre to keep their drains maintained in a satisfactory condition. I understand that the rate for the Canals Polder is 75 cents per acre. I think Members of the Council will readily understand that with that sum of money it is impossible to keep the canals clean, and there will only be that benefit when these two canals are dredged. There will be a greater area of conservancy of flood waters that flow into the canals by the improvement of the inter-lot drains and by the fact that the canals have been dug. The digging of these two canals is the major portion of the expenditure. These canals are each nine miles long and it is impossible to carry out the work by hand labour, therefore it is essential that a dredger should be employed. The question of using the dredger in the Pomeroun was considered, but in my opinion it would not be profitable to reconstruct that dredger for the purpose of dredging in the canals. It is too wide for one thing to enter the gates of the canals, and it will have to be dismantled there and reconstructed or taken round to the empolder by sea.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I have very little to add to what the Director of Public Works said. Several Members have queried whether the expenditure of \$181,000 in the Canals Polder would not be a complete waste of money. First of all, the hon. Member for Central

Demerara suggested that it would be of no value whatever to the Canals Polder; and, subsequently, the hon. Member for North Western District, a member of the Canals Polder Authority, suggested that members of the Polder Authority had no knowledge of the particular work to be carried out and did not think that it would be of benefit. I will suggest to the hon. Member for North Western District that he has forgotten the meeting with the Canals Polder Authority when this matter was discussed, and, so far as I am aware, there was no member of the Authority who suggested that the work contemplated should not be done, but merely said that something more might be done. That being the position it is clear that this amount of \$181,000 must be expended in order to effect improvements in that area. If there are other works which appear to be essential to effect further improvements, Government will give them very careful consideration. But so far as this \$181,000 and the scheme connected with it are concerned, so far as I am aware, everybody is agreed that it is an essential part of the work.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only to add to what the Colonial Secretary said that I sympathise with those Members who feel that they have not had sufficient explanation of some of the works suggested in this Bill, particularly of the new scheme for the relief of the East Demerara Conservancy. That new scheme would ordinarily have been discussed when the Bill, which the hon. Member for Georgetown North has mentioned, comes before the Council. It was because I had to expedite the passage of this Loan Bill that hon. Members have not had an opportunity of considering these details. I trust that in a short time from now there will be a specific scheme for the relief of the East Demerara Conservancy, to be taken in conjunction with the new dam and the extension of that conservancy.

The hon. Member for North Western District asked me to give an assurance that no work will be carried out in the Canals Polder unless the inhabitants of that area agree to its being carried out. The Colonial Secretary has pointed out that there has been no objection to the scheme suggested as such, but there have been proposals for other works

as well to which, as he says, Government will give consideration if it is found that such consideration is necessary. I cannot give the assurance the hon. Member wishes. I am going to be guided by my technical officers in a matter such as this. The sum is far too large to be at the mercy of men who have certain knowledge of the matter but not full scientific knowledge. On the other hand, I will give consideration to any representations made by the Canals Polder Authority in regard to these works or minor methods to be adopted in connection with them. The question is that the Bill be read the second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

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

Clause 4—Appropriation and application of money borrowed.

MR. DE AGUIAR: What would be the position in the event of any portion of the work being abandoned or there is a saving on any item?

MR. McDAVID: I mentioned that I proposed that items (b) (c) and (d) of the Schedule should be taken together in order that it might be possible that any savings on one of these items might be used on the other. The hon. Member also asked what would happen in the event of any portion of the work being abandoned in such a way as to leave a large amount of the loan available. This Council has authorised by law a change in the expenditure of money, but I think it is very unlikely that such a thing will happen because it is now authorising expenditure for the purposes named. If there is any surplus it will be applied to the sinking fund for repayment of the loan.

THE CHAIRMAN: The three items (b) (c) and (d) will be moved subsequently as one item of \$308,506 so that savings on one work can be applied to further expenditure on another.

Schedule—2. Other Public Works.

MR. McDAVID: I beg to move that items (b) (c) and (d) be replaced by the

following: "(b) Drainage works Canals Polder area, East Demerara Conservancy and Mahaica District, \$308,506." I have already explained the reasons.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Your Excellency made the remark that you have to be guided by the advice of your expert advisers and not by people who have no technical knowledge. I bow to that but beg to say that while Your Excellency must be guided by your technical officers in such matters, yet the benefit of the experience of the ordinary individual is valuable and often useful. I cannot conceive of anything done within the last 50 years with all the advice of Directors of Public Works to improve drainage on the East Coast, Demerara. I have seen them close up all the outlets to the sea thinking that would stop erosion, but erosion has taken place and the floods ensue. As an illustration of the value of experience compared with technical knowledge I will mention a recent incident. An ordinary East Indian shovelman passing along the road while a certain section of the East Coast sea wall was in progress said "Dat t'inggwine fall down," and it fell. A man may not have technical knowledge but have an intelligent view of what construction would avert an evil. I do not think the Colony is in a state financially to undertake these utopian schemes. I am in favour of any proposition for irrigation and drainage on any part of the coastlands, but when these schemes are going to be put into operation I ask Government to make a little more investigation into them, and also to give consideration to the views of the people in the districts concerned. The people who propound these schemes have done so without sufficient data. These proposals are not new. They have been mooted before, investigated and found to be faulty, and that is the reason why Government was prevented from undertaking them.

Mr. SEYMOUR: I am supporting these schemes; in them I see a ray of hope for Essequibo.

Question "That the item as amended stand part of the Schedule" put, and agreed to.

The Council resumed.

