



ANNUAL REPORT  
BRITISH GUIANA  
1959

# REPORT ON BRITISH GUIANA

FOR THE YEAR 1959.

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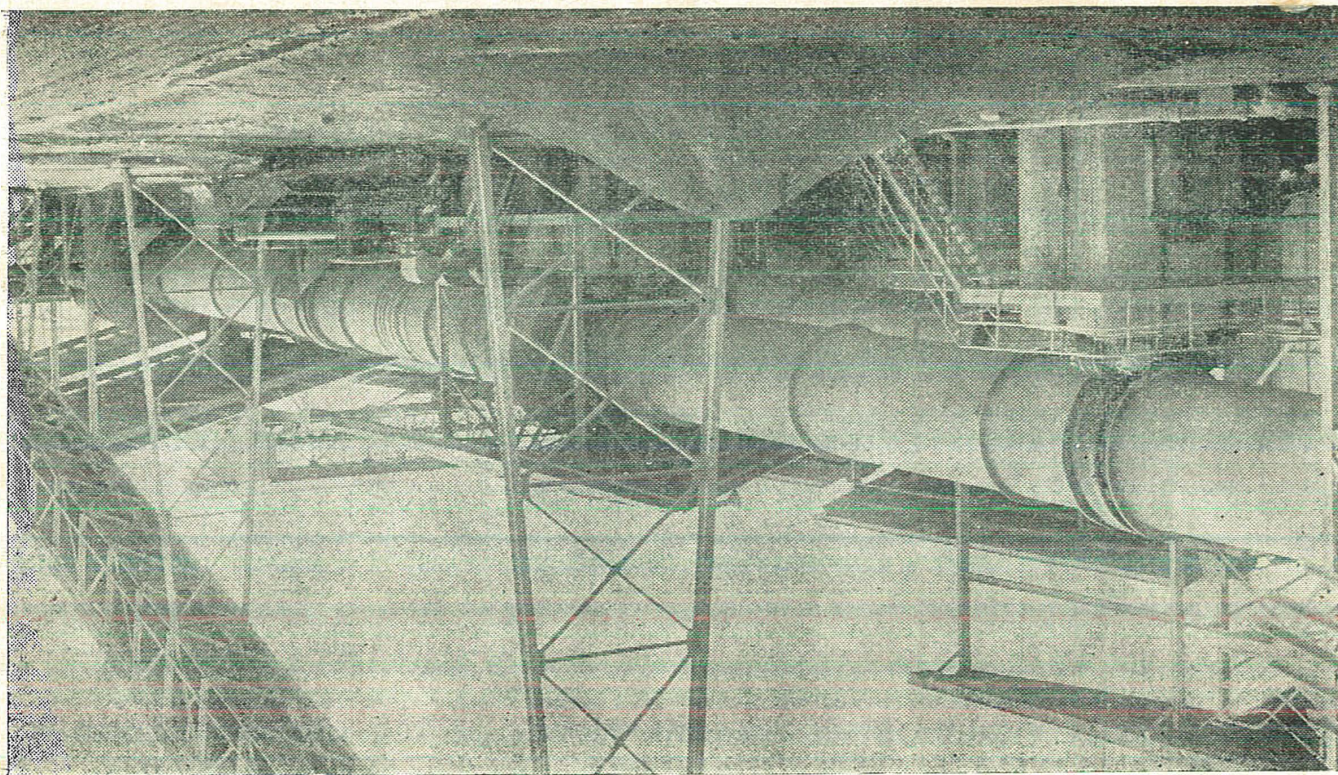
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**The arrival of His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, Sir Ralph Grey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E.**

One of the large bauxite calcining kilns at Mackenzie.



## PART I

### *General Review*

#### *Administration*

British Guiana was administered during 1959 by the Governor Sir Patrick Renison, K.C.M.G., until 24th June, when His Excellency led a delegation to London to hold financial talks with Her Majesty's Government. After the Governor's departure the Government was administered by Mr. D. M. Hedges.

During the Governor's absence it was announced that he had been appointed Governor of Kenya and it was later announced that Sir Ralph Grey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., Deputy Governor-General of Nigeria, had been appointed Governor of British Guiana.

On 22nd December the new Governor arrived in British Guiana and assumed the administration of the Colony.

#### *Constitutional Position*

The Colony's present Constitution is based on the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council, 1953, as amended by the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1956. This Order provides for a Legislative Council of not more than twenty-eight members, consisting of three *ex-officio* members, not less than fourteen elected and not more than eleven nominated members, presided over by a Speaker appointed by the Governor from outside the Council. The Executive Council is to consist of the Governor as Chairman, the three *ex-officio* members of the Legislative Council and not more than seven nominated members who must be either elected or nominated members of the Legislative Council.

The first elections under these Instruments as at present in force were held in August, 1957, and the present Legislative Council consists of the Speaker, three *ex-officio* Members—the Chief Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary, fourteen elected Members and six nominated Members. The Governor presides over an Executive Council comprising the three *ex-officio* Members of the Legislative Council and five elected Members of the Majority Party, all of whom have been charged with responsibility for various Departments and subjects and are styled Ministers.

On 11th June, 1958, the Legislative Council unanimously passed a Resolution requesting the Secretary of State for the Colonies to receive a representative delegation chosen by and from the Council to discuss constitutional reform with a view to the granting to British Guiana of the status of a fully self-governing territory within the Commonwealth, and the working out of an agreement between the British Guiana Government and the United Kingdom Govern-

ment for a transitional period whereby the United Kingdom Government would exercise control over defence and give guidance in foreign relations other than trade or commerce. On the return of the delegation which went to London later that month to hold financial talks, the Secretary of State announced that he had asked the Governor to set up a Constitutional Committee representing wide interests in the territory to recommend what form constitutional advance should take from the present temporary arrangements. In November 1958 the Governor announced that with the agreement of the Secretary of State he had appointed a Constitutional Committee consisting of all the elected and nominated members of the Legislative Council; the Chairman would be the Speaker and the *ex-officio* Members would be Advisers, the Chairman and Advisers having no vote. The Committee held nineteen meetings in all and submitted its Report on 6th August, 1959. The Report was published shortly afterwards and comments on it were received from a wide cross-section of the public. The Committee's Report, together with the comments received from members of the public, were forwarded to the Secretary of State in November and at the end of 1959 these were being studied by him in preparation for the talks which it had been agreed would be held early in 1960.

#### *Political*

At the end of 1959 five political parties were represented in the Legislative Council, as follows :

People's Progressive Party	7 seats
People's National Congress	3 seats
National Labour Front	1 seat
Guianese Independence Movement	1 seat
Progressive Liberal Party	1 seat.

At a joint Congress of the People's National Congress and the United Democratic Party held in Georgetown on 1st March, the merger of the two parties was unanimously ratified. The new party was to be known as the People's National Congress. In May two People's Progressive Party Members of the Legislative Council, Mr. Edward Beharry, Member for Eastern Demerara and Mr. Fred Bowman, Member for Demerara River, left the People's Progressive Party. On 9th August, the Progressive Liberal Party was formed with Mr. Bowman as Organising Secretary, and Barrister-at-Law Mr. Shakoor Manraj, as Leader. Mr. Beharry remained an Independent Member of the Legislative Council. The Annual Convention of the National Labour Front, which had been postponed from August 1958, was held on 23rd August, 1959. Mr. Cecil Gray was elected Leader and Mr. Oscar Green Chairman; Mr. Stephen Campbell, Legislative Council Member for the North

West District, was elected Vice-Chairman and the former Leader, Mr. Lionel Luckhoo, Q.C., was appointed Executive Adviser.

### *National Income*

"The Economy of British Guiana — 1952—1956" — A National Income Study by Dr. C. O'Loughlin of the Institute of Social and Economic Research of the University College of The West Indies was published in March, 1959, as a Special Number of "Social and Economic Studies".

Dr. O'Loughlin's estimates of the National Income of British Guiana for the years 1952—1956 are as follows :

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
\$ million	144.2	159.0	175.0	174.3	188.4

The corresponding amounts for 1957 and 1958 have been provisionally estimated to be \$m 199.2 and \$m 208.4 respectively.

### *Economic Progress*

The acceleration of development of new industries continued in the year 1959 during which several new companies were registered. Timber Developments (B.G.) Ltd. and Aluminium Manufacturing Company Ltd. began the production of particle board and aluminium venetian blinds respectively.

Under the Industries Aid and Encouragement Ordinance machinery and equipment for private industry amounting to approximately \$7.5 million were admitted free of customs duty.

26 new companies with a total share capital of \$3,538,000 were incorporated, and in addition, 8 overseas companies were registered in the Colony.

Bank Breweries Ltd., a locally subscribed public company, brewed 723,398 gallons of beer in 1959 valued at approximately \$610,000.

Timber Developments (B.G.) Ltd. marketed their particle board in sheets 8' x 4' with thicknesses of ¼", ⅜", ½", ⅝", ¾" and 1". The board has been well received in British Guiana and an export trade to The West Indies is developing. Towards the end of the year the Company produced four types of prefabricated houses constructed mainly from particle board panels. These houses aroused considerable interest and several orders were received.

The Demerara Bauxite Company Limited sold the following quantities of various grades of bauxite :



Dried bauxite		1,062,243 long tons
Calcined bauxite	126,190 long tons abrasive	
	143,874 long tons refractory	270,064
	Total	1,332,307

872,610 tons dried bauxite were shipped to Canada for the manufacture of aluminium. Of the calcined bauxite, 28.5% was shipped to Canada, 22.1% to the United States of America and 49.4% to Europe, Far and Middle East, South and Central America and Africa.

The world-wide business recession, coupled with the increasing availability of aluminium in most markets, continued to restrict local production. The bauxite mining and production facilities at Mackenzie operated at about 65% of capacity only for most of the year but towards the end there was an improvement in the level of activity. There was an encouraging increase in sales of calcined bauxite in 1959 as compared to 1958, and indications are that sales of both calcined and dried bauxite will improve substantially in 1960.

Considerable progress was made on the construction of the new alumina plant at Mackenzie. By the end of 1959, about \$40 million had been expended on this new industry. The plant which will cost over \$60 million when completed is scheduled to commence production early in 1961 and will have a capacity of 220,000 long tons of alumina per year.

The Northwest Guiana Mining Company Ltd. continued its preparatory works for the production of manganese ore, and by year-end, the final stages of construction were reached. All of the mine buildings, offices, laboratories etc. were completed and the greater part of the machinery and fittings was installed. Pomeroy International Limited completed work on the 32-mile railway, and made good progress on the port installation at Kaituma.

Applications for income tax holidays in respect of the following firms were approved: Pan American Industries Inc. for nails, metal doors and windows, air-conditioning units and ready-mixed concrete; A. M. Fredericks Ltd. for storage batteries; Hotel Tower Ltd. for expansion of their hotel facilities; Timber Developments (B.G.) Ltd. for particle board; and Gunraj Paper Works Ltd. for paper bags.

Demerara Sugar Terminals Ltd. are engaged in the construction of facilities estimated to cost about \$7.5 million for the receiving, storing and shipping of sugar in bulk. The work is expected to be completed by October, 1960, and the facilities to be ready for receiving sugar from the 1961 spring crop. At the end of the year progress on the site works was ahead of schedule.

In an effort to cope with increased supplies of fresh milk and encourage greater consumption, the Milk Pasteurisation Plant marketed a new product in the form of chocolate milk. Although this resulted in increased sales to the extent of an additional 50,000 gallons, the whole surplus was not utilised. It is therefore planned to improve further the milk distribution services during 1960.

*Institutions to aid development*

On the recommendation of the World Bank Mission to British Guiana in 1953, the British Guiana Credit Corporation was established in 1954 for the purpose of providing credit facilities for economic and social development. Since its inception the Corporation has made advances both for the expansion of existing enterprises and for the development of new ones. Repayments so far have been satisfactory.

During the Corporation's financial year ended 30th June, 1959, income exceeded expenditure by \$23,043. Loans were made as follows:—

	No.	Value
Agriculture	131	\$ 438,037
Rural & Urban Housing	315	512,425
Public Officers' Housing	85	493,174
Industry	26	268,214
Fishing	1	1,416
Food Production (Co-op Societies)	90	454,893
Miscellaneous Advances	—	31,889
	648	\$2,200,048

By the end of the year, the total paid out in loans amounted to \$17.2 million and the total of loan repayments was \$10.25 million.

*Progress of Development Schemes*

The Five Year Development Programme 1956—1960 (later revised to four years, 1956—1959) continued very much on the lines of the approved plan with expenditure estimated at \$77.5 mn. over the period. The major works included the continuation of two of the large drainage and irrigation schemes, the reconstruction and extension of arterial roads, the new telephone system, the construction of new schools, hospitals and houses, the rehabilitation of steamer, railway and harbour services and two large land settlement schemes. A number of geological, soil, road and aerial surveys was also carried out.

Actual expenditure for the year has been \$18.5mn. as compared with \$19.9mn. in 1958, \$18.3mn. in 1957 and \$20.5mn. in 1956.

The Departments engaged in developmental works have reported progress during the year as follows :

*Central Agricultural Station Mon Repos E.C. Demerara.* Further work was carried out on the lay out of the land and the re-conditioning and maintenance of the drainage system. The roads in the compound at the stock farm were improved and buildings for the dairy animals completed. The herd of the dairy expansion scheme numbered over 400 head. Additional pastures were planted. The site and plans were completed for the new laboratory; meanwhile the specialist officers continued to make use of the staff houses as temporary laboratories.

*Ebini Livestock Station.* Progress at the Station was satisfactory and the herd numbered over 1,000 animals, which were being up-graded with Santa Gertrudis, Sahiwal and Braham bulls. Investigations on trace element studies proceeded and experiments were conducted on growth rates of calves and steers and the productivity of the pastures.

*St. Ignatius Station.* Further fencing of paddocks was completed. Greater emphasis was placed on growth rate, grazing management, fertility and breeding studies. Good quality bulls obtained from Santa Gertrudis and Braham bulls were being made available to ranchers for the up-grading of their animals.

*Hosororo Experiment Station.* Extension and experimental works continued during the year.

*Surveys.* Detailed soil surveys of the Cane Grove and Vergoegen Land Settlement Schemes and of the Moruka Amerindian Reservation in the North West District were completed. The survey of the Tapacuma area on the Essequibo Coast was started.

*Fisheries.* Fish landed from the "Cape St. Mary" from January to April when the survey ended amounted to 87,487 lbs.; the commonest types caught being the sea trout, golden croaker and bangamary. The most productive waters continued to be between depths of 10 and 20 fathoms. Over \$2,300 worth of fish was cropped from the brackish water ponds of the Onverwagt Station, Western Berbice.

*Crops.* There continued to be great scope for the expansion of cocoa cultivation and during the year the number of plants distributed was sufficient for an extension of cultivation by about 800 acres. A campaign to increase the planting of coconuts was commenced and large nurseries were planted. After disappointing results, jute investigations were discontinued and the Berbice Fibre

Research Company, which was responsible for the investigations, went into liquidation.

*Torani Canal.* British Guiana's deepest and longest controlled waterway, the Torani Canal, is now 99% completed. Work began on removing blockages in a two-mile long section and should be completed by the middle of 1961 to coincide with the completion of the Black Bush Polder Project.

*Black Bush Polder Project.* The area, formerly a swamp which was drained by three large sluices completed in 1958, was entirely reclaimed and the pumping stations completed. This station's capacity is 600 tons of irrigation water a minute to the Polder area and the area between the Polder and the sea. The Lesbeholden section of the Polder totalling some 5,542 acres was almost completed except for the intersettlement road which links the four settlements of the Project. This Polder should be functioning in time for the sowing of the 1960 autumn rice crop. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in 1961.

*Boerasirie Project.* This project which is designed to provide main water control facilities for the coastal area between the Essequibo and Demerara rivers and the riverain lands lying between the mouths of the Bonasika and Kamuni rivers and the Atlantic Ocean, was completed during the year. The works entailed a low dam 36 miles in length with an average height of 6 ft. which now forms a shallow water conservancy capable of storing 8,600 million cubic feet of water above dead storage level.

*Tapacuma Project.* The Consultants — Sir William Halcrow and Partners — have completed their investigations of the project and submitted their report. Detailed plans and contract documents were being prepared and should be available in 1960. This project will benefit areas totalling 35,396 acres extending from Zorg-en-Vlygt to Somerset Berks and 15,000 acres between the Somerset Berks canal and the mouth of the Pomeroun River.

During the year eight new schools were built providing accommodation for 2,190 pupils.

A new Wadkin F.D. 86 planer was installed at the Central Timber Manufacturing Plant and several other improvements made. Silvicultural operations continued. Pine plantations established since 1954 were treated and 16 acres of new plantations laid down. Treatment for the natural regeneration of exploited forest was carried out at Bara-Bara on the Mazaruni River and Moraballi on the Essequibo River. The preparation of forest type maps continued and an area of 142 square miles of forest, south of the Great Falls, Demerara River, was enumerated. Three Forest Rangers were attached

to the Forest Department in Trinidad for two months while a Forest Inspector and a Forest Guard paid a two-week visit there.

The Geological Survey Department attained its full establishment of 19 scientific officers and continued the programme of reconnaissance geological mapping for the production of a map of the colony on a scale 1,500,000. This map will serve as a basis for the planning of prospecting campaigns using modern scientific and technical methods, and the first edition should be ready by 1962. Mapping at a scale of 2 miles to an inch was completed over 6,000 square miles and 990 miles of rivers and trails were traversed. An expedition was undertaken to the New River area in the extreme south of the Colony.

As a result of the special study of bauxite and bauxitic laterites of the Colony, which was made by a senior geologist, a new and very extensive area of bauxite deposits was discovered in the Pakaraima Mountains. An expedition to explore the area fully was planned for 1960.

An investigation of the alluvial gold and diamond deposits was in progress and recommendations will be made for measures to assist the small miner in opening new areas. Some 2,000 pork-knockers are now working diamonds in the upper Kurupung area which was recently discovered following a geological survey, and the diamond out-put for 1959 was higher than that for many years.

The investigation of the yield capacity of the coastal artesian basin continued and it was shown that with the present off-take the threat of saline intrusion was not imminent. The methods of pollen analysis being applied were expected to yield information regarding the extent and recharge areas of the aquifers.

The Fifth Session of the Inter-Guiana Geological Conference was held in Georgetown in October—November and was attended by delegates representing South American and Metropolitan countries.

One cottage hospital each was started at Leguan, Leonora and Mahaicony and were nearing completion.

Under the Rural and Urban Housing Programme the original plan to construct 4,500 houses was subsequently reduced to 3,218, all of which were completed during 1959. 675 of these houses were built by aided self-help. A new programme is scheduled to start in 1960.

*Mara Scheme.* The rehabilitation and development of Plantation Mara *cum annexis* on the East Bank of Berbice continued and at the end of the year the major drainage and irrigation works were completed. "Blast" disease infested the greater portion of the 3,466 acres cultivated with rice and on the advice of the Agriculture Department it was decided to restrict rice growing and allocate approximately—

- (a) 1,365 acres for rice cultivation in plots of 15 acres each to rice farmers and 215 acres of 2½ acres each as farmstead on which these farmers would live;
- (b) 1,025 acres of farmstead between 13½ to 15 acres each on which farmers would live and cultivate vegetables and permanent crops (*e.g.* cocoa, limes) and raise poultry and a limited number of dairy animals; and
- (c) 717 acres of farmstead for cocoa cultivation in plots of 12 acres each to farmers and 144 acres of 3 acres each for homesteads for these farmers.

By the end of 1959 the entire rice area had been cleared, levelled and allocated to farmers. The "Blast" disease was kept under control by continual spraying during the period of growth of the rice. The allocation of the entire area should be completed in 1960.

*Garden of Eden Scheme.* Work on the rehabilitation and development of this area continued and the original plan, which was to cater for 47 families, was revised to cater for 78. Of the seventy-two farms allocated this year, housing sites were cleared for sixty-eight. Roads were constructed throughout the settlement and all drainage and irrigation canals completed.

*Improvement of Telecommunications.* The programme of rehabilitation and expansion of the entire system continued. At the end of the year the installation of the new Georgetown automatic exchange was virtually completed. The laying of underground asbestos cement ducts in the Georgetown area was also completed with nearly all cables drawn in and jointed. The small automatic exchanges at Atkinson and Bartica were put into service. In rural areas more buildings were erected to house small exchanges.

*Roads.* Reconstruction of the road between Georgetown and the International Airport at Atkinson Field continued with realignment and embankments of sand/clay and new sand/bitumen surfacing. Designs were prepared for the location of approximately 11 miles of the proposed 30 mile long Parika-Makouria Road which will link Parika with Bartica. A reconnaissance topographic survey and preliminary survey of approximately 160 miles between Mahdia and Good Hope of the proposed Potaro/Lethem Road were completed.

*Sea and River Defences.* During the year 36,383 feet of new protective works and 20,175 feet of work on existing structures were carried out. The construction of two sluices continued. Large scale works were carried out over the greater portion of the area between Nabaclis and Annandale, affected by erosion. Early in December emergency strengthening of the defences between the

Vigilance and Buxton sluices, East Coast, Demerara, was necessitated following the lowering of the foreshore during the spring tides.

*Pure Water Supply.* During the year two wells were completed and three wells drilled. Approximately 5.25 miles of 6" 4.06 miles of 4" and 4.03 miles of 4" and 3" pipeline were relaid. Three projects involving the erection of tanks, sumps and pumps, and two of the tanks and pumps were completed.

At the end of the year 15 houses for Public Officers and 7 Public Buildings, of which one was an extension, were completed.

*Shipping Services.* During the latter part of the year the internal shipping services were improved by the addition to the fleet of the Transport and Harbours Department of a new ferry "M.V. Makouria", which was built in the United Kingdom. This ferry is capable of carrying 1,100 passengers with 25 cars, bicycles and hucksters' produce on the car deck, and can also carry the heaviest type of commercial vehicles. The keel of a sister ferry being built by Sproston Limited, British Guiana was laid on the 18th June, 1959.

*Wharves.* Work was started on the modernisation of the Ferry Terminals at Georgetown and Vreed-en-Hoop.

*Railways.* During the year track rehabilitation and improvements to stations, including the installation of modern sanitary amenities, were carried out.

*Harbour Services.* A consultant engaged by the United Nations Special Fund visited the colony in August/September, 1959, to examine the Colony's seaboard, estuary bars and ship channels. In September a representative from the Hydraulics Research Station at Wallingford, England, also visited the Colony and examined the Sea Defence works, harbours and estuary bars.

Manganese ore will be carried via the Kaituma and Barima rivers and through Mora passage to the mouth of the Waini river to Trinidad for transshipment, and plans for the improvement of existing navigational aids in these areas were drawn up. The Harbour Station at Vreed-en-Hoop was completed during the year and has facilities for berthing 2 dredges and 4 Pilot launches. Harbour stores and a maintenance workshop have been provided and radio telephones linking the Harbour Master's Office and Pilot launches installed.

*Community Development and Youth Welfare.* Thirty-nine self-help schemes were approved in 1959 costing some \$55,219, of which Government provided \$23,267.44. Schemes completed at the end of the year included a \$13,000 Community Centre at Victoria, East Coast, Demerara, a ¾ mile long road at No. 1 Village, Corentyne, and the enclosing of the ground floor of the Beterverwagt-

ing/Triumph (East Coast, Demerara) Community Centre. A "Community Education Week" was held at Queenstown, Essequibo; a "Food, Health and Home Week" exhibition at Huis t'Dieren, Essequibo and a "Better Homes Week" at Savannah Park, Berbice.

The report of the Youth Advisory Commission is under consideration by the Government.

*Amerindian Development.* Shelters for transient Amerindians were constructed. Further work was done in providing suitable water supplies for Amerindian villages in the Rupununi and two trade stores were built in the district. Training for Amerindians continued and courses in domestic training, tailoring, dressmaking and cotton spinning were held in the North West, Pomeroun and Rupununi Districts Adult Education classes were also conducted.

### *Civil Service*

*Training programme.* During 1959 the Government continued its programme of Conditional Scholarship awards, aimed at providing opportunities for suitably qualified Guianese candidates to equip themselves for senior professional and technical appointments. This programme was supplemented by an organised in-service training scheme for serving officers, designed to broaden their outlook and increase their efficiency.

**Conditional Scholarships** are awarded for recognised courses of advanced study at Institutions of higher education, a condition of these awards being that on the successful completion of the course, the scholar must serve the Government, if required, for a specified number of years, usually five. A further condition is that one-third of the cost of the scholarship shall be repaid, either by the parents of the scholar, or by the scholar himself in the form of deductions over a stipulated period, from the salary of the post to which he is appointed on the completion of his training.

Fourteen Conditional Scholarships were awarded and at the end of the year there were fifty-one Conditional Scholars qualifying abroad, for appointment to the Public Service in the following fields

Agriculture	4
Agricultural Economics	1
Architecture	2
Chemistry (including Post-graduate Analyst course)	5
Dietetics	2
Engineering (including Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Telecommunications)	20



	<i>Brought Forward</i>	34
Forestry		2
Geology		3
Hospital Almoning		1
Lecturer, Government Techni- cal Institute		1
Master (Art) Queen's College		1
Mistresses (Mathematics, Physics and Physical Education), Bishops' High School		3
Pharmacy		1
Physiotherapy		2
Quantity Surveying		2
Radiography		1
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Nine scholars successfully completed their training during the year and were appointed to the posts for which they were trained.

The policy of providing in-service overseas training to suit specialised departmental requirements, proceeded simultaneously with the training by way of scholarships, and sixty-nine such assignments were initiated during 1959. These courses were financed mainly from local funds, but continued use was made of facilities offered by the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme and other programmes such as those of the United Nations and its specialised agencies, and the United States International Co-operation Administration.

Locally, on-the-job training proceeded with a continued and gradual movement towards organised training in individual departments. For example, the courses run by the Prisons Department to train promising Prison Officers for accelerated promotion were continued. The training of Official Reporters for the Legislature begun in 1958 was also continued, and, at present, these trainees comprise one Official and two Apprentice Official Reporters.

A special feature of the year was the initiation by the Civil Service Association of training courses consisting mainly of a series of lectures made by senior Government Officers and prominent members of the community. These lectures which were designed to make Government officers more aware of the organisation, functions and policy of Government and its agents and certain aspects of management and office organisation, were well attended and the out-look for the promotion of future courses appears encouraging. The Civil Service Association also ran a training course in Shorthand and Typewriting for Steno-Typists. Out of a total of forty-four

candidates enrolled, twenty-nine actually attended the course in its early stages, but this number was later reduced to twenty-one. The attendance was reported to be good on the whole and the candidates with few exceptions were said to be keen and eager to learn.

The Cadets selected in 1958 under the Police Cadet Scheme returned from the United Kingdom, after completing the United Kingdom phase of their training. They have all been attached to the local Police Force for one year of further training, at the end of which time if considered suitable in all respects, they will be appointed as Assistant Superintendents of Police on probation.

The Agricultural Cadetship Scheme under which candidates for appointment as Agricultural Instructors receive a period of training locally, to be followed by attendance at the two-year diploma course at the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute still continues. There are now sixteen Agricultural cadets from this territory enrolled at the Institute under this scheme.

Five scholarship awards were made to Primary School teachers to enable them to undertake courses leading to a Teacher's Certificate or in specialised fields such as Handicrafts and the Education of young children. Two Science Scholarships tenable at the University College of the West Indies were also awarded to teachers in Secondary Schools to enable them to pursue courses leading to the B.Sc. degree.

*Guianisation.* The Government's policy with respect to the appointment of suitably qualified Guianese to fill senior vacancies in the Public Service was under review in consultation with Staff Associations.

*Re-organisation of Whitley Council.* The negotiating and conciliating machinery between the Government as an employer, and those organisations which represent officers and employees in the Public Service, has not been working satisfactorily, and proposals for improving the existing machinery were circulated to Staff Associations and Trade Unions representing Government officers and employees for eventual discussion in Whitley Council. These proposals are still under consideration by some of the Staff Associations.

*Removal of the Marriage Bar to permanent employment in the Public Service.* The general aim of Government's policy is to remove all restrictions on the permanent employment of married women in the Public Service. In view of the unemployment situation in the country, however, Government has decided that the time is not opportune to give full effect to this policy, but, as a first step towards achieving the ultimate objective, the existing restrictions were removed on the permanent employment of pro-

professionally and technically qualified married women including women undergoing training towards the acquisition of professional and technical qualifications.

*Organisation and Methods Advisory Service.* This section continued to function during the year in the section of the Principal Establishment Officer (Establishment) under the direction of the Deputy Chief Secretary. The Organisation and Methods Adviser rejoined the Service on 22nd November, 1959. The Service continues to act as consultants on questions of office machines and equipment, forms designs, records and registry practice. The principal activities included the integration of the Immigration Agent and Registrar General's Offices, and reviewing accounting procedures and stores, intra-and inter-departmental accounting, etc.

*Salaries Review Commissioner.* Mr. L. H. Gorsuch, C.B.E., Salaries Review Commissioner, submitted his report in March, 1959; this was still under consideration, at the end of 1959.

*Administrative Cadets.* The number of Administrative Cadets remained at six during 1959. One cadet completed a year's training at Oxford University and returned to British Guiana in August, and two cadets (one woman) resigned from the Service. Five vacancies were filled during the year with the appointment of two persons (one woman) with professional and other academic qualifications, and of three serving officers following a competitive examination and interview.

APPENDIX  
COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES IN EXISTENCE IN 1959

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Exp. to 31.12.59	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Funds
		\$	\$	\$
	<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
R.764	Ebini Livestock Station	146,400	105,659	143,720
R.892/D.3286	Soil and Land Use Survey (Interior and Coast)	326,462	147,856	16,428
R.898	Botanical Survey Savannahs	8,640	5,649	1,883
D.1848	Abattoir and Refrigeration Plant, Lethem	96,000	92,417	54,672*
D.1931 & A	Central Agricultural Station	1,170,720	1,005,404	110,279
D.2172 & A	St. Ignatius Livestock Station	397,142	297,921	90,444
D.2319 & A	Hosororo Experiment Station	124,934	44,349	1,415
D.2555/3344 & A	Fisheries—Inland and Sea	177,432	173,474	89,285
D.2779	Investigations into increasing Padi Yields	61,008	34,005	5,697
D.2900 & A & B	Agricultural Staff Training	73,934	58,284	47,524
D.2976	Experiments — Jute Cultivation . .	389,779	336,443	121,930
D.3622	Cocoa Development	69,153	39,495	47,861
D.3905	Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute	6,000	6,000	
		3,047,614	2,346,956	731,138
	<b>LAND DEVELOPMENT</b>			
D.3187	Development of Garden of Eden	204,451	44,758	11,189
D.3188 & A & B	Development of Mara . .	1,181,083	876,857	368,066
D.3682	Improvement and Expansion of Existing Land Develop- ment Schemes	221,016	146,905	36,720
		1,606,550	<u>1,068,520</u>	<u>415,981</u>
	<b>DRAINAGE &amp; IRRIGATION</b>			
D.2526 & A/C	Investigational Survey in Drainage and Irrigation Mahaicony-Berbice	335,536	333,465	26,889
D.2527 & A & B	Investigational Survey in Drainage and Irrigation Mahaicony-Tapakuma	83,553	65,491	3,033
D.2828 B	Minor Drainage Works . .	689,318	216,556	54,385*

APPENDIX (Cont'd)  
 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES IN EXISTENCE IN 1959

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Exp. to 31.12.59	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Funds
D.2838 & A & B	Hydrological Surveys (operation in the Canje, Mahaica, Mahaicony and Abary Rivers) ..	\$ 179,741	\$ 141,616	\$ 119,660
D.3703	Tapakuma Project .. .. .	367,200	323,054	35,395
D.3974	East Demerara Water Conservancy Relief Sluice and Channel .. .. .	302,016	—	—
		1,957,374	1,080,122	239,852
	SEA DEFENCES			
D.3746	Construction of Sea Defence Works .. .. .	1,750,003	1,251,043	292,569
	FORESTRY			
D.2313 & A	Timber Appraisals .. .. .	88,564	77,986	2,686
D.2318	Staff Training .. .. .	30,000	19,131	1,179
D.3261 & A/C	Staff .. .. .	59,429	47,396	5,266
D.3391	Silviculture .. .. .	35,938	26,030	2,892
		208,931	170,543	12,043
	GEOLOGICAL & AERIAL SURVEYS			
D.2792	Expansion of Geological Surveys .. .. .	1,725,048	1,066,361	231,501
D.3200 & A/ D.3824	Aerial Photography of B.G. and Trinidad .. .. .	360,000	275,102	—
		2,085,048	1,341,463	231,501
	INTERIOR COMMUNICATIONS			
D.1658 & A	Aeronautical Telecommunications and Equipment ..	70,104	60,820	—
D.3155	Improvements of Interior communications .. .. .	99,187	23,010	2,557
D.3454	Kamarang Airstrip .. .. .	49,502	8,709	132
		218,793	92,539	2,689

APPENDIX (Cont'd)  
 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES IN EXISTENCE IN 1959

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Exp. to 31.12.59	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Funds
	<b>ROADS</b>	\$	\$	\$
D.2839 & A & B	Parika/Bartica Road .. .. .	83,500	65,862	32,931
D.2960 & A	Bartica/Potaro Road .. .. .	334,842	261,823	199,729
D.3192 & A	Potaro/Lethem Road .. .. .	289,800	265,776	192,988
		<u>708,142</u>	<u>593,461</u>	<u>425,648</u>
	<b>EDUCATION</b>			
D.3624	Home Economics and Handicraft .. .. .	87,302	—	—
D.3760	Primary School Building Programme .. .. .	319,997	38,081	9,520
		<u>407,299</u>	<u>38,081</u>	<u>9,520</u>
	<b>AMERINDIAN DEVELOPMENT</b>			
D.2822 & A	Amerindian Development—Resettlement of Wapisiana Tribe .. .. .	26,098	25,672	2,855
D.3143 & A	Rest Shelters at Bartica and Lethem and Water Supply in the Amerindian Villages .. .. .	13,502	11,156	1,240
D.3717	Additional Rest Shelters, Training Centres, Trade Stores and a District Station .. .. .	46,848	20,260	2,251
		<u>86,448</u>	<u>57,078</u>	<u>6,346</u>
	<b>SOCIAL WELFARE</b>			
D.3337	Young Men's Christian Association (Albouystown) ..	13,795	10,635	3,545
	<b>HEALTH</b>			
R.1052 & A	Anti-Typhoid Vaccine Trials .. .. .	183,600	10,094	—
D.2174 & A	State Hospitals, Port Mourant and Wakenaam .. .. .	169,560	168,072	5,008
D.2529	Cottage Hospital and Dispensary, Leguan .. .. .	30,000	4,367	—
D.2823	Central Medical Store .. .. .	105,499	100,691	100,692

GENERAL

APPENDIX (Cont'd)  
 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES IN EXISTENCE IN 1959

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Exp. to 31.12.59	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Funds
		\$	\$	\$
D.3172	Equipment for Port Mourant, Leguan and Leonora Hospitals and for Mobile Dispensary, Supenaam	99,000	50,868	5,570
D.3653	Erection of 2 Cottage Hospitals, 25 Health Centres and 6 Mortuaries	469,171	—	—
D.3718	Vaccine against Poliomyelitis	77,674	24,651	2,739
		1,134,395	358,743	114,069
	<b>HOUSING</b>			
D.2546	Rural and Urban Housing	5,730,792	5,730,792	9,865,390
	<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>			
D.2841 & A/C	Water Supply in the Rural Districts	1,116,418	975,242	273,884
	<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>			
D.3654	Modernization of P.W.D. Workshops	72,051	23,936	23,936
	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
R.852 (17)	Medical Research Scheme	422		
D.2569 (17)	Training in Agriculture	6,720	739CR	
D.2658 (208)	Training in Home Economics	1,549	1,104	
D.2717 (1)	Experiment in Papain Production	2,400	—	
D.3122 & A	Rural Self Help Schemes	449,640	128,035	43,798
D. 3164 & A	Government Recording Studio	48,168	1,065	118
D.3519	Minor Amenities	12,000	3,241	
D.3520	Training	24,000	5,478*	
D.3525	Scholarship	16,080	3,629*	
		560,979	141,813	43,916

APPENDIX (Cont'd)  
 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES IN EXISTENCE IN 1959

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Exp. to 31.12.59	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Funds
	SUMMARY	\$	\$	\$
	Agriculture .. .. .	3,047,614	2,346,956	731,138
	Land Development .. .. .	1,606,550	1,068,520	415,981
	Drainage and Irrigation .. .. .	1,957,574	1,080,122	239,862
	Sea Defences .. .. .	1,750,003	1,251,043	292,569
	Forestry .. .. .	208,931	170,543	12,043
	Geological and Aerial Surveys .. .. .	2,085,048	1,341,463	231,501
	Interior Communications .. .. .	218,793	92,539	2,689
	Roads .. .. .	708,142	593,461	425,648
	Education .. .. .	407,299	38,081	9,520
	Amerindian Development .. .. .	86,448	57,078	6,346
	Social Welfare .. .. .	13,795	10,635	3,545
	Health .. .. .	1,134,395	358,743	114,009
	Housing .. .. .	5,730,792	5,730,792	9,865,390
	Water Supply .. .. .	1,116,418	975,242	273,884
	Public Works .. .. .	72,051	23,936	23,936
	Miscellaneous .. .. .	560,979	141,813	43,916
	GRAND TOTAL .. .. .	\$ 20,704,632	15,280,967	12,691,977

\* Estimated

GENERAL REVIEW



## PART II

### *Chapter I: Population*

The last census for British Guiana was taken on 9th April, 1946. On that date the population including Amerindians totalled 375,701, comprising 186,433 males and 189,268 females.

