

BRITISH GUIANA

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMISSIONER FOR CO-OPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1958.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

PART I - INTRODUCTION

The year 1958 marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Co-operative Department in British Guiana. It has been the policy of the department to emphasise thrift as the basis of the Co-operative Movement and to establish societies where the need exists and where the people are willing to manage them with the assistance of the staff of the department.

The principal functions of the department are -

- (a) To encourage and develop the Co-operative Movement on the soundest lines.
- (b) To survey the need for co-operative societies and to organise and register them.
- (c) To facilitate the formation of societies by the provision of suitable model rules or by-laws and to devise systems of accounting suitable to each type of society.
- (d) To assist and advise the societies in their operations, management and accounting.
- (e) To inspect regularly the books and records of societies and to audit them annually.
- (f) To train voluntary leaders and provide general education in co-operative activities.
- (g) To settle disputes touching the business of the societies in accordance with the law and
- (h) To liquidate the societies when necessary.

It is perhaps fitting to re-state after ten years of work in the field that the ends of Co-operation are economic rather than social. Section 4 of the Co-operative Societies Ordinance, Chap. 326 defines a co-operative society as one which "has as its objects the promotion of the economic interests of its members in accordance with co-operative principles." In this connection the present attachment of the department to the Ministry of Trade & Industry is more in keeping with its functions and is in line with other territories where the ministerial system is in vogue. The department was previously attached to the former Ministry of Local Government and Social Welfare.

The rainfall recorded in 1958 was 61.83 inches as compared with 59.19 inches in 1957. The country nevertheless produced 100,519 tons of padi in 1958 valued at \$182,275 (£37,974) as compared with 57,500 valued at \$103,049 (£21,469) in 1957. The 1958 figure was a record.

The precarious financial condition in which many agricultural thrift and credit societies were left as a result of the drought experienced in 1957 was much improved by the favourable rice harvest of 1958. Farmers were faced with the problem of having to repay advances for two years out of a single crop and their efforts in this respect has been commendable.

There were more indications during the year that co-operative societies would play an important role in the development of new agricultural lands.

Following upon the decision of the sugar estates to create stabilised labour forces, many sugar workers found themselves without gainful occupation. Three estates made available to a number of retrenched workers a total of 1,214 acres of land for agricultural purposes.

A Rice Committee was appointed by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Patrick Renison, K.C.M.G., during the previous year to make recommendations for increasing the future efficiency of the rice industry. The committee met during the year under the chairmanship of His Excellency the Governor and at 31st December, its work had been concluded but its report had not yet been published. It was expected that the committee's recommendations would have some bearing on the work of agricultural thrift and credit societies, the majority of which were concerned with the rice industry.

Moderate progress was made in the mechanisation of small farms by co-operative action; this aspect of development was still however at the stage of experiment.

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During the year, the numerical inadequacy of the staff to cope with the demands of a constantly growing movement was clearly demonstrated. Full attention could not be given to educational work which is so essential to a sound movement.

Towards the end of the year, the indications were that the position would worsen rather than improve, and it may be necessary in the not too distant future to apply some measure of control slight though it may be to the formation of new societies. Some directions in which the Co-operative Movement could possibly develop were still not fully explored. Special reference must be made to the marketing and the processing of agricultural crops.

PART II - GENERAL PROGRESS

The year has been one of continued progress. At 31st December, 1957, there were 538 registered societies and the figures at the end of this year showed a net increase of 11. The number of new societies registered was 28 but the registration of 17 was cancelled. Of the 549 societies on the register at the end of the year, 547 were primary and 2 secondary. Total membership increased by 4,253 to 36,910 and total share capital by \$140,279 (£29,225) to approximately \$784,435 (£163,424). The Reserve Fund at 31st December, 1958, stood at \$32,664 (£6,805) as compared with \$22,034 (£4,590) at the end of 1957.

The main activity of the co-operative societies continued to be in the field of agricultural credit where substantial progress was recorded. They are working consciously towards the stage where they would own a substantial part of the funds required for meeting the credit needs of their members. Share capital increased by \$35,631 (£7,423) to \$222,088 (£46,268).

Efforts to further develop co-operative marketing in the North West and Pomeroy districts were moderately successful; this was partly due to a high degree of collaboration between the Government Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture and the staff of this department. The marketing society at Mabaruma increased its sales as well as the variety of the produce handled over the 1957 figures. The society which are the

agents of the Government Marketing Division also became the shipping agents of the Transport and Harbours Department. In the Pomeroon an experiment was begun with the marketing of coffee; in this instance the Government Marketing Division became the agent of the society which made small shipments of coffee to Holland.

The development of consumer co-operative societies received a set-back with the publication of an order for the cancellation of the registration of the Police Consumers' Co-operative Society Ltd. which had gained the admiration of many Guianese. This was preceded by the cessation of the trading operations of a number of consumer societies organised among the workers of sugar estates. There is now strong evidence to support the view that the knowledge required for the successful management of consumer societies must have as its foundation previous experience gained from other forms of co-operative activity.

Lack of adequate staff and the absence of transportation facilities, curtailed the development of co-operatives in the Berbice River and hampered the supervision of the existing societies; it can only be hoped that this situation would not continue for much longer.

The following table shows the progress of the Movement over the two five-year periods beginning with the establishment of the department in 1948.

TABLE I

Year	Number of Societies	Number of Members	Savings, Shares and/or Deposits	Reserve Fund
1948	12	756	\$ 2,949 (£614)	\$ Nil
1953	254	8,481	187,264 (£30,013)	7,087 (£1,476)
1958	549	36,040	784,435 (£163,424)	32,664 (£6,805)

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The following table shows by counties, the primary co-operative societies in existence at 31st December, 1958, with their membership, savings, shares and/or deposits and reserve funds.

TABLE II

PRIMARY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES - 1958.

Type of Society	NO. OF SOCIETIES				Membership	Savings, Shares and/or Deposits	Reserve Fund
	Berbice	Demerara	Essequibo	Total			
						\$	\$
Savings	7	24	14	45	1,456	13,053 (£2,719)	333 (£69)
Thrift Societies	31	59	13	103	2,753	173,303 (£36,105)	3,641 (£759)
School Thrift	48	60	25	133	13,303	93,022 (£19,379)	435 (£91)
Thrift & Credit	59	64	28	151	11,824	222,088 (£46,268)	11,242 (£2,341)
Consumers	10	8	3	21	3,010	87,583 (£18,246)	9,507 (£1,981)
Producer/Marketing	14	11	12	37	1,470	35,274 (£7,349)	6,691 (£1,392)
Land Lease/ Land Purchase	13	5	5	23	1,673	116,052 (£24,177)	86 (£18)
Farm Supply	1	4	4	9	378	1,908 (£397)	194 (£40)
Fishermen	3	7	3	13	388	3,967 (£826)	83 (£17)
Transport	--	1	1	2	33	4,731 (£986)	452 (£94)
Housing	--	1	--	1	285	32,510 (£6,773)	Nil
General Purpose	8	1	--	9	337	944 (£197)	Nil
TOTAL	194	245	108	547	36,910	784,435 (£163,424)	32,664 (£6,805)

PART III - CENTRAL FINANCE

The B.G. Credit Corporation continued to provide agricultural credit to co-operative societies registered under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance, Chap. 326 thereby fulfilling the principal need which should be served by a Central Bank for Co-operatives.

During the year under review the sum of \$441,414 (£91,961) was advanced by the Corporation to co-operative societies and of this amount the sum of \$380,135 (£79,195) was loaned on short term exclusively for agricultural purposes.

PART IV - PRIMARY SOCIETIESSavings Societies:

The principal object of a savings society is to accumulate funds for future use in some productive venture. The registration of 3 societies was cancelled thereby reducing the number to 45.

At the end of the year, the 45 societies had a combined membership of 1,456 and savings totalling \$13,053 (£2,719).