Mr. McDAVID: I move that the Bill be now read the third time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move:—

That the Council do resolve itself into Committee to consider the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1936, and the Report of the Select Committee appointed on 22nd October, 1935, to consider the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1936.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I do not know if Your Excellency propose to afford Members an opportunity of making a few observations on the Estimates, or you propose to carry the motion moved by the Colonial Secretary. There are certain Members who are desirous of making a few remarks on the Estimates before the Council goes into Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: I certainly wish to give the Council an opportunity of discussing the financial position of the Colony. I shall raise no objection to the debate taking place at this stage or on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill. This seems to me the legitimate time for the matter to be discussed.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Before I make my observations on the Estimates for 1936, I desire first of all to thank you, sir, for the very interesting Speech you made in this House when the Council met on October 15, last. It certainly showed, sir, that you have within the short time of your arrival in the Colony been able to grasp the situation in respect of the Estimates for 1935, and to illustrate very fully the position in respect of the Estimates for 1936. I also desire to express to you, sir, my appreciation and personal thanks for the information and assistance you have given to me in considering the Estimates. With that information and the opportunity that was afforded hon. Mem-

bers for a free and frank discussion in the Select Committee, which Your Excellency was good enough to appoint at my request, I am here to-day fully prepared to take part in the deliberations on these Estimates and to accept full responsibility for any decision that might be arrived at. But, sir, there is a certain feeling of disappointment towards the end of your remarks when it is observed that the Estimates for 1936 indicate, firstly, a deficit of \$431,109 in respect of Government's operations for that year, which sum, as far as I know, is likely to be increased by \$40,000 or \$50,000 in additional expenditure that has been decided upon since the Estimates were originally framed.

Secondly, in the items of expenditure I have seen nothing, or very little, provided for development works of a reproductive nature. As regards my first point, however, Members would be afforded the fullest opportunity of discussing the wisdom of Government's policy in presenting year by year a Budget showing such large deficits, which increases our commitments and obligations to the Imperial Government for loans, when the motion of which I have given notice this morning comes up for discussion? I would like to sound a note of warning at this stage, having regard to the fact that the deficit is likely to be increased for the reason that the revenue side of the Budget has been increased, that is to say, expectations of revenue collections have been put down at figures higher than even the revised Estimate for 1935 and higher still than when the position was reviewed at the end of 1934. Although this improvement is foreshadowed in respect of revenue collections for 1936, the situation is not one which is entirely void of uncertainty. As regards the second point, disappointment is being felt throughout the Colony, especially as Government has indicated that revenue collections for 1936 are expected to be higher than in 1935. With that improvement in the situation it was felt that Government would have been bold enough to introduce schemes of development works in 1936. I would not for a moment attempt to describe what effect such proposals would have had on the minds of the people of the Colony, nor the encouragement that would have been given to the general taxpayer to bear

the present burdens for a little while longer, and lastly the lasting benefit that would have accrued to the Colony over the successful undertaking of schemes of this nature.

As regards expenditure, it is to be regretted that a further rise in administrative charges is indicated. It is also to be regretted that there is a general rise in expenditure all round. Apart from ordinary expenditure it seems that the chickens of the Colonial Development Fund schemes are coming home to roost, and the position will be worse when we are called upon to repay our Imperial loans-in-aid. Government and our principals at Downing Street are not without a certain amount of blame in view of representations that are made from time to time in this Council for the reduction of items of expenditure, but which fell on deaf ears. It would also be of interest to know the sums of money that have been voted from time to time—perhaps Your Excellency will pardon the expression “thrust down the throats” of this Council—on the definite instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies in spite of the definite disapproval of Members of this Council.

I do not propose to make any remarks in respect of any particular item on the Estimates. I prefer to deal with the situation generally, leaving alone for the present the several items that will be dealt with by me when they are reached, but there is one very important matter which stands out very prominently. I make reference to it in order to enquire what is the policy of Government. I refer to what seems to me to be the desire of Government to abolish posts carrying lower scales of salaries and creating special posts at higher scales. Apart from the fact that in doing so the expenditure of the Colony is increased, it seems to me that by Government adopting this policy very poor treatment indeed is meted out to officers in the lower ranks of the Service. It requires very little examination of the Estimates to discover the ever-decreasing number of Class I. and Class II. Officers in the Service and the ever-increasing number of the special posts I have already referred to. Members of this Council will bear me out when I say that on several occasions we have been told by Government that it has been decided to

abolish the post of a Class I. or Class II. Officer, as the case may be, and subsequently an "Assistant" or some other title is required at a higher rate of salary than that of the office which had been abolished. And our experience has been that these officers are not expected to do any more than a Class I. or Class II. Officer.

I am willing to concede that certain appointments are made in the hope of obtaining technical officers in particular Departments, but special posts are created for officers coming from abroad. While I am in sympathy with Class I. and Class II. Officers, my greatest sympathy goes out to Class III. Officers, who seem to me to be under a bottle-neck arrangement. If a young man is fortunate enough to obtain a position in the Civil Service as a Third Grade Officer his minimum salary is \$456 rising by \$36 to \$600, then by \$48 to \$840 and finally by \$60 to \$1,200. The point I wish to make is that an officer in that particular grade, unless he has a fairy godfather, will remain in that grade for about 18 years under this bottle-neck arrangement. It is true that under the present arrangement these officers benefit in so far as annual increments are concerned; but I am suspicious that so long as he remains in that grade he cannot hope to get any further unless he has a fairy god-father. Further than that, if I understand the position correctly, even after the end of 18 years that officer is likely to remain forever at the maximum of the same class, for the reason that there will be no means of promotion as the result of abolishing the number of Class II. and Class I. posts.