The figures on vital statistics for 1959 furnished below are provisional, since firm figures are not yet available.

The end-of-year estimate of population, divided into racial groups and based on the 1946 census, excluding Amerindians, with comparative figures for the previous year, is as follows:

<i>Racial Groups</i>	<i>December 31, 1958</i>			<i>December 31, 1959</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
East Indians	132,380	126,230	258,610	137,550	131,160	268,710
African Decents	89,030	93,680	182,710	91,120	95,680	186,800
Mixed	30,230	31,600	61,830	31,390	32,630	64,020
Chinese	1,860	1,580	3,440	1,860	1,630	3,490
Portuguese	3,480	4,200	7,680	3,470	4,230	7,700
Other Europeans	2,300	2,560	4,860	2,440	2,560	5,000
Total	259,280	259,850	519,130	267,830	267,890	535,720

The population of the Colony at December 31, excluding Amerindians, is estimated at 535,720—267,830 males and 267,890 females.

The number of Amerindians in the Colony at December 31, 1959 is estimated at 22,240 — 11,420 males and 10,820 females.

Comparative vital statistical data, excluding Amerindians, for the past three years are as follows :

		<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959*</i>
Population	Males	250,900	259,280	267,830
	Females	251,770	259,850	267,890
	Total	502,670	519,130	535,720

## POPULATION

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Total Births	Males	11,075	11,500	11,539
	Females	10,957	11,231	11,023
	Total	22,032	22,731	22,562
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 mean population	Mean	494,900	510,900	527,430
	Rate	44.5	44.5	42.8
Still Births	No.	724	725	686
	Rate	32.9	31.9	30.4
Total Deaths	Males	2,912	2,646	2,789
	Females	2,814	2,549	2,591
	Total	5,726	5,195	5,380
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 mean population	Mean	494,900	510,900	527,430
	Rate	11.6	10.2	10.2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death	1,489	1,392	1,390
	Rate	67.6	61.2	61.6

\* Provisional

The number of births and deaths, the rates and number of departures and arrivals during the year — excluding Amerindians — with comparative figures for the previous two years are as follows:

	1957		1958		1959*	
	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000
Mean Population	494,990	—	510,900	—	527,430	
Births	22,032	44.5	22,731	43.8	22,562	42.8
Deaths	5,726	11.6	5,195	10.5	5,380	10.2
Departures	20,681	—	20,713	—	23,074	
Arrivals	19,735	—	19,638	—	22,485	

\* Provisional

## Chapter II : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

### EMPLOYMENT

*Sugar Industry.* The volume of employment in the cultivation of sugar cane and in the manufacture of sugar is greater than in any other industry in the Colony. The workers are in two main groups *viz.*, field workers and factory workers. The latter includes field equipment operators and field mechanics.

The average number of workers employed weekly in the field during 1959 (Jan. — Oct.) was 16,971 compared with 18,096 during the same period in the previous year. Details are as follows:

	Adults		Young Persons		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1958						
Jan. — Oct.	13,265	3,627	961	243	14,226	3,870
1959						
Jan. — Oct.	12,636	3,487	738	110	13,374	3,597

The average number employed continued to decrease owing to increased mechanisation of field operations, technical improvement in both field and factory and the implementation of the employers' policy of stabilisation of the labour force.

In respect of the number of factory workers engaged in the industry the following information is supplied :

	Adults		Young Persons		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1958						
Jan. — Oct.	4,769	130	302	—	5,071	130
1959						
Jan. — Oct.	4,443	102	346	—	4,789	102

Employment in the industry is of a seasonal nature and tends to reach its peak during the harvest time. The highest and lowest numbers employed in any one month in the field during 1959 (Jan.— Oct.) were 25,612 in September and 10,281 in June, compared with 25,967 in October and 10,905 in June during 1958. In the factories the highest and lowest numbers employed during 1959 were 5,179 in March and 4,735 in July, compared with 5,642 in April and 4,016 in January during 1958.

The number of day units worked per week by each field worker during 1959 (Jan. — Oct.) was 4.29 compared with 4.42 for the same period last year.

The averages for males and females during 1959 compared with 1958 are as follows:

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	<i>Adults</i>		<i>Young Persons</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1958						
Jan. — Oct.	4.55	3.86	4.74	4.03	4.56	3.87
1959						
Jan. — Oct.	4.50	3.49	4.64	3.89	4.51	3.50

Under-employment and absenteeism appear to be the main causes of these low averages. The policy of stabilisation of the labour force in the industry which is being pursued by the employers should continue to provide a higher level of employment among workers in the industry.

*Rice Industry.* Rice is cultivated chiefly by peasants for the most part by hand tillage, but the number of machines in use for cultivation and harvesting of rice is steadily increasing on the pattern of the Mahaicony/Abary Rice Development Scheme, which was established to assist the development of the industry through mechanical cultivation and harvesting, and is now operated by the British Guiana Rice Development Company, Limited.

Rice milling is done mainly in a large number of small privately owned mills situated on the coastlands. Modern mills of much larger capacity have, however, been installed at Mahaicony/Abary Scheme, and at the Land Development Schemes at Vergenoegen, West Demerara, and Anna Regina, Essequibo. The Mahaicony/Abary and the Anna Regina Mills are owned by the B.G. Rice Development Company, Limited, and the mill at Vergenoegen by the Government (Land Development Department).

Firm information on the number of persons engaged in the rice industry is not available. But it is estimated that in 1955 there were approximately 27,000 rice farms and about 50,000 to 80,000 persons engaged in rice farming. Most rice farmers employ members of their families to meet their labour requirements. The number of wage earners employed in the Industry is therefore very small.

On the basis of figures submitted in respect of about 80 rice mills in the Colony, the approximate level of employment in rice milling during 1959 (Jan. — June) was 488 compared with an average of 646 in 1958 (Jan. — June). Details are as follows :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Jan. — June 1958	624	22	646
Jan. — June 1959	441	47	488

The Mahaicony/Abary Rice Development Scheme is the largest single employer of wage earners in the industry. The numbers employed fortnightly on the Scheme in the field and in the mill during the year ranged from 173 in April to 477 in October compared with 189 in June and 483 in October, 1958. (Those employed in the mill are included in the figures given in the preceding paragraph).

*Bauxite Industry* — This industry is one of the most important in the Colony from the point of view of production value, although it employs a much smaller labour force than the sugar industry. The amount of bauxite produced during 1959 was 1,674,416 long tons, an increase of 88,537 long tons over the 1958 figure.

Despite the increase in production, there was however some retrenchment of employees engaged in this industry. Thus the number of employees ranged between a fortnightly maximum of 1916 in December and a minimum of 1677 in April as compared with 2721 in January and 1798 in December of the previous year.

*Timber Industry.* A considerable portion of the land area of British Guiana is covered by forests. Timber is extracted by workers engaged by operators of grants either on a wage-earning or contract basis. No recent figures of employment in the industry as a whole are available. The 1946 Census Report records that there were 4,157 persons employed in timber and fire-wood extraction. In 1947—48 a survey of labour conditions and the labour force of the timber industry showed that the total number of persons employed on 233 grants was 2,515 and that there were 626 other workers whose earnings were based on the quantity of timber delivered.

The estimated average number employed monthly in sawmills during 1959 (January to June) was 1,065 compared with 1,067 for 1958 (January to June). Between January and September the estimated average was 969. The highest and lowest numbers employed in any one month during the period and also during 1958 were estimated as follows:—

1958	January	1,199	June	820
1959	June	1,202	August	758

B.G. Timbers Limited continued to be the largest single employer of labour in the sawmilling industry. The average number employed in the mill during 1959 (January to September) was 383 and the highest and lowest numbers employed in any one month were 383 in June and 342 in March compared with 379 in April and 357 in July 1958.

*Gold Mining.* The number of wage earners in the industry is comparatively small and no reliable information is available on this aspect. The only large scale operators, the British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields Ltd. ceased operations during the year. As a result there are only a few workers employed on a care and maintenance basis on their concession.

*Port Labour.* Employment in Port Georgetown is regulated and controlled by a voluntary body known as the Georgetown Port

Labour Committee. This Committee is composed of nine members as follows :

- (a) Four members appointed by the Shipping Association of Georgetown from among its members;
- (b) Four members appointed by the Waterfront Branch of the British Guiana Labour Union from among its members; and
- (c) A Chairman agreed upon both sides or, failing agreement, appointed by His Excellency the Governor.

Since its inception, the Committee has been operating under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner of Labour with an Assistant Inspector of Labour performing the secretarial duties.

In addition to four basic agreements between the Shipping Association of Georgetown and the Waterfront Branch of the British Guiana Labour Union, under which the Revised Georgetown Port Labour Scheme has been functioning since 1955, the parties established during 1957 a Disciplinary Committee for the purpose of dealing with offences such as theft of cargo, assault, insubordination causing damage to ship's or employer's property, using abusive or obscene language at work-place and tampering with Registration Book with intent to cheat.

During 1959, the number of registered stevedores fell from 388 to 383. The number of wharf-workers increased from 452 to 459 as several new applications for employment of this nature were approved by the Port Labour Committee.

*Government* — The average numbers of wage-earners employed in the principal employing Departments of Government during 1959 compared with 1958 were as follows:

	1959	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Young Person</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agriculture and Marketing	755	188	35	978	
Transport and Harbours Department	2,146	20	55	2,221	
Public Works Department	1,826	27	26	1,879	
Total for 1959	4,727	235	116	5,078	
Total for 1958	5,318	258	157	5,733	

*Employment Exchange Service.* Provision exists for the registration of unemployed workers at the Government Employment Exchange Service in the city of Georgetown and the town of New Amsterdam. While there are no registration facilities existing in other parts of the Colony, persons may register by letter. As registration is entirely voluntary and not all unemployed workers make use of this facility, the statistics kept by the Exchange Service give only an indication of the unemployment trend.

The number of persons who registered with the Employment Exchange during 1959 was 6,618 as compared with 9,158 in 1958. Details of registration, placings, etc., are shown hereunder in comparison with 1958.

	1958				1959			
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Registrations	5,372	2,332	1,012	442	3,482	1,795	922	419
Vacancies notified	2,611	864	942	187	2,444	983	665	211
Placings made	2,341	635	930	184	2,048	594	642	199
No. on live Register at the end of Year	2,225	1,218	351	211	2,029	1,081	417	124

#### WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

*Sugar Industry* — Generally wages are paid on a piece rate basis to field workers and on a time rate basis to factory workers. Piece-work rates vary from estate to estate mainly because of variation in soil conditions and in the type of work required.

The number of working hours per day in the field is determined by the workers themselves. Factory workers have an 8-hour day and 48-hour week, overtime being paid for hours worked in excess of these in accordance with the provisions of the Factories Ordinance.

Sugar estate workers in the field and factories receive a cost-of-living allowance, which in 1959, was 117½% of the basic rates for field workers and equivalent hourly rates for factory workers. In addition, production and incentive bonuses are paid to certain groups of workers who qualify.

During the year discussions were held between the B.G. Sugar Producers' Association and the Man-Power Citizens' Association regarding the introduction of a Compulsory Pension Scheme for sugar workers.

This scheme is dependent on the advice of Specialist Advisers and also the availability of funds from sources agreed upon by the parties at the earliest practicable date. Both parties have agreed that the scheme will come into effect by 1st January, 1961.

As a result of negotiations on wages during the year the new agreed minimum rates of pay effective from 1st July for factory workers and field time workers are as follows:

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<i>Factory Workers</i>	<i>Minimum Rates Per Hour</i>	<i>Normal Hours of Work</i>
Skilled	39.1c.	8 hours per day
Semi-skilled	32.1c.	48 hours per week
Unskilled (Male)	29.1c.	
Unskilled (Female)	20.2c.	
Apprentices (Males only)	16.1c.—23.8c.	

*“Able-Bodied” Field Time Workers      Minimum Rates Per Day*

*Males:*

Adults	\$2.33
Young Persons (16—18)	\$1.63
Young Persons (under 16)	\$1.40

*Females:*

Adults	\$1.63
Young Persons (16—18)	\$1.14
Young Persons (under 16)	.98

The earnings of sugar workers, especially those in the field vary with the season and are highest at reaping time. The average weekly earnings in 1958 and 1959 were as follows:

<i>Non “Able-Bodied” Time Workers</i>	<i>1958 (Jan.—Oct.)</i>	<i>1959 (Jan.—Oct.)</i>
Males		\$9.09 (£ 1.17s. 10½d)
Females . .		\$4.71 (£ 0.19s. 7½d)

*“Able-Bodied”*

*Piece Workers*

Adult Male	\$16.73 (£ 3. 9s. 8½d)	\$16.32 (£ 3. 8s. 0d)
Adult Female	\$ 6.64 (£ 1. 7s. 8d)	\$ 5.70 (£ 1. 3s. 9d)

*Factory Workers (Time)*

Adult Male (Unskilled)	\$15.98 (£ 3. 6s. 7d)	\$16.13 (£ 3. 7s. 2½d.)
Adult Male (Skilled)	\$22.54 (£ 4.13s. 11d)	\$21.85 (£ 4.11s. 0½d)

*Factory Workers (Piece)*

Adult Male (Unskilled)	\$19.99 (£ 4. 3s. 3½d)	\$22.84 (£ 4.15s. 4d)
Adult Male (Skilled)	\$31.88 (£ 6.12s. 10d.)	\$28.73 (£ 5.19s. 8½d)

*N.B.* These figures include payments made for overtime work.

*Rice Industry* — Reliable statistics are not available regarding the average earnings and hours of work in the rice industry as a whole, such information being difficult to compute since persons engaged in planting and harvesting of paddy, are, as a rule, paid on a task basis.



At the Mahaicony/Abary Rice Development Scheme workers were paid at the following rates:

<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Minimum Hourly Rates</i>		
<i>Mechanics &amp; Electricians</i>	<i>Cents</i>		
Class A	52 — 57	(2s. 2d.—2s. 4½d.)	
Class B	45 — 50	(1s. 10½d.—2s. 1d.)	
Class C	38 — 44	(1s. 7d.—1s. 10d.)	
<i>Mill Workers</i>			
Men	31½ — 57	(1s. 3¾d.—2s. 4½d.)	
Boys	18 — 24	(0s. 9d.—1s. 0d.)	
<i>Field Workers</i>			
Combine Operators	49 — 57	(2s. 0½d.—2s. 4½d.)	
Tractor Operators	49 — 57	(2s. 0½d.—2s. 4½d.)	
<i>Unskilled Labourers</i>			
Men	31½ — 44	(1s. 3¾d.—1s. 10d.)	
Boys	25	(1s. 0½d.)	

The average weekly earnings in 1959 of male and female workers at the Scheme were \$17.81 (£3. 14s. 2½d.) and \$10.27 (£2. 2s. 9½d.) respectively, as compared with \$17.03 (£3. 10s. 11½d.) and \$5.37 (£1. 2s. 4½d.) in 1958 and the average number of day units worked per week were 5.1 and 4.7, respectively, compared with 5.2 and 3.4 during 1958. Overtime was paid to workshop and mill employees in accordance with the provisions of the Factories Ordinance.

At the B.G. Rice Marketing Board, the sole authority for the purchase and distribution of rice within and outside the colony, the daily wage rates ranged from \$1.96 (8s. 2d.) to \$3.96 (16s. 6d.). Normal hours of work at the Board are eight hours per day for six days per week. Overtime is paid at the rate of time and a half for hours worked up to 6.00 p.m. and double time thereafter, and on public holidays and Sundays double time is paid. Workers are granted 12 days holiday with pay annually, subject to certain qualifications.

*Bauxite Industry* — The two companies mining bauxite in the Colony — the Demerara Bauxite Company Ltd. and the Reynolds Metals Company Ltd. — paid hourly rates of wages ranging in one case from 73c. (3s. 0½d.) for unskilled labour to \$1.55 (6s. 5½d.) for skilled workers and in the other from 73c. (3s. 0½d.) to \$1.22 (5s. 1d.).

Work is arranged in 8-hour day and night shifts in both concerns. The normal hours are eight per day and 40 hours per week. Overtime is paid at the rate of one-and-a-half times the usual rate for work done in excess of the normal daily hours and for work

done on certain public holidays. On Sundays and five specified public holidays, the overtime rate is double the normal rate. These rates in so far as factory workers are concerned are fixed by the Factories Ordinance.

Vacation leave is granted to workers in the industry and ranges from 6 to 18 days a year, subject to certain qualifying conditions.

Housing is provided at a nominal rental by both companies.

*Timber Industry* — Minimum wages prescribed in September 1956, for sawmill workers, consequent upon the Report of an Advisory Committee appointed during 1956, remained in force during 1959.

The Factories Ordinance provides for the payment of overtime to sawmill workers after 8 hours' work per day and Sundays and public holidays, and the Hours of Work (Sawmill Workers) Regulations 1956 (No. 19) limit the number of hours which may normally be worked in sawmills to 44 hours per week. An Order-in-Council made in 1953 provides that holidays with pay shall be allowed to all sawmill workers engaged in manual labour on the basis of one day's holiday for every completed month of service.

The Holidays with Pay (Timber Grant Employees) Order provides that holidays with pay shall be allowed to all timber grant employees on the basis of one day's holiday for each completed month of employment. This Order took effect from 1st November, 1957.

Following representations made by the Sawmill and Forest Workers' Union for the prescription of minimum wages for Timber Grant Employees, Government by Order-in-Council (No. 54 of 1958) established a Wages Council for Timber Grants. The Wages Council will be responsible for the fixing of minimum wages and other conditions of employment in the industry.

During the year several visits of inspection were made to timber grants throughout the colony. The Wages Council is still in the process of collecting relevant information and should present its findings and recommendations early in 1960.

The Fair Wages Rules, 1946, applicable to work given out by Government Departments on contract basis, continued to be effective during the year. These Rules provide that where work involving expenditure of public funds is concerned, the contractor shall pay rates of wages and observe hours and conditions of labour not less favourable than those prevailing in the particular trade or industry.

*Port Labour.* The rates of wages paid during 1959 varied from \$3.36 (14s. 0d.) per 8-hour day for unskilled workers to \$4.82 (£1. 0s. 1d.) per 8-hour day for winchmen and leading hands, compared with \$2.90 (12s. 1d.) and \$4.36 (18s. 2d.) for the same classes of workers in 1957. The wage rate for women was

\$2.58 per day. Higher rates were paid for work outside the day shifts which run from 7 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., and also for work done on Sundays, public holidays and during meal-time intervals.

In order to facilitate the rapid turn around of ships in port, work continued to be arranged in 4-hour shifts extending over the whole 24-hour period. No provision is made for annual holidays-with-pay and there are no fixed rest days, as work is carried on daily as the need arises.

*Cost of Living.* The Urban Consumer Price Index was 104.5 at 15th January, 1959, but fell during the early months of the year reaching its lowest figure for the year (104.1) in March. After that the figure rose sharply in April and then fell again in succeeding months. During July and August the figure remained constant and then increased gradually towards the end of the year when it reached its highest figure.

The figure in December 1959, stood at 105.8, 1.3 higher than at the beginning of the year.

The average retail prices of the principal items of food in June and December, 1958 and 1959, were as follows:

	Unit	1958		1959	
		June Cents	December Cents	June Cents	December Cents
<b>Fresh Meat</b>					
Steak ..	Per lb.	48.7	50.8	51.8	58.5
Stew ..	do.	43.3	41.3	42.7	53.0
<b>Pickled Meat</b>					
Beef ..	do.	74.2	77.0	75.7	71.3
Pigtails ..	do.	76.4	75.1	75.8	71.0
Ground Provisions		4.6	5.0	3.8	3.7
(Locally Grown)	do	-12.3	-14.6	-16.2	--15.2
<b>Other Items</b>					
Potatoes (Imported)	do.	10.9	10.3	10.3	13.6
Bread ..	do.	17.5	18.8	18.4	19.0
Flour (Extra) ..	do.	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.4
Flour (Super) ..	do.	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1
Milk (Fresh) ..	Per pt.	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
Sugar (D.C.) ..	Per lb.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Coffee (Ground) ..	do.	114.4	113.2	112.9	109.2
Butter (Table) ..	do.	107.8	104.7	109.1	119.9
Butter (Cooking) ..	do.	102.2	98.0	101.1	102.9
Margarine ..	do.	52.2	54.0	55.3	55.2
Cheese ..	do.	79.6	76.0	80.0	88.0
Rice (Brown A)	Per Gal	84.0	88.0	88.0	88.0
Oatflakes ..	Per lb.	18.8	19.3	19.3	19.4
Split Peas ..	do.	17.6	17.4	17.9	18.0

*Labour Department.* The Department of Labour which was established as a separate branch of the administration in 1942 and is responsible for advising the Government in labour matters has its headquarters in Georgetown, and branch office in New Amsterdam. It also operates the Employment Exchange Service in George-

town and New Amsterdam. A total staff of 55 was provided for in the Estimates for 1959. At the end of the year, however, the actual strength was 50 (there being 4 vacancies) which included a Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner, an Inspectorate of 13, a Chief Clerk, a Statistical Officer, and a Manager of the Employment Exchange.

There has been marked improvement in the sphere of industrial relations in the Colony generally, brought about under the stimulus of the Department of Labour. The Department's policy has been to foster the principles of Trade Unionism, and to strive to create an atmosphere unfavourable to disputes and to encourage employers and employees to settle their differences over wages and working conditions by direct negotiation or through conciliation. In several industries agreements have been made providing for collective bargaining in respect of wages and working conditions, and machinery set up for the avoidance and settlement of disputes.

Under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance, Chapter 103, the Commissioner of Labour is empowered to supplement the machinery of collective bargaining where a trade dispute exists or is apprehended. He may enquire into the cause and circumstances of the difference and take such steps as to him may seem expedient for the purpose of promoting a settlement of the difference. He may also, with the consent of both parties to the difference, refer the matter for settlement by arbitration of one or more persons appointed by the Governor in Council.

These powers of conciliation have on several occasions been used to bring together and reconcile the views of employers and trade unions when the ordinary machinery of collective bargaining set up by agreement between the two parties failed to effect a satisfactory settlement. The presence of a third and impartial party has tended to provide a readier spirit of reasonableness on both sides. This procedure has been found so convenient that when joint conferences are held between employers and unions for the purpose of negotiating agreements or amending important parts of agreements the Commissioner of Labour is invited to attend by the parties concerned.

When a trade dispute exists or is apprehended the Commissioner may advise that the Governor exercise his power of appointing an Advisory Committee to consider any matter connected with the dispute and to report and to make recommendations to him. Such action, by focussing the light of public opinion on the dispute, has been found very useful in inducing a more rational approach to the question by the parties, especially as they are usually faced with the task of stating their case in a calm and unemotional atmosphere before an impartial tribunal.

Whenever the Governor-in-Council deems it expedient that steps should be taken to regulate the wages paid in any occupation in the

Colony or any part thereof, he may appoint an Advisory Committee to investigate the conditions of employment in such occupation and to make recommendations as to the minimum rates of wages which should be payable. On considering the recommendations of the Committee the Governor-in-Council may, if he thinks fit, make an order prescribing the minimum rates of wages payable; and the order may prescribe time rates, piece rates and overtime rates or any of them.

An order issued in this respect may be amended by the Legislative Council if they disapprove of it. It has been the policy of Government to make wages regulations only for those sections of industry where workers are unorganised, and to allow organised labour every opportunity of fixing wage rates by collective bargaining. At the end of 1959, prescribed minimum rates of wages were in existence for watchmen and certain employees in groceries, drug, hardware and dry goods stores, hire-car garages, cinemas (urban and rural), laundries, sawmills, hotels, restaurants, parlours, cookshops and quarries.

The Department keeps Government fully informed about labour matters, so that policy adopted and decisions taken are based on a complete appreciation of the existing situation. The Department collects and compiles statistics in respect of employment, earnings and wage rates, hours of work, accidents and industrial disputes, particularly in respect of certain industries. However, the seasonal nature of agriculture and the difficulties of communication, particularly in the Interior, make it impossible to cover the entire field of production.

*Industrial Relations.* Registration of Trade Unions is effected through a Registrar of Trade Unions appointed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union Ordinance, Chapter 113. The Registrar of Deeds performs the duties of Registrar of Trade Unions. At the end of 1959 there were 48 registered Trade Unions comprising 10 Employers' Associations and 38 Workers' Organisations.

Particulars given in the following list of Trade Unions reveal the financial membership at 31st December, 1959.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Paid Up Membership</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Employers' Organisations</i>		
1. British Guiana Commission Agents' Association	19	Specialised. Confined to Commission Agents.
2. The Forest Products Association of British Guiana	11	Specialised and confined to employers engaged in the Timber Industry.

OCCUPATION, WAGES AND LABOUR  
ORGANISATION

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<i>Name</i>	<i>Paid Up Member- ship</i>	<i>Description</i>
3. British Guiana Licensed Spirit Dealers' Association	12	Specialised and confined to persons engaged in the alcoholic trade.
4. British Guiana Bakery Proprietors' Association	18	Specialised. Confined to proprietors of bakeries.
5. Public Works Department Contractors' Association	30	Confined to contractors of the Public Works Department
6. British Guiana Hire Car Owners' Association	*	Confined to owners of hire cars.
7. Quarry Producers' Association of British Guiana	*	Confined to persons engaged in quarrying.
8. British Guiana Rice Millers' and Landlords' Association	56	Confined to persons engaged in the rice milling trade.
9. Master Builders, Masons and Decorators' Association of British Guiana	*	Specialised. Confined to smaller employers in the Building Trade.
10. British Guiana Garment Manufacturers' Association	*	Confined to employers engaged in the manufacture of all types of clothing.
<i>Workers' Organisations</i>		
1. The British Guiana Labour Union	2037	General. Among the employees covered are wharf workers, watchmen.
2. Man-Power Citizens' Association	*	General. Among the employees covered are sugar workers, rice workers at the Mahaicony/ Abary Rice Development Scheme, and the employees of the Demerara Electric Company.
3. The Transport Workers' Union of British Guiana	*	Confined to employees of the Transport and Harbours Department.
4. The British Guiana Post Office Workers' Union	*	Confined to employees of the Post Office Department.
5. The British Guiana Amalgamated Building Trade Workers' Union	250	Confined to employees in the building trade.
6. Government Employees' Union	341	Caters for subordinate employees in Government Departments.
7. The Moulders and Mechanics' Union	*	Specialised. Confined to dock and foundry workers of the Demerara and Messrs. Sprotons Foundries.

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	<i>Name</i>	<i>Paid Up Member- ship</i>	<i>Description</i>
8.	Cosmopolitan Workers' Union		Activities unknown.
9.	The British Guiana and West Indies Sugar Boilers' Union	114	Specialised. Confined to pan boilers on sugar estates in British Guiana and The West Indies.
10.	The British Guiana Dental Assistants' and Mechanics' Association	*	Confined to dental assistants and mechanics.
11.	The British Guiana Headmen's Union	306	Confined to headmen employed on Sugar Estates.
12.	The Municipal Labour Trades Union		Confined to employees of the Georgetown Municipality.
13.	Sugar Estates Clerks' Association	931	Confined to clerical workers on sugar estates
14.	The British Guiana Teachers' Association	*	Confined to Teachers in Government-aided primary schools.
15.	Guiana Industrial Workers' Union	161	Caters principally for workers in the Sugar Industry.
16.	Guianese Workers' Federation	*	Caters principally for workers engaged in the B.G. Consolidated Goldfields Limited.
17.	The British Guiana Civil Service Association	1511	Confined to Civil Servants.
18.	Public Works Pure Water Supply Scheme and Sea Defence Workers' Union	1670	Confined to subordinate employees of the Public Works and Sea Defence Department and the Drainage and Irrigation Department.
19.	The British Guiana Land Surveyors' Association	25	Specialised. Confined to Land Surveyors.
20.	Clerical Workers' Union		Confined to Clerical Workers in commercial establishments
21.	The British Guiana Mine Workers' Union	*	Caters for employees of the Demerara and Berbice Bauxite Companies.
22.	Federation of Unions of Government Employees		Confined to Unions catering for Subordinate Government employees.
23.	Printers' Industrial Union	250	Confined to employees in the printing industry.
24.	Sawmill and Forest Workers' Union	550	Confined to workers on sawmills and timber grants.

Not available

<i>Name</i>	<i>Paid Up Member- ship</i>	<i>Description</i>
25. British Guiana Trades Union Council	23 Unions	An organisation representing the Trade Union Movement.
26. British Guiana Women's Social Union	*	Caters for domestic helpers and washers.
27. British Guiana Postmasters' Union	41	Confined to Postmasters.
28. British Guiana Medical Employees' Union	982	Confined to Subordinate employees of the Medical Department.
29. Local Government Officers' Association	110	Caters for Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Officers, Grade I and above, employed by the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown and the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners.
30. British Guiana Seafarers' Union	350	Caters for men employed in local and foreign shipping.
31. General Workers' Union	306	Caters for general workers.
32. British Guiana Rice Marketing Board Workers' Union	*	Caters for all subordinate employees of the B.G. Rice Marketing Board.
33. British Guiana Rice Workers' Union	317	Caters for workers employed in the rice industry.
34. Guiana Air Transport Trade Union		Caters for workers engaged in transportation by air
35. British Guiana Law Clerks' Association	118	Confined to clerks employed in the legal profession.
36. Guianese Miners' Development Association	*	Caters for workers engaged in the gold and diamond industry.
37. Pilots' Association of British Guiana	*	Confined to Pilots of the Transport and Harbours Department.
38. The United Mineral and General Workers' Union	144	Confined to employees in the mineral and other allied industries.

