

**The
Chamber of Commerce**

OF THE

City of Georgetown,

Demerara,

British Guiana.

**SEVENTY - THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT**

December 31st, 1963

Printed by The "Daily Chronicle" Ltd.,
23, Main Street, Georgetown.

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British Guiana.

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Printed by The "Daily Chronicle" Ltd.,
23, Main Street, Georgetown.

PRESIDENTS OF THE CHAMBER, 1889—1963

1889-90	Hon. A. Barr.
1890-91	Hon. A. Barr.
1891-92	Thomas H. Glennie, Esq.
1892-93	Hon. A. Barr.
1893-94	G. H. Richter, Esq.
1894-95	Thomas H. Glennie, Esq.
1895-96	Hon. A. Weber.
1896-97	Hon. A. Weber:
1897-98	A. P. P. Mackey, Esq.
1898-99	A. P. P. Mackey, Esq.
1899-1900	George Garnett, Esq.
1900-01	George Garnett, Esq.
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1902-03	A. Summerson, Esq.
1903-04	A. P. P. Mackey, Esq.
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1905-06	Hon. George Garnett.
1906-07	Hon. George Garnett.
1907-08	Hon. George Garnett.
1908-09	C. G. A. Wyatt, Esq.
1909-10	C. G. A. Wyatt, Esq.
1910-11	C. G. A. Wyatt, Esq.
1911-12	Hon. C. G. A. Wyatt, Esq.
1912-13	G. R. Garnett, Esq.
1913-14	G. G. Garnett, Esq.
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	{ Hon. A. P. Sherlock.
1915-16	A. P. G. Austin, Esq.
1916-17	A. P. G. Austin, Esq.
1917-18	Hon. A. P. Sherlock.
1918-19	Hon. A. P. Sherlock.
1919-20	C. Martin-Sperry, Esq.
1920-21	C. Farrar, Esq.
1921-22	Cc Farrar, Esq.
1922-23	C. Farrar, Esq.
1923-24	T. H. Dalgliesh, Esq.
1924-25	Hon. A. P. Sherlock.
1925-26	{ C. Farrar, Esq.
	{ T. H. Dalgliesh, Esq.
1926-27	T. H. Dalgliesh, Esq.
1927-28	{ C. Farrar, Esq.
	{ M. B. G. Austin, Esq.

PRESIDENTS OF THE CHAMBER, 1889—1963
— (Contd.)

1928-29	M. B. G. Austin, Esq.
1928-30	{ F. H. Martin-Sperry, Esq. Hon. E. M. Walcott.
1930-31	{ Jules Pairaudeau, Esq. F. A. Mackey, Esq.
1931-32	F. A. Mackey, Esq.
1932-33	H. G. Seaford, Esq.
1933-34	H. G. Seaford, Esq.
1934-35	F. H. Martin-Sperry, Esq.
1936	{ Hon. J. I. de Aguiar. H. G. Seaford, Esq., O.B.E.
1937	Hon. J. I. de Aguiar.
1938	{ Hon. J. I. de Aguiar. H. G. Seaford, Esq., O.B.E.
1939	{ H. G. Seaford, Esq., O.B.E. F. H. Martin-Sperry, Esq.
1940	F. H. Martin-Sperry, Esq.
1941	F. H. Martin-Sperry, Esq.
1942	F. H. Martin-Sperry, Esq.
1943	H. G. Seaford, Esq., O.B.E.
1944	H. G. Seaford, Esq., O.B.E.
1945	W. J. Raatgever, Esq.
1946	Hon. W. J. Raatgever.
1947	Hon. W. J. Raatgever.
1948	Hon. W. J. Raatgever.
1949	H. G. Seaford, Esq., O.B.E.
1950	H. G. Seaford, Esq., O.B.E.
1951	J. I. de Aguiar, Esq., C.B.E.
1952	{ Lt-Col. E. J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D. A. E. Gonsalves, Esq.
1953	J. St. F. Dare, Esq.
1954	W. M. Green, Esq.
1955	W. M. Green, Esq.
1956	W. M. Green, Esq.
1957	W. M. Green, Esq.
1958	Lt.-Col. C. M. Bernard, O.B.E., E.D.
1959	E. S. Stoby, Esq.
1960	E. S. Stoby, Esq.
1961	H. L. Steele, Esq.
1962	{ H. L. Steele, Esq. G. W. E. Cooper, Esq., O.B.E.
1963	John Jardim, Esq.

List of Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

1963.