That leads me to enquire into the qualifications for appointment in the Civil Service. As far as I know applicants must have some scholastic qualification. If that policy were pursued I could hardly find any just grounds for complaint. The Colony is spending large sums not only on primary but also on secondary education, and Government would be well advised to restrict entry into the Civil Service only to those boys and girls who have achieved something during their educational period. But is that the practice? I would ask Your Excellency to make special enquiry into the matter because I happen to know that not many

days ago an applicant with the highest educational qualifications was turned down. The applicant was recommended by the Head of the Department where the vacancy existed, but another person who did not have the same qualifications was appointed. Personally, I have no objection to the person appointed. I am not dealing with the particular case at all, but I am illustrating to you, sir, some of the things that go on here. These are small matters it is true, but they effect right-thinking people, and I ask you earnestly to give your attention to them. I could mention many instances of the kind I have indicated, because these cases come to my knowledge, not always from the applicants themselves, and it seems to me a matter that requires some enquiry.

I said I did not intend to make any reference to specific items on the Estimates, but as Members will only be allowed to vote on the item which authorises Government to make good the deficiency on the working of that Department, I crave indulgence to go into the figures of the Transport and Harbours Department. The Estimates for 1936 show a working profit of \$26,000. On the face of it an improvement of \$15,000 is shown, but against that—which was not apparently taken into consideration—is the increased expenditure of \$21,500 for maintenance of the Bartica-Potaro road. The explanatory note leads me to ask whether in 1935 the maintenance of that road was a charge on the Transport and Harbours Department. Apart from the information I am asking for I am also endeavouring to show that while there is an apparent increase of revenue there is also increased expenditure of this sum under the head of roads and bridges. Further, the Department is budgeting for additional capital expenditure of \$15,000 for new motor lorries to operate on the road. In Committee I enquired whether sufficient provision is being made for depreciation on capital expenditure, and as I was assured by the Colonial Treasurer that such provision is being made I do not propose to pursue that point any further.

I wish to add that I consider it would be a most retrograde step, in more ways than one, if Government considers it absolutely necessary to scrap the West Coast Railway. I am convinced that the cost of

improving and maintaining 21 miles of road from Vreed-en-Hoop to Parika for motor traffic would be much higher than the present loss on the working of this section of the railway. I understand it is an annual loss. For 1935 a small loss of \$3,000 is expected, but the Board of Directors are more hopeful for 1936 as they expect to make a small profit on this branch of the service. I hope their anticipation will materialise, and, even if it does not I trust the fear expressed in Your Excellency's speech, that it might be necessary to allow the railway to run itself to death, will not take place.

There is one matter in connection with the activities of the Public Works Department. The matter seems to me to be one of extreme urgency. I am informed that unemployment works were closed down on the 31st October on account of lack of funds. There is a number of people who are extremely uneasy and the Department seems to hold out little or no hope to them. There are probably some savings and I hope the Director of Public Works will make use of them to afford some relief.

The Council adjourned for the luncheon recess.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I would like, in the first place, to commend the Administration on the untiring energy Your Excellency has thrown into your public duties since your arrival in this Colony. From my own observation I think Your Excellency is going about matters in a practical and thorough manner, and I feel sure that in course of time you will have a sufficient grasp of the Colony's problems to enable you to pronounce very definite opinions on the several questions which come before you from time to time. True statesmanship imperatively demands that all matters should be proceeded with with the utmost caution, and it is my sincere desire, sir, that your administration here will be marked by peace, prosperity and progress. Looking through Your Excellency's Speech to the Council on the 15th October, I confess to some feeling of disappointment with respect to one paragraph, in which you have pointed out that the Secretary of State has requested you to reply that he had received the petition praying for a comprehensive scheme of

drainage and irrigation, but at the present juncture he is unable to give his assent to any such scheme. I take that, sir, as simply an indication that the matter has not been vetoed entirely by the Secretary of State, but that it will be considered at a later date if circumstances justify Your Excellency taking action in the matter. In Your Excellency's Speech to this Council on the 2nd July you stated that in the course of your tour eastwards along the Coast you received a large number of addresses from villages and country districts between Georgetown and Crabwood Creek on the Courantyne River, and you added that "an almost universal feature of those addresses was a request that Government should put in effect a 'comprehensive scheme of drainage and irrigation'." After some comments on the subject Your Excellency further stated:—

Actuated by these convictions on my return to Georgetown in May I sent instructions to the District Commissioners of the districts east of the Essequibo River to compile lists of such of the drainage and irrigation schemes, which have from time to time been suggested for their districts, as seemed reasonably feasible to them. These lists will be put before my technical advisers, who, subsequently, will be required to furnish ecological reports and estimates of cost in respect of such schemes as they may consider most worthy of being carried into effect. Eventually I hope to be able to lay before this Council considered proposals for agricultural development and to raise such funds as are necessary for them.

I fully appreciate the desirability of economic development on sound lines, and I trust, sir, that this matter will not be pigeon-holed. I further trust that upon receipt of the several schemes careful consideration will be given to them, and, if practicable, effect will be given to those which would be of economic value to the Colony. I am quite aware that efforts are being made to carry out, though in a small way, certain schemes of irrigation, but I think the need at the moment is some well considered scheme of drainage and irrigation. I would not say "a comprehensive scheme" because that depends on the ability of the people to meet and pay the instalments in respect of any scheme.

That brings me to agricultural development. We are all agreed that this question is a very important one for the people of the Colony, involving productivity and beneficial occupation of lands within easy reach of the people. Some effort has been

made by the Department of Agriculture to minor industries, but I feel that something more should be done and a more progressive attitude adopted by the Department to get people to settle on the land and to cultivate such products as would be of export value. At the present time we have, in order of priority, sugar, rice and ground provisions, but attention should be directed to the production of something more of export value. Sugar can well take care of itself. We have at its head managers of experience who manage their own affairs with a great deal of success. As far as rice is concerned the cultivators have been doing their very best in spite of adverse weather conditions, but faced with Indian competition and low prices those who are engaged in this industry feel very downhearted. It is entirely due to the growers themselves that rice production has increased. It is true that the Department of Agriculture has done a great deal to improve the grades of rice, but I should like to see the attention of the Department directed to the production of minor products. The hon. Member for North Western District gave notice this morning of certain questions relating to articles which can be grown in the Colony but are presently imported, and to those questions a reply will be given in due course. On the Department of Agriculture lies the serious responsibility for the economic welfare of the people of the Colony, and while I have always supported it I have also always advocated that it should carry out a progressive policy in the interest of the peasantry.