\* Not available

The training of trade unionists in various aspects of trade union work continues to play an important part in the development of trade unionism and of sound industrial relations.

Early in 1959 Mr. Cecil Cole, Organising Secretary of the British Guiana Trades Union Council and General President of the Sawmill and Forest Workers' Union, returned to the Colony after a visit to Geneva where he attended the International Labour Organisation's Conference on the Timber Industry. While in the



United Kingdom, Mr. Cole took a number of short courses in Trade Unionism.

The British Guiana Trades Union Council selected four of its Executives to attend the World Economic Conference which began in Geneva on the 18th March. The four T.U.C. Officials were Messrs. C. V. Cambridge, President, R. C. Tello, M.L.C., General Secretary, Richard Ishmael, Vice-President and B. B. Blackman, Assistant Secretary. After the Conference in Geneva the party proceeded to the United Kingdom where they held discussions on the unemployment and underemployment conditions in British Guiana with Officials of the Colonial Office.

Late in May while Mr. Julian Amery, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, was visiting the Colony, Officials of the Trades Union Council took the opportunity to hold discussions with him. Among the topics discussed were the unemployment situation in British Guiana and various relevant aspects of trade unionism.

In July, Professor B. C. Roberts, Reader in Industrial Relations at the University of London, arrived in the Colony. Professor Roberts was engaged on a research project undertaken by the London School of Economics on the Development of Trade Unionism in the Colonial Territories. He spent about two weeks in British Guiana collecting relevant data for his Survey and held discussions with Labour Department Officials and also representatives from various trade unions.

During the year the General Council of the B.G. Trades Union Council set up a seven-man Committee to draft a constitution for the merging of trade unions to reduce the existing number. This matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

*Labour Legislation.* Legislation enacted during 1959 include

- (i) The Holidays with Pay (Shirt and Garment Factory Workers) Order, No. 10 of 1959. This Order prescribed holidays with pay in respect of persons employed in shirt and garment factories.
- (ii) The Holidays with Pay (Clerical Employees) Order, No. 15 of 1959. This Order revokes the existing Holidays with Pay (Clerical Employees) Order, No. 42 of 1956.
- (iii) Order-in-Council made under the Shops (Consolidation) Ordinance 1958 (No. 33 of 1958). This Order may be cited as the Shop Hours (Exemption) (Rural Market Stalls) Order, No. 27 of 1959.
- (iv) Order-in-Council made under the Shops (Consolidation) Ordinance 1958 (No. 33 of 1958). This Order may be cited as the Shop Hours (Special Provision) (Part of the East Demerara) Order, No. 31 of 1959.

- (v) Order-in-Council made under the Shops (Consolidation) Ordinance 1958 (No. 33 of 1958). This Order may be cited as the Shop Hours (Urban Market Stalls) Order, No. 65 of 1959.
- (vi) Order-in-Council made under the Shops (Consolidation) Ordinance 1958 (No. 33 of 1958). This Order may be cited as the Shop Hours (Special Provision) (Morahanna) Order, No. 66 of 1959.
- (vii) Order-in-Council made under the Shops (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1958 (No. 33 of 1958). This Order may be cited as the Shop Hours (Special Provision) (Mahai-cony) Order, No. 67 of 1959.
- (viii) Order-in-Council made under the Shops (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1958 (No. 33 of 1958). This Order may be cited as the Shop Hours (Special Provision) (Mahaica) Order, No. 68 of 1959.
- (ix) Order-in-Council made under the Holidays with Pay Ordinance (Chapter 108). This Order may be cited as the Holidays with Pay (Printery Employees) Order, No. 71 of 1959. This Order came into operation on the 1st day of November, 1959.
- (x) Order-in-Council made under the Holidays with Pay Ordinance (Chapter 108). This Order may be cited as the Holidays with Pay (Domestic Servants) Order, No. 72 of 1959. This Order came into operation on the 1st day of November, 1959.
- (xi) Order-in-Council made under the Shops (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1958 (No. 33 of 1958). This Order may be cited as the Shop Hours (Special Provision) (Annandale) Order, No. 92 of 1959. This Order came into operation on the 14th day of November, 1959.
- (xii) Order-in-Council made under the Labour Ordinance (Chapter 103). This Order may be cited as the Minimum Wages (Rural Cinema Employees) Order, No. 94 of 1959. This Order came into operation on the 15th day of November, 1959.
- (xiii) Order-in-Council made under the Holidays with Pay Ordinance (Chapter 108). This Order may be cited as the Holidays with Pay (Chauffeur) Order, No. 96 of 1959. This Order came into operation on the 21st November, 1959.

*Vocational Training* — Vocational training in Government Departments was undertaken during the year in the Medical, Lands and Mines and Transport and Harbours Department. The number

of persons who completed their training in various occupations during 1959 was 178 of whom 39 were males and 139 females.

The Technical Institute, established by Government in 1951 provides facilities for training technical personnel and handicraftsmen already in employment with a view to improving the standard of skill in the various trades, as well as facilities for training of suitable youths of primary school leaving age in one or other of the trades.

There has been joint sponsorship by the Institute and commercial firms of apprenticeship for youths; the apprentices attend one or two days a week at the Institute and receive their usual rates of pay from their employers for such days as they attend.

At the end of 1959, the number of persons in training at the Institute was 1,025.

The Board of Industrial Training which supervises and controls apprenticeship training in the engineering and building trades in British Guiana licensed 7 masters during the year bringing the total number of masters licensed in the Colony to 43 at the end of 1959.

Fifty five applications for the registration of apprentices were approved during the year.

During the year there were 55 apprentices undergoing training at the Port Mourant Training Centre. There were also 28 apprentices undergoing training at the end of the year at Demba Trade School at Mackenzie, Demerara River.

*Industrial Accidents* — The total number of industrial accidents reported during the period January — September, 1959, was 5,981 of which 12 were fatal as compared with 6,776 of which 13 were fatal during the same period in 1958.

Final figures for the year 1959, show that there were 8,482 reported accidents. Particulars of the extent of disability in respect of the 1959 accidents are as follows :

	<i>Number of Persons</i>
Disability of 1 — 3 days	1,012
Disability of 4 —20 days	6,491
Disability in excess of 20 days	961
Deaths	18
	8,482

### *Chapter III Public Finance and Taxation*

#### *Revenue*

Colony Revenue as originally estimated and the collections for 1959 were as follows:

Estimates — \$49,221,690 (£ 10,254,519)

Collections — \$48,679,637 (£ 10,141,591)

Decrease under the Estimates — \$542,053 (£ 112,928).

The revenue collected in 1959 was less than that of 1958 by \$371,103 (£ 77,313). Customs and Excise receipts exceeded that of the previous year by \$1,433,697 (£ 298,687) but Income Tax was less than that of the previous year by \$2,230,392 (£ 464,665).

The table on the following page gives the revenue for 1959 analysed into appropriate grouping and contrasted with the collections for 1957 and 1958. The percentage which each group bears to the total revenue, and the percentage of direct and indirect taxation are also shown.

Revenue per head of population for the years 1957, 1958 and 1959 (based on an estimate of 557,960 inhabitants in 1959), was as follows:

	1957		1958		1959	
<i>Direct</i>						
Taxation	\$30.43	£ 6. 6s. 9d	\$35.14	£ 7. 6s. 5d	\$30.01	£ 6. 5s. 0d
<i>Indirect</i>						
Taxation	44.50	9. 5s. 5d	43.22	9. 0s. 1d	44.30	9. 4s. 7d
	\$74.93	£15.12s. 2d	\$78.36	£16. 6s. 6d	\$74.31	£15. 9s. 7d
<i>Other</i>						
Sources	12.45	2.11s.11d	12.34	2.11s. 5d	12.94	2.13s.11d
	\$87.38	£18. 4s. 1d	\$90.70	£18.17s.11d	\$87.25	£18. 3s. 6d

## ANALYSIS OF REVENUE

	1957			1958			1959		
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	%	\$	%	
REVENUE FROM TAXATION									
DIRECT--									
Income Tax ... ..		16,938,462	34.64		18,973,264	38.68		16,742,872 34.39	
INDIRECT--									
Customs & Excise ... ..	21,470,280		46.93	21,564,851		43.96	22,998,548	47.24	
Licences ... ..	923,310		2.02	958,543		1.95	1,010,898	2.08	
Internal Revenue ... ..	908,494	23,302,084	1.98	821,721	23,345,115	1.68	709,255	24,718,711 1.46	
TOTAL REVENUE FROM TAXATION ... ..		39,240,546	85.77		42,318,379	86.27		41,461,583 85.17	
Fees of Court ... ..		2,151,584	4.70		2,300,279	4.69		2,451,281 5.04	
Post Offices ... ..		1,420,548	3.10		1,414,758	2.88		1,384,568 2.84	
Rents and other income from Lands, Forests & Mines ... ..		983,991	2.15		864,419	1.76		996,473 2.05	
Interests and Refunds ... ..		1,217,036	2.66		1,182,310	2.42		1,292,019 2.65	
Miscellaneous ... ..		731,778	1.60		969,729	1.98		1,093,713 2.25	
Extraordinary ... ..		7,355	.02		866	...		... ..	
		\$45,752,841	100.00		\$49,050,740	100.00		\$49,679,637 100.00	

## ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	1957			1958			1959			
	%	Amount	%	%	Amount	%	%	Amount	%	
1. Debt Charges ... ..		\$ 3,623,946	8.41		\$ 4,158,874	8.94		\$ 4,686,563	10.29	
2. Administration ---										
(a) Law and Order ... ..	(a) 4,245,681	9.86		(a) 4,172,689	8.97		(a) 4,092,789	8.98		
(b) General ... ..	(b) 6,398,726	14.71	10,584,407	24.57	(b) 7,166,678	15.41	11,339,367	24.38	(b) 6,929,579	13.89
3. Economic Development ...		4,141,471	9.61		4,884,028	10.50		4,576,267	10.04	
4. Social Services ---										
(a) Medical ... ..	(a) 5,528,347	12.89		(a) 5,448,258	11.71		(a) 5,733,377	12.68		
(b) Education ... ..	(b) 6,176,706	14.34		(b) 6,548,410	14.08		(b) 6,665,672	14.63		
(c) Other ... ..	(c) 2,450,204	5.69	14,155,257	32.86	(c) 2,477,616	5.33	14,474,284	31.12	(c) 2,786,001	6.11
5. Public Works ... ..		4,461,016	10.36		5,344,532	11.49		4,876,881	10.70	
6. Postal & Telecommunications		2,076,023	4.82		2,074,659	4.46		2,185,221	4.80	
7. Defence ... ..		106,888	.25		111,541	.24		108,252	.24	
8. Non-effective <i>i.e.</i> Pensions ...		1,945,388	4.52		2,066,657	4.44		1,957,867	4.30	
9. Transport & Harbours (Net)		1,605,848	3.73		1,773,632	3.81		1,706,847	3.75	
10. Colonial Emergency Measures		558,519	1.30		476,043	1.02		45,332	.10	
11. Salary Revision (Unallocated)		...	...		...	...		...	...	
Deduct charges included in items set off against revenue of item 9.		43,258,763	100.43		\$ 46,703,617	100.40		45,760,648	100.41	
		185,768	.43		185,768	.40		185,768	.41	
		\$ 43,072,995	100.00		\$ 46,517,849	100.00		\$ 45,564,880	100.00	

*Expenditure*

The budget for 1959 presented to the Legislative Council covered expenditure on services of a recurrent nature totalling \$47,456,899 (£9,886,854) and expenditure on the Colony's Development Programme amounting to \$21,454,616 (£4,469,712).

*Recurrent Expenditure.* This amounted to \$45,564,880 (£9,492,683) less by \$952,969 (£198,535) compared with the expenditure of the previous year.

The table on the preceding page shows recurrent expenditure for the years 1957, 1958 and 1959, analysed under appropriate groupings with relative percentages of the total expenditure.

Expenditure per head of population in the year 1957, 1958 and 1959 was:

1957	1958	1959
\$82.15 (£17.2s.4d)	\$85.87 (£17.17s.9d)	\$81.66 (£17.0s.3d)

Revenue and Expenditure for the ten-year period 1950 to 1959 (excluding Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes and grants from Her Majesty's Government) were:

Year	Revenue		Expenditure	
	£	\$	£	\$
1950	4,510,783	21,651,759	4,904,018	23,539,285
1951	5,249,766	25,198,875	5,161,659	24,775,965
1952	6,219,875	29,855,041	5,929,044	28,459,410
1953	6,725,726	32,283,485	6,540,307	31,393,473
1954	7,537,829	36,181,577	7,192,757	34,525,234
1955	8,853,431	42,496,467	8,335,195	40,008,938
1956	8,722,125	41,866,203	8,384,807	40,247,074
1957	9,531,842	45,752,841	8,973,540	43,072,995
1958	10,218,765	49,050,074	9,691,219	46,517,849
1959	10,141,591	48,679,637	9,492,683	45,564,880

*Development Expenditure.* This amounted to \$18,757,678 (£3,907,850) a decrease of \$1,123,625 (£234,088) on the expenditure for the previous year.

This expenditure was charged against the Development Fund established by Ordinance No. 44 of 1954 for the purpose of financing development work in the Colony.

The following are the details of the amount charged.

	\$
Rural and Urban Housing . .	969,571
Agricultural Projects	434,423
Interior Communications	86,673
Drainage and Irrigation Projects	7,797,035
Education	355,255
Forestry Projects	113,090
Cottage Hospitals and Other Medical Schemes	267,252
Topographic and Aerial Surveys	105,017
Land Settlement . .	385,569
Postal Telecommunications	2,056,083
Roads, Sea Defences and Other Public Works	3,205,672
Rural Self-Help	37,234
Rehabilitation of Railway, Steamer and Transport Services	1,835,988
Geological Surveys	570,687
Social Welfare Department	27,063
Amerindian Development	23,192
Local Government	55,184
Rural Electrification	12,890
Expansion and Improvement of Water Supply Systems	5,623
Miscellaneous	414,177

\$18,757,678

( £3,907,850 )

The sources of the amounts expended were as follows —

C.D. & W. Grants	\$4,421,030	
Other Sources (Loan and Revenue)	14,336,648	
	<u>\$18,757,678</u>	( £3,907,850 )

### *Public Debt*

The Colony's funded debt at 31st December, 1959, amounted to \$89,368,852 ( £18,618,511 ), exclusive of the liability in respect of the outstanding Railway Permanent Annuities and Perpetual Stock involving an annual charge of \$84,378 ( £17,579 ) but including loans of \$822,358 ( £171,324 ) received under the Colonial Development Welfare Acts which have been brought on charge.



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The composition and distribution of the Public Debt as at 31st December, 1959 were as follows:

*External Debt*

Public Loans raised in the United Kingdom —			
3 %	Stock	(1957—80)	\$10,032,000
3¼ %	„	(1962—72)	3,888,000
3 %	„	(1959—69)	1,849,544
3½ %		(1966—68)	10,464,000
5 %		(1980—85)	16,992,000
			\$43,225,544
	H.M. Government Exchequer Loan	(1958)	26,261,868
	Loans raised by the Crown Agents under the		
	Intercolonial Loans Scheme 3% Stock	(1960)	1,230,588
	Colonial Development and Welfare Loans		778,702

*Internal Debt*

Public Loans raised in the Colony —			
3½ %	Debentures	(1976—86)	\$5,000,000
3½ %	Bonds	(1949—67)	211,500
3 %	„	(1948—67)	412,600
3½ %	Debentures	(1966—71)	800,000
4½ %		(1966—86)	1,534,300
5 %	„	(1967—87)	1,313,750
6 %	„	(1969—79)	3,600,000
5½ %		(1969—79)	5,000,000
			17,872,150
			\$89,368,852

( £18,618,511

The Sinking Fund for the redemption of the Public Debt totalled \$11,775,432 ( £2,453,215) the investments having a mean market value of \$10,362,380 ( £2,158,829) at 31st December, 1959.

*Financial Position*

The amount at credit of the General		
Revenue Balance Account at		
31st December, 1958 was		\$5,191,618
Colony Revenue for 1959 was	\$48,679,637	
Colony Expenditure for 1959 was	45,564,880	
	\$3,114,757	
Appreciation of investments held		
in respect of surplus balances	10,054	3,124,811
		\$8,316,429
Amount appropriated to the Development Fund		3,114,757
General Revenue Balance at 31st December, 1959		\$5,201,672
		= ( £1,083,682)

*Assets and Liabilities*

The disposition of the Cash Balances at 31st December, 1959 was as follows:

Imprest	\$	137,000	
Remittances		22,507	
Invested Surplus Balance		417,178	
		<hr/>	
	\$	576,685	
Less Accountant General (overdrawn)	\$	293,559	\$ 283,126
		<hr/>	
Development Fund	\$	5,015,186	
Less Drawings from Joint Consolidated Fund		638,400	4,376,786
		<hr/>	
Add Excess of Advances over deposits			541,760
			<hr/>
			\$5,201,672
			<hr/>
			(£ 1,083,682)

*Note :*

The figures of Expenditure and Revenue for the year 1959 are subject to minor variations as the books have not been closed at the date of submission of the report.

## TAXATION

### *Customs Tariff*

The Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, which became operative from 1st January, 1953, contains the Trade Classification List (based on the Standard International Trade Classification List of the United Nations) and tariff as the First Schedule Part I, and the Exemptions from Customs Duties as the First Schedule Parts III and IV. These lists contain the import and export duties, and the exemption from duties, respectively.

The rate of duty payable on most of the articles imported is 20% ad valorem (Preferential Tariff) and 36% ad valorem (General Tariff). Lower rates ranging from 2% to 18% under the Preferential Tariff and 5% to 33% under the General Tariff are prescribed for certain articles including chiefly:—

- Meat and meat preparations in air-tight containers;
- Milk and cream, sweetened, unsweetened or dried;
- Fresh fruit and vegetables;
- Coffee and coffee extracts;
- Fertilizers;
- Cotton piece goods;
- Fabrics made wholly of regenerated or partly regenerated cellulose, protein and similar fibres;
- Bags and sacks;
- Base metals of iron and steel;
- Underwear and footwear.

Mining, construction and industrial machinery of British origin are admitted at rates of 3% under the Preferential Tariff, 8% or 10% under the General Tariff.

Luxury items are charged higher rates of duty, e. g. 40% Preferential and 60% General Tariff.

Specific rates of duty are, for the most part, levied on items of food, drink, tobacco and petroleum oil and greases. Export duties are levied on bauxite, diamonds and other goods of domestic origin with the exception of cut and polish diamonds, gold, agricultural products and their by-products other than unrefined cane sugar, forest products, and manufactured articles. Diamonds are taxed 15 cents per carat; bauxite, crude or calcined, 45 cents per ton; unrefined cane sugar \$1.00 per ton; and other goods 1½% ad valorem on the f.o.b. value.

The industries Aid and Encouragement Ordinance, Chapter 109, provides for the importation, free of any Customs duties, of machin-

ery and transport equipment, building materials for the erection of mills, factories and tourist hotels, and materials for the construction of houses for employees and for ancillary basic township services, under certain conditions. This concession is granted by the Governor in Council, by licence, where he is satisfied that it is desirable to admit such items for the purpose of establishing a new industry or developing an existing industry.

#### *Excise Duties*

The duties under this Head, as prescribed by the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 298, are set out below:—

- (a) Rum and other spirits manufactured for consumption in the Colony — \$9.60 per proof gallon.
- (b) Toilet preparations (Bay and Lime Rum) \$3.00 per liquid gallon.
- (c) Spirituous medicinal compounds — \$1.20 per liquid gallon; bitters and cordials — \$9.60 per proof gallon; and methylated spirits — 5 cents per liquid gallon.
- (d) Locally manufactured wines (not exceeding 26% proof spirit) — 50 cents per liquid gallon.
- (e) Beer manufactured in the Colony, and taken or sold for consumption in the Colony — 75 cents per liquid gallon.
- (f) Matches in boxes containing not more than 60 matches — 25 cents per gross boxes.

#### INCOME TAX

Income Tax, as introduced into British Guiana in 1929, is assessed on income accruing in, derived from or received in the Colony (by residents and non-residents) in the year preceding the Year of Assessment, from business profits, emoluments, dividends and interest, pensions and annuities, and rents, royalties, etc. As from the beginning of 1947, persons ordinarily resident and domiciled in the Colony are assessable on their world income, other than earned income, whether or not that income has been received in British Guiana. Earned income arising outside British Guiana is taxable only on the amount received in British Guiana.

A certain amount of income is exempted in the case of individuals by means of personal, family and dependent relative allowances, together with an allowance for life insurance premiums, restricted to one-tenth of the capital sum assured on each policy and in aggregate to one-sixth of the total income. The aggregate is further limited to \$1,500.00 in respect of premiums for any insur-

ance effected after 17th December, 1954. As from the Year of Assessment 1958 (Year of Income 1957) certain changes in personal, family and dependent relative allowances were made. The following table shows these allowances and compares them with those existing previously:

	<i>Year of Assessment 1957 and Previous</i>	<i>Year of Assessment 1958 and 1959</i>
(i) Personal Allowance	\$1,000	\$900
(ii) Wife	500	700
(iii) Child	250	250 (under 12)
		350 (12 and over and under sixteen <sup>1</sup> )
		500 (sixteen and over)
(iv) Dependent Relative	150	200

With a view to facilitating the settlement of double income tax relief for pensioners resident in the United Kingdom, arrangements have been made, effective as from the Year of Assessment 1951, for their assessment in respect of British Guiana tax to be undertaken by the Overseas Territories Income Tax Office in London.

On the 31st December, 1959 the number of objections outstanding was 330 in respect of income tax and 4 in respect of excess profits tax.

The arrangement concluded with the United Kingdom authorities whereby British Guiana retains the whole of the tax paid by United Kingdom enterprises operating in the Colony was maintained during 1959.

The Colony continued its accession to the Double Taxation Convention entered into between the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Income Tax (In Aid of Industry) Ordinance, No. 16, enacted in 1951 provides for relief from income tax to persons establishing or developing certain industries.

Under this Ordinance a Tax Holiday period of five years is granted by the Governor-in-Council where a Company (not being a Gold and Diamond Mining Company) carries on trade or business wholly of a developmental and risk-bearing nature and which is likely to be instrumental to the development of the resources of and beneficial to the Colony.

28 Companies have since been granted the Tax Holiday.

The rates of tax payable by individuals remained the same as those in force since 1949. The rates of tax on life insurance companies and other companies were as in 1951. Particulars are as follows:

*Rates of Tax:*

(A) *Individuals—*

On every dollar of the first 1200 dollars	(£250)	6c.	( 3d)
„ „ next 2400	(£500)	12c.	( 6d)
„ „ 2400	(£500)	24c.	(1/- )
„ „ 2400	(£500)	40c.	(1/8 )
„ „ „ „ 2400	(£500)	50c.	(2/1 )
„ remainder of chargeable income		60c.	(2/6 )

(B) *Companies—*

Life Insurance Companies 15 per centum

(C) *Other Companies* 45 per centum

The following statements provide a comparison of income tax yields in recent years, the incidence of income tax on individuals during the Year of Assessment 1959 and a summary of excess profits tax assessed for the war years. As from the Year of Assessment 1943, however, additional assessments can be raised within five years after the end of any Year of Assessment, and the figures in the statement of comparative income tax yields in respect of the years 1955 to 1959 inclusive should not be considered as final. For example, assessments in respect of the Year of Assessment 1955 (Year of Income 1954) may continue to be raised up to December 31, 1960, and in respect of the Year of Assessment 1959 (Year of Income 1958) up to December 31, 1964.

*Incidence of Income Tax in case of Individuals*

*Year of Assessment 1959*

Gross Income of Assessable Individuals	\$31,103,632	(£6,479,923)
Deductions for Life Assurance, Family Allowances, etc.	14,802,804	(£3,083,918)
Chargeable Income	<u>\$16,300,828</u>	<u>(£3,396,005)</u>

**COMPARATIVE INCOME TAX YIELDS**  
Years of Assessment 1931, 1939, 1947 to 1959.

Year of Assessment	Year of Income	No. of Tax-payers*	TAX COLLECTIBLE FROM			Total Tax Assessed
			Individuals	Life Assurance Companies	Other Companies	
1931	1930	1,179	\$ 121,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 118,000	\$ 242,000
			(£ 25,208)	(£ 625)	(£ 24,584)	(£ 50,417)
1939	1938	1,747	\$ 125,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 405,000	\$ 536,000
			(£ 26,042)	(£ 1,250)	(£ 84,375)	(£ 111,667)
1947	1946	3,915	\$ 885,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,488,000	\$5,380,000
			(£ 184,375)	(£ 1,458)	(£ 935,000)	(£ 1,120,833)
1948	1947	4,513	\$1,092,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 4,101,000	\$5,202,000
			(£ 227,500)	(£ 1,875)	(£ 854,375)	(£ 1,083,750)
1949	1948	5,679	\$1,037,000	\$ 11,000	\$4,433,000	\$5,481,000
			(£ 216,041)	(£ 2,292)	(£ 923,542)	(£ 1,141,875)
1950	1949	4,433	\$1,071,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 5,018,000	\$6,101,000
			(£ 223,125)	(£ 2,500)	(£ 1,045,417)	(£ 1,271,042)
1951	1950	4,704	\$1,241,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 6,146,000	\$7,430,000
			(£ 258,542)	(£ 8,958)	(£ 1,280,417)	(£ 1,547,917)
1952	1951	5,624	\$1,421,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 7,909,000	\$9,370,000
			(£ 296,042)	(£ 8,333)	(£ 1,647,708)	(£ 1,952,083)
1953	1952	6,851	\$1,676,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 9,778,000	\$11,504,000
			(£ 349,167)	(£ 10,417)	(£ 2,037,083)	(£ 2,396,667)
1954	1953	7,427	\$1,980,000	\$ 55,000	\$11,277,000	\$13,312,000
			(£ 412,500)	(£ 11,458)	(£ 2,349,375)	(£ 2,773,333)
1955	1954	8,794	\$2,237,000	\$ 69,000	\$12,301,000	\$14,607,000
			(£ 466,042)	(£ 14,375)	(£ 2,562,708)	(£ 3,043,125)
1956	1955	9,734	\$2,593,000	\$ 76,000	\$11,482,000	\$14,151,000
			(£ 540,209)	(£ 15,833)	(£ 2,392,083)	(£ 2,948,125)
1957	1956	12,559	\$2,913,000	\$ 92,000	\$13,972,000	\$16,977,000
			(£ 606,875)	(£ 19,167)	(£ 2,910,833)	(£ 3,536,875)
1958	1957	9,010	\$3,079,000	\$ 61,000	\$15,520,000	\$18,660,000
			(£ 641,459)	(£ 12,708)	(£ 3,233,333)	(£ 3,887,500)
1959	1958	8,218	\$2,905,000	\$129,000	\$13,097,000	\$16,131,000
			(£ 605,209)	(£ 26,875)	(£ 2,728,541)	(£ 3,360,625)

\* Including Companies.

**CHARGEABLE INCOME ASSESSED ON INDIVIDUALS LIABLE TO INCOME TAX  
AT EACH RATE IN 1959.**

Classification	\$1 — \$1,200 (Up to £250)	\$1,201 — \$3,600 (£250.4s.2d. — £750)	\$3,601 — \$6,000 (£750.4s.2d. £1,250)	\$6,001 — \$8,400 (£1,250.4s.2d. — £1,750)	\$8,401 — \$10,800 (£1,750.4s.2d. — £2,250)	\$10,801 & over (£2,250.4s.2d. & over)	Total Income	Total Tax
No. of Tax- payers	6c. (3d.)	12c. (6d)	24c. (1/-)	40c. (1/8)	50c. (2/1)	60c. (2/6)		
4,680	\$2,390,808 (£ 498,085)						\$ 2,390,808 (£ 498,085)	\$ 143,448.48 (£ 29,885)
2,091	\$2,509,200 (£ 522,750)	\$1,946,137 (£ 405,445)					\$ 4,455,337 (£ 928,195)	\$ 384,088.44 (£ 80,018)
660	\$ 792,000 (£ 165,000)	\$1,584,000 (£ 330,000)	\$ 701,181 (£146,079)				\$ 3,077,181 (£ 641,079)	\$ 405,883.44 (£ 84,559)
290	\$ 348,000 (£ 72,500)	\$ 696,000 (£ 145,000)	\$ 696,000 (£145,000)	\$ 306,305 (£ 63,814)			\$ 2,046,305 (£ 426,314)	\$ 393,962.00 (£ 82,075)
125	\$ 150,000 (£ 31,250)	\$ 300,000 (£ 62,500)	\$ 300,000 (£ 62,500)	\$ 300,000 (£ 62,500)	\$118,802 (£ 24,750)		\$ 1,168,802 (£ 243,500)	\$ 296,401.00 (£ 61,750)
182	\$ 218,400 (£ 45,500)	\$ 436,800 (£ 91,000)	\$ 436,800 (£ 91,000)	\$ 436,800 (£ 91,000)	\$436,800 (£ 91,000)	\$1,196,795 (£249,332)	\$ 3,162,395 (£ 658,832)	\$1,281,549.00 (£266,989)
8,028	\$6,408,408 (£1,335,085)	\$4,962,937 (£1,033,945)	\$2,133,981 (£444,579)	\$1,043,105 (£217,314)	\$555,602 (£115,750)	\$1,196,795 (£249,332)	\$16,300,828 (£3,396,005)	\$2,905,332.36 (£ 605,276)



*Chargeable Income Assessed on Companies  
Liable to Income Tax.*

<i>Companies</i>	<i>Flat Rate</i>	<i>Total Income</i>	<i>Total Tax</i>
Life Assurance Companies ..	15%	\$ 862,086 (£ 179,601)	\$ 129,313 (£ 26,940)
Other Companies .. ..	45%	\$29,104,153 (£6,063,344)	\$13,096,913 (£2,728,523)

*Statement of Excess Profits Tax Assessed for Each  
Chargeable Accounting Period to Date*

Chargeable Accounting Period ending in 1939	\$ 78,135	(£ 16,278)
" " " " " 1940	282,694	(£ 58,895)
" " " " " 1941	770,019	(£ 160,421)
" " " " " 1942	2,772,298	(£ 577,562)
" " " " " 1943	3,070,297	(£ 639,645)
" " " " " 1944	1,660,292	(£ 345,894)
" " " " " 1945	2,166,441	(£ 451,342)
	<b>\$10,800,176</b>	<b>(£2,250,037)</b>

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

*Georgetown Town Council.* The revenue of the Council is derived from a tax and rate on the assessed annual rental valuation of lands and houses within the municipal boundaries and from market fees, water rates etc. The estimated expenditure to be met from revenue for 1959 amounted to \$2,444,284 (£509,225 16s. 8d.).

*New Amsterdam Town Council.* The revenue is raised in a similar way to that of Georgetown. The estimated expenditure to be met from revenue in 1959 amounted to \$681,938 (£142,070 8s. 4d.).

*Local Authorities in Rural Areas.* The revenue of each local authority is mainly derived from a rate on the appraised value of lands and buildings within its boundaries. The estimated expenditure to be met from revenue for 1959 for all local authorities amounted to \$1,587,332.00 (£330,673 6s. 8d.) exclusive of loan repayments.

## Chapter IV : Currency and Banking

### Currency:

Notes in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$100 (\$1 — 4s. 2d.) issued by the Currency Board of the British Caribbean Territories have been in circulation since 1st August, 1951. The circulation of such notes in British Guiana at 31st December, 1959 was \$21,437,908.

British Caribbean coins have been introduced in substitution for United Kingdom coins which together with a British Guiana 4d. groat, are being gradually withdrawn from circulation. The denominations of the new coinage are ½c. 2c. 5c. 10c. 25c. 50c. The total value of issues in all denominations was \$792,585 at 31st December, 1959

### Banks:

There are two commercial banks operating in the Colony, viz: Barclays Banks D.C.O. and the Royal Bank of Canada.

The Post Office Savings Bank is operated by Government, as a branch of the Post Office Department. The headquarters of the Bank is situated at the General Post Office, Georgetown. In 1959 there were 57 Branch Post Offices and Postal Agencies in the rural districts transacting Savings Bank business. Comparative statements showing the number of depositors' and the amounts at credit of depositors' accounts on 31st December, 1959 and 1958 respectively, are given hereunder:—

Year	No. of Depositors	Depositors' Capital
1959 (unrevised)	127,657	\$20,408,644 (£4,251,800. 16s. 8d.)
1958 (revised)	126,646	\$19,993,261 (£4,165,262. 14s. 2d.)
Increase over 1958	1,011	\$ 415,383 (£ 86,538. 2s. 6d.)

### Bank Rates:

The commercial bank rate of interest on savings accounts throughout the year 1959, was 2% per annum with a ceiling of \$10,000.

The rates payable on deposit accounts were as follows:—

Deposits for 3 months	..	1 % per annum
Deposits for 6 months	..	1½ % per annum
Deposits for 12 months	..	2 % per annum

The lending rate during the year ranged from  $5\frac{1}{2}\%$  to  $6\%$  per annum. The rates for telegraphic transfers per £100 British Sterling were —

selling — \$482.10 and buying — \$478.20.

Demand Drafts on London —

selling — \$482.10 and buying — \$477.90.

Transfers to the West Indies Federation were  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  $1\%$ , minimum 50c. and the commission charge for collection was  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  $1\%$ , minimum \$1.20.

The Post Office Savings Bank remained at  $3\%$ .

## Chapter V : Commerce

The aggregate trade of British Guiana for the year 1959 reached the sum of \$214,140,440 (£44,612,592) as compared with \$213,253,890 (£44,427,894) in 1958.