Thrift Societies:

The number of societies was reduced by 6 to 103. Membership in these societies was 2,753 and ordinary and special savings increased by \$16,932 (£3,528) to approximately \$173,303 (£36,105). These societies are designed to meet the needs of regular salary and wage earners and the majority of them were organised in urban areas or among school teachers. They emphasise the value of thrift but also grant loans on reasonable terms. At the beginning of the year, loans outstanding totalled \$76,160 (£15,867). During the year, loans granted totalled \$89,837 (£18,716) and repayments were \$72,171 (£15,036). At 31st December, \$93,826 (£19,547) was outstanding of which approximately \$14,221 (£2,963) was overdue.

The following table shows the financial position of the thrift societies for the year 1958 as compared with 1957.

TABLE III

THRIFT SOCIETIES

Year	No. of Societies	No. of Members	Shares and/or Ordinary Savings	Deposits & or Special Savings	Loans Granted	Loans Repaid	Balance Outstanding
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1958	103	2,753	166,067 (£34,597)	7,236 (£1,507)	89,837 (£18,716)	72,171 (£15,036)	93,826 (£19,547)
1957	109	3,183	147,364 (£30,701)	8,507 (£1,772)	66,216 (£13,795)	45,904 (£ 9,563)	76,160 (£15,867)

The city offers greatest scope for the development of thrift societies and requests are always being received for the formation of such societies in business firms and government departments.

Thrift & Credit Societies:

These societies are organised in both urban and rural districts. The rural societies grant loans for agricultural purposes and are partly financed by the B.G. Credit Corporation. At the 31st December, 1958, there were 101 rural and 50 urban societies, a total of 151 as compared with 149 at the end of 1957. Membership increased from 10,174 in 1957 to 11,824 in 1958 and shares from \$186,457 (£38,845) to \$222,088 (£46,268). Deposits by members stood at \$5,862 (£1,221).

Loans outstanding at the beginning of the year amounted to \$533,129 (£111,069). Loans totalling \$511,970 (£106,660) were granted during the year and \$447,919 (£93,316) was repaid. The amount outstanding at 31st December, was approximately \$597,180 (£124,413) of which approximately \$181,082 (£37,725) was overdue. The substantial increase in the amount overdue is accountable to the severe drought experienced during 1957, but it is anticipated that when the 1958 harvest has been completely processed and sold the position would show considerable improvement.

The following table shows by comparison the position of thrift and credit societies at the end of the years 1955 to 1958.

TABLE IV

THRIFT AND CREDIT SOCIETIES

Year	Number	Members	Shares	Deposits	Loans Granted	Loans Repaid	Balance
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1955	141	8,483	123,400 (£25,708)	6,066 (£1,264)	441,500 (£91,979)	108,000 (£22,500)	386,000 (£80,417)
1956	151	9,107	143,154 (£29,824)	5,230 (£1,090)	392,502 (£81,771)	242,000 (£50,417)	484,500 (£100,938)
1957	149	10,174	186,457 (£38,845)	6,052 (£1,261)	430,088 (£89,602)	381,459 (£79,471)	533,129 (£111,069)
1958	151	11,824	222,088 (£46,268)	5,862 (£1,221)	511,970 (£106,660)	447,919 (£93,316)	597,180 (£124,413)

Arrears of Principal amounted to \$181,082
(£37,725) - 35.4% of the amount on loan at the end of 1958.
No figures are available regarding arrears of interest.

Agricultural Thrift & Credit Societies:

The suitability of co-operative thrift and credit societies as the system through which short term agricultural credit should be administered was considered at the Rice Committee referred to on page 2 of this report and the Committee agreed that the distribution of credit through co-operative thrift and credit societies should be continued and extended in preference to other possible systems.

These societies functioned fairly efficiently over the period under review and attracted 1,380 new members. During the year, 79 of these societies received \$380,135 (£79,195) from the B.G. Credit Corporation to assist members with their cultivation and reaping expenses. The 1958 rice crop was successful and this was mainly responsible for the satisfactory amount of \$405,116 (£84,399) being repaid to 31st December, 1958. At this date, a good portion of the crop was still to be processed.

The following table illustrates the financial position of the agricultural thrift and credit societies in respect of the years 1955 to 1958.

TABLE V

AGRICULTURAL THRIFT & CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Year	No. of Socs.	No. of Members	Share Capital	Deposits	Loans Granted	Loans Repaid	Balance Outstanding
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1955	89	5,042	41,875 (£8,724)	986 (£205)	359,222 (£74,838)	20,620 (£4,296)	281,336 (£58,612)
1956	94	5,995	50,741 (£12,446)	1,286 (£268)	356,544 (£74,280)	213,864 (£44,555)	424,016 (£88,337)
1957	96	6,842	81,901 (£17,063)	1,157 (£241)	384,248 (£80,052)	353,182 (£73,580)	455,082 (£94,809)
1958	101	8,222	103,034 (£31,465)	1,100 (£231)	380,135 (£79,195)	405,116 (£84,399)	430,101 (£89,604)

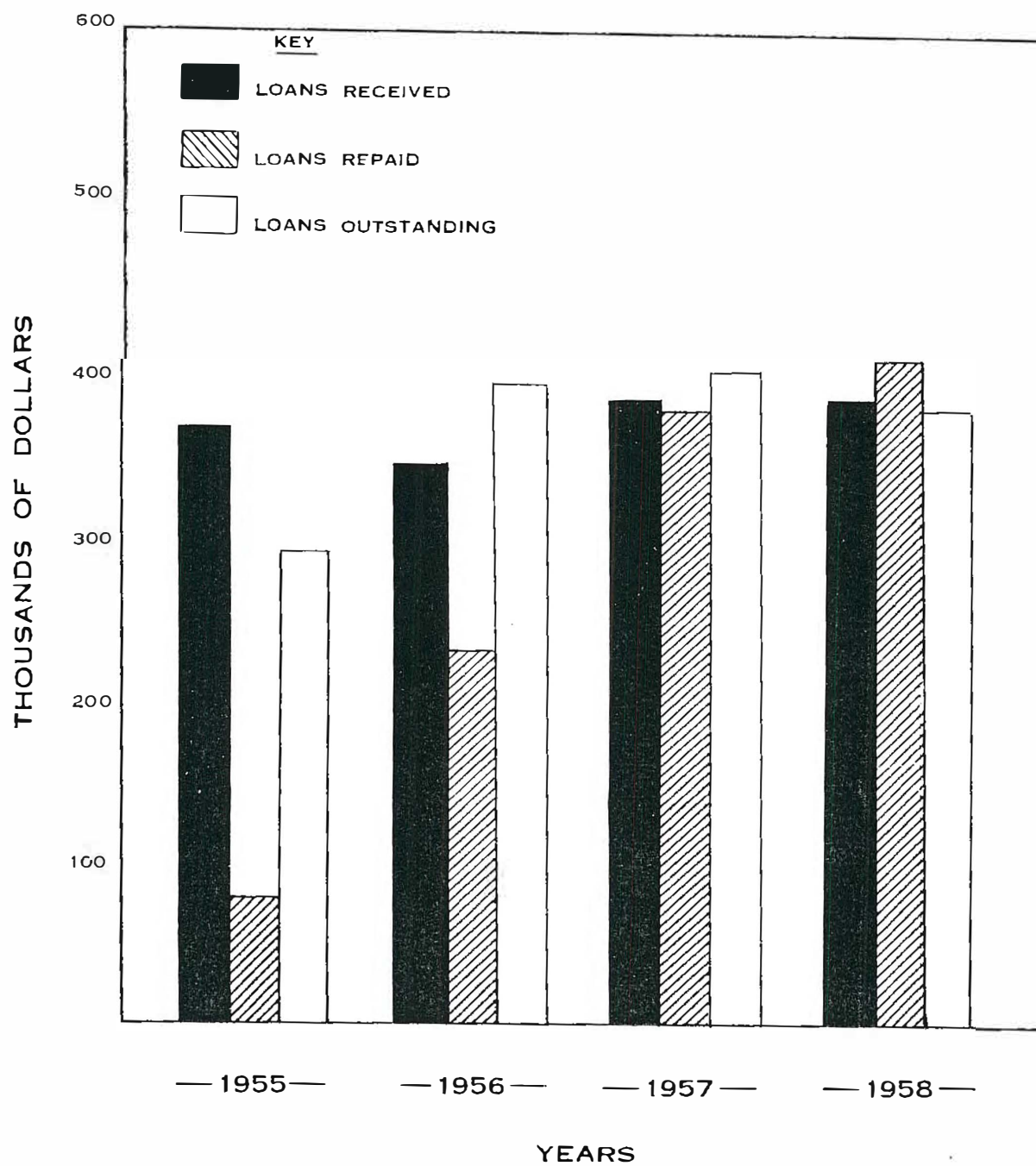
Pure line seed padi was, for the first time made available to farmers on a credit basis by the Department of Agriculture and the co-operative thrift and credit societies were used as the medium. Eight thousand, one hundred bags of seed padi valued at approximately \$71,000 (£14,792) were distributed through the societies. These societies issued promissory notes to the Director of Agriculture, the payment of which was guaranteed by the B.C. Credit Corporation.