With respect to the mining industries, I think Government should be congratulated on the efforts they are making to stimulate the production of gold. We are greatly indebted to the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the very invaluable assistance given to the mining industries, and with Government pursuing that line of campaign I am sure we shall in a very short time create a good atmosphere in the mining districts. Government cannot be accused of not doing anything for these industries, and, in fact, on every hand we see an endeavour on the part of Your Excellency to stimulate the production of gold.

There is a large increase on the Education Vote, but I do not consider that the Education Department can be blamed for

that increase. Not very long ago efforts were made to get what is known as the Swettenham Circular withdrawn in order to make it obligatory on all East Indian children of a certain age to attend school. I can say that at one time the policy of Government was not to use coercion but persuasion to get these children into the schools, but with the circular now withdrawn East Indian children are in the same position as the children of other races and they are taking full advantage of the opportunities for education. The increase in the Education Vote is primarily due to the attendance of these children at the schools.

A good deal has been spent on the Medical Service, but I should like to urge upon Government consideration of the question of Government Medical Officers giving lantern lectures and health talks to the people in the country districts. We have "Health Week" in Georgetown and New Amsterdam but not in the country districts, and I should like it to be made a definite part of the Medical Officers' duty to go amongst the people in the districts and try to give them the benefits of sanitary advice. I have been connected with the Infant Welfare and Maternity League and Tuberculosis Society for a number of years, and I can assure Your Excellency of the far-reaching effect the lectures and talks have on the people who attend the meetings of these organisations. I therefore urge that these efforts be extended to the country districts and so afford to the ignorant classes and those who are most in need of it some education on health matters. I hope part of the votes on the Medical Department will be devoted to this purpose. British Guiana is a very difficult Colony to administer owing to the complexity of its problems, and Your Excellency will need the whole-hearted support of everyone in the execution of the onerous duties you are called upon to perform. I promise my humble support to any project that would bring about peace and prosperity in the Colony.

Mr. JACOB: I desire to endorse in the main all that has been said by the hon. Member for Central Demerara and the hon. Member for Eastern Berbice in relation to the development of this Colony. I also desire to assure Your Excellency, as I did this morning, of my loyal co-operation with you, and no less so with the

Colonial Secretary and other responsible officers of Government as well as those who are responsible for my entry into this Council. In that co-operation I think the prosperity of the Colony will best be assured. I am glad in a measure, as a new Member of the House, that I have to address myself to Your Excellency and the Colonial Secretary, who have come here with open minds on the various problems that confront British Guiana. I propose myself to view every problem with an open mind. I have my mind definitely made up upon certain matters, but I shall listen attentively to all that is said upon the questions which come before the Council before finally coming to a decision.

I have been in a measure responsible for the appointment of the Select Committee to go into the Estimates. When that Committee was appointed I had an idea that it would have effected economies, but it has not. I am glad to be able to say, however, that I learnt quite a lot from our deliberations. I was under the impression that by our united efforts something would have been done to reduce expenditure and to lessen the anticipated deficit, but I am sorry to say that instead of reducing expenditure and lessening the deficit we have been asked to approve of new items. I propose, with Your Excellency's permission, to make a few suggestions, bold though they may be, and I trust that they will be carefully considered by Your Excellency and the responsible officers of Government. I think it is necessary for me at this stage to read a Message from the Secretary of State, dated 18th April, 1928, which is as follows:—

"I cannot allow this day to pass without some expression of hope and indeed of confidence that it will mark the dawn of a new era for British Guiana. In saying this I do not wish to disguise from myself and from the people of the Colony the seriousness of the difficulties which confront them. But at least these difficulties are symptomatic not of stagnation but of progress and the result of courageous attempts to grapple with problems which I do not doubt can and will be solved by the continued and well directed co-operation of all. The pressing necessity of the moment is restoration of the financial equilibrium. It is only on the firm rock of a sound financial system that the foundations of economic development can be well and truly laid. Consolidation of the gains already won in this field must be the prelude to the further and ordered advance which I trust will not cease until this great undeveloped member of the EMPIRE, so rich in historic associations shall no longer deserve Milton's epithet—'yet unspoiled'."

Five years after that Message was delivered to the people of the Colony by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I am sorry to say, the financial position of the Colony is actually worse. When the Constitution was changed it was the hope of everyone that something would be done to rehabilitate the finances of the Colony and to bring about prosperity. We have not seen that up to this moment. The hon. Member for Eastern Berbice referred to drainage and irrigation. To my mind the salvation of the country lies on that. However, I propose to deal as I go along with one or two matters, but bearing in mind what the Secretary of State said I am actuated to speak on a few other matters.

In reading your excellent address, sir, I could not quite understand the portion of it which relates to the deficit. I understand that the deficit for this year is around \$414,000. In a statement which I have here the deficit for last year is given as \$700,000, but in your Speech I see a sum of \$480,000 rather than \$700,000. However, that does not make very much difference. The point is that in 1934 there was a deficit of over \$400,000 and for this year there is another deficit of \$400,000: and I see expenditure increasing without any development work being done of a productive nature. I have taken the pains to compare the Estimates for this year with the Estimates ten years ago, and I find, much to my surprise, that the expenditure on the Department of Agriculture alone has gone up by \$35,000 roughly with practically no increasing benefit to the Colony as a whole. I am rather surprised that this expenditure has been allowed to increase year after year. I have the greatest admiration for the Director of Agriculture. He is an excellent officer in his way, but I do not think—and I hope he will pardon me—that he is the type of officer who is admirably suited to the conditions of British Guiana.