Particulars of the total trade of the Colony in each of the past three years are shown in the following table:

				Value in dollars		
				1957	1958	1959
Imports	..	..	..	118,469,312	116,026,343	110,620,386
Domestic Exports	..	..	..	106,979,421	96,315,628	101,985,268
Re-exports	..	..	..	974,175	744,740	1,353,907
Stores for ships and aircraft						
Domestic produce	..	..	..	39,831	30,053	33,769
Foreign produce	..	..	..	92,261	137,126	147,110
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>				<b>226,555,000</b>	<b>213,253,890</b>	<b>214,140,440</b>

Appendices A and B to this chapter show the value of various commodities imported and exported, including the Value of personal and household effects of immigrants and emigrants which are excluded from the total imports and exports in the above table.

### *Direction of Trade:*

The percentage distribution of the Colony's commodity trade (including locally produced gold) with principal countries during

each of the years 1957, 1958 and 1959 is shown hereunder:

COUNTRIES	1957			1958			1959		
	Imports	Domestic Exports	Total Trade	Imports	Domestic Exports	Total Trade	Imports	Domestic Exports	Total Trade
United Kingdom	44	40	42	46	48	47	45	41	43
Canada	9	37	22	7	32	18	8	28	18
Other Commonwealth Countries	15	12	14	16	10	13	16	15	16
United States of America	18	7	13	16	6	12	14	9	11
Other Non Commonwealth Countries	14	4	9	15	4	10	17	7	12

NOTE: While re-exports are not shown separately in the above table, they are included in computing the percentages for the total trade.

### Revenue

The Customs and Excise net revenue collections for the year 1959 were as follows:—

	\$
Import Duty .. .. .	16,862,835
Export Duty .. .. .	949,671
Fees-bonded Warehouses .. .. .	75,957
Excise Duty:—	
Rum .. .. .	4,476,671
Beer .. .. .	454,383
Spirituous compounds .. .. .	66,449
Licences .. .. .	180,531
Other Collections .. .. .	70,511
TOTAL NET RECEIPTS .. .. .	23,137,008

### Rice

66,571 tons of milled rice were produced during the crop year ended 30th September, 1959, of which 30,291 tons were consumed locally, 43,769 tons were exported and 2,449 tons were carried over into the new crop year.

In addition to the figure of 43,769 tons of milled rice exported, 10,000 tons of paddy were exported to Venezuela.

The export prices for rice remained the same as in the previous year namely:

Super	—	\$21.30	per bag of 180 lb. gross f.o.b. Georgetown.
First Quality	—	\$19.20	do.
Second Quality	—	\$16.95	do.

The 1959 Autumn Crop was planted and harvested under ideal conditions and a bumper crop is expected.

### *Sugar*

At the Commonwealth Sugar discussions held in London in 1959, the "negotiated price" to be paid by the United Kingdom for Commonwealth sugar during 1960 was fixed at £44.8s.10d per ton—a decrease of 13s. 2d in relation to the previous year's price. The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has been extended for a further year and will now run to the 31st December, 1967.

### *Oils and Fats Agreement*

The Twelfth Oils and Fats Conference was held at Federal Headquarters Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, W.I. on 7th January, 1959.

Increases in world prices between 1957 and 1958 were taken into account in fixing the 1959 area prices at \$320 per ton f.o.b. for copra and \$224 per imperial gallon f.o.b. for raw oil—increases over the 1958 prices of \$20.00 per ton for copra and 14 cents per gallon for raw oil.

### *Import and Export Policy*

Goods are imported into the colony either under Open General Licences or in the case of a number of commodities against specific import licences issued by the Competent Authority.

The policy in recent years of conserving dollars and other non-sterling currencies has been greatly modified and the dollar allocation system which had been in operation since 1948 was discontinued.

A new Open General Licence issued on the 1st July, 1959, was a major move towards liberalisation of dollar imports. Nearly all items of foodstuffs, chemicals, machinery, transport equipment and manufactured goods can now be imported freely from any dollar source or other non-sterling currency sources.

Specific export licences are required for certain goods manufactured in the Colony and for a few articles imported in the Colony for re-export. All other goods may be exported under Open General Export Licences.

*Trade Liberalisation Plan*

The Trade Liberalisation Plan which continued in operation during 1959 ceased on 31st December, 1959, with the coming into force of the new Open General Licence. Under the Plan the Canadian Government made an allocation of dollars to exporters, against which vouchers were issued, these vouchers serving as a basis for the issue of import licences.

Of the total allocation of Canadian \$569,836.71 f.o.b. made to this Colony, goods to the value of Canadian \$243,699.20 f.o.b. were imported.

In the case of the U.S.A. allocations were set up by this Government against which goods to the value of U.S. \$188,996 f.o.b. were imported.

*Edible Oil*

There has been a steady decline in the production of copra over the past year, caused mainly by the drought in 1958. On the other hand there has been an increasing demand for edible oil by the growing population. Consequently edible oil had to be imported to supplement local production.

During the year the Colony imported 113,285 gallons of edible oil valued at \$292,183 from The West Indies; 181,307 gallons of edible oil valued at \$355,105 from the United Kingdom, and 86,616 gallons of edible oil valued at \$175,881 from Israel.

## APPENDIX "A"

## VALUE OF IMPORTS (C. I. F.)

ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ C. I. F.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<b>SECTION 0—FOOD</b> .. ..	21,686,321	22,068,613	22,147,058
<i>Division</i>			
00—Live animals chiefly for food .. ..	60,602	57,321	43,472
01—Meat and meat preparations .. ..	1,532,017	1,934,834	1,758,839
02—Dairy products, eggs and honey .. ..	4,876,686	5,038,044	4,647,165
03—Fish and fish preparations .. ..	1,944,144	1,984,496	1,999,183
04—Cereal and cereal preparations .. ..	5,259,320	5,070,611	5,358,334
05—Fruits and vegetables .. ..	3,922,190	4,081,024	3,821,893
06—Sugar and sugar preparations .. ..	314,455	373,362	323,749
07—Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof .. ..	1,643,515	1,414,738	1,608,720
08—Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals .. ..	854,226	777,146	1,216,162
09—Miscellaneous food preparations .. ..	1,219,166	1,337,037	1,369,541
<b>SECTION 1—BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO</b> .. ..	2,172,577	1,890,112	1,687,863
<i>Division</i>			
11—Beverages .. ..	1,291,858	883,158	831,618
12—Tobacco and tobacco manufactures .. ..	880,719	1,006,954	856,245
<b>SECTION 2—CRUDE MATERIALS INEDIBLE EXCEPT FUELS</b> .. ..	953,334	742,403	805,349
<i>Division</i>			
21—Hides, skins and fur skins, undressed .. ..	—	—	—
22—Oil seeds, oil nuts and oil kernels .. ..	2,273	83,495	147,380
23—Crude rubber, including synthetic and reclaimed .. ..	—	—	—
24—Wood, lumber and cork .. ..	652,827	341,839	319,346



## VALUE OF IMPORTS (C. I. F.)

ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ C.I.F.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<i>SECTION 2 — CRUDE MATERIALS INEDIBLE EXCEPT FUELS (Contd.)</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
25—Pulp and waste-paper ..	—	—	—
26—Textile fibres, not manufactured into yarn, thread, or fabrics, and waste ..	65,669	58,961	62,257
27—Crude fertilizers and crude minerals, excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones .. ..	174,228	197,415	215,524
28—Metalliferous ores and metal scrap .. ..	2,539	1,865	—
29—Animal and vegetable crude materials, n.e.s. .. ..	55,798	58,828	60,842
<i>SECTION 3—MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS .. ..</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
31—Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials .. ..	9,422,986	8,357,001	9,168,313
<i>SECTION 4—ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS ..</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
41—Animal and vegetable oils (not essential oils) fats, greases and derivatives ..	1,182,179	1,444,592	1,386,375
<i>SECTION 5—CHEMICALS ..</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
51—Chemical elements and compounds .. ..	552,072	580,211	561,551
52—Mineral tar and crude chemicals from coal, petroleum and natural gas ..	48,176	33,312	24,339
53—Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials .. ..	1,709,675	1,463,511	1,417,687

## VALUE OF IMPORTS (C. I. F.)

ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ C.I.F.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<b>SECTION 5 — CHEMICALS</b> (Contd.)			
<i>Division</i>			
54—Medicinal and pharmaceutical products .. ..	1,831,850	2,043,739	1,992,876
55—Essential oils and perfume materials, toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations ..	1,444,963	1,491,741	1,620,619
56—Fertilizers, manufactured ..	2,456,747	2,985,333	2,440,490
59—Explosives and miscellaneous chemicals materials and products .. ..	938,844	667,661	960,310
<b>SECTION 6—MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL</b> .. ..	32,852,786	32,134,037	28,995,741
<i>Division</i>			
61—Leather, leather manufactures n.e.s. and dressed furs	41,361	37,296	37,762
62—Rubber manufactures n.e.s. . .	1,265,478	1,379,776	1,409,938
63—Wood and cork manufactures (excluding furniture) ..	1,026,695	1,023,954	841,640
64—Paper, paperboard and manufactures thereof ..	2,077,395	2,124,511	2,086,199
65—Textile yarn, fabrics and made-up articles and related products .. ..	10,568,504	10,042,772	9,109,243
66—Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s. .. ..	4,093,842	4,417,159	3,980,030
67—Silver, platinum, gems and jewellery .. ..	190,173	183,311	159,117
68—Base metals .. ..	7,211,229	5,026,882	5,146,745
69—Manufactures of metals ..	6,378,109	7,898,376	6,225,067
<b>SECTION 7—MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT</b> ..	28,242,666	28,544,527	26,357,071
<i>Division</i>			
71—Machinery other than electric	17,415,474	16,314,527	14,759,301
72—Electric machinery, apparatus and appliances ..	4,248,405	5,359,861	5,143,839
73—Transport equipment ..	6,578,787	6,870,139	6,453,931

VALUE OF IMPORTS (C. I. F.)  
ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ C.I.F.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<b>SECTION 8—MISCELLANEOUS .. MANUFACTURED ARTICLES</b>	12,934,935	11,442,418	10,903,625
<i>Division</i>			
81—Prefabricated buildings, sanitary plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings .. .. .	2,284,757	1,410,308	924,203
82—Furniture and fixtures .. .. .	1,003,101	865,588	927,369
83—Travel goods and handbags and similar articles .. .. .	383,943	275,231	277,887
84—clothing .. .. .	2,177,830	2,062,080	1,887,287
85—Footwear .. .. .	2,677,344	2,258,219	2,476,002
86—Professional, scientific and controlling instruments, photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks .. .. .	894,615	873,854	865,959
89—Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n. e. s. .. .. .	3,513,345	3,697,138	3,544,918
<b>SECTION 9—MISCELLANEOUS TRANSACTIONS AND COM- MODITIES, N.E.S.</b>	537,140	519,037	532,083
<i>Division</i>			
92—Live animals other than for food .. .. .	40,513	94,787	46,233
93—Returned goods and special transactions .. .. .	496,627	424,250	485,850
<b>TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS..</b>	118,907,251	116,408,248	111,001,350

## APPENDIX "B"

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC  
PRODUCE (F. O. B.)ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ F.O.B.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<i>SECTION 0—FOOD</i> ..	65,538,589	62,742,288	63,968,666
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	34,159	24,416	28,090
<i>Division</i>			
00—Live animals, chiefly for food .. ..	9,504	94,620	54,587
01—Meat and meat preparations ..	40,703	33,032	18,361
02—Dairy products, eggs and honey .. ..	23	82	373
03—Fish and fish preparations ..	5,348	1,558	744,687
04—Cereals and cereal preparations .. ..	9,170,481	4,827,877	13,844,809
05—Fruits and vegetables .. ..	23,173	64,223	110,973
06—Sugar and sugar preparations .. ..	55,763,576	57,276,288	48,702,237
07—Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof .. ..	316,588	281,754	324,922
08—Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals) .. ..	163,445	118,416	119,791
09—Miscellaneous food preparations .. ..	11,589	20,022	19,836
<i>SECTION 1—BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO</i> .. ..	4,129,560	3,572,391	3,630,078
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	3,788	3,450	4,498
<i>Division</i>			
11—Beverages .. ..	4,125,772	3,568,941	3,625,548
12—Tobacco and tobacco manufactures .. ..	—	—	32
<i>SECTION 2—CRUDE MATERIALS INEDIBLE EXCEPT FUELS</i> ..	33,926,932	25,123,392	29,543,724
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	1,245	1,984	855
<i>Division</i>			
21—Hides, skins and fur skins, undressed .. ..	31,521	32,005	38,266
22—Oil seeds, oil nuts and oil kernels .. ..	—	—	—

**VALUE OF EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC  
PRODUCE (F. O. B.)**

*ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST*

Unit — \$ F.O.B.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<b>SECTION 2 — CRUDE MATERIALS INEDIBLE EXCEPT FUELS (Contd.)</b>			
<i>Division</i>			
23—Crude rubber, including synthetic, and reclaimed ..	398,420	364,330	596,165
24—Wood, lumber and cork ..	3,716,712	3,880,414	3,604,309
25—Pulp and paper waste ..	—	—	—
26—Textile fibres not manufactured into yarn, thread or fabrics and waste ..	6,772	7,257	3,805
27—Crude fertilizers and crude minerals, excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones ..	100	3,618	9,613
28—Metalliferous ores and metal scrap ..	29,767,304	20,816,352	25,281,788
29—Animal and vegetable crude materials, n.e.s. ..	4,858	17,432	8,923
<b>SECTION 3—MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS ..</b>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	4,762	5,915	725
<i>Division</i>			
31—Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials ..	4,762	5,915	725
<b>SECTION 4—ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS..</b>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	11	38	122
<i>Division</i>			
41—Animal and vegetable oils (not essential oils), fats, greases and derivatives ..	—	—	—
<b>SECTION 5—CHEMICALS ..</b>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	991,349	1,107,402	1,162,540
	119	53	175
<i>Division</i>			
51—Chemical elements and compounds ..	—	1,280	5,830

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC  
PRODUCE (F. O. B.)

ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ F.O.B.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<b>SECTION 5 — CHEMICALS</b>			
<i>(Contd.)</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
53—Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials .. .. .	—	5	—
54—Medicinal and pharmaceutical products .. .. .	566,299	556,416	605,944
55—Essential oils and perfume materials, toilets, polishing and cleansing preparations..	420,220	447,083	497,164
59—Explosives and miscellaneous chemicals materials and products .. .. .	4,711	102,565	53,427
<b>SECTION 6—MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL</b>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	1,420,035	1,455,653	3,116,802
	24	—	5
<i>Division</i>			
61—Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furs .. .. .	13,585	19,704	10,870
62—Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	—	—	—
63—Wood and cork manufactures (excluding furniture) ..	14,900	28,227	66,982
64—Paper, paperboard and manufactures thereof ..	462	181	49
65—Textile yarns, fabrics and made-up articles and related products .. .. .	540	1,853	375
66—Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s. .. .. .	—	—	140
67—Silver, platinum, gems and jewellery .. .. .	1,390,524	1,405,688	3,037,881
69—Manufactures of metals ..	—	—	500
<b>SECTION 7—MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT</b>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	235	1,280,181	160
	—	—	—
<i>Division</i>			
71—Machinery other than electric .. .. .	10	—	160

**VALUE OF EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC  
PRODUCE (F. O. B.)**

*ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST*

Unit — \$ F.O.B.

<i>COMMODITY</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>
<i>SECTION 7—MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT ..</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
72—Electric machinery, apparatus and appliances .. ..	—	—	—
73—Transport equipment ..	44,225	1,280,181	—
<i>SECTION 8—MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES ..</i>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	266,673	224,559	361,465
	485	112	24
<i>Division</i>			
81—Prefabricated buildings, sanitary plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings .. ..	—	—	2,000
82—Furniture and fixtures ..	1,198	449	551
83—Travel goods and handbags and similar articles ..	240	—	816
84—Clothing .. ..	68,560	67,410	168,998
85—Footwear .. ..	140	—	—
86—Professional, scientific and controlling instruments, photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks ..	600	481	480
89—Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s. .. ..	195,450	156,107	188,596
<i>SECTION 9—MISCELLANEOUS TRANSACTIONS AND COM- MODITIES, N.E.S. ..</i>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	739,862	864,923	246,869
	—	—	—
<i>Division</i>			
92—Live animals other than for food .. ..	197,411	188,282	195,069
93—Returned goods and special transactions .. ..	43,744	32,175	12,498
99—Gold .. ..	498,707	644,466	39,302
<b>TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS ..</b>			
Of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers	<b>107,062,008</b>	<b>96,376,742</b>	<b>102,031,151</b>
	<b>39,831</b>	<b>30,053</b>	<b>33,769</b>

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF FOREIGN  
PRODUCE (F. O. B.)

ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ F.O.B.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<i>SECTION 0 — FOOD</i>	30,074	41,065	35,533
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	17,828	21,793	17,983
<i>Division</i>			
00—Live animals chiefly for food .. ..	100	—	—
01—Meat and meat preparations .. ..	7	13	20
02—Dairy products, eggs and honey .. ..	808	5,843	2,061
03—Fish and fish preparations .. ..	—	23	241
04—Cereals and cereal preparations .. ..	126	1,861	738
05—Fruits and vegetables .. ..	8,281	9,726	11,779
06—Sugar and sugar preparations .. ..	172	134	—
07—Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof .. ..	1,345	1,108	1,619
08—Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals .. ..	—	—	—
09—Miscellaneous food preparations .. ..	1,327	564	1,093
<i>SECTION 1—BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO</i>	649	1,703	2,399
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	637	1,485	1,774
<i>Division</i>			
11—Beverages .. ..	9	—	615
12—Tobacco and tobacco manufactures .. ..	3	218	10
<i>SECTION 2—CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE EXCEPT FUELS</i>	143	191	891
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	31	91	241
<i>Division</i>			
21—Hides, skins and fur skins, undressed .. ..	—	—	—
22—Oil seeds, oil nuts and oil kernels .. ..	—	—	—
23—Crude rubber, including synthetic and reclaimed .. ..	—	—	—
24—Wood, lumber, and cork ..	—	—	—



VALUE OF EXPORTS OF FOREIGN  
PRODUCE (F. O. B.)

ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ F.O.B.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<i>SECTION 2 — CRUDE MATERIALS INEDIBLE EXCEPT FUELS (Contd.)</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
25—Pulp and paper waste ..	—	—	—
26—Textile fibres not manufactured into yarn, thread or fabrics and waste ..	—	33	40
27—Crude fertilizers and crude minerals, excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones	—	2	370
28—Metaliferous ores and metal scrap ..	—	—	—
29—Animal vegetable crude materials, n.e.s. ..	112	65	240
<i>SECTION 3 — MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS ..</i>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	79,380 71,055	113,790 110,835	138,987 125,152
<i>Division</i>			
31—Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials ..	8,325	2,957	13,835
<i>SECTION 4 — ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE, OILS AND FATS ..</i>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	3,024 142	2,124 244	994 19
<i>Division</i>			
41—Animal and vegetable oils (not essential oils) fats, greases and derivatives ..	2,882	1,880	975
<i>SECTION 5 — CHEMICALS ..</i>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	11,924 730	24,291 688	39,238 1,502
<i>Division</i>			
51—Chemical elements and compounds ..	460	2,038	16,307
53—Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials ..	1,002	181	1,954

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF FOREIGN  
PRODUCE (F. O. B.)

ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

Unit — \$ F.O.B.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<i>SECTION 5 — CHEMICALS</i>			
<i>(Contd.)</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
54—Medicinal and pharmaceutical products .. ..	5,401	6,725	8,605
55—Essential oils and perfume materials, toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations ..	4,331	14,599	10,659
56—Fertilizers, manufactured ..	—	—	—
59—Explosives and miscellaneous chemical materials and products .. ..	—	60	211
<i>SECTION 6—MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL</i> .. ..			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	59,621	69,153	163,511
	1,375	739	321
<i>Division</i>			
61—Leather, leather manufactured and dressed furs ..	23	10	
62—Rubber manufactures, n.e.s. . .	4	11,677	4,563
63—Wood and cork manufactures excluding furniture . .	517	14	629
64—Paper, paper board and manufactures thereof ..	3,953	983	3,753
65—Textile yarns, fabrics and made-up articles and related products .. ..	31,236	37,629	62,772
66—Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s. .. ..	6,592	2,226	3,761
67—Silver, platinum, gems and jewellery .. ..	600	379	1,969
68—Base metals .. ..	3,194	649	38,267
69—Manufactures of metals ..	7,293	14,847	47,476
<i>SECTION 7 — MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT</i>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers ..	361,371	263,387	653,251
	94	1,085	92
<i>Division</i>			
71—Machinery other than electric	250,554	142,989	370,066

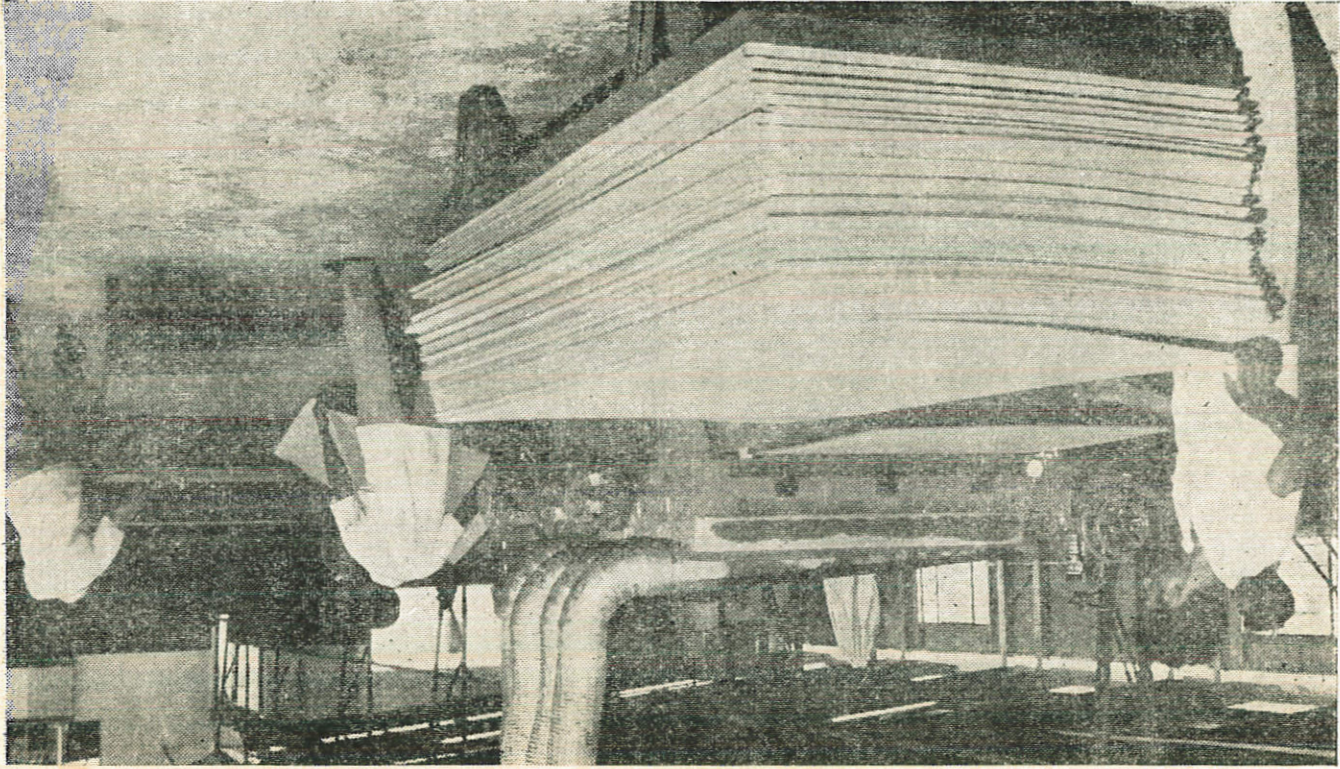
VALUE OF EXPORTS OF FOREIGN  
PRODUCE (F. O. B.)

ANALYSIS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE  
STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CLASSIFICATION LIST

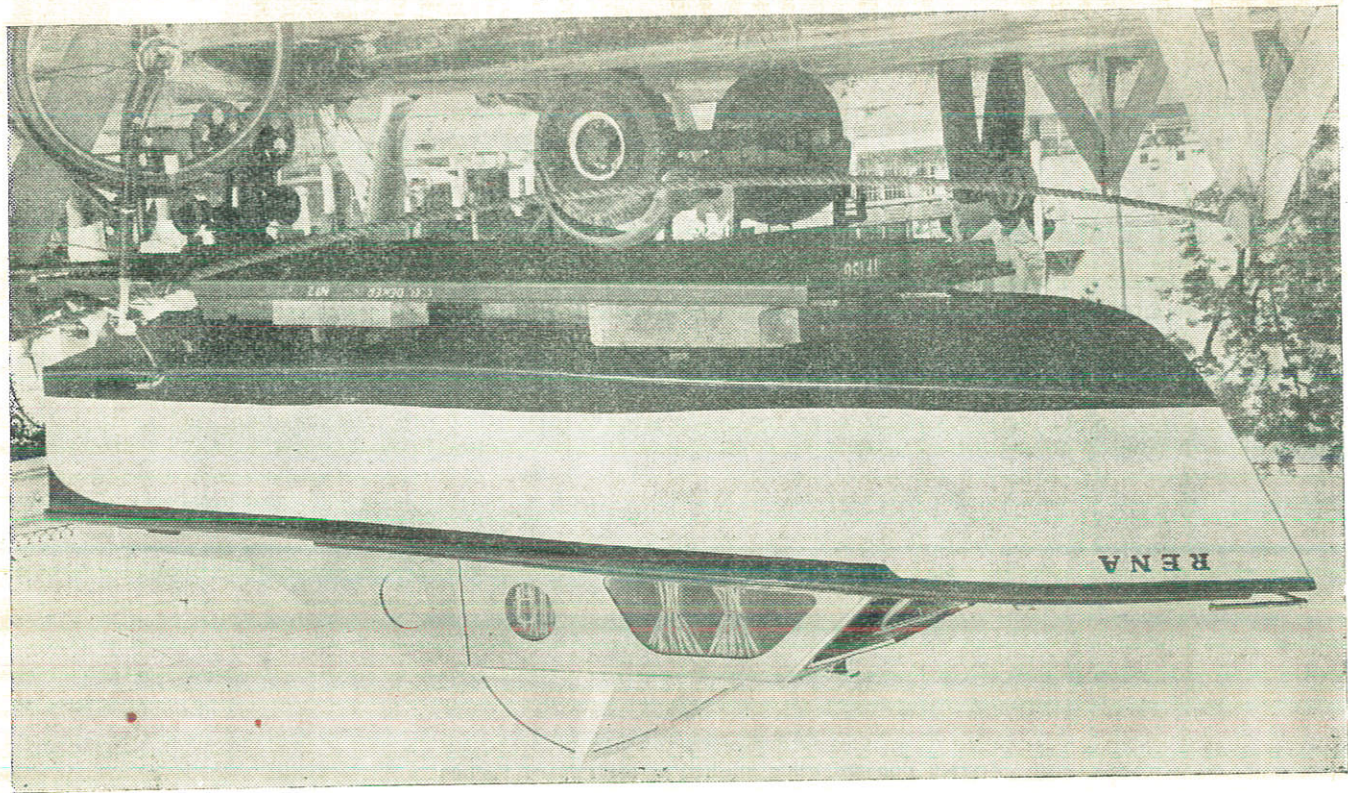
Unit — \$ F.O.B.

COMMODITY	1957	1958	1959
<i>SECTION 7 — MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT.</i>			
<i>(Contd.)</i>			
<i>Division</i>			
72—Electric machinery, apparatus and appliances .. ..	20,757	39,853	38,519
73—Transport equipment .. ..	89,966	79,460	244,574
<i>SECTION 8 — MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES</i>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers .. ..	61,196 369	63,421 166	134,230 27
<i>Division</i>			
81—Prefabricated buildings, sanitary plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings	1,072	342	1,389
82—Furniture and fixtures .. ..	1,086	1,217	673
83—Travel goods and hand-bags and similar articles .. ..	954	563	477
84—Clothing .. ..	4,216	1,716	5,621
85—Footwear .. ..	9,663	2,427	18,109
86—Professional, scientific and controlling instruments, photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks ..	20,128	12,586	46,305
89—Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s. .. ..	23,708	44,404	61,629
<i>SECTION 9 — MISCELLANEOUS TRANSACTIONS AND COMMODITIES, N.E.S.</i>			
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers .. ..	894,820	752,713	862,846
<i>Division</i>			
91—Postal packages .. ..	—	—	—
92—Live animals other than for food .. ..	29,490	2,350	22,325
93—Returned goods and special transactions .. ..	865,330	750,363	840,521
99—Gold .. ..	—	—	—
TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS .. ..	1,502,202	1,331,840	2,031,880
of which Ships' Stores/Bunkers .. ..	92,261	137,126	147,110

Pressed Pilboard being finished at the Pilbord Factory.



Locally manufactured fiberglass boat.



## Chapter VI: Production

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

The total area under cultivation in British Guiana is approximately 280,000 acres, about 0.5 per cent of the total area of the colony, and this is largely confined to the narrow coastal alluvial belt. Grazing, mostly for cattle, is available both on the coastlands and on the savannahs in the interior. Pastures on the lower reaches of the rivers are for the most part poorly drained, and there is little attempt at the cultivation of grasses. There are some 6,000 square miles of rough pasture lands in the interior (Rupununi), but the quality of grazing land is poor, mainly on account of mineral deficiencies in the soil.

More than four-fifths of the total land area is covered by forests parts of the more accessible of which are exploited for timber, principally greenheart, firewood and charcoal and balata.

Land conservation is mostly confined to certain sections of the sea coast which are protected by sea defences.

Water conservation is carried out in the catchment areas of certain rivers. The chief conservancies are the East Demerara Water Conservancy embracing a catchment area of about 190 square miles between the Demerara and Mahaica Rivers and the West Demerara Water Conservancy situated between the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers with a catchment area of about 94 square miles. There are natural catchment areas on the right bank of the Canje River and on the Essequibo Coast. Water conservation and utilisation are controlled by legislation, *viz.*, the East Demerara Water Conservancy Ordinance, Chapter 236, the Boerasirie Creek Ordinance, Chapter 275, and the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 192.

*Land Ownership.* The issue of title for Crown Lands is subject to the provisions of the Crown Lands Ordinance, Chapter 175, and the Crown Lands Regulations which are administered by the Department of Lands and Mines. Unalienated Crown Lands comprise about 90 per cent of the area of the Colony. Crown Lands may be alienated by the Governor acting on behalf of Her Majesty and Colony lands by the Governor-in-Council acting under the provisions of the Lands and Mines Department Ordinance, Chapter 170.

The indigenous inhabitants (known as Amerindians) are specially provided for by the Amerindian Ordinance, Chapter 58, which was brought into operation by proclamation on the 18th of September, 1953. Under this Ordinance over 6,000 square miles of Crown lands have been declared to be Amerindian Reservations, and all residents of such reservations are permitted to occupy and

use the land free from all rates and taxes. The Amerindians are protected by Government when residing within the areas reserved for them. They do not hold title for lands within the reservations, but enjoy certain privileges over Crown Lands.

Freehold land owned by the non-indigenous inhabitants of the Colony falls into two categories, *viz.* land alienated by the Dutch prior to 1803 and land alienated by the Crown subsequent to 1831. The total area of freehold land falling in these categories is approximately 1,178 square miles. Land alienated by the Crown subsequent to 1831 comprises about 777 square miles disposed of in the form of absolute grants and conditional purchase grants.

The freehold land includes "Colony Land" which was either purchased by the Colony of British Guiana or granted to the British Guiana Government by the Crown. At present the Colony owns an area of about 26,000 acres. Of this area 6,916.46 acres are held under lease by the United States Government.

*Types of Land Tenure.* In the days of the Dutch occupation, alienation of land was by means of freehold grants. This was followed after 1831 by the issue of absolute grants of land by the Crown. These gave indefeasible title, and this form of grant continued until the early part of the present century, when it was decided that land should be disposed of by conditional purchase grants which gave the grantees the right to use the land and pay the purchase price therefor in five annual instalments. The grant was subject to beneficial occupation of land during the conditional period after which, provided the purchase money was paid, it was made absolute and became freehold. Under the Crown Lands Ordinance the mineral rights are reserved to the Crown. In 1938, it was announced that conditional freehold grants of Crown Land would not be made except under special circumstances and that Crown Lands would ordinarily be rented under leases or licences of occupancy for terms not exceeding 99 years. This period has since been reduced to 21 years. Leases, licences and permissions to occupy Crown or Colony lands for agriculture, cattle grazing, woodcutting, balata extracting, quarrying for stone, collecting gums, plants, etc., may be obtained on terms and conditions which are prescribed under the Crown Lands Regulations.

During 1959, seven hundred and sixty-one applications for titles for agricultural, grazing, residential and business purposes were granted by the Department of Lands and Mines affecting a total of 15,937.88 acres of Crown and Colony land. These included 151 applications for renewals of expired titles totalling 4,356.9224 acres. In addition to this, ten renewals of permissions for grazing cattle over 405 square miles of hinterland savannah were granted.

In April 1956, Government commenced systematic inspection of Crown Lands held under title with a view to terminating titles where the conditions attached to the titles were not being complied with, and the areas were not being beneficially occupied, so as to make those areas available to meet the requirements of persons in need of land. During 1959, two Licences of Occupancy, sixty-three agricultural leases, seven grazing leases and five residential and business leases were terminated. These covered a total area of 2,225.146 acres, possession of which was resumed by the Crown.