HONORARY MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| The Comptroller of Customs and Excise. | in Trinidad. |
| The Conservator of Forests. | New Zealand Government |
| The Chief Agricultural Officer. | Trade Commissioner for the Caribbean, British Guiana, British Honduras and Venezuela in Trinidad. |
| The Harbour Master. | The Commissioner for the Government of India in the British West Indies and British Guiana. |
| The General Manager, Transport & Harbours Department. | Australian Government Trade Commissioner for the West Indies. |
| Director of Posts & Telecommunications. | The Foreign Trade Adviser to the Irish Export Promotion Board. |
| H. G. Seaford, Esq., O.B.E. | |
| Trade Commissioners— | |
| H.M. Trade Commissioner for the British West Indies. | |
| The Commissioner for Canada | |

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Albion Distilleries, Ltd. | Bookers Shipping (Dem.) Ltd. |
| Afonso's Modern Record Store. | Bookers Stores, Ltd. |
| Amo Contracting Co.—H. A. | Brazao, Frank P. |
| Acme General Agencies. | British Bata Shoe Co., Ltd. |
| Ace Advertisers. | Brown Betty Dairies Ltd. |
| Bacchus, S. M. H. | British West Indian Airways, Ltd. |
| Bagh Khan, Y. | Cable & Wireless (W.I.) Ltd. |
| Bank Breweries, Ltd. | Oamacho, Ltd., M. P. |
| Barclays Bank, D.C.O. | Caribbean Molasses Co., Ltd. |
| Beharry & Co., Edward B. | Central Garage Ltd. |
| Bayley's Ltd. | Charlestown Saw Mills, Ltd. |
| Bettencourt & Co., Ltd., G. | Cheong Léon, E. |
| B.G. Airways (Govt.) | Chin & Co. |
| B.G. Balata, Ltd. | Chin & Co., Joe |
| B.G. Credit Corporation. | City Pharmacy |
| B.G. Lithographic Co., Ltd. | Chung & Co., Ltd., L. M. |
| B.G. Pawnbroking & Trading Co., Ltd. | Colgate - Palmolive (British Guiana) Ltd. |
| British Guiana Electricity Corporation. | Confectionery (B.G.) Ltd. |
| British Guiana Rice Marketing Board. | Continental Biscuit Co., Ltd. |
| British Guiana United Broadcasting Co., Ltd. | D'Aguiar Bros. Ltd. |
| B.G. Soap & Oil Works, Ltd. | "Daily Chronicle" Ltd., The Davis' Sash, Door & Blind Manufactory |
| B.G. Timbers Ltd. | Davsons Caribbean Agencies Ltd. |
| B.G. & Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. | DeCaires Bros. Ltd. |
| Boodhoo & Sons, Ltd. | De Caires & Co. Ltd. —Francis |
| Bookers Manufacturing Drug Co., Ltd. | Demerara Bauxite Co., Ltd. |
| Bookers Rum Co., Ltd. | Demerara Co., Ltd. |

Demerara Foundry Co., Ltd.
Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society, Ltd. The
Demerara Oil & Cake Mills Ltd.
Demerara Oxygen Co., Ltd.
Demerara Tobacco Co., Ltd.
Elias & Son, N.
Esso Standard Oil, S.A.
Fernandes, Ltd., D. M.
Fernandes, John
Fogarty Ltd., Wm.
Foster & Co.
Garnett & Co., Ltd.
Gajraj, Ltd., H. B.
General Agency Co., (B.G.) Ltd., The
General Supplies Agency
Georgetown Agencies, Ltd.
Gillette & Coy. E. S.
Gomes Ltd., V. A.
Grant, Ltd., T. Geddes
Green & Co., J. F.
Green, Oscar R.
Guiana Graphic Ltd.
Guiana Match Company, Ltd.
Guiana Times Publishing Co., Ltd.
Guiana Contractors Ltd.
Hand-in-Hand Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., The
Hotel Tower, Ltd.
Hotel Woodbine, Ltd.
Hull Jones & Co. (B.G.) Ltd.
Humphrey, R. G.
Industrial Holdings (B.G.), Ltd.
Jacob & Sons, Ltd., C. R.
Jaikaran & Sons Ltd.
Jardim — Joseph
Jones, Lang, Wotton & Sons
Kailan & Co., D. R.
Kawall, Ltd., L.
Khouri, Ltd., S. S.
Kidman & Co., Ltd.—D. V.
Kirpalani's Ltd.
Kissoon, A. H. & L.
Kwang Hing's Super Market
Lall's Camp Street Bazaar
Majeed & Sons, Ltd., Abdool
Majeed & Sons (1959) Investments Ltd., Abdool.
McCowan & Associates, Carl
Mekdeci & Co. New Store—
J. T.