I propose to make bold statements, and I wish them to be examined carefully. That the expenditure on the Agricultural Department has been increased by \$35,000 during the last ten years with practically no corresponding benefit is a matter seriously to be considered. We had Professor Harrison as Director of Agriculture

and Government Analyst drawing the same pay as the Director of Agriculture. To-day we have a Government Analyst who is drawing a salary of \$300 a month, and with this added on we see how the increase has been brought about. From its financial position this cannot be rated a first-class Colony; it is better to call it a fifth-class Colony. As a young businessman I propose to approach these matters from a business point of view. I recommend very strongly that we should employ officers whom the Colony can afford to pay. We should not employ people with first class qualifications in a fifth-class Colony, and I recommend that the Director of Agriculture and other officials be transferred to other Colonies on promotion. If we cannot pay a Director of Agriculture how can we pay a Deputy? These are matters that will have to be considered, and we have a long time to consider them. These officers have been employed under the laws of the Colony, and I am not suggesting that we should send them away at once, but I am suggesting that efforts should be made and when opportunities present themselves they should be promoted to other parts of the Empire.

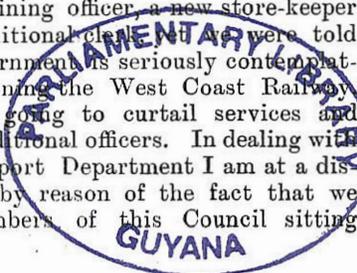
I come now to the Public Works Department. I find that a new post has been put on the Estimates during the Committee stage. I am sorry I was absent that afternoon, but I strongly object to the appointment. I am not aware that Government propose to embark on any large building programme, and the remarks I made with regard to the Director of Agriculture apply with equal force to the Director of Public Works. We cannot afford to pay these salaries, and when we pay them they make us budget for a deficit and raise loans to cover those deficits.

The same remarks also apply to the Transport and Harbours Department. In that Department it is proposed to appoint a new training officer, a new store-keeper and an additional clerk. We were told that Government is seriously contemplating abandoning the West Coast Railway. You are going to curtail services and employ additional officers. In dealing with the Transport Department I am at a disadvantage by reason of the fact that we have Members of this Council sitting

on the Board of that Department. I do not know what is the opinion of those Members, but I urge on every Elected Member that something should be done to ensure unanimity in our ranks, failing which I can see no hope for this Colony. The Department has budgeted for a deficit of \$133,000 in 1936, yet we find hard-headed business men, some of them Elected Members of this Council, allowing new appointments to be put on the Estimates. It may be that I will get an explanation during the session, but I cannot agree and offer my humble protest to further expenditure.

The Poor Vote has been increased by \$5,200. What is the reason for that?—unemployment, and people who are themselves unemployed have to make provision to maintain sick and aged relatives. If a proper development programme is formulated we might be able to reduce the Poor Vote and pay officials higher salaries. When the Colony was prosperous we paid higher salaries and personal emoluments were increased; but the Colony is not at present in a position to vote additional money for the Poor, and I appeal to Your Excellency that something should be done to develop the Colony. Other speakers have stressed that point and I shall not say more on the subject at the moment.

I come now to District Commissioners, one of whom we have sitting around this table. During the sittings of the Select Committee certain Members expressed the view that the whole District Administration Scheme should "go," while others stated that there was too much duplication of work. I was one of those who were of the opinion that the District Administration Scheme should go, but after listening to what was said in its favour and making further enquiries I have changed my mind. I am not in favour of the abolition of the Scheme, but I do urge that expenditure in that direction should be greatly reduced. I believe that there is no necessity for a District Commissioner in Georgetown. Some two years ago there was some dispute on the East Bank District and the District Commissioner of the East Coast District attended to that dispute and settled it. There is too much duplication of work. Fees payable to the Lands and Mines



Department are paid to the District Commissioners and letters pass between the two for the collection of these fees. I suggest that there should be little or no duplication and urge that some economy can be effected in the District Administration Scheme. In Essequibo, for instance, it is not necessary to have a District Commissioner, or the duties can be combined with those of some other officer and one person do the work of both. There is far too little work for a District Commissioner there.

My next point relates to Personal Allowances. I should be the last person to suggest that competent officials should not be paid adequately. There are one or two officers who really deserve a personal allowance, but I cannot conceive of others getting an allowance. I refer particularly to the Inspector-General of Police. That officer gets a fair salary, free quarters, and I understand free servants and free uniform. I may be wrong as regards servants and uniform, but statements have been made in the Press regarding these matters and I speak subject to correction. In any case I urge on Government the withdrawal of these personal allowances and the transfer of the officers elsewhere.

As regards Education I stand wholly in favour of Government's educational policy. I should like to see intelligent, healthy people in this Colony, and recent results have demonstrated that necessity quite clearly. Unless we have healthy and intelligent people in the Colony the money spent on education will have to be spent in other directions. I am in favour of making teachers' salaries better; to my mind the teachers are the poorest paid people in the community. I do not agree with those of my colleagues who consider that the Education Vote should be reduced; in fact, it should be increased, and the Colony would benefit thereby. Those of us who confuse primary education with secondary education are making a very great mistake. Primary education should be given to one and all free and we shall then have everything far more orderly than they are at present. I go further and suggest that there should be a few more schools in certain parts of the Colony where small children have to travel several miles to attend school and some of these schools are overcrowded.