Under the provisions of the District Lands Partition and Re-allotment Ordinance, Chapter 173, lands may be re-allotted and re-partitioned on approval by the Governor-in-Council of a petition by the owners or claimants of the land, in order to promote beneficial occupation, to confer proper title for distinct plots of land, or to overcome excessive fragmentation or subdivision of the land.

*Types of Renting System.* The renting of lands held under Crown and Colony Land leases are subject to the approval of the Governor or the Governor-in-Council on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed. The renting of lands for rice cultivation is controlled by law, viz., the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Ordinance, 1956, which repealed a previous Ordinance enacted in 1945. There is no other restriction on the renting of freehold land.

*Water Resources.* The Hydro-electric Power Ordinance, 1956, was enacted on 30th November, 1956, to make provision for the grant of licences authorising the utilisation of the waters of the Colony for the purpose of generating electrical energy and for matters connected therewith. Regulation No. 8 of 1957 made under the provisions of that Ordinance, came into force on 1st May, 1957.

#### LAND DEVELOPMENT

*Land Development Department.* Land Development Schemes have been operated by Government over a period of years, abandoned sugar and other estates having been acquired from time to time for the purpose. The Department of Land Development, which is administered by a Director of Land Development assisted by a Deputy Director, is responsible for the operation of the various settlement schemes, for advice as to suitable areas for development and occupation by selected peasant farmers, and for the co-ordination of proposals for such development in close consultation with the Departments of Agriculture and Drainage and Irrigation regarding the suitability and utilisation of the areas for the economic production of crops, size of holdings and such drainage and irrigation works as are required to be undertaken. Its primary function lies not only in bringing more land under beneficial occupation, but also in development of family size farms and the building of a strong, economically



independent, farmers' community. Certain major land reclamation and water control schemes in progress in Essequibo, Berbice and West Demerara are intended to meet the need for more land, but it is also hoped to obtain quick results by improving and bringing into use a number of scattered areas of Crown Land which are not being beneficially used in the rear of existing schemes, as well as suitable land on the river banks.

*Advisory Committee.* A Land Settlement Advisory Committee, appointed in 1955 to advise the Government on matters of policy connected with land settlement, the acquisition or resumption by Government for beneficial occupation of unused areas of land, and on general matters pertaining to land settlement in the Colony, was dissolved in August 1957 consequent upon the change in the form of Government which took place during that year. Four of the Committee's fifteen members were the Heads or Deputy Heads of the Departments of Agriculture, Drainage and Irrigation, Lands and Mines and Local Government, while five of the remaining eleven members were members of the interim Legislature. The question whether or not the Committee should be reconstituted is under consideration.

#### *Particulars of Existing Schemes.*

*West Demerara Government Estates (Windsor Forest, La Jalousie and Hague).* 3,846 acres of land are occupied by 448 families to whom house lots have been sold on easy terms, and agricultural lots leased on a 99 year basis at a rental of \$6.00 per acre per annum with the right of renewal. No provision was made in the lease, which issued as far back as 1915, for revision of this rate of rental and under the terms of the lease the Government is responsible for the maintenance of the Estates and for payment of all water rates and drainage charges levied thereon.

2,519 acres were under cultivation in 1959, 2,088 in rice crops and the balance in vegetable crops (346 acres), and cane (85 acres). A communal byre facilitates dairy farming and a communal pasture is available for dry cows and steers.

Recurrent expenditure on this scheme during 1959 amounted to \$32,621.86 (provisional) and revenue \$18,056.20 (provisional).

*Vergenoegen Land Development Schemes (Vergenoegen, Philadelphia Greenwich Park and Barnwell, East Bank Essequibo).* 3,595 acres of land are occupied by 200 families to whom cultivation plots have been leased for 21 years with the right of renewal for a similar period. The rate of rental is subject to revision every five years. House lots have been leased on similar terms, but there is provision for settlers to purchase the lots outright at the end of three

years, if they so desire, provided that they have been satisfactory lessees.

1,116 rods of drainage and 1,240 rods of irrigation trenches were excavated during the year.

463 acres of abandoned lands were cleared during the year.

1,797 acres were under cultivation in 1959; 1,650 in rice crops, and the balance in vegetable crops.

Dairy farming is practised, communal byres capable of accommodating a dairy herd of 116 animals being available for use.

The rice mill which was operated by the Department, was sold to a group of farmers who have registered as a Co-operative Society.

Recurrent expenditure on this scheme in 1959 amounted to \$44,967.09 (provisional) and revenue \$24,097.87 (provisional).

*Cane Grove/La Bonne Mere Land Development Scheme (East Coast, Demerara).* Of the total area of 7,233 acres, 5,867 acres are available for housing, rice and coconut cultivation, mixed farming and pasturage.

The lands have been allocated to 485 families on terms and conditions similar to those of the Vergenoegen Scheme mentioned above.

During 1959, 3,234 acres were under rice cultivation, 273 acres under coconut cultivation, 745 acres under vegetable crops, 511 acres under Dairy Farming and 1,099 acres were available for pasturage.

Recurrent expenditure on this scheme during 1959, amounted to — \$92,077.69 (provisional), and revenue \$70,297.29 (provisional).

*Anna Regina Estates (Essequibo District).* Of a total of 9,541 acres of land, 3,754 acres were under rice cultivation during 1959. 249 acres were utilised for dairy farming, and 642 acres for communal pasturage. House and cultivation lots are leased on terms and conditions similar to those of the Vergenoegen Scheme. There are 781 families on this scheme whose economy is based mainly on rice cultivation. Thirty-four more houses were completed during 1959. A rice mill is operated within the settlement by the British Guiana Rice Development Company, Limited.

Recurrent expenditure on this scheme during 1959 amounted to \$85,689.42 (provisional) and revenue \$32,790.17 (provisional).

*The Charity-Amazon Scheme (Pomeroon River District).* This comprises 170.5 acres on the right bank of the Pomeroon River divided into 35 agricultural lots and 140 house lots. These lots have been rented under temporary agreement pending the settlement of the terms of the proposed leases. The agricultural lots are under mixed cultivation.

Recurrent expenditure on this scheme during 1959 amounted to \$11,630.34 (provisional) and revenue \$3,350.00 (provisional).

Allocation of the entire area should be completed in 1960 thus bringing an end to the development of the present scheme.

Development expenditure on this scheme during 1959 amounted to \$211,694.74 (provisional) and revenue to \$18,134.80 (provisional).

Recurrent expenditure amounted to \$48,732.24 (provisional).

*Garden of Eden Land Development Scheme.* Plantation Garden of Eden, an abandoned estate comprising 1,200 acres on the East Bank of the Demerara River was purchased in 1956. Work on the rehabilitation and development of the area was begun in 1956 and has continued through 1959 in accordance with development proposals submitted and approved as Colonial Development Scheme No. D 3187.

The original plan which was intended to cater for 47 families has been modified to absorb 78 :—

54 Citrus and mixed farming of approximately 7.5 acres.  
24 Dairy Farms of approximately 25 acres.

—  
78  
—

72 farms were allocated during the year 1959. Housing sites were cleared on 68 holdings. Main dry weather roads were constructed throughout the settlement, also all drainage and irrigation canals were completed.

Very encouraging progress has been made by the settlers who appear to have been well selected.

Development expenditure on this scheme during 1959 amounted to \$34,362.82 (provisional) and recurrent expenditure to \$6,900.30 (provisional).

*Onverwagt Land Development Scheme.* Plantation Onverwagt which was handed over to the Land Settlement Department by the British Guiana Rice Development Company, Limited, in March, 1955, comprises about 6,000 acres of which 4,759 acres were allocated on temporary tenancy to 407 farmers in 1959 for rice cultivation, and 400 acres were utilised for communal pasturage. A complete scheme for full utilisation and occupation and for comprehensive drainage and irrigation of the area has been prepared but not yet approved. Development proposals in this direction provide for the empoldering of the entire property in accordance with plans prepared by the Drainage and Irrigation Department, and for the lay-out of some 540 acres into homesteads of approximately 5 acres each to accommodate about 108 families each of whom will, in addition to a homestead plot, be allocated a rice plot of about 12 acres. The remainder of the area will be laid out into rice plots of

approximately 15 acres each and allocated to persons living in the vicinity of Onverwagt.

Recurrent expenditure in 1959 amounted to \$20,958.12 (provisional) and revenue \$31,050.26 (provisional).

*Assistance to Settlers.* Machinery hire pools are maintained at Government's expense at Anna Regina, Cane Grove and Vergenoegen, under which mechanical equipment is available on hire to assist settlers in preparing and cultivating land. This facility is, however, being gradually withdrawn and settlers are being encouraged to form themselves into co-operative societies to hire or purchase ploughing and reaping equipment.

## AGRICULTURE

### *Principal Crops*

*Sugar and By-Products.* These comprise by far the most important agricultural exports of the Colony. Their value far exceeds the combined export value of other crops.

Total production of sugar in the Colony decreased to 284,425 tons, of which 279,702 tons were produced by Estates and 5,723 tons by farmers. Comparable figures for 1958 are 306,361 tons comprising 300,419 tons from Estates and 5,942 tons from farmers.

Estate production of sugar is in the hands of two large Companies operating 11 sugar factories with capacities ranging from 10,000 to 40,000 tons of sugar per annum. Their combined capacity is a little over 300,000 tons. The land area of sugar estates varies in size from 934 acres to 13,000 acres. In 1959 they harvested a total of 86,877 acres of cane as compared with 84,443 acres in 1958. The yield was approximately 38.1 tons of cane per acre which was equal to 3.2 tons of sugar per acre. This was lower than 1958 by 4.2 tons of cane and 0.5 tons of sugar per acre.

*Production.* Under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, about 154,567 tons of sugar were sold to the United Kingdom at a negotiated price of \$210.40 (£43. 16s. 8d.) per ton c.i.f. in 1958. The 1959 negotiated quota under this agreement was 159,630 tons and the negotiated price \$216.48 (£45. 2s.) per ton c.i.f. The total quantity of sugar consumed locally in 1959 was estimated to be in the vicinity of 18,800 tons. The local maximum wholesale price (unweighted average for all grades) remained at \$160.16 (£33. 7s. 4d.) per ton, this rate having been effective since 1951. The balance of sugar was sold to Canada and the United Kingdom at World Market prices, with additional advantage of preferential tariffs.

*Improvement and Expansion of Existing Schemes.* A further programme of development works and services embracing all existing schemes was drawn up with the primary object of bringing more land under cultivation and ensuring efficient use of, and maximum production from, the land. It was recommended that expenditure under this new programme should be financed on the basis of a two-thirds Colonial Development and Welfare Grant and a one-third contribution from local funds. However, in January, 1959, a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of \$221,016.00 for the period 1st January, 1957 to 31st March, 1960, was approved under Scheme D 3682, on the basis of 66 2/3% of Capital expenditure during the period 1st January 1957 to 31st August, 1957, and 80% of Capital expenditure during the period 1st January, 1959 to 31st March, 1960. Expenditure in 1959 amounted to \$111,645.02 (provisional).

#### *New Schemes.*

*Mara Land Development Scheme.* The rehabilitation and development of Plantation Mara *cum annexis* comprising about 3,870 acres on the East Bank of the Berbice River, was continued during 1959, in accordance with proposals approved as Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D. 3188 A. During the year the major drainage and irrigation works were completed.

Due to the occurrence of "Blast" disease which infested the greater portion of the area cultivated in rice in 1958, and on the advice of the Department of Agriculture, it was decided to restrict the cultivation of rice and the following utilisation objectives proposed :

- (a) approximately 1,365 acres for rice cultivation in plots of approximately 15 acres each allocated to rice farmers;
- (b) approximately 215 acres for homesteads of 2½ acres each on which rice farmers will live, keep one or two cows, cultivate food crops and raise poultry;
- (c) approximately 1,025 acres of farmsteads of between 13½ to 15 acres each on which farmers will live, *grow no rice*, but cultivate vegetables and permanent crops *e.g.* cocoa and limes) and keep poultry and a limited number of dairy cattle;
- (d) approximately 717 acres for cocoa cultivation in plots of 12 acres each to farmers;
- (e) approximately 144 acres for homesteads of 3 acres each on which cocoa farmers will live, cultivate food crops, raise poultry and a limited number of dairy cattle.

By the end of the year, the entire rice area had been cleared and levelled and allocated to rice farmers each of whom has also been allocated homesteads. Blast disease was kept under control by continual spraying during the period of growth of the rice.

The production of rum in 1959 was estimated to be 3.2 million proof gallons. The out-put of molasses was estimated to be in the vicinity of 12.8 million gallons in 1959 and the surplus exported was 9.5 million gallons in January—October.

The gradual centralisation of sugar processing progressed further in 1959 with the completion of the erection of a modern sugar factory at La Bonne Intention. This factory will have a capacity of 33,000 tons of raw sugar, and will cater for the estates of La Bonne Intention, Ogle and Houston. The factory at Ogle ceased operation at the end of 1958.

### *Rice*

Rice is the second most important agricultural export. However, in terms of acreage, rice occupies nearly twice as large an area as sugar and is grown chiefly on heavy clay soils of the Colony's Coastal Belt. It is principally a peasant crop, cultivated mainly by farmers of East Indian descent, whose individual holdings cover an average of about 7 acres, though some cultivate as much as 400 acres by mechanical methods.

In 1958, 155.1 thousand acres of rice were seeded for the autumn crop. In the 1959 autumn crop 179.2 thousand acres were seeded, the largest in the history of the Colony. About 16,500 acres were double cropped; this yielded an additional 2.0 thousand tons of rice in 1959. The estimated total production for 1959 in terms of milled rice equivalent was 104.0 thousand tons compared with 100.5 thousand tons in 1958. Exports for the year are expected to be 51,127 tons. During the year approximately 10,000 tons of padi were exported to Venezuela.

The British Guiana Rice Development Company was established in 1953, under Government sponsorship to operate the Mahaicony/Abary Rice Scheme which carries out large scale mechanical cultivation of rice on an experimental basis. The Scheme cultivated approximately 2,700 acres in an empoldered area of 12,000 acres; part of the balance of this area is allocated to individual farmers and part provides pasturage for cattle. The Company operates a modern Rice Mill at the Scheme with an annual capacity for milling 18 thousand tons of rice. This mill processes all the padi from the Scheme and purchases from farmers as well. The Company's second mill at Anna Regina on the Essequibo Coast has a capacity of 12.6 thousand tons of rice.

There were in operation 217 other rice mills of different sizes and comparatively small out-put, all being privately owned. The mill at Vergenoegen formerly operated by the Land Development Department is now being managed by a co-operative society. The large majority of these mills are of the single-stage, huller type which can-

not separate bran for stock feed and are not as efficient as multi-stage mills. The future of the milling industry must move towards multi-stage mills and already a small number with capacity as small as ½ ton of rice per hour have been installed. The report of Sir Archibald Cuke recommending a Scheme for the compensation of Millers who voluntarily agreed to close their mills at the request of the Rice Development Company has not been implemented as no satisfactory solution has been agreed between the Company and the Rice Millers Association.

All rice produced in the Colony, with the exception of that required by producers to meet their personal needs, must be sold to the Rice Marketing Board. The Board is the Colony's sole exporter and arranges contracts for the sale of rice overseas, primarily to West Indian territories.

The prices agreed between The West Indies and British Guiana for rice of various qualities as from 1st October, 1957 were as follows:

\$21.30 per bag (180 lb)	for rice of super quality
\$19.20 " "	for first quality
\$16.95 " "	for second quality

There were no changes in export prices in 1959.

A Rice Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Governor to attempt to co-ordinate the efforts of the leaders of the Rice Industry with those of Ministers and Government Officials who were closely concerned with the Industry, with the object of working out a practical policy to which all would agree, for increasing the future efficiency of the Industry. Many aspects including planting time, fertilising, mechanisation, drying storage, milling, grading, land-rent, credit and legislation were considered. The Committee's Report, which was published in December, 1958, included the recommendation that operational Zones should be defined for the two Central Mills of the R.D.C. at Mahaicony/Abary and Anna Regina, and that all privately-owned mills within these Zones should be compulsorily closed down, with compensation; the Rice Millers' and Landlords' Association should also undertake as quickly as possible the rationalization of milling outside the Central Zones, single stage huller-type mills being replaced by modern multi-stage mills. Draft legislation to give effect to some of the recommendations of the Committee was being prepared during 1959.

### *Coconuts*

Coconuts are the third most important crop in the Colony and there are approximately 34,000 acres grown on estates and in scattered plantings along trenches and roadways. The total production of oil (crude and refined) in 1959 is estimated at 531,632 gallons. The total production in 1958 was 733.6 thousand gallons.

The total production of copra in 1959 is estimated at 3,432 tons compared with 4,830 tons in 1958. Production does not meet the demand and it is estimated that imports of oil would be in the vicinity of 295.4 thousand gallons in 1959. The Margarine and Soap Factory of Sterling Products Limited opened in 1957 had to rely on imports.

A campaign to increase the planting of coconuts was commenced and large nurseries were planted. The target of 1,000 new acres of coconuts per year set in 1958 was revised to 2,000 and growers were encouraged to tend their plantations and use fertilisers in order to increase production. The control of the Coconut Moth Borer and Coconut Caterpillar received attention. Plans were made to encourage the planting of coconuts in the North West Amerindian District, and clearing of some of the holdings along the Kumaka-Kwebanna ridge has been started.

Prices of coconut products are controlled by the Commodity Control Organisation and the wholesale price for deodorised coconut oil was \$2.48 per gallon. Copra prices ranged from \$260.40 (£54. 5s.) to \$282.80 (£58. 18s. 4d.) per ton depending on grade.

The Colony continued to participate in the British Caribbean Oils and Fats Agreement. The new agreement ratified from 1st January 1957 continued in force. The area export price for copra was increased to £66. 13s. 4d. per ton f.o.b. and raw oil to \$2.36 per gallon f.o.b. in 1959.

#### *Other Crops*

There is a wide range of minor crops grown in the Colony. Singly none of them is very important, but in aggregate they make a substantial contribution to local food production. Although in 1959 there was a decrease in the level of production (compared with 1958) of plantains and cassava, the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture handled an estimated 3.9 million pounds valued at \$86,609. However, local market supplies were adequate and small surpluses were processed into starch and flour. The exports of plantains and starch afford an indication of the level of production in 1959 when 1,639,779 lbs. of plantains, the highest export since 1949, and 370,792 lbs. of starch were exported, as compared with 810,243 lbs. of plantains valued \$35,632 and 211,722 lbs. of starch valued at \$19,531 for the year 1958. Further, the Marketing Division of the Department purchased in 1959 an estimated 4,125.2 thousand pounds of plantains and ground provisions as compared with 10,946.5 thousand pounds in 1958.

The most important of the minor crops from the point of view of export is Liberian Coffee. The total quantity of beans exported in 1959 was 536,144 pounds valued at \$276,217 compared with 417,200 pounds valued at \$273,548 for the year 1958. On comparing figures for previous years, although the 1957 level of exports



was not maintained, that of 1958 was surpassed notwithstanding a decrease in the export price of coffee.

The weather was not favourable for production of maize and the 1958 level of production was not maintained. It was decided to purchase all maize offered to Government at a guaranteed price of 5¾ cents per pound. Although the intensive campaign to increase local consumption started in 1957 was continued, the export trade only benefited to the order of 81.6 tons (January to September).

The distribution of Cacao and Citrus plants was sufficient for an increase of 158 acres of Cacao and 302 acres of Citrus. There is much scope for the expansion of Cacao and the production of Citrus does not satisfy the local demand.

#### *Events Affecting Production*

The late mid-year rains caused some anxiety to be felt for the Autumn rice crop, but emergency pumping in some of the early sown areas, and an increase in the area under cultivation, contributed to a record production of padi. The production of ground provisions and corn was adversely affected by unfavourable weather conditions, and to a lesser extent insect pests.

The prolonged dry weather early in the year adversely affected coconuts, citrus and other tree crops. The distribution of coconuts, citrus and cacao plants showed a marked increase especially of the first mentioned.

The dry weather had an adverse effect on the yield and quality of the Spring Crop Sugar Cane. This effect was carried over to the Autumn Crop, and was further accentuated by the heavy end-of-year rains which also affected juice quality. As a result the 1959 sugar crop was less than the previous year, despite the continued high standard of cultivation, and the scientific use of fertilisers, pests, disease and weed control.

#### *Department of Agriculture*

The Department is administered by a Director, Deputy Director and three Assistant Directors. The latter supervise three main Divisions—Research, Extension and Veterinary Services and Animal Husbandry. A Marketing Division comprising Produce Depots, Wholesale Fish Market, Bacon and Ham Factory, a Milk Pasteurisation Plant and a Processing Factory is administered directly by the Director and Deputy, as is the case with Fishery Services.

The Department provides technical assistance to Land Development Schemes. The Director of Land Development is advised on agricultural policy, the planning and lay-out of settlements and holdings together with recommendations for cropping. Services for guiding and instructing tenants are provided.

The permanent establishment of the Department comprises 49 Senior Administrative and Professional Officers, 67 Junior Technical Personnel and 32 Clerical Officers.

Provision is made for 15 Senior Professional, 10 Junior Technical and 2 Clerical Posts on the Development Programme.

The amount voted by the Legislature for the Recurrent Services of the Department including Miscellaneous Services was \$1,849,968 and \$772,965 was provided for Development Schemes and Services.

#### AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION

##### *Research*

*Central Agricultural Station.* Development work on this station which covers an area of 1,000 acres, six miles long and about 1,200 ft. wide, was limited during the year on account of inadequate funds remaining under the Colonial Development and Welfare grant provided. Further work was carried out during the year on the lay-out of the land and the reconditioning and maintenance of the Drainage System. The roads in the Compound and at the Stockfarm were improved and buildings for animals belonging to the Dairy Expansion Scheme were completed. The number of animals held on the Dairy Expansion Scheme was significantly increased and totalled over 400. Additional pastures were planted to provide grazing for the increased number of animals, and the programme envisaged an area of about 500 acres under grass. Specialist Officers continued to make use of staff houses as temporary laboratories and during the latter part of the year, funds were approved under Colonial Development and Welfare Grant for the erection of the new laboratory at the Station. The site and plans are completed and a start will be made in early 1960.

During the year an open field-day was held at the Station and around 1,000 farmers and interested persons attended. They had the opportunity of moving around at the Station and seeing the work that is being done, by means of suitable demonstrations.

Research activities were:

(1) The Rice Breeding Programme has now produced a number of promising varieties with non-lodging, non-shattering characteristics which were tested on farmers' holdings. Some of them have shown one or more of the following defects:—

1. Difficulty in threshing with Combines.
2. Susceptibility to disease.
3. Low yield.
4. Great sensitivity to day length.
5. Poor cooking quality, and

6. Too great a reduction in yield with a decrease in soil fertility. Sixty-five good cooking, disease resistant, good tillering, and vigorous rice varieties were placed in varietal trials during the year. The results will be available in 1960.

(11) Experimentation with Jute was discontinued during the year on account of the disappointing results obtained. Yield of fibre was low and the plants did not reach a satisfactory height. The Berbice Fibre Research Company which was responsible for the investigations went into liquidation.

(111) Trials with grazing grasses were continued and it has been shown that Pangola (*Digitaria decumbens*) and Coastal Bermuda (*Cynodon dactylon*) grasses are eminently suited for intensive grazing.

*Ebini Livestock Station.*

This Station made satisfactory progress during the year and the herd is now over 1,000 animals which are being graded up with Santa Gertrudis, Sahiwal and Brahman bulls. The progeny of these bulls show much promise and the Station is supplying some good quality bulls to ranchers of the area in an effort to improve the beef industry. The primary object of the Station is to find out how Cattle can be reared economically on the mineral-deficient savannahs by feeding mineral supplements, use of fertilizers, planting of improved grasses and proper management. Over 1,000 acres of improved pastures have been established with Pangola grass and it has been shown that on such improved pastures the intensity of grazing is increased to about one animal per acre per annum where originally it was one animal to about 60 acres. Two year old steers fed on improved pastures and on a minimum amount of mineral supplement gave very good carcass weight and excellent meat. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the main fertilizers used in the establishment of improved pastures and there appear to be zinc and copper deficiencies also. Investigations are proceeding on trace element studies. Experiments were conducted on growth rates of calves and steers, the productivity of pastures and a wide range of records kept for the study of fertility and breeding problems.

*St. Ignatius Livestock Station.*

The work of this Station in the Rupununi is to develop and demonstrate methods of cattle management under local conditions of ranching, to breed and grade up cattle suitable for the poor conditions of the savannahs and to study problems of mineral feeding, diseases and parasites. The extremely dry weather which prevailed during the year adversely affected the already poor pastures and live weight gains for animals were far from satisfactory. The poor distribution of rainfall makes it difficult to establish Pangola grass

(*Digitaria decumbens*) and so the development of improved pastures at the Station has not made much progress. An additional Agronomist has been appointed and more detailed investigations in the establishment of improved grasses such as Pangola and Coastal Bermuda will be undertaken. Good quality bulls obtained from Santa Gertrudis and Brahman stocks are made available to ranchers for upgrading their animals. In addition, fertilizer trials and trace element studies with grasses and fodder and subsidiary crops are also being investigated. Further fencing of paddocks has been completed and greater emphasis will now be placed on growth rate, grazing management, fertility and breeding studies.

Trials with Cotton have been discontinued mainly as a result of the problem of pest control and irregularity of the weather.

Other crops tried at the Station and which were successful on suitable drained coastal clay were:— Sesame, (*Sesamum orientale*), Castor, (*Ricinus communis*) Arhar dhal (*Cajanas cajan*) Mung, (*Phaseolus radiatus*) and Blackeye peas (*Vigna Sinensis*), and Tomatoes. Soya beans, Sweet Potatoes, Cassava, Groundnuts, Bananas (*disease resistant*) and cover crops are being further investigated.

Citrus and Mango Plants were imported and the establishment of experimental groves and orchards commenced. The arrangement of the orchard is such that it can be used as a varietal trial on the three main soil types occurring at the Station. Tropical Kudzu (*Pueraria phaseoloides*) is being established as a cover crop for the citrus.

Quality coconut seedlings were propagated in nurseries at the Station and distributed to farmers. During the year about 60,000 seedlings were distributed. The shortage of edible oil in the country makes it necessary to rehabilitate old coconut plantations as well as to put additional land into cultivation of this crop. A permanent grove is in the process of being established at the Station, using seedlings obtained from specially selected mother palms.

#### *Hosororo Experiment Station.*

This Station in the North West District is largely devoted to the extension of cacao and citrus on the red ironstone soils of the region. Experiments with corn, grasses, rice, coffee, ginger, turmeric, and pineapple were also carried out on the deep peat soils which decline in fertility after a comparatively short period of continuous cropping. Para and Locuntu grasses do well on the deep and semi-worn out peat soils.

#### LAND USE PLANNING

The development of the Black Bush Polder (formerly Blocks I and II) on the Corentyne Coast made satisfactory progress and it is

expected that in 1960 settlers will move into the area to occupy part of the lands. The drainage and irrigation system will open some 30,000 acres of new land which, from reports of detailed soil survey and field observations, has proved suitable for rice and other truck-garden crops. The area will be divided into 17½ acre holdings for homesteads and farmsteads.

The completion of the drainage and irrigation works for the western section of the Boerasirie Development Scheme has made available about 25,000 acres of new land for agricultural development. The drainage of adjacent properties has also been improved and the production of ground provision crops such as cassava, plantains from the area increased considerably. Unfortunately, a good proportion of the land is not very productive as some of the soils of the area contain toxic amounts of sulphuric acid and aluminium. Distribution of the land to farmers has commenced. On the better silty clay soils, cacao and citrus are recommended but the area will not be immediately suitable for rice cultivation. The toxic soils can grow suitable grasses and cattle rearing is being recommended for such areas. Further investigations are being carried out with a variety of crops some of which should prove suitable for the soils high in sulphuric acid and aluminium. Detailed soil surveys were completed for Cane Grove and Vergenoegen Government Land Settlement Schemes. In the past many settlers had complained of poor yields of rice. The purpose of the surveys was to demarcate the toxic soils high in sulphuric acid and aluminium from the more fertile soils of the area. The soil maps will assist in fixing the rentals for the less productive soils and settlers will be advised of the treatment with fertilizers in order to enhance the productivity of the area.

A soil survey of the Tapacuma area on the Essequibo coast has commenced. The drainage and irrigation works of this area when completed will make available about 30,000 acres of new land for crops, mainly rice. The survey of the North West Amerindian District was completed and coconut nurseries started so as to provide quality seedlings for planting by the Amerindian population.

Further land use planning was carried out at the Mara Land Settlement area and on private plantations where cacao, citrus, limes, grasses and annual food crops have in many instances been established. All soil surveys have been made possible by Colonial Development and Welfare assistance under the technical direction of the Regional Research Centre at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

#### USE OF MANURES AND FERTILIZERS

The main user of fertilizers is the Sugar Industry which applied 26,787 tons of all types together with 13,085 tons of Limestone. Sulphate of ammonia is the main nitrogenous fertilizer in use but

Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers are progressively on the increase as a result of the response shown in field trials. Urea is applied to a limited extent by aerial spraying on sugar cane at the optimum stage of growth.

The use of fertilizer for rice is slowly increasing and a ready-made 10:20 mixture in pellets is used particularly on soils high in sulphuric acid and aluminium. Rice farmers have not taken to the use of fertilizers and it is hoped that some of the newer varieties of rice should give better responses to fertilizers. Fertilizer trials on farmers' holdings were carried out during the year with significant responses in yield obtained in many areas. The value of fertilizers for the increased production of coconuts has been conclusively demonstrated and the practice adopted on the more progressive plantations. The beneficial results obtained from the application of limestone have been well demonstrated on some plantations.

#### INSECT PESTS AND DISEASE CONTROL

The insecticide Dieldrin continued to be effective against the giant moth borer of coconuts which is a severe pest on plantations.

Blast disease of rice (*Piricularia oryzae*) was observed on approximately 1,500 acres of rice cultivated along the banks of the three main rivers, Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo but the disease was not as serious as in the previous year. Investigations carried out have shown that the disease might be controlled to a great extent by spraying with Verdasan, an organo-mercuric fungicide, at the rate of one pound per acre, three applications being made before the plants flower. Around 900 acres of rice were sprayed by Government free of cost with this fungicide using mist blowers and at the rate of eight gallons per acre. The farmers were satisfied with the significant increase in yields obtained. A campaign aimed at eradicating the leaf-cutting acoushi ants (*Atta Spp.*) was started and approximately 12,000 nests were destroyed in the Canals No. 1 and 2 by fogging with a mixture of Aldrin and dieselene.

Outbreaks of Rice Water Weevil (*Lissorhoptrus simplex*) occurred particularly in late sown broadcast rice. Approximately 10,000 acres of rice were damaged resulting in considerable loss in yield. Due to lack of adequate drainage and irrigation facilities, control of the pest by draining the land was impracticable. The rice caterpillar (*Laphygma frugiperda*) also caused damage to rice but control was obtained through the effective use of dieldrin.

The Leaf Scald Disease of Sugar cane (*Xanthomonas albilineans*) which was a hazard a few years ago continued to be on the decline by planting resistant varieties. All new varieties, before they are recommended for commercial planting, undergo resistance tests by the Department.

*Extension*

The Extension Staff was re-designated as follows:

<i>Old Post</i>	<i>New Designation</i>
Agricultural Superintendent	Agricultural Officer
Superintendent of Rural Youth Work	Agricultural Officer
Assistant Agricultural Superintendent	Agricultural Assistant
Senior Agricultural Instructor	Senior Field Assistant
Agricultural Instructors, Grade I	Grade I Field Assistants
Agricultural Instructors, Grade II	Grade II Field Assistants

and the number totalled 55. An Agricultural Officer was appointed to supervise agricultural advisory work on Government Land Settlement Estates and also in connection with the colony's development programme.

The Agricultural Officers and their staff were hard put to cope with the steadily increasing demand for advisory service to farmers. A Progressive Farmer's Scheme was introduced to carry out in co-operation with selected farmers, the actual demonstration and adoption of improved farming techniques. In addition, Demonstration Stations and Nurseries were maintained, and in the case of the latter expanded. This was necessary in order to keep up with the increased demand for coconuts, citrus and cacao seedlings.

There were four (4) quarterly issues of the Farm Journal and several leaflets were prepared for distribution to farmers. In addition a number of scripts on subjects of topical interest was prepared for broadcast on the Government Information Services' 'Rural Notebook Programme'.

The scheme for the training of selected students at the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute was maintained. Four students completed the Diploma course and there were 16 students in training. Of these 8 will complete the course in 1960 and the other 8 in 1961.

Youth training continues to receive special attention, and the number of clubs and membership showed a marked increase. There are 36 4H and 12 Young Farmers' Clubs with a membership of 1583 and 296 respectively.

In addition to competitions, school gardening in primary schools received further encouragement by way of scheduled lectures given by field officers on their regular visits.

VETERINARY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

*Livestock*

An estimate of the number of livestock in the country is as follows:—

Cattle	175,000
Pigs	20,000
Sheep	40,000
Goats	12,000
Horses, Mules, Donkeys	10,000

*Cattle*

Beef cattle are raised mainly on the Rupununi Savannahs and on the Intermediate Savannahs. A good deal of beef is nevertheless supplied from smaller coastal ranches as well as by the slaughter of working oxen now being superseded by tractors.

In addition to supplying local demands just over 200 head of live cattle were exported to Surinam while 44,659 lbs. of meat were air lifted to the French West Indies. The number of cattle on the Coast continues to reduce with the disposal of draught animals, and decrease in available grazing acreage due to expansion of rice cultivation. 325,301 lbs. of cow hides were exported in 1959.