The loan transactions of the societies with the B.C. Credit Corporation may be seen from the following table and graphically by the chart shown on the following page -

TABLE VI

Year	Amount Borrowed	Amount Repaid	Balance at 31st December
	\$	\$	\$
1955	360,154 (£75,032)	76,057 (£15,845)	284,097 (£59,197)
1956	335,480 (£69,894)	230,238 (£47,966)	389,348 (£81,114)
1957	385,525 (£80,317)	377,725 (£78,692)	397,148 (£82,739)
1958	380,135 (£79,195)	405,116 (£84,399)	372,167 (£77,535)

CHART



Loans were made to societies by the Corporation from special funds provided by the E.C. Rice Marketing Board to encourage and assist farmers in planting a larger than usual spring crop.

Many farmers including several outside of the usual spring crop zones took advantage of this facility in which special interest was evinced on all sides. In several districts, the crop failed owing to a shortage of water and the collection of the loans became a matter of some difficulty. Since the farmers were encouraged to borrow the money the usual urgency for making repayment was not recognised. Many also regarded the loans as a form of subsidy from the E.C. Rice Marketing Board.

Consumer Societies:

At 31st December, these societies numbered 21 as compared with 22 in 1957. Membership was 3,010 and share capital \$87,583 (£18,246). Sales by these societies during the year amounted to approximately \$334,254 (£69,636) as compared with \$631,946 (£133,655) recorded in 1957.

A continued downward trend in the affairs of six societies notably the Police Consumers' Co-operative Society Ltd. resulted in the cessation of the trading operations during the year. They became the victims of ever-lurking enemies - uncontrolled credit such as the granting of extensive credit. It was evident that inexperienced management was also a contributing factor. In the case of the Police Consumers the precipitate expansion of the society's activities contrary to the advice of the department put the business well out of their ability to manage and supervise. Creditors became restive over the large amounts owing to them and it became doubtful whether the standard of management would be able to ensure the protection of their interests. Liquidation was therefore the safest course to follow.

The five societies organised on sugar estates also ceased operations during the year and action towards their liquidation was being considered. Despite the patient educational work which preceded the launching of the stores, they proved too great a task for their inexperienced committees to manage.

It is now being generally accepted that consumer societies are a difficult proposition under circumstances prevailing in this country.

Producer Marketing Societies:

These are divided into four categories viz: Logging, Producer, Marketing and Machinery. At the end of the year, there were 37 societies as compared with 33 in 1957. Membership was 1,470 and share capital \$35,274 (£7,349).

The following are the particulars in each category:

Logging Societies:

The number of these societies was reduced by 1 to 8. Seven operated in the Berbice River District and one in the Pomeroon River, Essequibo. Five logging societies produced logs and other forest products to the value of \$20,554 (£4,282) on which royalty amounting to \$1,990 (£415) was paid. Two societies did no business. The society in the Pomeroon River hired equipment to its members and earned \$1,500 (£312) in fees from its members. At 31st December, total membership was 153 and share capital \$1,176 (£245).

For reasons previously mentioned the department was unable to provide adequate supervision to the societies in the Berbice River.

Small loggers play an important part in the production of timber but the marketing of logs presents much difficulty and hardship. Sawmillers take full advantage of the fact that once the logs reach their mills loggers have no alternative but to accept whatever prices the millers may offer, especially since most loggers have to depend upon them for their supplies. The societies in this district can therefore be extremely useful in assisting loggers with the marketing of their products. They however suffer from the disadvantage of being scattered over a wide area and from inexperienced leadership. The development of co-operatives in the Berbice River warrants the attention of a whole-time Co-operative Officer whose time should be devoted to intensive educational work and to assisting the societies especially in the marketing of their produce.

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Producer Societies:

There were eleven societies on the register at 31st December, 1958, and their activities consisted of the cultivation of padi and other food crops, livestock rearing and handicrafts. Membership was 198 and shares amounted to \$4,884 (£1,017). Three new societies functioned among Amerindians in the North West District. Their plans included the leasing of crown lands for communal livestock projects; two societies received financial assistance under the Rural Aided Self-Help Scheme to enable them to fence their holdings.

Marketing Societies:

The number of these societies on the register at 31st December, 1958, remained at 9. Two societies did no business and one was organised late in the year. Membership in 1958 was 953 and shares \$12,865 (£3,680).

Produce to the value of \$160,738 (£33,487) was marketed by 6 societies - the Mahacony Producers (Milk) \$23,869 (£4,973); the Rose Hall Cane Farmers (Sugar Cane) \$65,000 (£13,542); the North West Farm Produce (Citrus and ground provisions) \$56,894 (£11,853); the Moruka Producers (Coffee and copra) \$9,014 (£1,878); Beacon Poultry Rearers (Eggs) \$681 (£142); Pomeroy Farmers (Coffee) \$5,280 (£1,100).

Machinery Societies:

This type of society has been given a separate classification as there are indications that several more will be organised for the purchase of farm machinery. A number of farmers who formerly cultivated too large an area with inadequate means are now convinced that there are many advantages in getting together in co-operatives for the joint ownership of farm machinery. Four societies previously classified as producer societies are now shown under this head.

During the year, five new societies were registered and received loans totalling \$18,523 (£3,859) from the B.G. Credit Corporation to assist them with the purchase of agricultural machinery.

Membership in the 9 societies at 31st December, 1958, stood at 166 and share capital totalled \$17,283 (£3,600). Reserve Fund was \$266 (£55).

The following table summarises the position at 31st December of the Producer/Marketing Societies in respect of their number, members, share capital, the value of produce handled and services performed.

TABLE VII

Type	Number	Members	Share Capital	Value of Produce handled and services performed.
Logging	8	153	\$ 1,176 (£245)	\$ 20,554 (£4,282)
Producer	11	198	\$ 4,884 (£1,017)	\$ 1,290 (£219)
Marketing	9	953	\$ 12,865 (£2,680)	\$ 160,738 (£33,487)
Machinery	9	166	\$ 17,283 (£3,600)	\$ 10,678 (£2,225)
TOTAL	37	1,470	\$ 36,208 (£7,542)	\$ 193,260 (£40,262)

Land Lease and Land Purchase Societies:

These societies are organised among persons who are either landless or whose land-holdings are small and uneconomical. They acquire possession of blocks of land of varying sizes either by outright purchase or by lease from the government or private persons. The land is invariably new and overgrown with forest; this necessitates considerable preparation before it can be made productive and much capital is therefore required. The following problems present themselves to farmers organised into co-operative land societies:-

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- (a) the provision of effective drainage and irrigation,
- (b) the clearing of the land,
- (c) the provision of dams and bridges, and
- (d) deciding what crops to plant and preparing for the sowing of the first crop.