When the question of the Canals Polder was under discussion this morning Your Excellency told us that you are prepared to accept the advice of your technical officers. No one can take exception to that, sir, but if your technical advisers have failed for 25 years on a particular scheme, is it not advisable to get the assistance of others who may be able to advise you? The two canals have never been able to drain the Polder, and we are told that the proposed expenditure is to deepen these canals. When the canals were deep conditions were worse, and if you deepen them now I fear conditions would be still worse. As a member of the Polder Authority for two years I take a very keen interest in its affairs, and I cannot understand why these canals should be deep and wide when smaller canals would be of better advantage not only to the people concerned but to the community as a whole. Something should be done to give the people in the Canals Polder an opportunity to start new industries, such as coffee and tobacco, but unless the Polder is properly drained nothing can be done to create development there.

I notice that in his review the Secretary of State points out that unless higher grades of coffee are shipped to the United Kingdom we cannot hope to get remunerative prices. This is a matter that particularly interests me, because my constituents are large coffee producers, and I urge on you, sir, that not only in the Canals Polder but in other areas permanent crops should be encouraged rather than discouraged. I read in the Press that Government was not in a position to help to erect a suitable coffee factory in the Canals Polder. At present there is an excellent factory in the North West District run by private enterprise, but it is too small to handle the production. I ask you, sir, to do everything possible to encourage the erection of a suitable factory not only in the Canals Polder but also in the North West District and the Pomeroun, so that the excellent idea of a single seller scheme should be properly worked. I am wholly in favour of any scheme for the development of the country, and in pleading for the coffee producers I ask that early steps be taken to create a single seller. Tobacco is another product that should be encouraged, and the North West District offers ample scope for its development.

I also ask Government to consider an early revision of the tariff system. It is not possible to revise the system now, but I urge that every opportunity should be given the people to make and sell articles that can be produced in the Colony. It would provide employment for a large number of people who cannot now find employment or make two ends meet. I have in mind particularly articles like underwear. The tariff system should be changed so that articles of clothing which are imported can be taxed at a higher rate than similar articles made in the Colony. At some other time I will ask that a Committee be appointed for tariff reform so that money which now leaves the Colony will remain here for the benefit of those who are suffering.

Coming to the financial position, as I said earlier, when the Constitution was being changed it was stated that there would be financial improvement and development. I have seen a statement showing that the financial position is getting worse. I shall just read the Public Debt charges for the last five years from which it will be seen that the Public Debt is growing all the time. In 1930 these charges were £275,623 as against £257,000 the previous year; in 1931, £283,946; in 1932, £278,354; in 1933, £281,517; and in 1934, £292,633. Practically one million and a half dollars of the Colony's revenue goes to Public Debt charges, yet I see expenditure is being increased and practically no provision being made to increase revenue. The people are being taxed to the utmost; they cannot bear any additional burden of taxation. Other avenues have to be explored, and I suggest that other avenues be explored whereby the revenue might be increased.

One suggestion which I have to make is a tax on pensioners who do not reside in the Colony. They have earned their pensions in a measure by serving here, and I think it is only fair that pensioners who reside here and are contributing to taxation should be protected. That would help us in some measure. I suggest also that some arrangement be made by which money leaving the Colony should be taxed. How it is to be done I am not in a position to suggest at the moment, but it is within our ability to suggest these

measures. Further, I appeal to Your Excellency to ask the Secretary of State to relieve us of sea defence expenditure. If this Colony was run by a single individual and he was unable to meet that expenditure he would have abandoned the coastlands and gone further inland. The sea has to be kept out and it is a severe burden on the taxpayers that on a loan of \$7,000,000 a sum of \$300,000 has to be found every year to meet interest charges. I also suggest the reduction of salaries by offering the parties concerned promotion to other Colonies and a revision of existing salaries. If that is done I have no doubt that from next year the Colony would be able to balance its budget and we would be able to see prosperity.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not intend taking up very much time at this stage because, as we go through the Estimates, an opportunity will be afforded me to draw attention to certain items. Like the other speakers I must thank you, sir, for the very candid exposition of the Colony's position. We have it plainly put before us that we have no money and that we are going on in debt without any prospect of how we are going to escape. That is how I view the situation as adumbrated in your Speech. Your Excellency shakes your head. I am glad if I misunderstand or misapprehend some of the expressions used. Perhaps they are due to candour which could not allow you to conceal certain phases of your remarks. What am I to understand, sir, when you say "In the course of this address I have tried to indicate in terms of time, albeit indefinite terms, how emergence from our difficulties can be foreseen?" When that time comes—an indefinite time—we will be all in another place. One looks for even a solitary ray of hope, and I confess that disappointment stares one in the face.

I cannot conceive of anything more doomed to disappointment than Your Excellency's idea of training ex-convicts to become gold-diggers. You will want for every prisoner there two warders. You have 40 prisoners in Georgetown with two warders, and you propose to take prisoners into the forest with two warders. That is what Government has put forward as some attempt at progress of development. What hope can anyone have of making a confirmed rogue

and vagabond or a thief an honest man by giving him an outfit of tools and expect him to become a gold-digger. Whoever thinks so thinks what never was and never will be. I quite appreciate that it would be a good thing to have prisoners working on the road there rather than in Georgetown doing nothing. Captain Baker built 40 miles of road in the interior with convict labour, but he took care to take the convicts back to prison every night. I hope Government will see its way to abandon this proposal because it is impracticable and even undesirable. There are a number of honest and hard-working men willing and glad to work, and given the same facilities they would do better than prisoners. These convicts will sell their tools and return to Georgetown and resume their stealing.