Dairy Cattle are concentrated mainly around Georgetown or within easy reach of the City and other population centres.

Milk production is estimated at 2,500,000 gallons and of this amount approximately 498,876 gallons reached the Pasteurisation Plant in Georgetown.

Beef cattle improvement is being carried out by up grading with Santa Gertrudis, Sahiwal Zebu and Brahman blood. The two former have shown considerable promise. Steers from the F-1 cross with creole cows produced a 450 lbs. carcass at 24 to 30 months.

Dairy breeding is carried out along the Holstein—Friesian line and efforts are being concentrated on producing a 5/8 to 3/4 bred animal. Artificial Insemination is carried out with imported pure bred bulls used on creole females and 3/4 bred Holstein—Friesian bulls on females with from 1/2 to 3/4 Holstein—Friesian blood.

Beef bulls are sold as yearlings to ranchers while dairy bulls are sold to farmers in remote districts not within reach of the Artificial Insemination Service.

A Dairy Expansion Scheme, in which bred heifers are given to selected farmers under obligation to return the first heifer calf to the Scheme, was expanded. Heifers handed in are in turn reared bred and handed out in like manner to another farmer.

There were outbreaks of bat-transmitted paralytic rabies in Demerara and Essequibo river districts which were controlled by

The principal sources of supply of manna fish continue to be the rivers, inland waterways, reservoirs, swamps and ponds. In these



waters subsistence fishing is carried out by castnets, gill nets, drag-seines and various hook and line devices. No complete statistics either of subsistence fishery, gear or production are available, but it is estimated that there are over 7,000 castnets owned by rural residents according to sampling through the agricultural census.

In 1959 the rainfall was not as normally distributed as in an average year, and long dry periods in some areas facilitated the capture of freshwater fish, owing to low water levels. Spawning appeared to be normal in the Rupununi District, though in certain sections of the coast it seemed that only one major spawning occurred of the main freshwater types.

The promotion of fish cultivation as a land use practice has been handed over to the Agricultural Extension Service, and the propagation of fish continues to be dealt with largely by the fish hatchery in Georgetown, though considerable quantities of fry are transferred from successful farm ponds. It is now estimated that there are 487 ponds in operation throughout the country. A large number of these ponds is concentrated in Western Berbice in the immediate vicinity of the brackish-water fish culture station.

The brackish-water fish culture station at Onverwagt has been virtually completed. A total of 57 acres of pond space is now established, each pond being controlled by separate intake kokers and having a known population of fish types. Fish have been cropped from ponds and sold to the wholesale fish market. Over \$2,300.00 worth of fish has been disposed of in this way. The fish vary in size from 1½ lb. (croaker) to 8 lb. (bashers and queriman). Much fundamental information is being taken on water availability, salinity, supply of fry and the rate of growth of various types of forage and predatory fish. Training courses continue to be provided at this station and much interest is shown in the establishment of similar schemes by local residents in other areas of the coast, which are tidally flooded. A documentary film has been made on the operations of this station.

#### *Research.*

Investigations are undertaken on the control of aquatic weeds and very useful observations have been made on the effectiveness of the manatee in clearing trenches covered by grass and submerged aquatic vegetation. Several of these animals have now been introduced in irrigation canals, where they are doing a remarkable job in keeping them weed free.

The work of the Division has been varied so as to concentrate more on research projects of both inland and marine fisheries. Accordingly, projects such as the improvement of the design of fishing boats, the keeping quality of cold storage fish, organisation of training for fishermen, organisation of industrial development by

foreign enterprise, investigation of shrimp fisheries and the continued study of fish collected in the Interior and from the 'Cape St. Mary' trawl surveys, have engaged the attention of officers of this Division.

During the year, two bulletins were published. They were— Review of the Fisheries of B.G., and Report of the Trawl Fishery Survey and Analysis of the Data collected.

As a result of the visits of a number of research scientists, negotiations are underway for the establishment of a biological research institute to be jointly sponsored by a number of overseas universities and foundations.

## FORESTRY

It is estimated that the forests of British Guiana cover some 70,000 square miles, and that only about 500 square miles are privately owned. The State forests may be classified roughly as follows:—

Exploitable	13,500 square miles
Potentially exploitable	40,000 „
Non-exploitable	16,000 „ „

The State forests fall under the management of the Forest Department, which is responsible for the implementation of Government's forest policy. The aims of this policy are—

- (i) to develop the forest resources of the Colony as part of an integrated land use policy for the conservation and development of all natural resources;
- (ii) to manage the forests on the basis of sustained yield;
- (iii) to increase production from the forests, subject to (ii) above with a view to—
  - (a) filling the Colony's requirements of domestic products;
  - (b) developing secondary processing industries within the Colony;
  - (c) exporting a maximum of forest products;
- (iv) to ensure a reasonable return to the community from forest produce;
- (v) to develop markets for species now considered to be unmerchantable; and
- (vi) to provide access to forest areas.

*Production.* It is the policy of the Forest Department to issue timber leases over appreciable areas of Crown forest only to operators who are capable of working such areas properly, generally with the aid of mechanical equipment. The needs of the smaller operators

are usually met by permits for the extraction of timber, firewood, shingles etc.

There are over 90 sawmills in the Colony and in most of the larger units gang-saws are used; the largest sawmill in the Colony has two bandsaw head-rigs, and several band and circular re-saws. In these mills the quality of production is good and wastage reasonably small. About half the total production, however, comes from the circular mills where the equipment is often inadequate for the proper cutting of tropical hardwoods; consequently quality of output is poor and wastage high.

Comparative figures of production for the years 1958 and 1959 are given below:

	Production in cubic feet (true volume)	
	1958	1959
Timber — including round wood and split wood	7,509,096	6,916,574
Fuelwood — Firewood	2,255,000	2,254,800
Charcoal	1,362,420	1,639,710
	<u>11,126,516</u>	<u>10,811,084</u>

The most important timbers produced locally are Greenheart (*Ocotea rodiaei*), Wallaba (*Eperua falcata*), Mora (*Mora excelsa*) and Crabwood (*Carapa guianensis*). In addition, a number of lesser known timbers are now being marketed locally for general building construction. Of the minor forest products the most important is balata the coagulated latex of the Bulletwood tree (*Manilkara bidentata*).

Export of timber for the year totalled 2,494,200 cubic feet valued at \$3,363,520 (W.I.). The corresponding figures for 1958 were 2,728,874 cubic feet and \$3,623,176.

Greenheart in the form of sawn timber, round piling and hewn squares was the chief timber exported. The principal importing countries were the United Kingdom, United States of America and Holland.

Firewood and charcoal exports totalled 1,294,720 cubic feet, value at \$257,892 (W.I.). Royalty on forest produce collected during 1959 was \$412,195.17.

#### MINING

##### *Prospecting Rights*

*Prospecting Licence.* This entitles the holder to prospect within a mining district and to locate claims for the purpose of mining for

all minerals other than radio-active minerals, bauxite and petroleum. A licence costs \$5.00 and is valid for one year from the date of issue.

During 1959, 890 prospecting licences were issued.

A special licence is issued to prospect for radio-active minerals.

*Exclusive Permission.* This is granted for the purpose of large-scale mineral exploration on a systematic basis by properly organised geological survey and drilling programmes, following which claims may be located or other mining titles applied for to permit of exploitation. The permission is issued for an initial period of one year and renewed annually depending upon the amount of work being done.

Rental charged is 7½ cents per acre per annum for the first three years, increasing to 15 cents per acre for the fourth year, and to 20 cents per acre for each year after the fourth. In the case of exploration for bauxite, a reduced rental of one cent per acre per annum is charged as the area which has to be prospected is generally very large compared with the area of commercial bauxite discovered eventually.

Rental can be reduced or waived where the results of extensive topographical and geological surveying, diamond drilling, etc., are advantageous to Government and are supplied in the form of maps and reports.

During 1959, a total of 7,509,541 acres of Crown Land were held under 44 exclusive permission.

<i>To explore for</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Bauxite	26	4,934,834
Gold, Precious Stones and Valuable Minerals	7	48,910
Manganese and Associated Minerals	7	2,358,497
Columbite/Tantalite	4	167,300

*Oil Exploration Licence.* This is granted for the purpose of exploring for petroleum at a fee of \$250.00 for every 1,000 square miles of land held.

No licence was issued in 1959. Licence No. 204 to California Oil Company (B.G.) Limited remained extant.

### *Exploration*

*Bauxite.* Adverse conditions for bauxite sales caused a reduction in exploration activities by Demerara Bauxite Company Limited. Surface exploration for bauxite was confined to two exclusive permissions, one on the Demerara and one on the Courantyne. No bauxite of commercial grade was discovered in either area.

Reynolds Metals Company continued to operate two crews, one from Kwakwani and one from Canje. Exploration drilling was continued along the new Bissaruni haul road but the depth of overburden encountered proved to be beyond the efficient drilling limit of the drills employed and satisfactory samples were not recovered.

The results of drilling on the Canje grid have partially outlined what appear to be large bauxite capped ridges separated by pre-white sand erosion channels. The great depth of overburden is the most discouraging feature.

Petromina (B.G.) Limited explored the southern Ebini Hills and the Itaki Hills on the Mazaruni and the results of sampling by Empire drilling were quite encouraging.

Although Harvey Aluminium of America did no field work of consequence during 1959 they retained their holdings on the Esse-quoibo and new interest has been expressed in these areas.

*Gold.* The properties of B.G. Consolidated Goldfields Ltd. in the Konawaruk which were placed on a care and maintenance basis at the end of 1958 were under examination by Pato Consolidated Gold Dredging Limited from October 1959.

The examination of the Tiger and Konawaruk areas held by J.L. Rayman did not materialise although an engineer retained by a Canadian concern actually arrived in the Colony to carry out the work.

S. J. Smiley was unable to carry out his proposed programme of work on the Wenamu due to the difficulty of obtaining an experienced geologist to undertake the work.

*Diamonds.* No prospection for diamonds was done by any companies engaged in the local field.

*Columbite.* Columbian Corporation shifted their crews from the Morabisi to the Oko where preliminary reconnaissances were conducted.

*Manganese.* Prospecting was continued west of Matthews Ridge to the British Guiana/Venezuela border over an area of approximately 300 square miles. No workable manganese deposit was found to exist here.

*Radio-active minerals.* A radio-active anomaly was detected by the resident geologist of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority in the Kaituma, but on examination it proved to be of no commercial significance and further work was not done on it. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority have since closed their office in British Guiana.

*Oil.* The results of the marine seismic survey of the offshore area of British Guiana done in mid-1958 continued to be analysed. Comparisons were made with data from similar surveys in Venezuela and Surinam.

*Mining Rights*

*Claim Licence* . This entitles the holder to occupy an area of approximately 27½ acres over creek, flat and hill for mining purposes. The annual rental is \$5.00 each for gold, diamonds or minerals. There were 1,684 claim licences in existence at the end of 1959.

*River Location Licence* . This entitles the holder to occupy one mile stretches of navigable rivers for the purpose of recovering gold and diamonds from river bed alluvials. The annual rental is \$20.00. 130 river location licences were extant at 31st December, 1959.

*Mining or Dredging Concession* . This is granted for a term not exceeding 21 years to permit large scale production of gold, diamonds and valuable minerals. The annual rental for mining is 20 cents per acre for gold or diamonds, and for dredging 10 cents per acre for gold and diamonds.

*Mining Lease*. This is granted for mining base metals (including bauxite). The annual rental is 20 cents per acre. 23 titles were in existence during 1959 as follows:

	<i>No.</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Mining Concessions	3	2,348
Dredging Concessions	4	9,868
Mining Leases	16	83,979

*Royalty and Export Duty*

	<i>Royalty</i>	<i>Export Duty</i>
Gold (bullion ounces)	50c.	Nil
Diamond (carat)	50c.	15c.
Bauxite (long ton)	25c.	45c.
Columbite/Tantalite (lb. avoird)	5c	1½ % <i>ad valorem</i>

No royalty is payable on bauxite mined on private lands but export duty is levied.

*Production*

*Bauxite*. Production for 1959 amounted to 1,674,416 tons as follows:

Demerara Bauxite Company Ltd.	—	1,511,077
Reynolds Metals Company Ltd.	—	163,339

representing a slight increase over the 1958 production.

A new deposit was prepared by Demerara Bauxite Company Ltd., for mining to meet quality and grade specifications under the prevailing difficult market conditions.

*Gold.* Total production for the year was 3,448 ounces, a decrease from the 1958 production of over 14,000 ounces due to the absence of any return from B.G. Consolidated Goldfields Limited, who placed their properties and plant on a care and maintenance basis at the end of 1958.

*Diamonds.* Diamond production on the other hand soared from 33,091 carats to 62,328 carats as a result of a remarkable find in the Kurupung. At the end of the year there were approximately 5,000 tributors in this area alone, working alluvial gravels in the river bed. The diamonds are of good size and form averaging 7 stones to the carat.

*Columbite.* There was no commercial production of columbite.

*Hydro-electric development.* The station at Tumatumari Falls remained idle throughout the year.

Demerara Bauxite Company Limited carried out routine observations at various river gauging stations throughout the Colony.

*Lands and Mines Department.* The Commissioner of Lands and Mines has the charge of, and acts as guardian over, all Crown and Colony lands and the metals and minerals occurring within those lands.

The Mines Section of the Department is under the charge of the Inspector of Mines assisted by a Mining Claims Officer. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six mining districts each in the charge of a Sub-Warden who is assisted by officers of the Interior and Police Departments.

#### GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

##### *Geological Survey Department*

*Staff.* The Geological Survey Department now has the full complement of senior staff authorised under the present Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D 2792. At the end of 1959 the senior staff consisted of a Director, a Deputy Director, 3 Senior Geologists (a temporary replacement for a Senior Geologist on secondment to the Windward Islands was appointed), a Chemist-Petrologist, a Geophysicist-Hydrologist, 7 Geologists, 5 Assistant Geologists, one Scientific Assistant, Chief Clerk, Drawing Office Supervisor, and a Supervisor of Library and Records.

*Centralization.* The implementation of the policy of centralizing the Geological Survey Department in Georgetown was completed during the year and all geologists except one are now stationed in Georgetown. The district office in Bartica is being maintained as a link with the alluvial mining fields and one geologist will be stationed

there. The offices and house accommodation in New Amsterdam and Lethem, and one house in Bartica, have been turned over to the use of other Government Departments.

*Building Construction.* A new wing was added to the Geological Survey Headquarters in Brickdam, Georgetown, and occupied early in the year. This extension provides office accommodation for 10 geologists and includes a spacious drawing office. The move into the new quarters has enabled adequate space to be allotted in the old building to the increased clerical staff. The construction of a new chemical laboratory was nearly completed at the end of the year, and a start was made on the demolition of the former laboratory to make way for a parking site. Temporary accommodation for the chemical staff was found in the building erected in 1958 in the Geological Survey compound by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and vacated by them in June 1959.

*Publications.* The following publications were issued. Report on the Geological Survey Department for the year 1958.

Mineral Resources Pamphlet No. 8 — "Report on the British Guiana White Sand as a possible source of Glass Sand", by R. A. Dujardin.

Mineral Resources Pamphlet No. 9 — "The Kyanite deposits of the Supenaam River, British Guiana", by C. G. Dixon and O. St. John.

Fossils in the North Savannas and their significance in the search for oil in British Guiana, by Dr. R. B. McConnell.

*Geological Mapping.* During 1959 approximately 6,000 square miles were mapped geologically at a scale of 1: 125,000 (2 miles: 1 inch), and traverses of rivers and trails amounted to about 990 miles. An expedition consisting of two Geologists and assistants visited the New River area in the remote south of British Guiana and traversed the upper portions of the New and Oronoque Rivers and their main tributaries. Other areas surveyed were in the basins of the Barima and Barama Rivers in the Northwest District, where the geology of the manganiferous formations was studied, the lower Cuyuni River, the Puruni and Kartuni Rivers, and the Burroburro River in the Rupununi District; mapping was also carried out in the country between Kurupukari on the Essequibo River and the Corentyne River, including the basin of the upper Berbice River, and in the Pakaraima Mountains west of the upper Mazaruni River. A careful traverse of the Cuyuni River from Quartzstone to the Makapa Hills yielded some valuable geological information.

A first draft of a geological map of the whole Colony on a scale of 1: 500,000 was prepared: it was based on a new stratigraphical subdivision of the geological formations which will give



expression to basic structure and assist in determining the mineral potential of the Colony.

During the course of geological mapping soil samples are taken on a regular grid pattern. The geochemical analysis of these samples will indicate the presence of metals of economic interest.

#### *Investigation of Mineral Resources*

In the course of a scientific investigation of the bauxites and bauxitic laterites of the Colony by a Senior Geologist large tonnages of bauxite were discovered in the Pakaraima Mountains. The extent and average grade of these deposits is not yet known and a vigorous prospecting campaign is being pursued.

Further sampling of the lateritic iron ore deposits of Iron and Wamara Mountains is being carried out and the Warren Spring Laboratory, recently established in the United Kingdom by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has undertaken a thorough investigation of methods for beneficiating these low-grade ores.

Following up advice given by the Geological Surveyor, pork-knockers have developed an important new diamond area on the Kurupung River above Kumerau Falls and the production of diamonds for the year has greatly increased. A geologist visited this area and also carried out a survey of the upper Mazaruni River basin in the Amerindian Reservation with a view to assessing the diamond mining possibilities.

A survey of the alluvial goldfields of British Guiana was completed by a tour of the Northwest District where activity is now slight. A report on measures to assist the small miner is in preparation.

Investigation of the coastal sediments continued and the method of pollen analysis, introduced in 1958, began to yield results in the correlation of formations. The results of the marine seismic survey carried out by the California Oil Company (B.G.) Ltd. are still awaited.

#### *Geophysical Prospecting*

The Geophysicist-Hydrologist has been equipped with the most necessary apparatus for geophysical prospecting. Among other items a proton magnetometer was purchased: this is a newly developed instrument ideally suited to the difficult conditions of the Interior, and the Department was fortunate in obtaining one of the first models to be constructed in Great Britain.

#### *Water Supply*

The investigation continued of the capacity of the artesian basin which supplies the rural population of the coastal area, and it was

shown that there is at present no immediate threat of saline intrusion although great care must be taken in further development. The methods of pollen analysis now being applied in the coastal sediments are expected to yield information regarding the extent and recharge areas of the aquifers.

#### *United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority*

The resident geologist of the Authority continued his surveys during the first half of 1959 in conjunction with the Geological Survey. An occurrence of radioactive minerals was discovered near Kaituma in the Northwest District but further investigation showed that the mineral was of the type known as "refractory", i.e. not amenable to the conventional methods of separation.

A decision to withdraw the geologist in June 1959 was taken by the Authority in view of the world surplus of uranium supplies and the building, with office, laboratory and store was taken over by the Geological Survey Department, together with a full range of modern electronic prospecting equipment.

#### *Inter-Guiana Geological Conference*

The 5th Session of the Inter-Guiana Geological Conference was held in Georgetown from 28 October to 6 November under the auspices of the Geological Survey. It was attended by 37 delegates representing governments and mining companies from Brazil, Canada, France, French Guiana, Surinam, United Kingdom, U.S.A., Venezuela, and The West Indies, in addition to a large delegation from British Guiana. The Conference was declared open by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government and addressed by the Hon. Dr. C. B. Jagan, Minister of Trade and Industry. The subjects discussed included the correlation of geological formations in the Guiana Shield, manganese and gold deposits of the area and a symposium on the origin and geological setting of bauxite; 38 scientific and technical papers on these and other subjects were presented and will be published with the relevant discussions. A preliminary draft of the new 1:500,000 geological map of British Guiana now under preparation was shown and explained. The delegates also took part in three field trips to visit geological occurrences of major interest, including the bauxite deposits near Mackenzie, where the delegates were lodged and entertained by the Demerara Bauxite Company.

#### MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND HANDICRAFTS

The production and processing of sugar, rice, coconuts, and timber, bauxite, gold and diamonds, accounting for approximately 75% of the total value of industrial production is described in earlier sections.

Other industries include the manufacture of cigarettes, matches, drugs, patent medicines, toilet waters, mineral waters, soap, lard substitutes, margarine, glycerine, biscuits, beer, jams, jellies, preserves, garments, drinking straws, cane furniture, packing crates, building blocks, oxygen and acetylene, particle board and aluminium "Venetian" blinds. Construction and repair of small ships and barges, printing and lithography are also done.

*Minor Industries.* The programme for the establishment of light industries by the Minor Industries Unit of the Ministry of Trade and Industry was expanded during the year.

Research and semi-commercial production during 1958 advanced in many cases to commercial production and the exploitation of local raw materials has resulted in the establishment of at least one industry. Others are still in the investigational and promotional stage. Details are as follows:—

*Cane Furniture.* The production of furniture from local forest plants was organised on a commercial basis. This industry is now well established and is producing articles of good quality and at competitive prices. Production has reached the stage where the industry can supply all the local needs in cane furniture and embark on export to the Caribbean and neighbouring territories. Increased use is being made of metal in combination with local cane, and new designs have been successfully introduced.

*Pottery.* The manufacture of pottery from local raw materials was highly successful and the pilot plant was placed on semi-commercial production during 1959. Ornamental pieces of various designs were introduced on the local market but the cost of production is considered too high. Investigations on the introduction of a larger kiln to reduce production costs were completed, and a new electrically-fired kiln will be installed in 1960 for the commercial production of household articles.

*Coir and Coir Products.* The production of coir on a Cottage Industries basis and the application of Indian methods in manufacture are still in the research and investigational stage. Two officers—one stationed at Mahaica and the other at Charity have been engaged on promotional work in this field. So far they have succeeded in arousing interest among the villagers in the production of coir and 20 families have established retting pits and soaked approximately 70,000 husks. These will be ready for yarn production early in 1960. The families have been instructed in the techniques of the production of fibre and the manufacture of yarn.

In the Mahaica Area 4 sectional Coir Committees have been formed which will eventually evolve into Coir Production Boards for the supervision of the industry in the area.

The manufacture of brushes and brooms by hand continued at the factory, and it is planned to introduce machinery in 1960.

*Straw Articles.* Various groups and individuals in the rural areas continued the production of articles from Lavender Grass, Tibisiri and Acquero Straws. It is planned to establish a Finishing Factory for straw articles in 1960.

During the year the Supervisor of the Sales and Display Centre attended a Handicraft Course in St. Lucia.

### *Investigations*

Investigations were made during the year in the United Kingdom and Europe on the possibility of obtaining suitable industrial plants and machinery for establishing the following industries in British Guiana :

- (1) Automatic Factory for Container Glass and Pressed Ware.
- (2) "Biogas" Plants
- (3) Manufacture of Alcohol from Broken Rice
- (4) Production of Cement from imported Clinkers
- (5) Production of Paints from imported basic materials.

Preliminary work on the formation of a Public Company to manufacture jams, jellies and preserves on the Essequibo Coast was successfully concluded.

A factory for the tanning of hides and the manufacture of boots and shoes on the East Bank, Demerara River was considered and a private company is expected to be registered early in 1960.

### *Marketing*

The Sales and Display Centre which served previously as an agency for testing market reactions to local products, was converted into a commercial marketing agency at the beginning of the year.

There was a considerable increase in the volume of business done at the Centre both locally and in the export markets of the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. Shipments of turned wooden articles, plantain flour, and dried sorrel were made to the United Kingdom. As a result of this increasing export trade individuals and groups supplying finished articles to the Centre were able to increase their production and provide additional employment to people in the rural areas. There was a marked increase in trade in balata curios and stuffed alligators.

### *Other Activities*

The Unit continued to participate in various Trade Exhibitions and Fairs held locally. A special Exhibition showing the industrial

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possibilities in British Guiana was organised for the visiting Canadian Trade Delegation. A list of industries which can be established in British Guiana was also compiled for distribution overseas.

### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

In 1959 co-operative societies made continued progress. The development of arable lands on a co-operative basis continued apace and the mechanisation of farms through co-operative effort became more widespread. The year began with 549 societies and ended with 554, a net increase of 5 societies. Twenty-six new societies were registered but the registration of 21 was cancelled. Of the 554 registered societies at the end of 1959, 552 were primary and 2 secondary. The primary societies consisted of 43 Savings, 100 Thrift, 133 School Thrift, 103 Agricultural Thrift and Credit (including one of unlimited liability), 50 Urban Thrift and Credit (including 13 Credit Unions), 15 Consumer (including one for the supply of electricity), 46 Producer/Marketing (including 17 Farm Machinery), 25 Land Lease/Purchase, 13 Farm Supply, 2 Transport, 12 Fishermen, 1 Housing and 9 General Purpose.

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

#### *Primary Societies*

Membership in the 552 primary societies was 36,973. Shares and savings were approximately \$930,511 (£193,856) as compared with \$784,435 (£163,424) in the previous year. Deposits totalled \$9,548 (£1,989) and Reserve Funds stood at \$29,808 (£6,210). Particulars regarding the position of individual categories of the societies at the end of the year are as follows:

#### *Savings Societies*

There were 43 of these societies, the membership of which totalled 964 and savings \$21,124 (£4,401). One new society was registered during the year and the registration of three was cancelled.

#### *Thrift Societies*

The number of societies was reduced by 3 to 100. Membership totalled 2,919 and ordinary and special savings increased by \$15,546 (£3,239) to approximately \$188,849 (£39,344). 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 \$93,826 (£19,547). During the year loans granted

totalled \$94,467 (£19,681) and repayments were \$68,107 (£14,189). At 31st December \$120,186 (£25,039) was outstanding and approximately \$31,543 (£6,571) overdue.

#### *Thrift and Credit Societies*

Of the 153 societies on the register at 31st December, 1959, 103 were agricultural and 50 were non-agricultural. Total membership in all the societies increased from 11,824 to 12,459 and shares from \$222,088 (£46,268) to \$260,572 (£54,286). Deposits by members stood at \$6,894 (£1,436).

The loan transactions of the two groups of societies were as follows:

#### *Agricultural Societies*

At the beginning of the year loans outstanding amounted to \$430,101 (£89,604). Loans amounting to \$495,813 (£103,294) were granted and approximately \$320,882 (£66,850) were repaid. The amount outstanding at 31st December was approximately \$605,032 (£126,048) of which \$293,836 (£61,216) were overdue. The scheme commenced in the previous year by which seed padi was made available to farmers through co-operative thrift and credit societies was continued during the year. The societies in this way distributed to their members approximately 3,940 bags of seed padi valued at \$38,473 (£8,015) for the planting of the autumn crop. This figure is included in the amount shown as granted in loans.

Seventy-six of these societies received financial assistance from the B.G. Credit Corporation. At the beginning of the year the amount due to the Corporation was \$372,167 (£77,535) and \$392,492 (£81,770) was borrowed during the year. Repayments totalled \$306,121 (£63,775) and at the 31st December, 1959 the balance owing to the Corporation was \$458,538 (£95,529).

#### *Non-Agricultural Societies*

At the beginning of the year \$167,079 (£34,808) was outstanding. Loans totalling \$62,586 (£13,039) were granted and \$132,480 (£27,600) was repaid. At 31st December, 1959 \$97,185 (£20,247) was outstanding of which \$23,779 (£4,954) was overdue.

#### *Consumer Societies*

During the year the registration of 6 societies was cancelled. Membership in the remaining 15 societies was 962 and share capital \$10,586 (£2,205). Sales by these societies amounted to approximately \$74,771 (£1,558).

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### *Producer/Marketing Societies*

These were divided into four categories: Logging, Producer, Marketing and Machinery Societies. During the year the number of societies increased from 37 to 46; membership was 1,886 and share capital \$69,451 (£14,469) as compared with \$35,274 (£7,349) in 1958.

The Logging Societies were 8 in number; 7 operated in the Berbice River District and one in the Pomeroon River, Essequibo. At 31st December, membership stood at 163 and shares at \$1,767 (£368). Five societies produced logs and other forest products to the value of \$6,829 (£1,423).

### *Producer Societies*

The number of these societies increased by 2 to 13. They had as their main objects the cultivation of padi and other food crops. Membership was 385 and shares amounted to \$17,987 (£3,747).

### *Marketing Societies*

The Marketing Societies numbered 8 and had membership totalling 1,068 and shares \$15,994 (£3,332). These societies sold agricultural and poultry products to the value of \$170,462 (£35,513).

### *Machinery Societies*

The Machinery Societies provided ploughing and transportation services for members. Eight new societies were registered during the year bringing the total number to 17. Membership at 31st December was 270 and shares \$33,703 (£7,021). Ten societies received loans totalling \$53,543 (£11,155) from the British Guiana Credit Corporation to assist them in the purchase of agricultural machinery.

### *Land Lease and Land Purchase Societies*

At 31st December these societies numbered 25 with a total membership of 1,827. Share capital amounted to \$192,376 (£40,078) as compared with \$116,052 (£24,177) in 1958 and deposits were \$2,250 (£469). The total arable land held by these societies was 15,330 acres at the end of the year.

### *Farm Supply Societies*

The number of these societies increased by 4 to 13 with a total membership of 729 and shares amounted to \$3,776 (£787). Sales totalled \$3,625 (£755). Three of the new societies obtained leases of 3,737 acres of land to provide pasturage for their stock.

*Transport Societies*

These remained at 2. Membership was 33 and share capital increased by \$202 (£42) to \$4,933 (£1,028). Fares received during the year were approximately \$10,430 (£2,173).

*Fishermen Societies*

The year ended with 12 societies. Their membership and shares were 281 and \$3,998 (£833) respectively.

*Housing Society*

The number remained at 1 and at the 31st December, 1959 its membership was 283 and share capital totalled \$73,993 (£15,415), an increase of \$41,483 (£8,642) over the past year.

*General Purpose Societies*

These societies remained at 9. Membership at 31st December increased by 77 to 410 and shares totalled \$1,167 (£243) as compared with \$944 (£197) for the previous year. The majority of the societies had as their objects various forms of village betterment and they received financial assistance from funds provided by Government under the Rural Self-help Scheme. One society was for the improvement of drainage and irrigation.

*School Societies*

The number of societies remained at 133, but membership increased from 13,333 to 14,220. At the 31st December savings were \$99,686 (£20,768) as compared with \$93,022 (£19,379) in 1958. Seven societies were engaged in projects which included trading among members.

*Secondary Societies*

The British Guiana Co-operative Union Ltd. established in 1949 is a federation of all types of co-operative societies for the purpose of promoting co-operative education. The Union received a grant of \$9,000 (£1,875) from the Government in 1959 to assist it in its work.

During the year two issues of its official organ "The Co-operator" were published. The Union assisted the Department with the sponsoring of nine training courses for personnel of co-operative societies and arranged sixteen film shows in various rural districts. Affiliation fees paid by member societies to the Union amounted to \$230 (£48) in 1959.

At 31st December the membership had increased by 11 to 295.

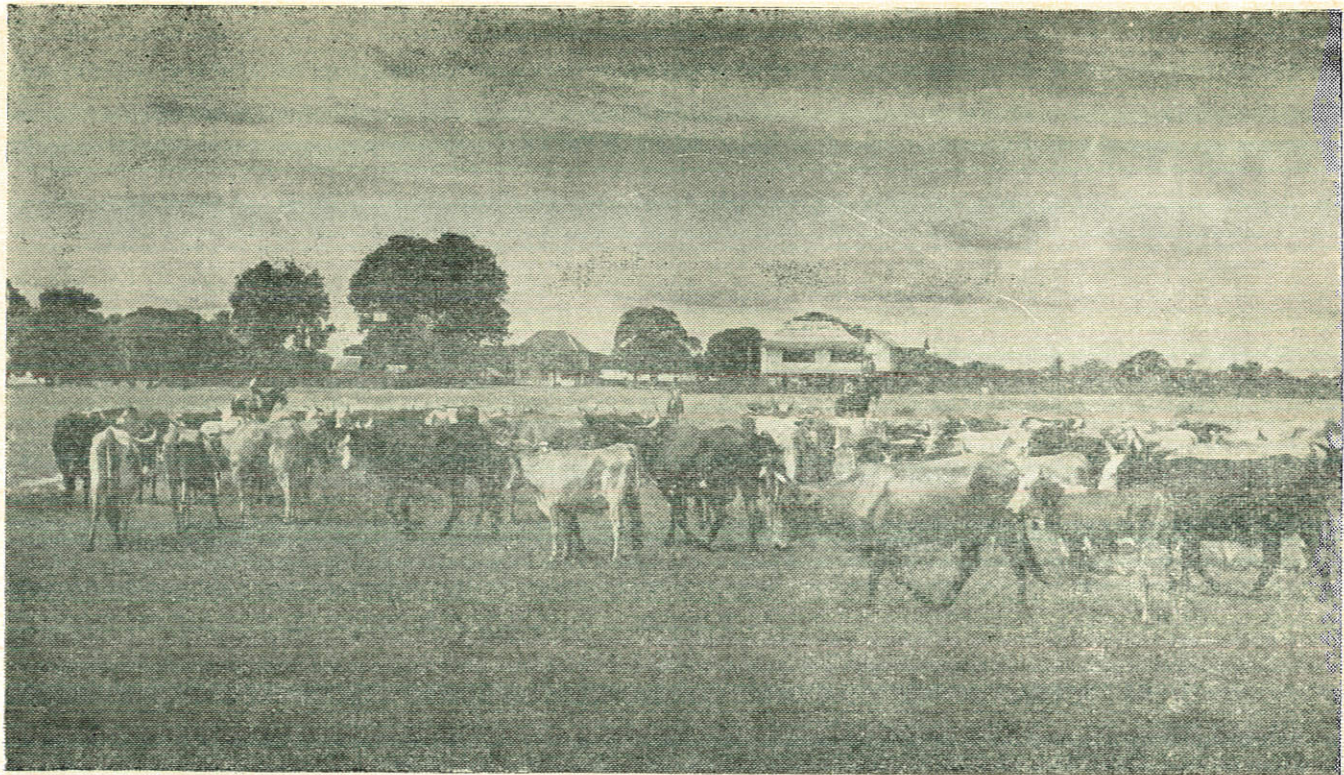


The British Guiana Co-operative Credit Union League Ltd. was established in 1957 to assist in the promotion of Credit Unions. It gained affiliation with the Credit Union National Association of the United States of America, and this entitled member societies to loan and life savings insurance facilities. At the 31st December the membership was 4 and league dues received were approximately \$691 (£144).