The provision of facilities for drainage and irrigation is a major problem for most societies since this involves long, arduous toil during which time farmers can maintain themselves and their families only with great difficulty and sacrifice.

The possibility of receiving a loan to effect this work is often remote since the lack of proper security restricts the credit field to the B.G. Credit Corporation. The Corporation itself is often unable to find the sums required although some assistance has been given in the past.

In some cases the society is able to overcome this difficulty in the second year by rapidly clearing a portion of the land and planting a crop on a risk basis during the first year.

Land clearance is usually done by the farmers but may sometimes require machinery for stumping. If however the society consists of persons who have been able to put aside savings, a small tractor may be acquired to assist. As the land is cleared cultivation takes place depending upon the availability of credit; dams and bridges are constructed and water-control is improved. After a few years the work is accomplished and the members have created something of immense value to themselves. At this point the distribution of the land may be undertaken if desired by the members after a qualified surveyor has been engaged. In every case where the course described above has not been followed, the results have been unsatisfactory and the operations of the societies have become more complex.

From observations made of the existing land societies it would appear that the development of new lands by co-operative societies besides being cheaper than other means, affords pride of achievement and a sense of ownership to the farmer. The system is being studied with a view to recommending the ways in which further assistance may be given these societies.

Some sugar estates have begun to release portions of unwanted lands to sugar workers who have become redundant as a result of their recent decision to stabilise their labour force. Three new societies came into being in this way during 1958.

Eleven new societies were registered during the year bringing the number to 23 as compared with 12 in 1957. The total membership stood at 1,673 and share capital amounted to \$116,052 (£24,177) as compared with \$75,412 (£15,711) in 1957; deposits amounted to \$2,866 (£597). The new societies secured possession of 8,050 acres of land. The total of arable land held by the 23 societies was 13,330 acres at the end of the year.

The existing societies made satisfactory progress in 1958; except in very few instances members cultivated their lands and obtained good crops; the lands were constantly being improved.

The day to day management of the societies presented many new problems to the committees who were gradually overcoming them. The society at Hopetown, West Coast Berbice acquired 1,000 acres of new lands by outright purchase and its members received a good autumn crop.

The new societies were busily engaged in clearing and preparing their holdings. The Macouba Co-operative Land Society Ltd. which cultivated on a communal basis was specially successful having reaped a good crop which enabled them to pay for their new machinery and to empolder and drain a large portion of their land. The society served as a model for prospective land groups in the County of Demerara.

Craftmen's Societies:

The first society of this type was organised during the year among Amerindians in the North West District who produced household furniture made from neesbee and coopa obtained in nearby forests.

Women's Societies:

The number of societies whose membership consisted only of women remained at 3. They were as follows:

- (i) The Carnegie Co-operative Thrift Society Ltd. organised among the staff of the Carnegie Trade School for Women.
- (ii) The B.G. Nurses' Association Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd. organised among nurses and midwives in Georgetown.
- (iii) The Mackenzie Housewives Co-operative Thrift Society Ltd. organised among housewives at Mackenzie City.

These societies did not differ in any respect from others of the same types and the fact that their members were all women was of no particular consequence.

OTHER SOCIETIESFarm Supply Societies:

At 31st December, there were 9 registered societies with a total membership of 378 and shares amounting to \$1,908 (£397); they provided their members with feeds and medicines for small stock and made sales totalling \$6,428 (£1,339).

Transport Societies:

The number increased from 1 to 2. The new society was organised in Leguan for transporting members' crops to Parika on the mainland coast and to Bartice where a ready market is available. The combined membership of the societies was 33 and share capital \$4,731 (£986). Fares received during the year totalled \$10,826 (£2,255).

Fishermen's Societies:

The number of these societies increased by 1 to 13. Their membership and shares were 388 and \$3,967 (£826) respectively. Three of these societies made sales to members totalling \$18,566 (£3,868).

One society, the East Canje Fishermen Co-operative was awarded the contract in 1958 to supply fish to the government institutions in New Amsterdam and its environs.

Housing Societies:

During the year one housing society came into existence. This was organised among members of the B.G. Civil Service Association. At 31st December, 1958, its membership and share capital were 285 and \$32,510 (£6,773) respectively; steps were being taken to acquire 66.074 English acres of land for development as a housing area. The society has good prospects of success.

General Purpose Societies:

At 31st December, 1958, the 9 societies on the register has a membership of 337 and shares totalled \$944 (£197). The majority of these societies has as their objects various forms of village betterment and received financial assistance from funds provided by Government under the Rural Aided Self-Help Scheme.

School Thrift Societies:

Thrift societies organised among school children increased by 1 to 133 in 1958 and continued to show satisfactory progress. Membership increased from 11,324 to 13,303. Savings amounted to \$93,022 (£19,379) as compared with \$77,475 (£16,141) in 1957. Seven societies were engaged in projects such as the bulk purchase of school books, uniforms and other supplies. The objects of these societies include the encouragement of thrift and the provision of training in co-operative principles, elementary book-keeping and simple economics.

PART V - SECONDARY SOCIETIES

The two secondary societies were the B.G. Co-operative Union Ltd. and the B.G. Co-operative Credit Union League Ltd.

The activities of the B.G. Co-operative Union Ltd. are mainly educational. During the year, the Minister for Trade and Industry (including Co-operatives) gave the first of a series of 24 weekly radio broadcasts which dealt with various aspects of Co-operation and featured the work of many societies. Considerable interest was created among co-operators as well as the general public. The Union also assisted the department with sponsoring three (3) training courses for personnel of co-operative societies and arranged ten (10) film shows in various rural districts. Two issues of its official organ "The Co-operator" were published. In accordance with its amended rules, societies paid affiliation fees to the Union for the first time in 1958; these fees amounted to \$475 (\$99). The staff of the Union consisted of a secretary, a clerical assistant and two supervisors, and it receives an annual subsidy of \$10,000 (£2,084) from the Government. During the year its membership increased from 248 to 284.

The Union approved of the organisation of Co-operative Development Councils with a view to decentralising its activities and to assist in carrying out its educational programme at district level. Two such councils were established during the year.

The B.G. Co-operative Credit Union League Ltd. organised to promote Credit Unions and to foster their interests, gained affiliation with the Credit Union National Association of the United States of America and this enabled members of affiliated societies to obtain loan insurance and other facilities. At the 31st December, 1958, the membership was 3.

PART VI EDUCATION IN CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

The department has pursued a policy of training continuously as far as resources permit and has been associated in this work with the British Guiana Co-operative Union Ltd. whose modest contribution has been appreciated.

Short courses have been organised in many places where groups of secretaries have attended; week-end seminars have also been held, although not often enough. The needs of secretaries are still not being adequately met because there is no regular programme. It is my opinion that the entire question of training hinges on the availability of a suitable officer who should deal exclusively with this aspect of co-operative development. There is no such officer in this department, and recent efforts to increase the staff in order to enable such an appointment have not been successful.

To withdraw an officer from field duties is not realistic in the present situation, and a new appointment to the staff of the department seems to be the only solution. This matter should be treated with the greatest urgency especially in view of the limited assistance which the British Guiana Co-operative Union Ltd. will be able to render for some time to come.

Government provides the sum of \$2,000 (£417) annually to meet the expenses of training, but the pre-occupation of the officers with their normal duties has severely limited training activities over the past few years and a large portion of that amount has lapsed annually.

The Co-operative Department recognises the responsibility to train members of societies, but in the light of the foregoing explanations has concentrated whatever time and other resources were available on the training of secretaries and committee members.

Staff Training:

Mr. R.A. Dowden, Senior Co-operative Officer, attended an I.C.A. observational course in Puerto Rico on agricultural co-operatives of one month's duration. Mr. D.E. Shepherd, Co-operative Officer left the colony to attend the 1958/59 Course for Colonial Co-operative Staff at the Co-operative College, Loughborough. Mr. F.U.F. Marks, Co-operative Officer, returned to the colony from a similar course in August. One new Co-operative Officer, Mr. J.C. Chin-a-Loy who was appointed to the staff in September, 1958, received preliminary training at Head Office for a short period.