Government has suggested an increase of the Education Vote. Nobody will ever have a word to say against that. It is to be regretted that we cannot spend larger sums. There might be some remarks to be made, not with respect to the amount that is being spent but with respect to the manner in which it is spent. We are not at all satisfied with the education in the Colony, but as I shall have something to say on the subject when the proper time comes I pass on. The Agricultural Department does not justify the expenditure on it. We have not got a single new crop. We have rice and cane growing without the aid of the Department, which is top-heavy and too expensive for us here. If the coastlands were drained and irrigated produce that cannot be sold or is not good enough for marketing can be used to feed pigs. Government intend to use primary schools for training boys in carpentry and masonry and for teaching girls washing and cooking. The school is not the place for vocational training and it would be a pity if Government persist in that policy.

Coming now to the Transport and Harbours Department, Your Excellency states "I have asked the Board to consider the advisability of spending any further money on replacements and renewals of the West Coast Railway. Should the report be adverse to such expenditure the only course would be to allow this railway to run itself to death and to permit the further development of road traffic facilities to Parika." That is a most astounding pro-

position. This railway is reported to be the oldest railway in South America, but although the oldest it still remains the shortest. The railway was purchased at considerable cost and we are still paying interest on the expenditure, yet the suggestion is to scrap that portion of it because it cannot compete with a few buses. If it becomes necessary put a tax of \$1,000 on the buses. The suggestion is repugnant. What is Government doing in allowing all these buses and trollies to come into the Colony? They are impoverishing the Colony, and I look forward to the day when Government will impose such a tax that they would be driven off the road. I think the question of raising the licence on buses should be taken in hand at once, coupling with it the prevention of buses running in any district parallel with the railway. Can Government's advisers and experts not exercise their minds and do a little original thinking? It makes one shudder to think that Government is so inert. Government is even competing with itself in allowing the steamers to take goods to Parika that should be taken by the railway.

I hope Government will reconsider its decision in regard to Essequibo. A member of a previous Council, Mr. Basil Winter, said that unless Government took more interest in Essequibo it would soon become a howling wilderness. At a later period another Member, the late Mr. R. G. Duncan, stated that Government's interest in Essequibo was so scant that unless more interest was taken in it the place would soon become a dense forest. Those were individuals who knew Essequibo in its halcyon days. One wonders whether Government cannot do something to save Essequibo. You cannot transplant a tree at 50 and expect it to thrive, and you cannot transplant a man at that age and expect him to thrive either. I do not know who is responsible for advising Your Excellency that labourers in Essequibo can find work on estates elsewhere. I say in all sincerity that that information is incorrect.

For some years now not one estate has been able to employ all the labour it has. If so, why three days a week to a man? And why should men leave their homes at one and three o'clock in the morning and long before the price is fixed the work is

nearly finished? If they did not do that there would be nothing for them to do. And that obtains on some of the best estates. The estates have mechanised most of what they have to do both in field and factory. Where before they engaged 30 men they now engage four. Because of mechanisation and other factors, coupled with low prices, that position exists. One might ask: What is Government to do? A progressive Government in such a case would start, first of all, by reducing its most necessary institutions, not increasing them, and when you have done that you want increased production. Government would go further and abolish its luxury Departments, many of which exist in this Colony, in order to save Essequibo. When Government has done that it will then begin to spend every penny so saved in reanimating the unproducing portion of the country. To tell us of abandoning Essequibo in the way Government has done savours of the action of a tradesman who does not understand his job, and that being the case he sells his tools. I am asking Government to do something to save the Essequibo Coast.

Your Excellency is a new-comer to the Colony, but what of your advisers who have been here for 10 or 12 years? When a new Governor comes they advise him wrongly—I do not say wilfully. When Government thought it necessary to make a readjustment of the status of officers certain people were left out and we were told that another grade would be made for them. These people have been asking over and over again what has become of that promise. Government has now given them a nightmare by the announcement that Major Bain Gray has been appointed to draft recommendations for the revision of the list of pensionable posts. Major Bain Gray is an excellent officer, and a very clever man, but he is only human and, unfortunately, I do not think the fate of the whole Civil Service should be placed in the hands of one man. There is plenty of anxiety over the question. The last man I would ask to be put in the hands of is Major Bain Gray. A responsible position such as this—the revision of the pension list and the drafting of such an important revision—should certainly be in the hands of more than a single individual. I respectfully submit that. More than that plenty of law is involved

in the several Ordinances governing pensions and leave of officials. An attempt was made by some of Your Excellency's predecessors to make a European Civil List and a Native Civil List, but they found a Tartar. You cannot differentiate in that way. If this revision is an attempt to make a West Indian or Creole Civil List as against a European Civil List it is not going to pass muster in this country.

I have come to the end of the remarks I desire to make on Your Excellency's address. These are remarks which concern Your Excellency more than your advisers or officers. There are things which should be left to Your Excellency yourself. I have endeavoured to say all I wanted to say in as temperate a manner as possible, and I urge Government to give some consideration to the points I have endeavoured to make. The whole country is very perturbed over the fact that there is not a ray of hope for its development in the immediate future when there is great need for such development.

Motion put, and agreed to.

THE CHAIRMAN: I propose to follow generally the Report of the Select Committee in putting the Heads and sub-heads to the Council, but that, of course, will not preclude any Member from speaking on any one of the sub heads.

LEGISLATURE.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am asking Government to make item 4 (Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Allowance of Members of the Councils whilst engaged on the business of the Councils, \$250) \$720. I am making the request on the strength of a promise—which is not binding on Your Excellency or on this House—of the Officer Administering the Government at the last annual session. There was a time when there was a vote for the purpose of providing luncheon for Members of the Council, and I think that Members of the House at that time will agree with me that if there was anything that saved Government's time and brought Members together and made us understand each other's and Government's point of view it was the luncheon. Everybody met there and exchanged views and, as I said, understood each other's point of view by dis-

cussing matters dispassionately. I am asking Government to redeem that promise.