Motor Transport Ltd
Muneshwer's General Store
Nasseer & Co., Sheik, M. V.
Nobrega & Co., — A. S.
Narain & Sons, Ltd., Robert
Olds Discount Co. (T.C.C.) Ltd.
Pan American Standard Brands Inc.
Pan American World Airways, Inc.
Pairaudeau & Co.
Petroleum Marketing Agencies, Ltd.
Phillips, Ltd., C. A.
Potter & Co., Ltd., J. C.
Rahaman's Soda Factory
Rayman's Drug Store, Ltd.
Resaul Maraj & Co., Ltd.
Reynolds Metals Company
Rodrigues Ltd.
Royal Bank of Canada
Rupununi Development Co., Ltd.
Russell & Co., Alex.
Sandbach, Parker & Co., Ltd.
Sankar Bros., Ltd.
Santos & Co., Ltd., J. P.
Signal Trading Co., Ltd.
Singer Sewing Machine Co.
Spellen's Electrical Service Station
Sproston, Ltd.
Sterling Products, Ltd.
Stoby & Co., Ltd., Eric S.
Sue Ping & Co., B.
Swan Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
Tang's Drug Store
Texaco Antilles Ltd.
Thani & Son—D. A.
White & Co., Harold E.
Wieting & Richter, Ltd.
Willems Timber & Trading Co., Ltd.
Wilson & Ricketts Construction Co.
Wiltshire & Sons, Ltd., S. R.
Wong & Son, Ltd., Evan
Wong & Khan, Surveying & Contracting Coy.
Yong Hing — C.

The Chamber of Commerce

OF THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN
DEMERARA
BRITISH GUIANA

Founded 1889
Incorporated by Ordinance No. 3 of 1890
THE COUNCIL

MARCH, 1963.

FEBRUARY, 1964.

President :—

John Jardim, Esq.

John Jardim, Esq.

Senior Vice-President :—

O. E. Senior, Esq.

R. L. Sheppard, Esq.

Junior Vice-President :—

J. St. F. Dare, Esq.

J. St. F. Dare, Esq.

Honorary Secretary :—

C. I. Figueira, Esq.

C. I. Figueira, Esq.

Honorary Treasurer :—

A. R. Yhap, Esq.

A. R. Yhap, Esq.

Members :

John Fernandes, Esq.

John Fernandes, Esq.

R. L. Sheppard, Esq.

C. F. Bernard, Esq.

P. W. Tang, Esq.

P. W. Tang, Esq.

W. M. Green, Esq.

W. M. Green, Esq.

T. S. Wheating, Esq.

T. S. Wheating, Esq.

D. Lilleyman, Esq.

D. Lilleyman, Esq.

S. M. V. Nasseer, Esq.

S. M. V. Nasseer, Esq.

J. A. Adamson, Esq.

J. A. Adamson, Esq.

D. A. Blackman, Esq.

D. A. Blackman, Esq.

J. L. Eden, Esq.

J. L. Eden, Esq.

G. D. Gilbert, Esq.

G. D. Gilbert, Esq.

K. Lall, Esq.

K. Lall, Esq.

M. C. E. Hemery, Esq.

M. C. E. Hemery, Esq.

L. I. C. Willems, Esq.

L. I. C. Willems, Esq.

Captain J. M. Farquharson

M. B. Gajraj, Esq.
Lt. Col. C. L. de Freitas

Lt. Col. C. L. de Freitas

Executive Officer :— ..

F. W. V. Green, Esq.

Assistant Secretary :— ..

Miss J. M. Smith.

Honorary Auditor : ..

J. L. Sam, Esq.

Commercial Review

Editor :—

Percy Armstrong, Esq.

Bankers :—

Barclays Bank, D.C.O.
Royal Bank of Canada.

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE SEVENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
MEMBERS TO BE HELD ON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 1964.

1. MEETINGS.

Twenty-five Council, nine General, and eleven Committee Meetings were held during the year.

2. MEMBERSHIP.

The Membership at the end of the year under review as compared with 1962 was as follows:—

	1963	1962
Ordinary Members	129	132
Associate Members	10	10
Honorary Members	13	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	152	155

During the year there were five new admissions as Ordinary Members. Three ordinary members resigned. Three ordinary members did not renew membership owing to their businesses being closed. Two were struck off for non-payment of subscription.

3. FINANCE

Receipts from subscriptions during the year amounted to \$12,250.00 as compared with \$13,300.00 in 1962.

Total receipts under all heads amounted to \$16,887.50, while expenditure amounted to \$16,987.10.