Staff Conferences:

Four staff conferences were held during the months of January, March, July and December. The usual half-yearly conferences took place in January and July when a comprehensive review of the work of the department was made. The other conferences were of one and two days' duration respectively and dealt with various problems relating to the operations of land societies and thrift and credit societies.

Courses for Co-operative Societies Personnel:

Eleven training courses were held for members of societies in the three counties of Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo at which instructions were given on the principles and practices of co-operation, co-operative law, the duties of the committee and the keeping of accounts and records. Cottage meetings for members of societies were also arranged in some districts so that a better understanding of the functions and operations of the societies could be obtained.

Film Shows & Exhibitions:

Through the courtesy of the U.S.I.S. and the C.I.S. films on Co-operation were arranged for the members of school societies in the East Demerara area; and for adult societies in West Demerara and North West Districts. The Union took part in an 8-day colony-wide Exhibition and Fair in Georgetown sponsored by the League of Coloured Peoples during October, and in a 3-day County Exhibition sponsored by the Essequibo Union of Local Authorities at Suddie, Essequibo. At these exhibitions, the products of several co-operative societies were displayed as well as posters and charts depicting the Movement's activities and progress. Literature on co-operatives was distributed to many interested persons who visited the Union's booth.

Interantional Co-operation Day Celebrations:

The Annual International Co-operation Day celebrations were held under the auspices of the B.G. Co-operative Union Ltd. at Queen's College, Georgetown, on Saturday, 5th July, 1958. Approximately 800 persons attended the celebrations which were declared open by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, the Hon. F.D. Jakeway, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The Hon. Brindley Benn, Minister for Education and Community Development addressed the gathering and the guest speaker was Mr. John Gale, B.A., British Council Representative. Greetings and goodwill messages were received from 32 overseas organisations.

PART VII MISCELLANEOUS

Staff:

Mr. J.I. Fraser, F.C.C.S., Acting Commissioner for Co-operative Development was appointed to be Commissioner for Co-operative Development in January.

Mr. C.R. Jarvis, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Co-operative Development was appointed to be Deputy Commissioner for Co-operative Development in June.

Mr. C.H. Patrick, Acting Senior Co-operative Officer was appointed to be a Senior Co-operative Officer in October.

Mr. J.C. Chin-a-Loy was appointed to be a Co-operative Officer and joined the staff in September.

Mr. R.A. Dowden, Senior Co-operative Officer, left the Colony on six months' vacation leave on the 27th June.

Mr. A.I.S. Luck, Inspector of Friendly Societies, resigned to enter commerce in January and was replaced by Mr. M.M. Moore of the Audit Department.

Mr. C.R. Chung-Wee, Accountant, Friendly Societies Movement went on vacation in February and resumed duty in September, while Miss E.G. Rowe, Inspector of Friendly Societies left the colony in September for the United Kingdom and undertook a short course of training during her leave.

A long-felt need was met in September when a branch office of the department was opened at New Amsterdam. Co-operators in Berbice welcomed this facility which afforded them better contact with Co-operative Officers.

Audit:

With the establishment of a separate audit section of the department, work on the audits of co-operative societies proceeded satisfactorily and the annual audits in respect of the year 1957 was completed in May 1959.

Audit and Supervision Fund:

With the completion of the audits in respect of the years 1955 and 1956, societies were requested to contribute to the Audit and Supervision Fund. Contributions totalling \$908 (£189) were received during the year, and the following statement shows the position of the Fund at 31st December:

Balance of Fund at 1.1.58	\$2,291.17	(£478)
Contributions received in respect of 1955 and 1956	908.18	(£189)
	\$3,199.35	(£667)

Arbitrations:

Five hundred and thirteen (513) disputes were referred to arbitration during the year. Awards totalling \$39,703 (£8,271) were made in respect of 399 disputes involving overdue loans.

Registration and Cancellation:

Twenty-eight (28) societies were registered and the registration of seventeen (17) was cancelled during the year under review. The abovementioned societies fell into the following categories:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>Cancellation</u>
Savings		3
School Thrift	1	
Thrift		6
Thrift & Credit	3	1
Consumers		1
Housing	1	
Producer/Marketing	10	6
Land Lease & Land Purchase	11	
Fishermen	1	
Transport	1	
	28	17

23.

Departmental Expenditure:

The cost of the Co-operative Department to government for 1958 was as follows:

Personal Emoluments	\$101,421	(£21,129)
Other Charges (Travelling and Subsistence Allowances, etc.)	43,760	(£ 9,117)
Grant to the B.G. Co-operative Union Ltd.	10,000.	(£ 2,083)
	<u>\$155,181</u>	<u>(£32,329)</u>

PART VIII - CONCLUSION

Progress in the Movement during 1958 may be summarised as follows:

<u>Increase in number of societies</u>	11
<u>Increase in membership of societies</u>	4,253
<u>Increase in Share Capital, Savings and Deposits</u>	\$140,279 (£29,225)
<u>Increase in Reserves</u>	\$10,630 (£2,214)

I attach hereto Appendix I - Staff Postings

Appendix II - Financial Position of Societies as at 31st December, 1957.

The work of the department continued smoothly during the year and progress has been maintained. A co-operative society has come to be regarded as an essential service and its usefulness in the solution of common problems are being rapidly appreciated by a growing section of the population. Among the list of benefits accruing to this country from co-operative activity must be mentioned the experience and practice acquired by peasants in managing their own affairs on a democratic basis.

This is essential to the growth and development of independence. The societies have grown accustomed to the greatest latitude in determining their internal affairs and this has done much to increase their confidence and self-reliance.

The department, over the past ten years, has enjoyed a high degree of freedom subject to conditions which prevail externally and this has been reflected in the satisfactory development of the Movement which has so far taken place.

The staff have worked assiduously this year as before and have contributed extra time and energy in the furtherance of their duties. The considerable amount of overtime work performed by them is perhaps not fully realised at the present moment and it can only be hoped that due recognition would be given to their efforts in the not too distant future. I pay tribute to their loyal and patient service. The fact that the Movement is progressing slowly is the best indication that its foundations are sound.

J. I. FRASER,

Commissioner for Co-operative Development,
British Guiana.

June, 1959.

C O - O P E R A T I V E D E P A R T M E N T

STAFF POSTINGS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

Establishment	Post	Holder	Postings	Remarks
1	Commissioner for Co-operative Development	J.I. Fraser	Colony, British Guiana	Appointed w.e.f. 5th November, 1957.
1	Deputy Commissioner for Co-operative Development	C.R. Jarvis	Colony, British Guiana	Appointed w.e.f. 5th November, 1957.
3	Senior Co-operative Officers	R.A. Dowden W.O. Abrams O.H. Patrick	Berbice Berbice Demerara	Vacation leave from 27th June, 1958. Appointed w.e.f. 19th December, 1957.
13	Co-operative Officers	U.E. Marks V.F. Griffith D.E. Shepherd G.A. Hoyte V.F. Haynes W.E. Franklin D.A. Cameron C.A.L. Smith M.D. Noble R.B. Stephenson K.M. Williams G.S. Wong J.C. Chin-a-Loy	East Demerara Interior East Demerara Audits Essequibo Islands West Demerara Audits Essequibo Coast Upper Berbice Audits Lower Berbice West Berbice Central Demerara	Returned from Study leave 17th July, 1958. Study leave from 4th September, 1958.
3	Schools Co-operative Officers	Miss O.S. Grant Miss H.B. Devonish Miss T.B. Gaskin	Berbice Demerara West Demerara & East Essequibo	Vacation leave from 18th April to 2nd November, 1958.