THE CHAIRMAN: While I have no doubt that hon. Members will sympathise with the hon. Member in his desire to shorten the debates of the House, I am afraid I cannot give effect to his suggestion.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I want you to put it to the House, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will realise that he is not in order in moving an increase of the sub-head, but I am prepared to put the amendment if the hon. Member wishes me to do so.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am asking Government to leave the Official Members free to vote as they like.

THE CHAIRMAN: That request I cannot accede to.

The votes under this Head were then formally agreed to.

AGRICULTURE.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Is item 2 (Deputy Director of Agriculture, \$4,320) a new appointment? I understand it is not. Anyhow, to be consistent with what I said before about Government reducing its necessary institutions, I move that this sub-head be deleted. I think this Department has grown out of all proportion to actual results. It is correct that this is a useful Department and that we have got some small benefit from it. We have different strains of rice and the quality of several species has improved, but an increase of \$35,000 in expenditure on this Department in 10 years is certainly a monstrous sum to ask a country that is verging on bankruptcy and cannot balance its budget to meet from year to year. We must cut our coat according to the measure. This is one of the Departments that ought to be reduced, and one can do no better than retrench the Deputy so that the Director himself will do a little more work and a little less talk and a little less codifying of reports. I ask Government to help us to reduce expenditure by accepting the amendment.

Mr. SEYMOUR: I am not in agreement with the hon. Member. It is no fault of the Agricultural Department, and I think there is no good cheeseparing. The only thing I can foresee to reduce expenditure is that something drastic has to be done, but nothing drastic can be done in this way and next year we should put our heads together and see what can be done both to promote development and to reduce expenditure.

The Committee divided on the item and voted:—

Ayes—Messrs. Jackson, Seymour, King, Crum Ewing, Humphrys, Walcott, Peer Bacchus, Austin, Dr. Singh, De Aguiar, Gonsalves, Wight, Dr. DeFreitas, Laing, Major Craig, D'Andrade, Seaford, Mullin, McDavid, Woolford, Luckhoo, Professor Dash, Major Bain Gray, Dias, Smellie, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—27.

Noes—Messrs. Jacob and Eleazar—2.

Item 7—5 Agricultural Superintendents, \$13,738.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I do not think the question was asked at the meetings of the Select Committee whether there is likely to be a vacancy under this sub-head, but the opinion has been expressed that as soon as a vacancy occurs the number of Superintendents might be reduced by one.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture): There are no vacancies and none is likely to occur.

Item 8—Plant Breeder, \$2,880.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I beg to move the deletion of this item. When this item came up for consideration last year a compromise was reached. This officer, whose salary was previously paid out of money contributed to this Colony, found his way on the Estimates. The item was then placed above the line, but, as I said, a compromise was reached and the salary of the officer was eventually voted below the line. Now we find that it has made a very big jump and is again placed above the line. I have heard nothing to justify the appointment of this officer, and for that reason I move that the item be deleted.

Mr. SEYMOUR: I am afraid I have

to disagree with the hon. Member. If we are going to produce high-class padi in this Colony, which is the backbone of the rice industry, it is essential that we should retain the services of this officer, and, speaking on behalf of the Rice Association in Essequebo, we must retain his services for another five years.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I agree with the hon. Member for Central Demerara as to the decision reached last year. I do not think the hon. Member is opposing the officer being placed below the line, and in moving the deletion of the item I think he will consent to the officer being placed below the line.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: My colleagues are endeavouring to draw me out instead of assisting me in what I am trying to achieve. This officer came out on a three-year agreement and we paid not a penny of his salary. Members of the Council were told "This officer is not going to cost you a penny; the money is being provided from a fund." His three years have expired and we find him now being put on the Fixed Establishment. Is it proposed to keep the officer here, and for what period? The original idea was that he should only be here for three years. Is the officer going to be a permanent charge on the Colony?

THE CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. Member tell us what his own intention is? Does he wish this officer to disappear or placed below the line?

Mr. DE AGUIAR: If Government feel that the officer should remain here for a further period of three years, I am in favour of his remaining below the line.

THE CHAIRMAN: Government's view regarding the officer is that the post is necessary now and will be necessary in the future in view of the fact that it is essential to the second agricultural industry of the Colony.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Then I am against the item entirely.

Mr. SEYMOUR: My view is that the officer should be retained under contract, which would dispense with the liability of a lump sum and pension.

Mr. ELEAZAR: This officer came here for three years. Government is now making his employment permanent and, more than that, putting him as a pensionable officer at once. We complain about matters of this kind and are satisfied, no matter what Government experts choose to tell us. The rice industry was not built up by the Agricultural Department and its technical officers but by the ordinary East Indians. Already we have a galaxy of technical men, and we are now asked for another with pension rights, to which we will soon be asked to add a house allowance. I am supporting the deletion of the item and I ask Government to sympathise with us and accept the amendment.

Professor DASH: It is rather unfortunate that the hon. Member for Berbice River did not attend the meetings of the Select Committee as I am quite sure that he would have been much better informed on the duties of this officer. Last year we had quite an extended debate about this officer. I took the trouble then to go very fully into the history of the assistance which the Colonial Development Fund had provided for the benefit of the rice industry. I went over the whole ground showing what had been done up to the point we considered we could make no further progress in our rice breeding work and selection without the services of a qualified officer trained in the study of Genetics and Higher Mathematics in order to combine the different varieties with a view to getting out something highly suitable. I endeavoured to put it in as simple language as possible so that hon. Members could appreciate the work the officer is doing. For that purpose I also brought here a large number of strains that had been worked up and had been on the point of being tested with a view to their being adopted as a commercial proposition in the Colony.

The Council resumed and adjourned until the following day at 11 o'clock.