The balances at credit of the Chamber at 31st December, 1963, as compared with 1962 were as follows:—

	1963	1962
Royal Bank of Canada Current Account	\$ 517.17	\$ 616.77
Royal Bank of Canada Savings Account	2,891.89	2,170.00
New Building Society A/C No. C. 9206	1,370.00	1,820.00
New Building Society A/C No. C. 6333	1,758.06	2,208.06
Cash on Hand	9.51	2.07
	<u>\$6,546.63</u>	<u>\$6,816.90</u>

4. COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

The following statement shows the total receipts and expenditure in connection with this Journal during the year as compared with 1962:—

	1963	1962
Receipts ..	\$4,471.93	\$4,978.94
Expenditure ..	4,554.87	4,670.00
Deficit ..	\$ 82.94	Surplus \$ 308.94

The deficit in 1963 has been caused by the fact that the sum of \$649.00 was transferred to the Chamber's account; there was really therefore a surplus of \$566.06.

The balance at credit of this fund at 31st December as compared with 1962 was as follows:—

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	1963	1962
Barclays Bank DCO		
current account	\$214.81	\$318.15
Cash on Hand	1.31	.70
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$216.12	\$318.85
	<hr/>	<hr/>

5. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL AND OFFICERS.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd February, 1963, twenty-five persons were nominated to fill the twenty-one seats on the Council. In accordance with Rule 22, Messrs. D. F. Macorquodale, John Mohammed and Jorge Jardim were appointed scrutineers of the ballot, and the meeting adjourned to 1st March, 1963. At the adjourned meeting the scrutineers presented their report and as a result, the following were declared elected as members of the Council:—

Messrs. J. A. Adamson, D. A. Blackman, J. St. F. Dare, J. L. Eden, J. Fernandes, C. I. Figueira, G. D. Gilbert, W. M. Green, M. C. E. Hemery, John Jardim, D. Lilleyman, K. Lall, S. M. V. Nasseer, O. E. Senior, R. L. Sheppard, P. W. Tang, T. S. Wheating, L. I. C. Willems, A. R. Yhap, Capt. J. M. Farquharson and Lt. Col. C. L. de Freitas.

At a Meeting of the Council held immediately after, the following officers were appointed:—

President	John Jardim, Esq.,
Senior Vice-President	O. E. Senior, Esq.,
Junior Vice-President	J. St. F. Dare, Esq.,
Honorary Secretary	C. I. Figueira, Esq.,
Honorary Treasurer	A. R. Yhap, Esq.,

During the year the following alterations on the Council took place:—

Mr. O. E. Senior resigned and Mr. C. F. Bernard was appointed in his place. Mr. R. L. Sheppard was appointed to fill the vacancy of Senior Vice-President.

Captain J. M. Farquharson resigned and Mr. M. B. Gajraj was appointed in his place.

6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The following persons were appointed Chairmen of the usual Standing Committees:—

Trade and Industrial Relations and Development ..	O. E. Senior, Esq.
Legislative, Finance, Taxation and Customs ..	J. St. F. Dare, Esq.
Mining and Industrial ..	D. F. Macorquodale Esq.
Agriculture and Forestry	G. D. Gilbert, Esq.
Transport and Communications ..	Capt. J. M. Farquharson
Commercial Review	A. R. Yhap, Esq.
Oils & Fats	Lt. Col. C. M. Bernard, O.B.E., E.D.
Distributive Trades ..	J. St. F. Dare, Esq.

As a result of the resignation of Capt. J. M. Farquharson and Mr. O. E. Senior, Messrs. C. I. Figueira and R. L. Sheppard were appointed Chairmen of the Transport & Communications, and Trade and Industrial Relations and Development Committees respectively.

7. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

It is again impossible to make any comment on the Import and Export figures, as the Customs Department has been unable to bring these figures up to date, the latest available at the time of writing this Report were up to 31st October, 1962; it will be remembered that at the time of writing our 1962 Report, the latest figures were up to the 31st March, 1962, it will thus be seen that only a further seven months figures have been issued since then. This has unfortunately caused the cessation of publication of these statistics in the Commercial Review as figures fifteen months in arrears are of no value especially to our overseas subscribers. Again, it is hoped that in the not too distant future these figures will be up to date and resumption of publication in the Commercial Review can take place.

8. THE RICE INDUSTRY

The 1962 Autumn and 1963 Spring Crops yielded 195,428 tons of paddy/121,300 tons of rice and 29,314 tons of paddy/18,195 tons of rice respectively, totaling 224,742 tons of paddy/139,495 tons of rice for the year.