Establishment	Post	Holder	Postings	Remarks
1	Accountant, Friendly Societies	C.R. Chung-Wee	Colony, British Guiana	Vacation leave from 12th February to 7th September, 1958.
4	Inspectors of Friendly Societies	I.C. Walks Miss E.G. Rowe	Demerara and Berbice Demerara and Essequibo	Vacation and study leave from 15th September, 1958
		N.A. October M.M. Moore	Demerara Demerara and Berbice	
<u>Clerical Service</u>				
1	Chief Clerk	M.V.A. Spencer	Head Office	
1	Class I Clerk	G.E.T. Moore	Head Office	
1	Class II Clerk	M. Paltooram	Head Office	
1	Senior Clerical Assistant	Miss M.E. Murray	Head Office	
6	Clerical Assistants	Miss E.P. Fung-On Miss E.R. Griffith Miss M.V. Haynes Miss L.M. Harding Miss C.G. Pompey Miss U.F. C. Thomas	Head Office Head Office Head Office Head Office Head Office Berbice Branch Office	Vacation leave from 30th December, 1958.
<u>Other than Fixed</u>				
2	Messengers	A.K. James J.E. Baveghems	Head Office Head Office	
1	Engineer	J. Rampersaud	North West District	
1	Boathand	E. Jocintho	North West District	

N.B. Four school teachers were seconded to assist in the development of Co-operatives in Schools.

Statement Showing Financial Position of Co-operative Societies
as at 31st December, 1952

L I A B I L I T I E S

Type of Societies	No. of Societies	Member-ship	Ordinary Savings or Shares	Special Savings or Deposits	Reserve Fund	Sundry Creditors	Other Liabilities	Net Surplus	Total Liabilities
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Savings	48	1,311	15,275.50	1,151.89	45.48	16.63	82.63	606.18	17,178.31
Thrift	109	2,839	149,178.36	11,365.88	1,967.51	1,638.06	3,953.82	18,087.83	186,191.46
School Thrift	132	11,297	74,259.46	3,160.12	121.19	305.89	283.82	3,359.30	81,489.78
Thrift & Credit	149	10,558	188,045.11	5,290.89	6,355.92	404,536.23	* 16,284.43	33,344.51	653,857.09
Consumers	22	3,257	85,578.45	367.35	8,670.23	192,146.73	* 54,051.81	12,664.00	353,478.57
Producer/Marketing	33	1,200	26,990.96	1,297.75	3,045.02	65,831.64	* 16,735.87	5,219.59	119,120.83
Land Lease/ Land Purchase	12	989	72,976.97	---	168.44	51,220.72	* 21,169.63	255.58	145,791.34
Farm Supply	9	424	1,653.31	26.59	18.27	1,050.86	2,858.96	846.02	6,454.01
Fishermen	12	315	2,746.74	13.83	16.85	63.14	2,194.69	238.33	5,273.58
Transport	1	23	4,349.60	---	---	1,871.40	---	1,722.69	7,943.69
General Purpose	9	301	423.17	12.13	---	622.75	* 15,210.83	428.48	16,697.36
	536	32,514	621,477.63	22,686.43	20,408.91	719,304.05	132,826.49	76,772.51	1,593,476.02
B.G. Co-operative Union Ltd.	1	281	---	---	230.27	1,641.64	3,610.58	565.58	6,048.07
B.G. Co-operative Credit Union Ltd.	1	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

* Includes Special Reserves totalling \$119,929.78

Statement Showing Financial Position of Co-operative Societies
as at 31st December, 1957.

A S S E T S

Type of Societies	Fixed Assets	Stock in Trade	Loans	Sundry Debtors	Investments	Cash at Bank	Cash in Hand	Other Assets	Net Loss	Total Assets
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Savings	360.00	---	---	2.77	450.00	15,835.14	383.14	131.98	15.28	17,178.31
Thrift	157.72	98.19	91,227.79	1,876.99	9,346.25	75,370.93	7,473.24	630.89	9.46	186,191.46
School Thrift	11.39	193.33	---	56.15	---	79,458.85	1,574.99	188.41	6.66	81,489.78
Thrift & Credit	25,726.98	17.44	525,898.93	19,970.34	13,525.21	49,643.96	16,262.87	2,000.02	811.34	653,857.09
Consumers	60,288.51	66,059.99	677.53	148,426.12	2,010.00	34,030.61	5,681.30	7,967.47	28,337.04	353,478.57
Producer/ Marketing	61,517.48	961.50	1,339.97	12,348.65	695.47	5,574.58	4,346.41	219.54	32,117.23	119,120.83
Land Lease/ Land Purchase	105,191.25	---	16,831.20	1,994.51	---	14,657.30	2,434.36	3,585.15	1,097.57	145,791.34
Farm Supply	676.66	526.05	---	1,119.32	---	1,415.42	190.82	2,448.71	77.03	6,454.01
Fishermen	2,078.93	205.36	1,017.61	89.98	---	799.30	745.94	11.28	325.18	5,273.58
Transport	7,603.70	---	---	---	---	---	339.99	---	---	7,943.69
General Purpose	16,026.91	---	---	---	---	490.11	174.91	5.43	---	16,697.36
	279,639.53	68,061.86	636,993.03	185,884.83	26,026.93	277,276.20	39,607.97	17,188.88	62,796.79	1,593,476.02
B.G. Co-operative Union Ltd.	398.06	1,071.72	---	885.18	2,823.32	850.67	19.12	---	---	6,048.07
B.G. Co-operative Credit Union Ltd.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ANNUAL REPORT, 1958.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT ANALYST.

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To the Honourable Minister,
 Ministry of Labour, Health and Housing.

I have the honour to submit for the information of His Excellency the Governor my report for the year 1958 on the work of the Analyst Department.

INTRODUCTORY:

2. The number of samples and exhibits undertaken for analysis during the year amounted to 4,374. This was a decrease of 3,515 on the previous year's total and was due mainly to the problems of arrangement encountered in carrying out the analytical work of the department side by side with the building programme in hand.

3. As far as could be ascertained, this is the first instance of a comprehensive overhaul of the building during 80 years of continuous occupation by the Government Laboratory. Writing some 63 years ago, Sir John Harrison, Government Analyst (1889-1926), expressed himself with some finality regarding the fitness of the accommodation by the following brief note:-

"On the whole the staff did not suffer in health to the same extent as in the previous year from the insanitary conditions unfortunately inseparable from this laboratory."

By the mid-twentieth century the building and its premises had, per se, become sufficient and most eloquent reasons for reconstruction.

4. Within the limits of the siting and framework of the original building, renovation and improvement works in 1958 have made a great change in the general appearance of the habitation and a better arrangement of the sections of the department has been achieved. The programme is unfortunately somewhat behind schedule. When completed it should improve materially the health conditions of the department and the convenience of the employees; and it is hoped that the deficiencies will be rectified in 1959.

5. Negotiations were continued during the year to obtain long overdue senior staff and by year-end had reached an advanced stage. The post of Senior Assistant Government Analyst has been vacant since 1954 and is expected to be filled soon by an officer on secondment for three years from Ceylon. Another post to be filled soon is that of Scientific Officer of the Toxicology and Drugs Division. One candidate was selected during the year for the award of a post-graduate

scholarship in Foods, Drugs and Waters and is expected to leave the department some time in 1959 for training in the United Kingdom.

6. Appendix A of this report gives the totals of the various kinds or categories of samples examined while Appendix B shows the total number of samples received from each of the various sources.

CRIMINOLOGICAL AND FORENSIC WORK.

Toxicological and Drug Analyses:

7. A total of 167 exhibits were examined for drugs and poisons. These included 139 exhibits in cases of suspected poisons or poisoning, 15 exhibits under the Antibiotics and the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinances, 12 exhibits in cases of suspected drugging and 1 exhibit in a case of suspected criminal abortion.