*Co-operative Department.*

The department was administered by a Commissioner for Co-operative Development (who also functioned as Registrar of Friendly Societies). The staff included a Deputy Commissioner, Chief Clerk, 23 Co-operative Officers and 14 other officers.

The cost of operating the Department in 1959 was \$159,849 (£33,302).



**Cattle rearing in the Rupununi.**



**Harvesting and threshing paddy by mechanical Harvester.**

## *Chapter VII: Social Services*

### EDUCATION

The Director of Education is responsible to the Minister of Community Development and Education for the administration of the Education Department and is the Minister's adviser on administrative, professional or technical matters falling within its scope. He is assisted by a Deputy Director, two Assistant Directors, one Senior Education Officer, five Education Officers and eight Assistant Education Officers. He is advised by the Education Committee which is a statutory body with a membership of fifteen.

The Minister of Community Development and Education is responsible for matters affecting education, for the initiation of policy, for securing the endorsement of that policy and for ensuring that the policy adopted is duly carried into effect. The Director of Education continues to perform the duties of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and so advises the Minister on all questions of education policy and assists in the formulation of policy and in translating decisions into action.

Primary schools in the Colony are divided into three groups: Government schools, Government-aided schools and Private non-aided schools. Most of the Government-aided schools are owned by various religious denominations to which Government makes annual grants for the provision of equipment, maintenance of buildings and the payment of teachers' salaries. Besides these, there are also non-denominational schools which are located on sugar estates and mining settlements and which are owned by the sugar estates or mining companies or by small organisations set up mainly for the purpose of providing education for a particular district. These non-denominational schools receive grants similar to those made to the denominational schools. The denominational schools are controlled by Governing Bodies appointed for the purpose by the respective religious denominations, and lay representatives, who are appointed annually, serve on these Governing Bodies. In the case of the non-denominational schools, the management of the sugar estates or mining companies which own the schools constitutes the Governing Bodies except in cases where the schools are owned by an organisation specially constituted and approved by the Director of Education, in which cases the organisations appoint the Governing Bodies. Government schools are entirely under the control of the Education Department and are managed by the Education Officers of the districts in which they are located or by District Commissioners and other Senior Government Officers. All Government schools and Government-aided schools are supervised by the

Education Officers of the Education Department who visit the schools from time to time. Non-aided private schools are run by private individuals or organisations and do not come under the supervision of Government.

At the end of the school year, 31st August, 1959, the total enrolment of children between the ages of 5 and 16 years in the 327 primary schools of the Colony had increased by over 6,500 to 118,358.

During the same period the building Programme provided additional accommodation for 2,190 pupils. There are plans for intensifying this Building Programme in 1960 to meet accommodation needs of the ever expanding school population.

During the year under review 2,920 teachers were employed full-time (approximately one teacher to every 40 children on roll). Only one-sixth of these teachers had trained teachers' certificates.

Eleven new primary schools became grant-aided during the 1959 school year.

The primary school provides free education for children between the ages of 5 to 16 years, the compulsory age range being from 6 to 14 years. In recent years the curriculum has sought to give a more practical bias in education and several schools are now provided with work-rooms for Woodwork, Handicraft and Home Economics.

As a result of the one year full-time course of training given to teachers of woodwork at the Kingston Handicraft Centre and the Government Technical Institute, it has been possible to introduce Preliminary Craft Courses for pupils of the 13 plus to 16 age group at selected Handicraft Departments and Centres at which there are adequate facilities of accommodation and equipment.

There has been, too, an increase in school gardening activities and several schools have gardens. These activities are supervised by the District Superintendents of the Department of Agriculture and a staff of three Field Assistants.

At the Government Training College for Teachers the filling of thirty additional places offered to teachers in service in January, 1958 was deferred until September 1959 when the one year course for 150 students began. Refresher courses covering the whole range of teaching in primary schools were organised throughout the territory for teachers in service. These courses in principles and in methods of teaching various subjects were held during the vacations and included lectures, demonstrations and practical work by teachers. Twenty teachers completed a full-time one-year course of training in woodwork, with supplementary courses in technical drawing and elementary science at the Government Technical Institute.

In 1959 as in previous years five primary school teachers were awarded one-year scholarships to various educational institutions in the United Kingdom. Several teachers have also proceeded to the United Kingdom on their own resources to pursue further educational studies.

Courses in principles of education and in special methods for teachers in aided and unaided private secondary schools were held during the Easter vacation 1959, and during week-ends of the Summer Term.

During the school year under review, a period which falls within the sixth year of the operation of broadcasts to schools in British Guiana, there were 225 primary schools known to be taking the broadcasts. Of this number 197 qualified as "listening schools", the basis of qualifications being the systematic return to the Broadcasts to Schools Unit of not less than 50% of the number of weekly report cards issued during a term.

The new broadcast series introduced at the beginning of the school year in September, 1958 were—

- (a) **WORKING FOR A LIVING** (Upper Division and Secondary Schools) intended to indicate to pupils in their last year at school some of the employment opportunities in various fields of work;
- (b) **PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS** (Middle Division) dealing with certain aspects of the history and geography of British Guiana in such a way as to encourage the child to have wider interests and to provide useful general knowledge;
- (c) **WHEN I WAS AT SCHOOL** (Middle Division) in which there were "introduced" to children some of the people in the most responsible positions in the community;
- (d) **ROMANCE OF ENGLISH** (Middle Division) dealing with, among other things, words often mispronounced in urban and rural areas; and
- (e) **STORIES AND RHYMES** (Lower Division) produced by the BBC Colonial Schools Unit.

The Unit also provided material from broadcasts to the lower Division for the printing of a second booklet on Nature Study for reference by teachers.

The Broadcasts to Schools Unit continued the scheme, began in 1957, of training batches of two primary school teachers in microphone and other broadcasting techniques for two terms at the Government Information Services. From the beginning of the year, also, a qualified teacher was seconded to the Government Information Services as assistant to the Schools Broadcasts Organiser. The

third of a series of seminars on Broadcasts to Schools was held in 1959. The purpose of the seminar was to provide a short intensive study of the techniques used in the production and presentation of broadcasts to schools, to indicate the limitation of the service and to enlarge the scope of teacher-participation.

The Advisory Committee on Broadcasts to Schools, advises the Chief Information Officer on the content of the broadcasts and assists in maintaining liaison with schools and the teaching profession. The work of this Committee was supported by the setting up of an advisory Sub-Committee of teachers to function as a Working Committee. British Guiana was among the twenty territories represented at the Conference on Radio Education arranged by the Colonial Office in co-operation with the BBC and held in London in July 1959.

The activities of the School Feeding Scheme during the period under review were conducted mainly on the basis of free supplies of skimmed milk powder and fish liver oil capsules received from UNICEF, even though there was no agreement in existence between that organisation and the local Government. The previous extended agreement expired in June, 1958.

The Area Representative of UNICEF visited the Colony in November, and after holding discussions with the executive officers of both the Education and Medical Departments, concluded arrangements for a further extension of the Scheme from July, 1959 to June, 1961.

The Scheme functioned on the policy of providing snack meals for all of the children in almost all of the schools in the Interior and North West Districts, Moruca and Pomeroon Rivers, and a few others in the remote riverain and hinterland areas. Only 25% of the enrolment as at 1st September, 1956, of schools on the coastal belt, as selected by the Schools Medical Officer and Nurses, had been given the snack meal. The distinction was based on the comparison of nutritional and general economic conditions obtaining in the interior and riverain areas with the conditions of the coastlands.

At the end of the period under review the snack meal was being distributed to all schools throughout the length and breadth of the Colony to an average of about 22,000 children per day out of a total of approximately 32,100 selected recipients. It is estimated that about 4,376,800 snack meals were distributed to the recipients during the year, but about 45% consisted of only one or two parts of the snack meal owing mainly to the shortage of vitamin capsules.

The Medical Department continues to provide health supervision by an acting Schools Medical Officer and a team of nurses in primary schools throughout the territory. Nurses have performed screening examinations, and treatment of pupils for minor ailments, referring some cases for further treatment at the School Clinic.

Children needing their attention were referred to the specialist Medical Officers. Pupils were also examined for dietary deficiencies and were recommended for school snack meals where necessary.

29,764 children were screened, 1,018 pupils in rural areas were examined in a visual survey and 224 of these were found with visual defects. A total of 340 children from city and rural schools were referred to the Eye Specialist.

The two mobile dental units continued their successful operations in Georgetown and its environs and also in Berbice for the period 1st September, 1958 to 31st August, 1959. In addition to the actual treatment of children and teachers in the various schools, talks on the hygiene of the teeth were delivered.

At the beginning of the school year, September, 1958 the BCG Team of the Medical Department commenced work among schools in the Berbice and Pomeroon Districts, continuing on to November when the islands of Wakenaam and Leguan were visited. During this period testing was carried out in 80 schools, and 5,577 children given BCG protection. The attention of the BCG Team was then focussed on city schools after re-opening in January, 1959. Next the banks and coasts of Demerara were done. By the end of March the BCG Programme had covered 47 schools and vaccinated 3,759 children. During the final phase of the BCG Programme—May to August, 42 schools were visited and 2,106 negative reactors vaccinated with BCG. Thus by the close of the school year over 11,000 children had been vaccinated against Tuberculosis.

Secondary education for the period under review was provided in two Government secondary schools, twelve Government-aided secondary schools and approximately twenty privately run secondary schools known to the Education Department. The Government owned secondary schools had an enrolment of 1,081 students, nine of the aided secondary schools had an enrolment of 4,354, and the private secondary schools catered for an estimated 3,000 pupils. As recommended in the Memorandum on Secondary Education, 1957, grants to secondary schools take the form of salary grants, and practical subjects grants for Science, Home Economics and Woodwork. Plans for providing secondary education facilities in rural areas are under active consideration.

During the year the Government Technical Institute took over the responsibility for the City and Guilds of London Institute examinations from the Education Department and 174 students sat their examinations. Courses on the "Block-Release" principle (12 weeks full-time) were introduced for the first time and it is hoped that they will eventually replace the day-release courses. Several courses were run in the rural districts by full-time lecturers and proved popular. The new laboratory wing, which it was hoped would have been in full operation during the session, was still incom-



plete at the end of the session. The accommodation offered by the Institute for scientific conferences is now being used by various organisations.

The total enrolment for all courses during the academic year was 1,619. Sandwich courses were terminated and block-release preliminary craft courses were introduced. In addition to the regular technical courses the following were run:—Teachers' Handicraft (Wood and Metal), Building Today, Painting and Decorating, Wood Machining, and two courses on Tractor Maintenance—one at Skeldon and the other at Mahaicony.

Boys from seven secondary schools continued to be released to attend the Institute for one day per week for technical subjects. It is encouraging to report that for the first time in 1959 many of these boys offered technical subjects at the General Certificate of Education examination and the City and Guilds Ordinary Certificate examination.

There was a marked increase in the number of students reaching the standard of entry to the City and Guilds Intermediate examination and first year Ordinary Certificates of that Institute. Forty-seven students entered for Telecommunication Engineering, forty-one for Electrical Installation and Radio, thirty-seven for Motor Vehicle, five for Plumbing, forty-one for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and Building Ordinary Certificate at first year level, two for the Teachers' Certificate in Handicraft, and one Machinist and Fitters' Work. In addition, the following courses received public support:—Owner Drivers, Staircase Construction. Some industrial firms and Government departments are making full use of the services offered by the building laboratory. During the session, 540 specimens were tested.

There are at present 1,510 technical books and also trade and technical magazines for reference purposes covering a wide range of engineering, commercial and general subjects in the library. These books are loaned to students to be read only on the premises, but it is proposed to start a lending section as soon as possible. Other Government departments and industrial organisations have been invited to use the facilities of the library. It is hoped that this library will grow to be the central technical library in the Colony.

With the closing of the training side of the Carnegie Trade School, the school was renamed the Carnegie School of Home Economics and was able to plan a more comprehensive curriculum which would give the students a more worthwhile general education. Hence in addition to the Home Economics courses, subjects such as English, Arithmetic, Geography, History, Art, Singing and Civics are included in the curriculum. A club activities period, and listening to broadcasts on Civics and Earning One's Living, also serve to broaden the educative experience of the students. In addition to

the classes for full-time students, there were also held during the year under review classes for student teachers from the Government Training College for Teachers, a special one-year full-time training course for Home Economics Teachers, refresher courses for previously trained Home Economics Teachers, non-vocational evening classes for adults in Georgetown and the rural areas, and a special three-week course for those selected to go to Canada as domestics.

Adult Education is not organised nor supervised by the Education Department but valuable work is being done in this field by the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies and by the British Council.

Information on Education Department expenditure is not available at present. Particulars of the primary and secondary schools are summarised below:

<i>PRIMARY</i>	<i>Schools</i>	<i>No. of Pupils</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Government	21	9,030	229
Aided	306	109,328	2,691
Non-assisted	Not Available.		
 <i>SECONDARY</i>			
Government	2	1,081	59
Aided	9	4,354	142
Non-assisted	Not Available.		
Technical and vocational	3	1,864	35

Note 1. Primary—The total enrolment does not include five aided "Nursery Schools" with an enrolment of 513 children in three to five age group and an establishment of 14 untrained teachers.

Note 2. Secondary—Aided—These figures do not include 633 children attending 3 secondary schools which were approved for Government aid in July 1959.

Note 3. Technical and Vocational—Included under technical and Vocational are the enrolment figures for day and evening classes at Government Technical Institute, the Carnegie School of Home Economics and the Fredericks School of Home Economics.

Figures given for enrolment and staff of technical schools do not include part-time attendances or part-time instructors and lecturers.

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*The number of students pursuing higher courses abroad are as follows:*

(a) *In the United Kingdom and Irish Republic:*

A total of 587 students — 500 from private resources; 87 sponsored by Government and Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarships on the following courses:

Accountancy	1	Law	54
	(scholarship)	Laboratory Tech-	
Agriculture	2	nology	1
	(scholarships)	Medicine	61
Architecture	2		(4 scholarships)
Arts	28	Mechanical Workshop	6
	(5 scholarships)	Practice	(scholarships)
Arts & Crafts	3	Music	1
	(1 scholarship)	Nursing	222
Bio-Chemistry	1	Optics	1
Co-operatives	1	Pharmacy	2
	(scholarship)		(1 scholarship)
Dentistry	3	Physiotherapy	1
Dress Designing	1	Police Officer's	4
Domestic Science	7	Training	(scholarships)
	(1 scholarship)	Economics	10
Education	17		(1 scholarship)
	(3 scholarships)	Pre-Medical	14
Engineering —		Pre-University	41
Civil	31	Radiography	3
	(18 scholarships)	Science	14
Electrical	10		(5 scholarships)
	(9 scholarships)	Secretarial	3
Mechanical	9	Sociology	4
	(7 scholarships)		(1 scholarship)
Sanitary	1	Statistics	1
Estate Management	1	Surveying	4
Forestry	3		(2 scholarships)
	(scholarships)	Telecommunications	4
Geology	4		(2 scholarships)
	(3 scholarships)	Other courses	8
Health Inspector's	2		(6 scholarships)
	(1 scholarship)		
Journalism	1		

(b) *In Canada a total of 46 students:*

Agriculture	7	Journalism	1
Arts and Science	15	Medicine	3
Commerce	2	Nursing	2
Dentistry	3	Radio and Television	
Engineering and Geology	4	Theology	3
		Veterinary Medicine	5

(c) *In Jamaica : A total of 94 students; 80 from private sources, 14 sponsored by Government and Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarships on the following courses:*

Arts	32	Medicine	19
Education	6	Science	17

(d) *A total of 205 students in the United States of America :*

Agriculture	2	Secretarial	2
Architecture	2	Science	14
Arts	23	Sociology	6
Biology	13	Technical Electronics	1
Bio-Chemistry	3	Theology	13
Business Adminis- tration	6	Zoology	8
Chemistry	11	Engineering—various types not specified	8
Chemistry & Zoology	1	Civil	6
Dentistry	4	Chemical	9
Dietetics	1	Agricultural	2
Technical Draughts- manship	1	Mechanical	1
Economics	7	Electrical	4
Education	7	Pre-Engineering	1
Medical Office Assistant	1	Forestry	1
Medical Technology	4	Home Economics	8
Music	1	Industrial Education	1
Nursing	7	Medicine	17
Photography	1	Geology	1
Psychology	4	International Affairs	2
		Law	1

No information is available about students in Europe and India.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

##### *General Health.*

The general standard of health of the population of British Guiana was satisfactory during 1959. There were no epidemics of

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quarantinable diseases. No cases of poliomyelitis were reported during the year.

Statistics relating to principal infectious diseases are as follows:—

Infectious Diseases	Total Notifications			Total Deaths			Rate p. r 10,000 Estimated Population		
	1957	1958	1959*	1957	1958	1959	1957	1958	1959
Influenza	4,281	1,294	11,554	22	6	Not Available	.1	.1	Not Available
Malaria	4	114	161	1†	4	Not Available	.8	.07	Not Available
Enteric Fever	366	422	333	32	22	Not Available	.6	.4	Not Available
Tuberculosis	192	202	138	139	77	Not Available	2.7	1.4	Not Available
Diphtheria	23	74	16	11	16	Not Available	.2	.3	Not Available

\*The 1959 figures are for the first nine months of the year.

†Corrected figures.

*Malaria.* During the first nine months of the year a total of 161 cases of malaria was reported. This shows a definite increase over the same period in 1958 when there were 110 reported cases. Some of these cases of malaria came from the North West District, the Mazaruni District and Tiger Island, the Pomeroon Riverain and the rest from the Rupununi District.

Only in remote areas of the Interior does residual malaria still exist, involving a widely scattered population of only 30,000.

*Yellow Fever.* No clinical case of yellow fever has been reported in the Colony since 1948. The Aedes Index remains zero throughout the Colony. Intercolonial Schooners were routinely examined and all were found negative for *Aedes aegypti*.

*Tuberculosis.* The number of new cases notified up to the end of September was 138 whilst during the similar period in 1958 there were 165 notifications.

The new policy of the Department to admit all active tuberculosis patients to the Best Sanatorium and discharge them after intensive treatment and education as soon as they are no longer infectious, is proving most satisfactory. A total of 125 new cases have been admitted and 113 cases discharged during the first nine months of the year. Discharged patients are treated as ambulatory cases at the Chest Clinic.

Due to the return of one of the Senior Surgeons from a course of thoracic surgery in the United Kingdom, it has been possible to commence performing a certain amount of surgical treatment for tuberculosis cases.

The Follow-up Programme of the BCG Campaign continued its activities. By the end of September 1959, the BCG team had visited 132 schools and centres in various parts of the Colony and 17,724 persons were tuberculin tested and vaccinated. During the

first nine months of the year 6,804 persons were X-rayed on miniature films and 2,764 on large films by the Mass Miniature Unit.

*Leprosy.* During the first nine months of the year, 4 new cases of leprosy were admitted to the Leprosarium. The number of cases (including discharged patients hospitalised for intercurrent diseases) was 219; of these 5 died. The routine school leprosy survey detected 35 children with early tuberculoid leprosy. The incidence of the disease remained at approximately 2.8 per 1,000 population.

*Venereal Diseases.* During the first nine months of the year 3,642 patients sought treatment at the Social Diseases Clinic, Georgetown Hospital, 745 having been brought over from the previous year and 2,897 being new cases. Of a total of 2,525 diagnosed as suffering from venereal diseases 342 or 13.5 per cent were syphilitic. There were 188 new cases of infectious syphilis. The new cases of gonorrhoea recorded were 1,749 which represents 66 per cent. of the total number of new applicants. The ratio of all cases of gonorrhoea to all cases of infectious syphilis is 9.3 to 1. The total number of attendances at the Social Diseases Clinic was 20,033.

*Principal Causes of Death.* The principal causes of death in order of precedence were:—

- Diseases of early infancy.
- Pneumonia and Bronchitis.
- Diseases of the heart.
- Gastro-enteritis and colitis.
- All other ill-defined causes of mortality.
- Senility without mention of psychosis.
- Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system.
- Malignant neoplasms.
- Nephritis—all forms.
- Tuberculosis—all forms.

Special arrangements were maintained for isolation and treatment of cases of notifiable diseases, for current and terminal disinfection of houses of notified cases and prophylactic vaccination of contacts in cases of enteric fever.

*Mosquito Control Service.* The routine schedule of the activities of the Mosquito Control Service limited to the entomological check surveys on the coastlands and spraying operations with DDT of certain strategic areas was carried out according to plan. A total of 12,022 houses and 479 other buildings was sprayed with DDT solution on the policy of a 12-month cycle for the Interior and Riverain settlements and an 18-month cycle for the coastlands.

Routine check surveys showed as usual a predominance of *C. fatigans*. There was no trace of either *A. darlingi* or *Ae aegypti*.

*Filariasis.* Under the auspices of WHO a Filarial Consultant, Dr. H. K. Beye of the NIH, paid a visit to the Colony to assess the Filaria problem. Dr. Beye was most satisfied with the steps that had been taken in the local anti-filaria campaign up to date. He will submit a report on his investigations and recommendations in the near future.

There is some possibility that assistance for a colony-wide extension of the anti-filaria programme may be obtained through the combined assistance of WHO, NIH and ICA.

The main work performed by the Anti-Filarial Campaign was in West Demerara. The number of persons examined on the West Bank was 21,135 of whom 1,316 were found to have positive filarial bloods. On the West Coast 36,688 persons were examined of whom 3,124 were positive.

Surveys were also undertaken in Campbellville, Laing Avenue and Lodge; while 5,456 persons were examined at Ruimveldt and 2,540 at Cane Grove, all on the East Coast Demerara.

During the first nine months of the year a total of 81,910 persons were examined and 5,290 were found to have positive filarial blood.

Out of the 4,029 persons re-examined who had received treatment last year only 22 were found to be positive.

All positive cases received treatment on the lines indicated in the 1958 report on this subject.

*Poliomyelitis Vaccination Campaign.* This campaign commenced in December 1959. It is proposed to vaccinate 50,000 children in the age group 6 months to 3½ years throughout the Colony with Salk Vaccine. This age group has been proved recently by blood samples to have little resistance against this disease.

*Amerindian Medical Services.* During the first part of the year the services of a medical officer were not available for this work.

As was stated last year the popularity of the Lethem Hospital makes its enlargement and improvement necessary and plans are under consideration for this to be effected next year. Proposals are also being considered for the erection of a limited number of medical out-post stations in the Rupununi.

*School Medical Service.* This service continued its usual activities during the period under review. More emphasis was, however, placed on work in the rural districts than previously.

Areas such as the North West District and the Pomeroun where the schools had not been included in former years were visited by the

School Medical Officer and the nurses. In the North West 21 schools were visited and all the children examined.

It is the present policy of the medical administration that the work of school nurses, health visitors, Infant Welfare and Tuberculosis nurses should be combined in future. There will be thus one officer in each district in charge of these combined activities and duties. The pilot scheme implemented in West Demerara with this object has proved most satisfactory and it is proposed to enlarge its scope in the near future.

By this means it will be possible to bring more school children under the supervision of a public health nurse than is possible with the present small school nursing service. It will also result in less time being wasted in travelling by public health nurses and reduce the size of the districts served by individual nurses.

The School Medical Service continued its efforts to educate the public on the necessity for proper nutrition of children and other health matters by means of lectures, special demonstrations using visual health aids and exhibitions.

The Visual Survey project resulted in the examination of 1,018 selected children and 224 of these children were found to have some ophthalmic defect.

*Health Education.* Public Health Inspectors and Health Visitors continued to educate the public in rural areas in sanitation, in maternal and child hygiene, in nutrition and in communicable diseases control. A Public Health Educator has recently been appointed. This officer should prove of much value to the Department in due course.

The Health Department took the opportunity to stress health matters and good nutrition by special stalls at Fairs and Exhibitions and also participated in Community Development Programmes in various ways.

*Infant Welfare and Maternity.* Formerly the executive control of all Infant and Maternity work was centralised in Georgetown. This has recently been changed and each of the three counties, Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo will in due course have its own executive committee. It is considered that this decentralisation will lead to more efficiency and the public who voluntarily support this type of work through the Infant Welfare and Maternity League will be brought in closer contact in their own area with the problems that affect them. As a first step a separate committee was formed in the County of Berbice.

The work of the Infant Welfare and Maternity League continued satisfactorily during the first nine months of the year. There are at present 128 clinic centres in rural areas, at which ante-natal clinics and clinics for infants and toddlers are held. Besides the Lady Health



Officer there are 23 fully qualified Health Visitors and 58 subsidised midwives in the service.

There are many rural and riverain areas in the Colony where it would be advantageous to appoint a midwife or a health visitor but with the small staff available this is not possible. During this year owing to the insufficiency of funds for transportation the services of the present staff of health visitors for more extensive visiting to remote areas has had to be limited to some extent.

New clinics were started at Golden Fleece, Affiance, Devonshire Castle, Better Success, New Road, Abram Zuil, Loowood, Clemwood and Craig.

There were 1,241 clinics held in the 9-month period at which there were 25,028 attendances of children 18,838 under one year and 6,190 over one year and 17,052 of expectant mothers.

League midwives delivered 4,218 cases of which 63 were stillbirths. There were 61 deaths of infants and 6 of mothers.

The Milk Scheme whereby milk such as Lactogen and Ostermilk is sold to mothers attending clinics at a greatly reduced price was enlarged. Supplies of milk, a free gift from UNICEF, were issued to the toddlers age group at all clinics and also in the more remote areas. A total of 1,000,000 pounds of milk and vitamin tablets have been supplied to the Colony for the purpose under this scheme.

*Medical Department.* The Director of Medical Services is administrative head of the Medical Department and as such is responsible for all executive phases of the Department's activities. There was a serious shortage of medical officers for general duties during the year due to retirements, recently registered officers leaving Government service for the more lucrative field of private practice and officers being given extended periods of leave to acquire post-graduate specialist qualifications. Three medical officers resigned from the service during the first nine months of the year.

The administration of matters relating to health is vested in the Central Board of Health, a statutory body constituted under the Public Health Ordinance. This Board decides on policies, promulgates regulations and is the over-riding authority in all matters pertaining to the health of the Colony's inhabitants. The Director of Medical Services is Chairman of the Board, and the Assistant Director of Medical Services is the Board's Chief Executive Officer.

*Staff.* It was not found possible to fill the five vacant specialist posts of physician, leprologist, pathologist, psychiatrist and gynaecologist during the year.

As in previous years the wastage in the nursing staff continued and during the first nine months of the year 46 qualified nurses resigned chiefly to take up appointments in the United States of America.

The number and distribution of different types of staff employed were as follows :

*Government:—*

(i) *Administrative*

Director of Medical Services  
Deputy Director of Medical Services  
Senior Medical Officer.

(ii) *Health Staff.*

1 Assistant Director of Medical Services  
4 Medical Officers of Health  
1 School Medical Officer  
5 Dental Officers  
2 Senior County Public Health Inspectors  
1 County Public Health Inspector  
64 Public Health Inspectors  
3 Inspectors of Midwives  
2 Senior Health Visitors  
52 Health Visitors and School Nurses  
18 Clerical and Supervising Officers — Mosquito Control Service  
52 Mosquito Control Service Operator — Inspectors  
2 Field Technicians — Mosquito Control Service.

(iii) *Curative Staff.*

18 Specialist Officers  
39 General Medical Practitioners  
6 Interns  
1 Government Pharmacist  
3 Assistant Pharmacists  
66 Dispensers  
6 Radiographers  
5 Matrons  
1 Principal Sister Tutor  
3 Sister Tutors  
5 Departmental Sisters  
18 Departmental Sisters (Jnr.)  
63 Ward Sisters  
269 Staff Nurses.

(iv) *Laboratory Service*

1 Senior Government Bacteriologist and Pathologist  
1 Bacteriologist and Pathologist

*Cottage Hospitals*

<i>Government</i>	<i>No. of Beds</i>	<i>Sugar Estate*</i>	<i>No. of Beds</i>
7	53	17	276

\*(These are small institutions located on sugar estates which are equipped to handle only minor cases; major cases are referred to general Hospitals).

*Government Health Centres**Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics:*

<i>Government</i>	<i>The Municipality of Georgetown</i>
128	4

*Dispensaries*

<i>Type</i>	<i>Government</i>	<i>No. of Beds</i>	<i>Private</i>
(a) Exclusively for out-patients	18		
(b) For out-patients but having beds for simpler cases to be referred to general hospitals	7	53	
(c) For tuberculosis out-patients	1		
(d) For leprosy out-patients	7		
(e) Mobile dispensaries	9		

*UNICEF and Other Sponsored Schemes*

The School Feeding Scheme which is partly financed by UNICEF as in previous years continued to do very useful work. Over 20 per cent of school children throughout the Colony received a free snack meal.

Supplies of milk, a free gift from UNICEF, were issued to the toddlers age group at all clinics and also in the more remote areas. A total of 1,000,000 pounds of milk and vitamin tablets have been supplied to the Colony for the purpose under this scheme.

Unfortunately owing to a shortage in the United States of America of skimmed milk UNICEF has informed Government that it will not be able to continue this free issue of milk in the immediate future.

The local Red Cross feeding scheme under which gift supplies of milk food from the American Red Cross Society are distributed namely to the pre-school age group in Georgetown and New Amsterdam and to institutions also continued to render valuable service to the community.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Town and Country Planning and Housing legislation has been in force in British Guiana since 1946. These laws provide for the development of new building areas, housing, slum clearance and re-development schemes.

*Town Planning**Greater Georgetown*

A town planning scheme for the Greater Georgetown Area was prepared during 1950. This scheme was approved by the Governor-in-Council under Section 8 of the Town and Country Planning Ordinance 1946, on the 9th October, 1951.

In view of changing conditions and trends since the preparation of the scheme, the Central Housing and Planning Authority has recommended that the entire scheme be reviewed and pending this review some amendments have been made, notably in connection with :

- (i) The integration of income groups in the residential areas.
- (ii) Density in the commercial and reserved areas.
- (iii) Road Communications.
- (iv) A new neighbourhood at Le Repentir.

*Planning Control in the Greater Georgetown Area*

Fifteen hundred and ninety-two applications for development were examined for planning control under the Greater Georgetown Plan.

These applications were considered at nineteen meetings held during the year. Details are as follows:

<i>Applications examined</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Permission Refused</i>
Residential Buildings	1329	33
Residential and Commercial Buildings	23	5
Commercial Buildings	14	3
Residential and Industrial Buildings	8	
Industrial Buildings	15	2
Public and Institutional Buildings	13	
Subdivision of lots	15	1
Trade Licences, Permission for use of premises and outline applications	87	44
	1504	88
		TOTAL 1592

*Planning Control in Rural Areas*

The Central Housing and Planning Authority has already completed preparation of draft planning schemes for:

- i. Section C, Lot 79, Courantyne.
- ii. Charity-Amazon, Pomeroun River.
- iii. Cumberland, Berbice.

Although these schemes have not as yet been approved by the Governor-in-Council, development is not retarded because provision is made for interim approval of applications to develop during preparation of a scheme and while under consideration by the Governor-in-Council. Details of applications received from rural areas are as follows

<i>Applications examined</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Permission Refused</i>	<i>Referred</i>
Charity Amazon:			
Residential Buildings	2		1
Residential and Commercial Buildings			
Cumberland:			
Residential Buildings	3		
Section C, Lot 79:			
Residential Buildings	4		4
Anna Regina:			
Residential Buildings			
Bartica:			
Residential and Commercial Buildings			

*Planning Scheme, New Amsterdam*

Planning studies and field investigations continued during the year. The land use survey of New Amsterdam which had been suspended owing to pressure of more urgent work was continued. As a part of the overall scheme however, the Central Housing and Planning Authority completed the preparation of planning proposals for two portions of the New Amsterdam planning area:—

- i. A master plan with detailed layout proposals and zoning prescriptions for the development of an extension to the town of New Amsterdam at Vryman's Erven. The scheme makes provision for a new civic centre and promenade gardens as well as for residential, commercial and industrial plots. The area of the extension is about 139 acres.
- ii. A preliminary design for developing the Esplanade area of New Amsterdam for a sports centre. This scheme provides for the siting of sports activities on one of the most open

portions of the town overlooking the Berbice River. The object was to plan the area so that it would foster the growth of sport in Berbice and to cater for organisations around which a phased programme can be commenced. The facilities provided in the scheme would encourage activities in horse racing, athletics, cricket, football, hockey, lawn tennis, basketball, swimming and sailing.