The total availabilities for the year, including the carry-over of 12,591 tons from the previous Crop Year, thus amounted to 156,268 tons of rice which were disposed of as follows:

1. Total Stocks for Disposal:	Tons Rice	Tons Rice
Total Yield of 1962 Autumn and 1963 Spring Crops	139,495	
Less: Portion of 1962 Autumn Crop harvested early and delivered to mills in September, 1962 ..	3,503	135,992
Plus: (i) Portion of 1963 Autumn Crop harvested early and delivered to mills in September, 1963. ..	7,473	
(ii) Carry-over from previous Crop Year	12,591	
(iii) Processing Gain	212	20,276
TOTAL		<u>156,268</u>
2. Disposals:		
Exports: Rice		78,090
Local Consumption:		
(i) Sales by Board	18,283	
(ii) Retained by farmers for domestic consumption ..	11,685	
(iii) Equivalent of paddy used for animal feed and seed planting (estimated) ..	14,000	43,968
Total Disposals		<u>122,058</u>
3. Carry-over Stocks at Year End:		
Old Crop:	Tons	
Rice in Board's possession	17,664	
Equivalent of paddy in mills	1,493	19,157

	Tons	Tons	Rice	Tons	Rice
New Crop:					
Rice in Board's possession	—			
Rice in mills	2,699			
Equivalent of paddy in mills	12,354	15,053	34,210	
					<u>156,268</u>

Export Markets:

During the period under review, a new contract was negotiated with Cuba for the supply of 40,000 tons of rice consisting of 15,000 tons of Special Par-boiled, and 25,000 tons of White B rice. The previous contract, which covered 15,000 tons, was met and the Cuban Government agreed to a revision of prices with effect from the 17th of September, 1963. The prices provided under the new contract continued to be the most attractive, being higher than those effective under the Regional Rice Agreement. The Cuban contract has continued to boost the Industry to a considerable extent, and the milling of White rice has been greatly increased in order to meet this Market.

The General Strike had caused a fuel and water shortage which necessitated the use of pumps all over the country. This resulted in an estimated loss of 30% of the crop. Fortunately, the large carry-over of over 12,000 tons would help to boost the requirements for 1964. The Tapakuma Project which has recently been completed will be available for rice cultivation shortly. During the period 1st January to 31st December, 1963, the Board exported 1,044,582 bags equivalent to 83,940 tons of rice and valued at \$22,971,000.

Again this year the Board experienced considerable congestion in its Warehouses throughout the country and it became necessary to restrict the receiving of rice. Although the Board realised the hardship such a measure would have created, an appeal to millers and farmers brought an appreciable amount of co-operation. Every effort was made to avoid the hiring of storage bonds outside the Board's premises.

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 The requirements for 1964 by the West Indian Governments are now being received, and it is indicated that there would not be a reduction in comparison with that of 1963. The Rice Conference which was scheduled to take place in 1963 did not come off and is now scheduled for the 1st of March, 1964, when both the prices and the contract would be reviewed.

9. THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Production of sugar in 1963 was 317,137 tons, as compared with 326,023 tons in 1962, a decrease of 8,886 tons. 95,076 acres of estates canes were reaped, the yield being 3.27 tons per acre, as compared with 3.24 tons per acre in 1962.

Sugar exports totalled 281,131 tons as compared with 310,408 tons in 1962.

The quantity of sugar sold for local consumption was as follows:—

D.C.	..	..	18,881 6/9 tons
Y.C.	..	..	19 1/9 "
C.W.	..	..	2,683 "
Total	..	..	<u>21,586 7/9 "</u>

Sugar Prices:

(i) Export

(a) Under Commonwealth Sugar Agreement

The 1963 guaranteed price for sugar sold to the U.K. under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement was £46.0.10d. (\$221.00) per ton c.i.f. Of this amount the sum of £2.15.0d. (\$13.20) was allocated as in the past to Reserve Funds as follows:—

Price Stabilisation	..	£0.5.0d.	(\$1.20)
Rehabilitation		£1.10.0d.	(\$7.20)
Labour Welfare	..	£1.0.0d.	(\$4.80)

the rest of the export quota under the Agreement was sold to the U.K. and Canada at world market prices

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plus preference. Here the benefit has been reaped of the high world prices in 1963. The London daily price rose from around £20 a ton at the end of 1962 to just over £100 a ton in May 1963. It then fell to £50 a ton at the end of August and rose to £105 a ton at the end of October. At the end of the year it stood about £90 a ton.

(b) **Under the U.S. Sugar Act**

The Act provides that the premium paid by the U.S.A. should be 20% lower in 1963 than in 1961. The high world prices have, however, upset this arrangement and the import fee by which the reduction of premium is normally effected has been suspended.

(ii) **Local—No change.**

Weather Conditions—In 1963 heavy rainfall in January and a relatively wet February delayed the start of the Spring Crop. March and April were relatively dry and ideal for harvesting, but the Spring Crop was drastically curtailed by the General Strike which started in April. The Autumn months were dry and provided good reaping weather thereby contributing to the record Autumn Crop. However, the end of year rains have failed and this is affecting adversely the 1964 crop of cane.