8. The exhibits examined from 79 productions in cases of suspected poisons or poisoning included:-

Viscera:	38
Stomach Contents:	33
Vomited Matter:	1
Duodenal Contents:	1
Intestinal Contents:	2
Bones:	1
Foods:	13
Liquids:	28
Solids:	20
Clothing and Utensils:	2
Total:	139

The poisons found included cresols 17, carbolic acid 1, formaldehyde 8, cyanide 2, caustic soda 3, alcohol 7, iodine 5, barbiturates 3, mercuric chloride 2, sulphuric acid 22, hydrochloric acid 3, acetic acid 1, nitric acid 1, formic acid 1, arsenic 14, oil of chenopodium 1, mercuriochrome 2, potassium permanganate 1 and aspirin 1. No poison was found in 45 exhibits.

9. Of the 15 exhibits submitted in cases of suspected breaches of the Antibiotics Ordinance or the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, one was found to contain aureomycin hydrochloride while three contained Part I poisons. The 12 exhibits submitted in cases of suspected drugging yielded results as follows: two contained oil of savin, 1 contained Fersolate tablets and 9 contained no drug. The drug found in the case of suspected criminal abortion proved to be quinine dihydrochloride.

10. Exhibits for analysis for drugs and poisons were received from the following sources:-

- 3 -

The Police Department:	109
The Public Hospital, Georgetown:	20
Inspectors of Pharmacies:	nil
The Department of Agriculture:	5
The Department of the Interior:	2
The Transport and Harbours Department:	20
Private Sources:	11
Total:	<u>167</u>

Road Accidents:

11. Twenty-two exhibits were examined in relation to 5 road accidents.

12. In one case the physical evidence was found to conflict with the complaint of a cyclist that he was travelling on a straight course close to the left parapet of the road when he was knocked down by a moving car. In another case the owner of a car contended that he was not in his car when it became involved in an accident. An examination of dusts obtained from his clothing revealed, however, the presence of particles of glass like those obtained from his broken wind-shield and from the scene of the accident.

13. A hit-and-run case of some interest involved the examination of a car and a badly damaged bicycle. The cyclist had been thrown clear of his cycle on to the parapet but was not killed. Eye-witness reports tended to incriminate the car which was rounded up on the day following the accident. There were many features in the physical evidence which pointed to contact between the car and bicycle; on the other hand, the nature of the damage to the bicycle and the sequence of movements which had to occur could only be fully explained if it could be proved that the bumper and radiator of the car had been replaced before the car was called in, but this evidence was not found. The scientific evidence contained elements of use to both sides, only by cross-examination, and it was not called by either side. In the legal proceedings which ensued, the case was contested only on the equally purposeful eye-witness testimony which each side found necessary to produce, and a decision was awarded in favour of the defence.

Fires:

14. Sixty-two exhibits were examined from 13 submissions in the investigation of fires. Inflammable matter was found in 19 exhibits and legal proceedings were instituted in two cases. The assistance of the Government Analyst in investigations at the scenes of fires was sought in 5 cases.

Burglary, Larceny and Unlawful Possession:

15. A total of 182 exhibits were examined in this category of crimes. These involved the analysis of a varied assortment of substances. In most cases the analyses were required to establish the identity of the articles as such

or in relation to stocks from which they were suspected to have been stolen. In other cases examinations were required to ascertain the connection of suspects with crime scenes or with stolen articles.

Fraud:

16. Examinations in this category relate to forged currency notes, counterfeit coins, counterfeit jewellery and forged documents. The perennial nature of the activities in manufacturing these products may, perhaps, be due to their "cottage industry" status, a fact which no doubt magnifies the difficulty of policing and makes constant diffuse action a necessity. Ninety-eight exhibits were examined in respect of suspected fraud.

17. Currency notes submitted amounted to 55, of which 23 came from the Police and 32 from the Commissioners of Currency. Only 5 could be reported as genuine and having no connection with the making of forged currency notes. There were 22 actual forged notes of which 17 were of the \$20 denomination, 3 of \$10 and one each of \$5 and \$1. Twenty-eight other notes, consisting of four \$100 notes, five \$20 notes, fourteen \$10 notes, four \$5 notes and one \$1 note, although genuine, were found to have some relation to making of forged notes. A further 24 exhibits consisting of appliances and supplies were examined to establish their connection with the crime of making forged currency notes.

18. Eleven coins consisting of one 50 cent piece, nine 25-cent pieces and one 10-cent piece were submitted during the year. All were found to be counterfeit. Two bangles sold as gold jewellery were found to be highly deficient in gold. Six documents were submitted in cases of suspected fraud involving alterations and simulation of age.

Murder and Dangerous Use of Firearms:

19. Twenty-two exhibits were examined in three cases of suspected murder and two involving the dangerous use of firearms. In one case of suspected murder the range of the fatal shot was determined to investigate the possibility of shooting in self-defence; in another the examination was carried out to inquire into the possibility of self-destruction by accident; in the third the garments of a deceased person were examined to ascertain whether an attempt had been made to destroy the corpse by fire. In the dangerous shooting cases, one required the examination of five rifles to discover the weapon from which the crime bullet was fired, and thus the probable culprit who fired the shot, the other required the examination of two portions of stems to decide on two conflicting statements regarding the possibility of homicide by shooting with a shot-gun.

Bush Rum:

20. Of 64 exhibits submitted by the Police, 47 were found to be bush rum and 1 was a wash. No bush rum was found in 15 cases and one was insufficient for analysis. The number of cases investigated was 53.

Miscellaneous Crimes and Offences:

21. Fifty-eight exhibits were submitted in respect of other crimes and offences. These consisted of 12 exhibits in cases of malicious injury to persons, 6 in cases of identification of persons, 5 in respect of an unnatural offence, 11 under the Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Ordinance, 11 under the Petroleum Ordinance and 13 under the Emergency Regulations.

REVENUE WORK:

22. Samples examined for the Customs and Excise Department amounted to 2,417. The nature of these samples is shown hereunder:-

(a) For the Tax Ordinance:

Bay Rum	21	
Beer	2	
Bitters	1	
Coloured Rum	261	
Cured Rum	1353	
Denatured Alcohol	10	
Lees	8	
Limacol	54	
Malt Tonic	2	
Sweets	114	
Tinctures	171	
Vodka	2	
Wines	18	
Wines (Chinese)	4	
Wines (Local)	<u>57</u>	2,078

(b) For the Customs Ordinance:

Fabrics	3	
Gasolene	1	
Ghi	1	
Undisclosed Solid	1	
Tobacco	<u>53</u>	59

(c) For the Spirits Ordinance:

High Wines	2	
Hydrometers	5	
Rum	<u>89</u>	96

(d) For the Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Ordinance:

Beer	17	
Rum	165	
Stout	1	
Whisky	<u>1</u>	184
Total:		<u>2,417</u>

THE FOOD AND DRUGS ORDINANCE:

23. Unfortunately the Food Laboratory has been the hardest-hit division of the department in the construction and rearrangement programme of the year. A total of 693 samples were examined under the Ordinance and the closely allied Coconut Products (Control) Ordinance. The results of these examinations are summarised hereunder:-

Article	Number of Samples examined	Number curdled	Number found below standard	Number reported as adulterated
Milk	315	40	76	36
Butter	17	-	-	-
Deodorised Coconut Oil	189	-	6	6
Ghi	4	-	4	4
Phalkaghi	2	-	-	-
Lard	16	-	-	-
Locally-made Lard Substitute	80	-	4	4
Margarine	19	-	-	-
Coffee	50	-	7	7
Aerated Drinks	1	-	-	-
TOTAL:	693	40	97	57

The average proportion of samples found to be below the legal standards was 14.0%, while the average proportion proven as having been adulterated was 8.2%. This is of course an unsatisfactory picture in terms of generally acceptable standards of food supply.

24. A high proportion of milk samples taken from areas separated from us by slow and difficult transportation arrive in a curdled state. These samples have invariably escaped the successful institution of legal proceedings and accounts for the reluctance of sampling officers to submit milk samples from such areas. Proposals have been put up for dealing with certain areas where speed is necessary between the time samples are collected and the commencement of analysis.