Labour Conditions—Generally fairly settled, apart from the General Strike and the efforts of the Guiana Agricultural Workers' Union to gain recognition at the expense of the recognised union, the M.P.C.A.

General: As part of its efforts to increase efficiency and hence production, and so to bring the greatest possible benefit of its economy and to the economy of the country, the industry in the past few years has rehabilitated and improved a number of factories at a considerable cost. In 1964 it is planned to carry out improvement work at Diamond and Albion factories.

10. COCONUT AND COCONUT PRODUCTS.

The number of nuts produced during the year under review was 45,899,750 a decrease of 3,477,250 under the 1962 production. The production of Copra was 5,899 tons as compared with 6,321 tons in 1962, a decrease of 422 tons.

The quantity of Copra Meal manufactured during the year was 3,447,395 lbs. this being 788,507 lbs. less than in 1962.

Other by-products of the coconut manufactured during the year as compared with 1962 were as follows:—

	1963		1962
Edible Oil ..	690,990 glns	..	815,908 glns.
Crude Oil ..	45,750 glns.	..	56,800 glns.
Margarine ..	1,560,787 lbs	..	1,706,147 lbs.
Lard Compound	176,456 lbs.	..	161,453 lbs.
Soap	4,073,035 lbs.	..	4,062,192 lbs.

11. BAUXITE

DEMERARA BAUXITE CO., LTD.

1963 shipments of bauxite and alumina products from the plant at Demerara Bauxite Company, Limited at Mackenzie were considerably below expectations as operations were closed down for 80 days during the general strike. Dried bauxite shipments for the metallurgical and chemical industries totalled 678,000 long tons, compared with 1,029,000 long tons in 1962.

Due to increased efficiencies and the decision to give calcined bauxite production priority following the general strike, Demba's shipments of calcined material to manufacturers of abrasives and refractories reached 364,500 long tons, compared with 368,600 long tons the previous year.

Shipments of alumina during 1963 were 222,000 long tons and went forward to aluminium smelters in Canada, the United States, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden. 1962 alumina production was 225,500 long tons. However, Demba had been scheduled to produce a considerably greater tonnage in 1964.

The value of Demba's shipments in 1963 is estimated to be approximately W.I. \$42 million, and a

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total of 253 vessels called at Mackenzie for cargoes during the year.

Shipments went forward to 28 different countries during the year. The greater part of the dried bauxite shipped went to Canada and the United States, while the principal countries of destination of calcined bauxite were Canada, the United States, Japan, and Europe.

No additions to production capacity were made during 1963 in either the alumina or bauxite divisions of the Company.

At year end Mr. J. G. Campbell, Managing-Director, announced plans to sell residential lots and houses to employees in Mackenzie and said that Demba would be working with government officials to bring about an elected municipal administration in due course. A new mine is to be opened up near Mackenzie at Kara Kara. A further large walking dragline to commence stripping operations at this site has been acquired. The Company will then operate four such draglines. It also was announced that construction of a bridge across the Demerara River between Mackenzie and Wismar will be started in 1964. This will enable bauxite mining operations to recommence at some future date on the West Bank of the river. No mining has taken place in this area since 1956. Sales prospects for all of the Company's products in 1964 were described as good.

REYNOLDS METALS COMPANY

Production for 1963 was 296,000 tons. This is the lowest in the last three (3) years and the first year in the last six (6) years which did not exceed the previous year. Our operations were closed 25% of the year with strikes at a time when demand for bauxite throughout the industry was increasing. Normally, this would have been a golden opportunity for expansion but consumers had to find other sources, more reliable and as a consequence our production dropped after resumption of operations.

Our principal customers for chemical grade bauxite said, they would no longer depend on Kwakwani production for all of their needs. Henceforth,

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they would procure 50% of their requirements from more reliable sources (Surinam) to insure a steady supply.

Because of our inability to supply bauxite at the critical time, it was necessary to expand operations in Jamaica to replace British Guiana bauxite. After the Plant was modified to use Jamaican bauxite, it would be uneconomical to again modify the process to use a questionable British Guiana bauxite. Nominal amounts of British Guiana bauxite will be used but we lost our opportunity for expansion.

Production for 1964 will probably exceed 1963 but will be less than 1962. We plan to make capital improvements and replacements to the extent of \$500,000 in 1964.

The dredging of the Berbice Bar did not improve shipping conditions in 1963 but we hope the Hydraulics Surveys will justify permission to load to the depth of the Stanleytown Bar. This should now be the governing obstacle rather than the outer bar. If this is accomplished, there will be considerable improvement in 1964 shipping conditions, even though we will not be permitted to take full advantage of the dredging, because of the Stanleytown Bar.

We hope to establish regular direct shipments of overseas cargo to the Berbice River without involving the extra expense of unloading in Georgetown and re-shipping to Berbice. This will take some time to establish, but will be a genuine benefit to everyone in Berbice.

We are determined to re-establish the confidence which is necessary to compete on a continuous basis in the world market. We do not expect this confidence, with its accompanying increase in production, to be accomplished overnight.

12. GOLD AND DIAMONDS

Provisional figures for production for 1963 are 2,848 ounces of gold and 99,748 carats of diamonds.

These figures indicate that compared with 1962 diamond production was slightly lower while

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gold production increased by about 50%, the chief gold producing areas being the Cuyuni and Mazaruni.

Although some hardship was caused to miners in certain areas by the general strike, there was little sign of slackening in the tempo of operations and production advanced markedly in the last 3 months due to the increasing use of suction pump units which recover both gold and diamond.

A small amount of work was done on mining concessions at Eldorado (gold), Tappa (diamonds) and Tacouba (gold—diamonds) but the dredging concessions held by B.G. Consolidated Goldfields Ltd., Barima Minerals Ltd., and B.G. Diamond Mining Corp., Ltd., remained on a care and maintenance basis.

13. THE BALATA INDUSTRY

Weather conditions during the year were favourable, and it was first thought that the prospects for a good collection were promising. As a result, however, of the general strike, which disrupted all transport and communication services, the company found it extremely difficult to employ and equip the required labour force.

Owing to the difficult circumstances under which the company had to operate, the collection for the year dropped below the planned collection, and only 195 tons were collected.

The process for manufacturing synthetic balata has now been perfected in Canada, and this means that the natural balata collected in this country will have to compete with the synthetic material now being manufactured. It is hoped, however, that despite competition, it will be possible to find a market for the natural balata although the synthetic material will undoubtedly encroach on the market for natural balata. Therefore, synthetic balata must be regarded as a threat in future years to the Balata Industry in this country.

14. INCORPORATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN.

The Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Company was held in St. Kitts on the 11th November,

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1963. Mr. John Jardim, one of the Directors nominated by this Chamber attended the Meeting. ,

15. GENERAL STRIKE

The publication of a Labour Relations Bill which Government proposed to put before the Legislative Assembly, immediately caused considerable uneasiness not only in the Labour Unions but also throughout the commercial community. The Council of the Chamber held several special meetings, at which the implications of the Bill were fully gone into, and the Chamber's considered views were submitted to Government on the 8th April, 1963. Unfortunately, however, as it appeared that Government was determined to put through the proposed legislation, the Trades Union Council called a General Strike of all its affiliates. Workers of the Transport & Harbours Department struck on 19th April, 1963, bringing all rail and steamer services to a halt. On the 22nd April, 1963, a General Strike of all workers throughout the Colony, including the Civil Service was called. This only came to an end on 8th July, 1963. This strike as is well known, caused untold harm not only to commerce but to the economy of the country as a whole. During the period of the strike several instances of looting and violence caused by the lawless element took place and, as a result some persons were killed and wounded when the Police were compelled to use fire-arms.

16. TRADE MISSIONS

A Trade Mission from Russia visited the Chamber's Office and attended a Special General Meeting of the Chamber on 4th January, 1963.

On the 14th January, two members of a U.N.E.S.C.O. Mission attended a Special Council Meeting.

17. MISCELLANEOUS

Among the matters which engaged the attention of the Chamber during the year were the following:—

Restriction on Imports of certain foodstuffs.

Duty on Cotton & Synthetic Twines.

Delay in clearing of Mails at the General Post Office.

Liability of consignees to pay for goods off-loaded at other ports during the General Strike.

Collection by the Customs of duty on L. S. & D. Charges.

Handing over of Trust Funds of B.G. Festivals to the National Sports Council.

Telephone Service—Bad state of VHF communication with Bartica and Mackenzie—also the unavailability of telephones for private and business renters.

18. VISITORS

The following persons (besides the Missions already mentioned) attended Meetings of the Chamber on the dates mentioned:—

- 15th March — Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, and Mr. K. Sealey, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs, Trinidad.
- 19th March — Hon. C. V. Nunes, Minister of Education and Social Development, accompanied by Major I. O. Smith, O.B.E. and Mr. J. A. E. Young.
- 21st March — Sir J. M. Campbell, accompanied by Mr. A. Tasker.
- 14th November — Sir Charles MacLean, Chief Scout of the Commonwealth, accompanied by Lt.-Commander W. H. Taylor, Scout Commissioner for S. W. England, and Mr. L. B. Thompson, Commissioner for Scouts in British Guiana.
- 20th December — Mr. G. W. Ogg, United States Vice-Consul.