25. The totals of samples submitted from various sources under the two Ordinances were:-

Police:	350
Government Public Health:	226
City Public Health:	105
Vendors:	12

Total: 693

CONSULTING WORK:

26. Samples examined for industrial and commercial concerns included:-

Boiler Scale	1
Coconut Oil	3
Copra	1
Copra Meal	5
Diesel Oil	1
Fabrics	1
Fuel Oil	1
Gases from Ships	18
Hydrometers	143
Incrustation from utensil	1
Kerosene Oil	1
Liquid for identification	1
Milk	1
Molasses	13
Preserve	1
Rum, cured	12
Saliva	8
Soap	1
Vinegar	3
Viscera	2
Vodka	1
Wine	1
Water	8

Total: 228

27. Examinations carried out for various Government Departments were associated with problems of the following types:-

- (a) Breaches of contract specifications of supplies,
- (b) the suitability of various surface waters for use in concrete-making,
- (c) the reason for the premature collapse of a concrete structure,
- (d) the cause of damage to cargo,
- (e) the poisoning of cattle and the source of the poison,
- (f) the potability of waters,
- (g) the prevailing contamination of insulators exposed to sea-air, and
- (h) undiagnosed illnesses.

In addition, nine complete specifications of chemical inventions were examined for patent purposes in respect of vitamins, explosive units, plastic articles, paper-pulp manufacture and the purification of alumina.

28. The department has also been required to provide information by telephone, interview and correspondence on a varied assortment of commodities and also in the various courts of law.

COMMITTEES:

30. During the year the Government Analyst served as a member of the following committees and sub-committees:-

- (i) ~~Committee to revise the Explosives Ordinance,~~
- (ii) ~~Committee to revise the Food and Drugs Ordinance,~~
- (iii) Committee for the Pure Water Supply Scheme,
- (iv) Committee to revise the Chemists and Druggists' Training and Examinations Regulations,
- (v) Sub-Committee to study the meaning of Pure Foods and the defences which should be available,
- (vi) Sub-Committee to study authoritative Pharmacopoeias and Pharmaceutical Codices,
- (vii) Sub-Committee to prepare the Food and Drugs Regulations.

He is also a statutory member of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, ETC.

31. It is with great regret that we record the death of Mr. A. Khan, Technical Assistant, Grade B, who died in the Service on August 4th., 1958. He was a devoted and most congenial worker and a shining example of punctuality and good attendance in the department. His death marked the end of 40 years of loyal service to the Colony.

32. Mr. H.O. Edwards was appointed Technical Assistant, Grade C, with effect from February 15th., 1956.

33. Mr. O. deHaan, Temporary Grade C Technical Assistant, resigned from the Service on March 6th., 1958.

34. Mr. N. Archer was appointed Technical Assistant, Grade C, on September 8th., 1958.

35. Mr. L. Chin Technical Assistant, Grade B, proceeded to the United Kingdom on August 27th., 1958, on a Government Conditional Scholarship in Biochemistry.

36. Miss Y.D. Lewis, Clerical Assistant, was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Analyst Department on June 26th., 1958.

37. Miss P.N. Matthews, Clerical Assistant, was transferred from the Analyst Department to the Department of Local Government on October 14th., 1958.

38. Miss S. Benjamin, Senior Clerical Assistant, was transferred from the Public Works Department to the Analyst Department on October 18th., 1958.

39. Mr. M.M. Khan and Miss B. Annamunthodoo, medical students from the University College of the West Indies, acted as Technical Assistants in the department from July to September, 1958.

40. Miss J. MacFarlane acted as a Clerical Assistant from February to June, 1958.

VACATION LEAVE:

41. Mr. L.S. Chin, Technical Assistant, Grade A returned to the Colony on April 29th., 1958, after a vacation leave of 8 months and 6 days.

42. Miss S. Delph, Senior Clerical Assistant, returned from 6 months' vacation leave on June 10th., 1958, and was seconded to the Department of Inland Revenue.

43. Mr. C.B. McWatt, Technical Assistant, Grade A proceeded on 6 months' Vacation leave on September 24th., 1958.

EXPENDITURE:

44. The vote passed for the department amounted to \$63,420.00, made up as follows:-

Personal Emoluments:	\$41,770.00
Other Charges:	7,150.00
Extraordinary:	14,500.00
TOTAL:	\$63,420.00

A supplementary vote on Sub-Head 7, Extraordinary Expenditure, amounting to \$753.00 was granted for certain items of equipment since these had been provided for and ordered in 1957 but were delivered in 1958, thereby causing the 1957 provision to lapse. Notwithstanding this, the expenditure on the total head was held within the original vote passed by the Legislature, since savings from unfilled vacancies amounted to \$7,406.86. The actual expenditure on the head was \$56,532.45.

CONCLUSION:

45. Another difficult year has passed. Instability of numbers in the laboratory assistant grade, while upsetting in itself, assumes a relatively insignificant place when compared with the protracted shortage of Senior Staff. As stated earlier in this report, some measure of relief is expected soon; and it is hoped that further temporary assistance of a like kind will become available pending the return of those officers who are now in training in the United Kingdom.

J. E. Ho - 1958
Government Analyst.

APPENDIX A

List of Articles submitted for examination during 1958.

Articles in cases of Abortion	1
Articles, Viscera, Etc. for Poisons	139
Articles under the Antibiotics and Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinances	15
Articles under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance	4
Articles in cases of suspected Arson	62
Articles in cases of Injury to Persons	12
Articles for Identification of Persons	6
Articles in cases of Burglary, Larceny, etc.	182
Articles in cases of suspected Murder	22
Articles in cases of Unnatural Offences	5
Articles in cases of Motor Accidents	22
Articles under the Petroleum Ordinance	11
Articles under the Emergency Regulations	13
Bay Rum	21
Beer	19
Bitters	1
Boiler Scale	1
Bush Rum and its materials	64
Butter	17
Cement	1
Chemicals Patents	9
Coconut Oil, edible	234
Coffee	50
Concrete Blocks	2
Copra	1
Copra Meal	5
Counterfeit Coins	11
Counterfeit Jewellery	2
Denatured Alcohol	10
Diesel Oil	1
Dieselene	1
Fabrics	4
Forged Currency Notes and Materials	79
Forged Documents	6
Fuel Oil	1
Gas Oil	1
Gas on Ships	18
Ghi	5
High Wines	2
Hydrometers	148
Incrustation on Concrete	1
Incrustation on Galvanised Bucket	1
Kerosene Oil	1
Lard	16
Lard Substitute	80
Lees	8
Limacol	54
Liquid	1
Malt Tonic	2
Margarine	19
Milk	316
Milk sediment	1
Molasses	13
Preserve, Fruit and Rum	1
Rum, Coloured High-strength	261
Rum, Cured	1628

Carried Forward: 3611

APPENDIX A (CONT'D)

	Brought Forward:	3611
Soap		11
Soap Compound		1
Solid		1
Soya Bean Oil		12
Stcut		1
Swabs from Race-horses		8
Sweets		114
Tinctures		171
Tobacco		53
Vinegar		3
Vodka		2
Wines		19
Wines (Chinese)		4
Wines (Local)		57
Whisky		1
Waters		305

Total: 4,374

APPENDIX BSources from which samples were received:(a) Departments of the Central Government:

		<u>Total</u>
Agriculture	6	
Currency	32	
Customs and Excise	2,417	
Drainage and Irrigation	205	
Fire Protection	2	
Interior	2	
Labour	1	
Medical	247	
Patents, Designs & Trade Marks	9	
Police	944	
Post Office (Telecommunications)	1	
Prisons	3	
Public Works	1	
Pure Water Supply Scheme	66	
Rural Electrification Scheme	5	
Supplies and Prices	54	
Transport and Harbours	20	4,015
(b) <u>Local Authorities:</u>		
Georgetown Municipality	131	
New Amsterdam Municipality	<u>nil</u>	131
(c) <u>Non-Governmental Sources:</u>		
Merchants, Manufacturers & small traders	228	228
	Total:	4,374