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The following persons also visited the Chamber:--

- 17th January — Mr. E. Lowry.
Mr. U. A. Glover.
- 20th February — Mr. A. S. Payne, Assistant United Kingdom Government Trade Commissioner.
- 30th August — Mr. C. Lahar—Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Israel.
Mr. M. Elazar — Embassy of Israel in Venezuela.

19. OBITUARY

It is with regret that we have to record the deaths of Mr. H. B. Gajraj, Managing Director of Messrs. H. B. Gajraj Ltd., and Mr. S. S. de Freitas, Managing-Director of the Charlestown Saw Mills Ltd.

20. STAFF

Mr. F. W. V. Green, Executive Officer, went on leave of absence from 1st September to 30th November, 1933, and Mr. G. F. Messervy was appointed to act for him.

The staff consists of:—

- Mr. F. W. V. Green .. Executive Officer
Miss J. M. Smith .. Assistant Secretary.

21. ACCOUNTS

Statements of Income and Expenditure of the Chamber and the Commercial Review with Balance Sheet are submitted herewith. The thanks of the Chamber are again due to Mr. J. L. Sam for his services as Honorary Auditor.

F. W. V. GREEN,
Executive Officer.

J. JARDIM,
President.

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE CITY OF
GEORGETOWN, FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1963**

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
To Subscriptions	\$ 475.32	By Subscriptions —	
„ Salaries	7,275.00	No. 1 Associates \$ 500.00	
„ Stationery & Printing	466.45	No. 2 Members 11,750.00	\$12,250.00
„ General Expenses	1,656.97	„ Interest on Govern-	
„ Rent	840.00	ment Bonds	11.00
„ Postages & Incidentals	288.35	„ Interest on Royal Bank	
„ Annual Luncheon	1,439.43	Savings A/c	96.46
„ Lighting & Power	704.12	„ Interest on New Building	
„ Messenger	1,212.00	Society Shares	197.82
„ Travelling Expenses to the		„ Subscriptions to Annual	
Incorporated Chamber's Meet-		Luncheon	1,212.00
ing	487.10	„ Excess of Expenditure over	
„ Cost of passage, Mr. F.		Income	2,131.41
W. V. Green	627.00		
„ Depreciation on Furniture	131.27		
„ Depreciation on Air Condi-			
tioning Unit	295.68		
	\$15,898.69		\$15,898.69

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE
"COMMERCIAL REVIEW" FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1963.**

EXPENDITURE

INCOME

To Salaries	\$ 1,380.00
„ Postages & Incidentals	57.79
„ Printing	1,670.00
„ Repayment to Chamber	803.87
„ Advance to Chamber	649.00

By Subscriptions	\$ 691.93
„ Advertising	3,780.00
„ Excess of Expenditure over Income	88.73

\$ 4,560.66

\$ 4,560.66

**GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963.**

To Excess of expenditure over
Income (Chamber) .. \$ 2,131.41

To Excess of expenditure over
Income (Commercial
Review) 88.73

\$ 2,220.14

By accumulated Fund.. .. \$ 2,220.14

\$ 2,220.14

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1963

LIABILITIES

ASSETS

<p>Accumulated Fund —</p> <p>Balance at 1st January, 1963.. \$10,478.56</p> <p>Less :</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Excess of expenditure over Income 2,220.14</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">\$ 8,258.42</p> <p>Less Income Tax 27.48</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">8,230.94</p> <p>Sundry Creditors 334.00</p> <p>Commercial Review 649.00</p> <p>Reserve :</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Paid in by members for a General Emergency Fund .. 1,920.00</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">\$11,133.94</p>	<p>Investments at Cost—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B.G. Govt. Bonds \$ 400.00</p> <p>Office Furniture at 1.1.63\$ 1,312.69</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Less Depreciation 131.27 1,181.42</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Air Condition apparatus 2,956.80</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Less Depreciation 295.68 2,661.12</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>Cash—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Royal Bank Current A/c 517.17</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Barclays Bank Current A/c 214.81</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Royal Bank Savings A/c 2,891.89</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">New Building Society Ltd. 3,128.06</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">On Hand 10.82 6,762.75</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">National Development Savings Levy 34.37</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Accrued Interest 94.28</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">\$11,133.94</p>
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Examined and found correct

J. L. SAM,
Certified Accountant,
Honorary Auditor.

J. JARDIM,
President.

F. WALTER V. GREEN,
Executive Officer.