As previously stated, when a town planning scheme is under preparation, there is the work of interim control of development which continues until the scheme is approved. A resolution to prepare a scheme for New Amsterdam and environs was passed on the 11th December, 1958, and as a consequence development applications are examined for proposals within the area of the scheme. Details of applications examined by the Central Housing and Planning Authority for this area during 1959 are as follows:—

<i>Applications examined</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Permission Refused</i>
Residential Buildings	89	1
Commercial and Residential Buildings	3	1
Residential and Industrial Buildings	1	2
Commercial Buildings	1	1
Industrial Buildings	1	3
Public and Institutional Buildings	2	
	97	8
		TOTAL 105

#### *Planning Surveys*

Detailed planning surveys were completed for the following places:

- i. Cane Grove, Mahaica River: An engineering and sociological study of an existing slum area and of adjacent vacant land for the purpose of slum clearance and re-development.
- ii. La Penitence, Greater Georgetown: An engineering survey of the south sideline drainage canal and adjacent lands for the purpose of showing the effect on existing residential development which would be caused by extensive main storm drainage proposals in that area.
- iii. Ruimveldt, Greater Georgetown: An engineering survey of an area of land within the Industrial Zone of Greater Georgetown for the purpose of establishing an Industrial Estate.
- iv. New Amsterdam, Esplanade: A topographical and engineering survey of land to be developed for use as a Sports Centre.

- v. One mile, Wismar, Demerara River: A reconnaissance survey of land on which some 260 families have squatted. The object of the survey was to indicate the nature of the problem and the direction in which solution may be sought.
- vi. Sans Souci—Melville, Wakenaam: A land use survey and a sociological study for the purpose of preparing a plan for the development of these villages.

*Residential Site Layout Plan:*

The following layout plans were completed for residential development:

- i. La Penitence, Greater Georgetown: A re-design of a ten acre plot for rehousing residents at La Penitence south sideline whose dwellings would be affected by the proposed improved storm drainage canal.
- ii. Cotton Field, Anna Regina, Essequibo: A layout for the vacant land near the sea dam and a revision of portion of the original layout. The scheme provides for seventy-nine plots.
- iii. Plantation Bel Air, Greater Georgetown: A layout plan for higher and middle income group development. The scheme provides for seventeen plots.

*Planning Designs*

The following planning designs were completed.

- i. A detailed layout plan for developing approximately twenty-three acres at Ruimveldt for use as an Industrial estate and providing industrial plots.
- ii. Anna Regina, Essequibo: A layout plan for a senior school including residential accommodation.
- iii. Cane Grove, Mahaica River: A residential layout for a new neighbourhood of one hundred and twenty-six acres approximately. This scheme provides for two hundred and thirty-eight residential plots and nineteen Commercial Plots. Land is also reserved for a neighbourhood centre for churches and for public open space.
- iv. A master plan for developing the eastern portion of Le Repentir—an area of approximately 79.8 acres—into a residential neighbourhood. This scheme provides for the following:

*Residential accommodations*

Density of 9 dwellings per acre	258 plots
Density of 8     "     "     "	103 plots
	361 plots 43.4 acres

*Commercial facilities*

Service shops	10 plots	
Goods shops	28 „	
Cinema	1 plot	
Petrol Filling Station	1	
	40 plots	5.9 acres

*Public Buildings, recreational and educational facilities*

Fire station	1 plot	
School		
Church	1 „	
Reserved sites	18 plots	
	21 plots	6.0 acres
Public Open space		8.0 acres
Arterial Roads—(Roads other than local and access roads which are included in areas given above)		16.5 acres
		79.8 acres

- v. A varying scheme in respect of Road Communications in the urban area (6.7 sq. miles) of Greater Georgetown as defined in the Greater Georgetown Planning Scheme. This varying scheme provides for:
1. A highway or ring road bordering the urban area, which would prevent vehicular traffic from cutting across the town centre. Destination Traffic from the East Coast and East Bank would reach various zones in the town by means of subsidiary main routes all of which connect with the ring road.
  2. The urban area would be divided into super blocks by Main Roads and Avenue connected to the highway. This permits an even distribution of traffic throughout the urban area and quick and safe movement between zones.
  3. Provision is made for quiet access roads within each super block, these being connected to the main roads and avenues at convenient points. Their prime function is to cater for local traffic within the block. Blocks are mainly used for residential purposes.



4. Intersections of main traffic routes are improved by the introduction of roundabouts.
5. The road pattern for undeveloped areas as detailed in the Greater Georgetown Plan bears no relation to the topography of the land. This restricts the preparation of site layout plans. The scheme provides that for all remaining undeveloped areas of land, the Central Housing and Planning Authority should approve of detailed road systems at the time of development.

#### *Planning Reports*

The following town planning reports were prepared :

- i. The siting of a Bilateral Secondary School at Hopetown, Bel Air, Berbice.
- ii. The siting of a New Hospital for Greater Georgetown.
- iii. The development of the old Lamaha Canal Reservation, Georgetown.
- iv. Industrial Estates with particular reference to Greater Georgetown.
- v. A Report on a sociological survey and existing conditions of an unauthorised settlement at one mile Wismar Hill and adjacent valleys for the purpose of making decisions relative to the future of that community.
- vi. A report on a field inspection of the problems connected with widening the La Penitence south sideline Drainage Canal for gravity drainage.

#### *Education in Town Planning*

During the year, close liaison was continued between the Central Housing and Planning Authority and various public bodies. Advice assistance, lectures and talks were given by officers of the Central Housing and Planning Authority in order to widen the appreciation of planning techniques and the value of town and country planning in community life.

#### *Housing*

The progress made in respect of housing for the various income groups is as follows:—

- (a) The lower income group: The programme of house construction in both urban and rural areas ended during 1959. It is expected that a new programme will commence in 1960 for which provision has been made in the development plan.

- (b) The middle income group: The construction of new houses at Campbellville continued. New suburban areas recently laid out at Prashad Nagar, New Haven, Bel Air Springs and Blygezight have been supplied with water and building of houses has commenced. Houses have also been sited on lots at La Penitence and Ruinveldt recently made available for sale. The programme is being retarded by the scarcity of money for loans on mortgage.
- (c) Self-Help schemes: All the self-help schemes under the programme commenced in 1954 involving erection of 675 houses were completed.
- (d) Land settlement scheme: Consideration is being given to the abandonment of Cane Grove Scheme except for a few of the houses.

#### *Low Cost Housing Programme*

This programme of originally 4,500 houses commenced in 1954 was subsequently reduced to 3,218 houses and completed during 1959.

#### *Housing Department*

The department was administered by a Commissioner of Housing with a much reduced staff. The services of the engineer and architect were dispensed with, substitutes for these being supplied when required by the Public Works Department. Commencement of the new house building programme will require strengthening of the staff.

#### *Building Statistics*

Statistics in connection with buildings erected throughout the colony are set out in the appendix.

APPENDIX.  
BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED IN 1959

URBAN AREAS.

	GEORGETOWN	NEW AMSTERDAM
New Buildings	167 (535 Bedrooms)	24 (39 Bedrooms)
Additions to existing buildings	414 (211 additional bedrooms).	

RURAL AREAS

Part or District	Dwelling Houses			Dwelling houses and Industrial buildings combined.			Industrial Buildings			Public Buildings		
	Erected	Added To	Taken Down	Erected	Added To	Taken Down	Erected	Added To	Taken Down	Erected	Added To	Taken Down
Demerara ... ..	1,110	579	173	40	51	3	43	17	3	21	13	4
Berbice ... ..	870	280	69	22	32	3	11	2	2	8	5	3
Essequibo ... ..	172	39	38	9	11	1	9	7	1	3	2	—
	2,152	898	280	71	94	7	63	26	6	32	20	7

## SOCIAL WELFARE

Social Welfare Services provided by Government fall into three main categories, namely, Community Services, Social Assistance and Delinquency Services. The Head of the Social Welfare Division of the Department of Local Government is the Social Welfare Officer, who, in addition to his normal duties, performs secretariat duties for the Ministry in respect of all these services and also acts as a liaison between Government and Voluntary Organisations.

A number of voluntary organisations of a charitable, social and cultural nature support the Government Services. Some of these organisations are local branches of international organisations; the majority, however, are indigenous organisations usually located within the city of Georgetown. In the main, their finances depend on private contributions and special money-raising efforts. Ten organisations receive small annual grants from Government and eleven of them benefit from the distribution by Government of funds available through the Sweepstakes' (Charity) Committee.

*Community Services*

The Social Welfare Division promotes social, recreational, and indirectly, economic activities, and encourages the formation of groups in the rural areas with a view to improving living conditions and the earning capacity of the people. The programme of the Division includes youth work, women's work and other community services.

The specialist officers stationed at Head Office gave particular attention to the three aspects of this programme. In the case of youth work, the specialist officer was assisted by a youth officer and the field staff was responsible for the carrying out of programmed activities in the districts.

One of the field-staff, who was on study leave in England, taking a two years' course in Social Science at the University of Liverpool, returned after successfully completing his course and resumed duty in August.

*Youth Service*

The training of voluntary leaders continued to be the primary consideration of officers charged with the welfare of Youth. Courses were organised at 9 different centres and provided training for 329 youth leaders. The benefits derived by youth organisations from the various training courses conducted were assessed by follow-up work carried out by the district officers. "The Youth Leader", a bi-monthly publication improved its circulation from 400 during 1958 to over 500 in 1959. Requests for the issue of the magazine continued to be encouraging.

With a view to acquiring greater knowledge of youth and the problems affecting them, a number of local surveys were contemplated. The first of these surveys, which had as its aim to find out the leisure-time activities of youths, was celebrated at Beterverwagting/Triumph, East Coast, Demerara.

Commonwealth Youth Sunday was celebrated throughout the colony by the Youth Council with the full participation of the schools. In keeping with the proposal to develop Camp Madewini into a training centre for Youth a building providing lavatory accommodation—W.C. Toilets, showers and washing facilities—was erected on the site.

The sum of \$10,000.00 was voted by Government for sports development during the year, and was distributed to sports organisations arranging inter-territorial tours and visits. Grants were made in connection with the following sports events:—the Caracas Games, held in Caracas; the Pan American Games, held in Chicago; the W.I. Athletic Championships, held in B.G.; the visit to B.G. of the U.K. and W.I. Rifle Teams; and the Triangular Intercolonial Volleyball Tournament, held in B.G. In addition, a limited supply of Sports equipment was provided in the rural areas.

#### *Work Among Women*

The main emphasis in work among women is the promotion and development of Women's Institutes throughout the rural areas of the colony.

The number of registered Institutes has now risen to 68 with a total membership of 1,500.

The Women's Institute Executive Committee functioned well during the year and is gradually taking on greater responsibility in the management of Women's Institute affairs in the colony.

Regional Councils have made progress in their co-ordinating activities and generally are becoming more effective. During the year, these bodies, with the help and guidance of the Social Welfare Division, sponsored regional Training Courses in Group Management, Programme Planning and Leadership. Due to the growing interest among members some training was attempted in singing, folk dancing and verse speaking. It is proving extremely difficult however, to secure teachers in these subjects in many of the rural areas.

The Rural Education Scheme has helped considerably in providing home-making activities for the women. Unfortunately, due to the lack of trained Domestic Science Teachers, some districts have not yet been provided with these classes.

The Annual Meeting of Women's Institutes was held at Bartica last year and was attended by over 200 delegates and observers. A very pleasing feature was the exhibition of work done by Institutes which was well attended by members of the Bartica Community. It

was the largest exhibition ever held during an Annual Meeting and the standard of work was high.

With the help of the British Council, the Colony President, Mrs. E. Forde, visited the United Kingdom for three months to observe Women's Institutes. Opportunity was also given her to represent British Guiana at the Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World which was held in Edinburgh during August.

Other organisations which received the attention of the Senior Assistant Social Welfare Officer (Women) were the Women's League of Social Services, the Infant Welfare Central Committee and the Home Economics Association.

#### *Other Community Services*

Other Community Services carried out by the Social Welfare Division in the rural areas included the establishment of community centres and playing fields, the development of voluntary organisations and community councils, which comprise representatives of Local Authorities and voluntary organisations or groups as well as assistance with Rural Self-Help Schemes. At the end of the year, there were 35 community centres and 3 pavilions, and the construction of eleven other community centres was under consideration.

The field staff of the Division helped to stimulate activity in many projects undertaken through the Rural Self-Help Schemes, and assisted, in one way or another, Infant Welfare and Maternity Leagues, parent-teachers' associations, ratepayers' associations, school clubs, and sports' clubs. The officers were also advisers to the various committees engaged in stimulating community development.

#### *Social Assistance*

The Social Assistance Department is responsible for the relief of the aged, the infirm and children under the age of 14 years who are destitute (including institutional care) and for administration of the Old Age Pensions Ordinance.

During the year the number of Old Age Pensioners and the number of cases receiving Public Assistance continued to rise. Comparative figures for the years 1954 to 1959 are as follows:—

	No. of Pensioners	No. of Cases on Public Assistance
31st December, 1954	10,850	3,500
31st December, 1955	12,000	4,000
31st December, 1956	12,500	4,400
31st December, 1957	12,550	5,000
31st December, 1958	12,800	5,400
31st December, 1959	13,200 (unconfirmed)	6,000 (unconfirmed)

There are a number of parents and guardians who receive Public Assistance in respect of the children for whom they are responsible. At the end of 1958 the number of children so assisted was 5,300 and the number had risen to 6,100 by the end of 1959.

Assistance is given either as outdoor relief, or by maintenance at "The Palms", an institution operated by the Department for aged and destitute persons.

	1958	1959 (Unconfirmed)
Old Age Pensions	\$ 915,500	\$ 936,000
Outdoor Relief	364,900	403,200
Indoor Relief Main- tenance at "The Palms"	128,800	143,580
Grants to Voluntary Institutions	12,400	12,350
Administration	269,900	274,700
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,691,500	\$1,769,830
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The number of persons maintained at "The Palms" remained fairly constant during the year, the number of residents at 31st December, being 576.

#### DELINQUENCY SERVICES

##### *Probation Service*

During 1959, the administrative control of the Probation Service, which has been under the Chief Justice for an experimental period of 2 years, reverted to the Ministry of Community Development and Education.

The work of the Probation Service was performed by the same establishment as in 1958, *viz.* a Chief Probation Officer, Senior Probation Officer, 8 Probation Officers and 3 Welfare Officers of whom two serve the Prisons, the other the Essequibo Boys' School.

During the year one Probation Officer was granted study leave and completed the Home Office Theoretical and Practical Training Course for Probation Officers in the United Kingdom.

The Probation of Offenders Ordinance 1952 provides a proper and adequate medium for execution of the functions of Probation Officers. This Ordinance vests control of the Probation System throughout the Colony in a Probation Committee under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Chief Justice and on which the Magistrate, Social Welfare Division and Police are represented.

Five District Probation Committees under the Chairmanship of the Magistrate of each Judicial District reviews the work of Probation Officers with individual probation cases and gave them help and advice in carrying out their work generally. These Committees are under the control of the Central Probation Committee.

Five hundred and thirteen (513) children and young persons were found guilty of all classes of offences. This represents a decrease of 54 on the previous year's total of 567. There was a significant decrease in the Juvenile Delinquency rate which has fallen off from 4.46 per 1,000 in 1958 to 3.45 per 1,000 in 1959.

A greater willingness to use the Probation Service in the Adult Courts, especially in matrimonial matters, was again noticeable in 1959.

A Remand Home for Boys is operated by the Salvation Army which receives a subvention from Government to cover the costs of maintenance. The total number of boys admitted during 1959 was 97.

#### *Approved Schools*

The Essequibo Boys' School is an approved school provided by Government for delinquent boys between the ages of 10 and 16 years committed by the Courts. The age limit for discharge is 18 years. The maximum period of committal is three years, except where a boy is committed before he is 13 years old, in which case he may be detained until he is 16 years old.

It is possible, however, to discharge a boy either unconditionally or on licence if the Headmaster so recommends, as is done whenever this appears to be in the boy's interest.

On 1st January, 1959, there were 132 boys on the roll, and during the year 39 boys were admitted to the School and 38 were discharged, leaving 133 on roll at the end of the year.

Boys are given instruction in Woodwork, Tailoring, Shoemaking, Baking, Metal Work, Animal Husbandry and Arable Farming.

In the Classroom the curriculum pursued is similar to that of the Primary Schools in the Colony, and is subject to inspection by Officers of the Education Department. On the suggestion of one of the Education Officers on 16th February, 1959, four boys of above average intelligence were enrolled in the Village School. In July these boys successfully wrote the Primary School Leaving Certificate examination, and two of them are now studying with a view to writing the Pupil Teachers' Appointment Examination in 1960.

The Co-operative Thrift Society and the Scout Troop continued to function and both had a successful year. The Scout Troop at the Annual Rally of Scouts of the Colony, performed excellently and won the Renison Trophy for Senior Scouts, and the Trophy for



Competition by Rural Troops. The Brass Band also continued to make satisfactory progress.

The After Care of boys discharged from the School is carried out by an officer of the Salvation Army assisted by the Probation Officers. For this service the Salvation Army receives a subvention from Government. Boys remain under supervision for two years after discharge.

The Belfield Girls' School, operated by the Salvation Army with a subvention from Government, accommodates girls between the ages of 8 and 16 committed by the Courts. The age limit for discharge is 18 years. The school accommodates boys committed under 10 years old up to a maximum of 11 years.

In 1959, 1 girl was discharged from the institution and 4 girls and 1 boy admitted. There were 14 girls and 1 boy in residence at the end of the year.

Apart from classes conducted in the school, the child of average school age with the potential for improvement is sent to the village school.

The after-care of girls discharged from the Belfield Girls' School is carried out by officers of the Salvation Army.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In 1956, under the guidance of a Community Development Specialist, pilot projects were launched at Crabwood Creek, Berbice, and at Golden Grove-Nabaclis, East Coast Demerara.

During 1957 an additional pilot project was organised at Huis t'Dieren, Essequibo bringing the total to 3, one in each county.

In December, 1958, Crabwood Creek and Golden Grove-Nabaclis ceased to be pilot projects. During 1959, Huis t'Dieren also ceased to be a pilot project, although efforts were promptly made to reorganise the project. Due to lack of trained personnel it was not possible to re-organize the projects at Crabwood Creek and Golden Grove-Nabaclis.

Profiting from the lessons learnt from the pilot projects, a modest new project was started during 1959 at Queenstown, Essequibo and made fair progress.

Regional Development Committees established in 1954 under the Chairmanship of District Commissioners and covering all rural areas throughout the Colony, continued to function during 1959. The functions of these committees were —

- (a) to arouse interest in economic and social development and to stimulate discussion;
- (b) to encourage a spirit of enterprise and self-help;
- (c) to promote and supervise community self-help schemes which may be aided by Government grants;

- (d) to encourage the development of co-operatives;
- (e) to determine priorities for the hire of machinery under the Machinery Hire Pool Service;
- (f) to advise the Credit Corporation on applications for loans; and
- (g) to advise Government on development matters.

Good progress was made in many areas with aided self-help projects as the self help idea continued to grow in the Colony. During 1959, 52 schemes were approved involving Government grants totalling \$35,235.

## *Chapter VIII : Legislation*

The more important legislation for the year 1959 is listed below:

### *Criminal Law*

The normal process of serving summonses causes delays in prosecutions for minor offences and has been found unsatisfactory. The Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, provides that a police constable may immediately serve on a person whom he considers should be charged with a prescribed minor offence, a notice to attend court. If the alleged offender does not wish to contest the charge he may within seven days pay the prescribed penalty to the clerk of any magistrate's court. In this case the prosecution will be discontinued, otherwise the case will be tried in the normal way.

### *Currency*

The Currency Ordinance, 1959, consolidates the law relating to currency. The legislation is similar to that in the other territories in the Eastern Caribbean which have a common currency with British Guiana.

### *Land Law*

The Land Registry Ordinance, 1959, introduces the Torrens system of land registration with suitable modifications. The object is to provide a new system of conveyancing which will be simpler, speedier and cheaper to work than the existing transport system, although the latter system is still retained. The ordinance also establishes land courts which are empowered to grant declarations of title to land. By declaring land registration areas it is hoped that eventually the ownership of every square yard of the country will be supported by a clear title which will be recorded.

2. The Land Bonds Ordinance, 1959, provides that where land which is not beneficially occupied is compulsorily acquired for a land settlement scheme the compensation payable may be met by the issue of Government land bonds. Where land is purchased or compulsorily acquired by the Government for any other public purpose the purchase price may be met by the issue of land bonds if the seller agrees. The bonds will be redeemable in 20 years from issue and bear interest at the current rate.

*Libel and Slander*

The Defamation Ordinance, 1959, brings the law of slander and libel into line with contemporary English Law on the subject.

*Local Government*

The Local Government (Valuation of Property) Ordinance, 1959, provides a uniform system of valuation of property for rating purposes for all local authorities. It replaces the present systems which are applicable in different areas and are unsatisfactory because of their lack of a common standard of valuation.

2. The Local Government (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, abolishes the nominated element in village councils. The ordinance provides that a minimum of six councillors should be elected to sit on any village council.

*Prisons*

The Prison (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, provides for the release on licence of prisoners serving life imprisonment. The Ordinance also provides that a prisoner under the age of 21 may, instead of being released early on earning remission of part of his sentence for good conduct, be released on licence and be placed under the supervision of a responsible body or person who could assist in his rehabilitation.

*Medical Practitioners*

The Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, 1959, provides for the temporary registration of medical practitioners whose diplomas are obtained in foreign countries and who consequently are not otherwise entitled to be registered. The temporary registration is to enable them to be employed in the Government medical service or an approved institution. If after a period of 3 years such doctors satisfy the Medical Board of their proficiency in medicine, their registration may be made permanent when they can practice without restriction.

*Rice Marketing*

The Rice Marketing (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, empowers the Rice Marketing Board to make loans to rice producers and to make grants from its funds for the award of scholarships for the purposes of research and technical training in the production, processing and marketing of rice.

## *Chapter IX : Justice, Police and Prisons*

### JUSTICE

In British Guiana the law is administered in the Supreme Court and in the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction.

#### *The Supreme Court*

The Supreme Court of British Guiana consists of the Chief Justice, who is the President of the Court, and five Puisne Judges, who rank, as between themselves, according to the terms of their respective appointments.

The Full Court of the Supreme Court is constituted by not less than two Judges. Its jurisdiction is almost entirely appellate.

The decision of the Full Court, except in certain cases, is final but appeals may be made to the Federal Supreme Court in matters which do not come under those exceptions.

The Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction in civil matters, and it exercises exclusive jurisdiction in probate, divorce and admiralty matters, in actions for malicious prosecution, libel, slander, seduction and breach of promise of marriage, and in matters in which any incorporeal right or the title to any immovable property is or may be in question or in which possession of immovable property is claimed otherwise than by a landlord against his tenant. Actions before the Supreme Court are tried by a single judge without a jury.

An appeal from a judgment of a judge, either in court or in chambers, may lie, under certain circumstances, to the Federal Supreme Court and under other circumstances to the Full Court.

Appeals from the Income Tax Commissioners lie to a single judge of the Supreme Court.

The rules of civil procedure in the Supreme Court are, in substance, the same as in the Supreme Court of Judicature in England.

The criminal law and the criminal procedure of the Colony, both indictable and summary conviction matters are, generally speaking, the law of England.

The Supreme Court has criminal jurisdiction in matters brought before it by indictment. Indictments are filed in the Supreme Court by the Attorney General and tried before a judge and jury. No indictment can be filed by the Attorney General against any person unless such person has been committed by a magistrate for trial before the Supreme Court. The Attorney General has the right to file any information in the Supreme Court against any person for any misdemeanour. A person convicted upon an indictment before the

Supreme Court had until the 21st November, 1959, a right of appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal of the Supreme Court of British Guiana against his conviction on any ground which involves a question of law alone and, with the leave of the Court of Criminal Appeal or upon the certificate of the trial judge that it is a fit case of appeal, on any ground of appeal which involves a question of fact alone, or a question of mixed law and fact, or any ground which appears to the Court of Criminal Appeal to be a sufficient ground of appeal. Since that date the jurisdiction exercised by the Court of Criminal Appeal has been conferred on the Federal Supreme Court.

#### *Courts of Summary Jurisdiction*

The Colony is divided into eight judicial districts, over each of which one or more magistrates have jurisdiction which is summary.

An appeal lies to the Full Court of the Supreme Court against any decision of a magistrate in the exercise of the civil or criminal jurisdiction. The decision of the Full Court is final.

Magistrates adjudicate in claims for the recovery of any debt, demand, damages or chattel or thing where the amount claimed does not exceed \$250 (£52. 1s. 8d.). They also deal with claims for the recovery of possession of land or premises as well as applications for assessment of rent under the Rent Restriction Ordinance.

The rules of civil procedure in the Magistrates' Courts are in substance the same as those in a County Court in England.

Magistrates hear and determine complaints and informations for summary conviction offences and cases in which the value or the amount of the property or the article or matter in respect of which the offence is committed does not exceed \$100 (£20. 6s. 8d.).

Preliminary inquiries into indictable cases are held by magistrates, and the accused persons are committed for trial in the Supreme Court.

#### POLICE

The Police Force is administered by a Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner, 2 Assistant Commissioners, 6 Senior Superintendents and 34 general duty Officers, together with a Finance Officer, Transport Officer and Bandmaster. The remainder of the Force consisted of 56 Chief Inspectors and Inspectors, 96 Sergeants, 195 Corporals and 1,171 Constables. Included in these figures are 1 Inspector, 4 Sergeants, 7 Corporals and 42 Constables of the Women Police. The Mounted Branch consisted of 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants, 7 Corporals and 35 Constables.

#### *Supernumerary Constables*

There were 244 Supernumerary Constables on the strength at the end of the year. These were employed by Government and

private firms, and assisted the Force by protecting the property of their employers.

#### *Rural Constables*

Members of the Rural Constabulary were employed in serving process, both civil and criminal, in the more remote parts of the Colony and assisted the regular Force in the diamond and gold mining areas of the Colony. The number on roll at the end of the year was 480. These are divided into two classes :

- (a) those who by law have been appointed because of their employment, such as bailiffs (under the Summary Jurisdiction (Magistrates) Ordinance), steersmen, and bowmen on boats (under the River Navigation Ordinance); and
- (b) those specially selected to give assistance to the regular Force in districts and villages.

#### *Special Constabulary*

The Special Constabulary consisted of 6 Officers, 15 Subordinate Officers and 160 Constables. They continued to render valuable assistance to the regular Force, particularly during the Christmas holiday period, and on other occasions when additional Police strength was required.

#### *First Aid*

At 31st December, the following certificates, etc. were held by members of the Force.

Certificates 1,107, Vouchers 543, Medallions 226, Labels 873. Members of the Force who were re-examined during the year were awarded 55 certificates, 27 vouchers, 14 medallions and 29 labels. All training in First Aid was provided within the Force. At the Annual St. John Ambulance Brigade Competitions, the cups for both Senior and Junior Individual Competitions were won by members of the Force.

#### *Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic*

The Commissioner of Police is the Prescribed Authority and Licensing Authority under the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Ordinance. There were 18,627 motor vehicles registered at the end of the year, as against 16,508 in 1958. 2,119 new vehicles were registered during the year as compared with 2,322 in 1958.

The number of prosecutions for offences in connection with road traffic was 11,438 (8,641 in 1958) in which 6,850 convictions (5,526 in 1958) were obtained.

The total number of accidents reported to the Police was 2,957 (2,843 in 1958). The following table gives particulars of the accidents compared with previous years:

	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of Accidents	3,207	2,411	2,843	2,957
Number of accidents in which persons were killed	39	32	62	40
Number of persons killed	39	32	65	46
Number of persons injured	1,020	1,018	1,218	1,197

**Road Casualties :**

The following table shows the class of road users killed or injured

Class of road Users	Killed		Injured		Minor	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
Pedestrians	30	20	58	67	272	271
Pedal Cyclists	9	8	57	45	376	349
Motor Cyclists	10	3	25	22	102	102
Pillion Passengers	1	1	7	9	34	27
Drivers of other vehicles (including cart drivers)	2	2	12	18	37	61
Others	13	12	28	41	145	139
	65	46	187	202	966	949

*BAND*

The Band consisted of a Bandmaster, a Band Inspector, 3 Sergeants, 8 Corporals and 24 Constables. The Band continued to provide public entertainment for the community in Georgetown and the outlying districts.

*CRIME STATISTICS*

Statistics regarding —

(i) Cases and crimes reported to the Police :

(a) number of cases;

(b) number of persons.

(ii) Prosecutions by the Police in respect of statutory offences are given in tables appended to this chapter.



1. *Strength*

## FIRE BRIGADE

The strength of the Brigade at the 31st December, 1959 was:

1	Chief Fire Officer
1	Deputy Chief Fire Officer
2	Station Officers
6	Sub Officers
8	Section Leaders
27	Leading Firemen
141	Firemen
2	Clerical Assistants
2	Class II Clerks
1	Barrack Labourer.

2. *Stations*

There are three stations in Georgetown and one in New Amsterdam.

3. *Appliances*

The total number of appliances held by the Brigade are:

1	Pump of 900 g.p.m.
6	Water Tenders of 600 g.p.m.
2	Self propelled Pumps (one of 700 g.p.m. and one 350 g.p.m.)
2	Trailer Pumps
3	Austin Champ Firefly Pumps
4	Portable Hathaway Light Pumps
1	Utility Truck
1	Utility Van
5	Ambulances
4	Fire Boats

Of the above appliances, 6 Water Tenders, 3 Fire Boats and 4 Ambulances are equipped with V.H.F. Radios.

4. *Calls*

During the year, the Brigade responded with appliances and men to 337 calls, and also to 182 special services. Among the special services were 25 salvage operations performed in the Georgetown harbour, and on 19 occasions attendances were made for the purpose of rescuing persons and vessels adrift at sea or in the harbour.

The total number of ambulance calls attended was 10,399 of which 7,630 were emergency calls.

*Miscellaneous*

During 1959, 48 new fire hydrants were installed in the new housing estates on the perimeter of Georgetown. The total number of hydrants in Georgetown and its environs is now 1,124.

Five more pipelines, to allow the fire boats to pump water quickly into the high risk areas, were completed in Water Street, leaving 1 more to be completed.

## PRISONS

The Prisons Department is administered by a Director of Prisons with Headquarters at the Georgetown Prison. The administrative staff consists of a Deputy Director, two Superintendents and one Assistant Superintendent. The Department is under the portfolio of the Minister of Community Development and Education.

The main Prisons are at Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Mazaruni. There are also two lock-ups, which are manned by the Police, but come under the immediate supervision of the District Commissioners; they are at Mabaruma in the North West District, and Lethem in the Rupununi. It is proposed to build another lock-up at Enachu in the Mazaruni River district.

*Classification and Segregation*

First Offenders and Young Offenders serving short terms are sent to New Amsterdam, those with longer terms go to Sibley Hall Prison, Mazaruni. All recidivists serving over three months are sent from New Amsterdam to Mazaruni and Georgetown.

*Population Figures*

During the year 800 persons were committed to prison for safe custody. Of this number, 578 were returned to serve sentences.

Admissions of Young Prisoners (those between the ages of 16 and 21 years), numbered 262, this being 64, less than in the previous year.

1,924 persons were sentenced to imprisonment, 1,048 of whom had been given the option of paying a fine.

*Discipline*

This has been satisfactory with the exception of an incident on January 10, 1959, when six prisoners were involved in an attempted mass escape, and in the process garrotted a Prison Officer with their towels, and assaulted a second. Three of these prisoners were found guilty of murder and at the time of writing are awaiting

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execution. One of those involved, committed suicide whilst at large, one was found not guilty on trial, and in the case of the other a *notte prosequi* was entered.

Offences against Prison discipline totalled 1,346 as compared with 1,153 in 1958, the comparison is to some extent a reflexion of increased supervision made possible by an increase in staff strength. Punishment was awarded as follows:

Forfeiture of Remission	648
Punishment Diet	448
Cautioned	155
Deprived of Privileges	13
Deprived of Association for a Period	9
Loss of Remission held in suspension	73

The number of corporal punishments inflicted by order of the Courts was six. No Corporal Punishments were ordered by the Prison Authorities.

### *Health*

The general health of the prisoners was good, and, with the exception of an outbreak of a virulent form of influenza in June, there were no epidemics.

Medical Officers were in attendance full time; Sick Nurse Dispensers were employed at the three main Prisons, together with Hospital Trained Custodial Staff. Cases of minor illnesses were treated in the Prison Hospitals, while those of a serious nature were sent to the Public Hospitals for admission and treatment; prisoners needing specialist treatment were sent to Outpatients Clinics.

### *Dietary*

The diet was adequate, cooking being supervised by trained Officers.

### *Sanitary Facilities*

Every effort is being made to maintain and improve these facilities.

### *Training and Educational Facilities*

In Georgetown, the trades taught included, baking, shoemaking, tailoring, woodwork and cabinet making, painting, plumbing, concrete block making, masonry and plastering. Basket making was carried out for the Agriculture Department.

At the Mazaruni and New Amsterdam Prisons, the main occupation is Agriculture. Extra-curricular courses are held for prisoners who receive certificates on satisfactory completion of the course.

Beekeeping is taught at both these Prisons. Two years ago the nucleus of a pig industry was started under model conditions, and this showed every sign of becoming a success, both as a means of training men, and of financial benefit to Government.

As was stated in the last Report, an Officer was trained in Adult Literacy Teaching and the result during 1959 was an unqualified success. About 100 men who were previously either completely illiterate or semi-illiterate were taught to read and write. One lad **who** was semi-illiterate 12 months ago, was able to undertake and gain a certificate at an Agricultural examination.

*Legislation.*

Provision has been made for prisoners serving life sentences to be sent out of Prison on Licence, and for the release of Young Offenders.

*After-Care of Prisoners*

This is carried out by the Welfare Officers at Georgetown and New Amsterdam. Special consideration is given to Young and First Offenders by the Discharged Prisoners Aid Committee, within the limits of finance available.

Forty-seven cases were under voluntary supervision at the end of 1959.

Welfare Officers investigated all cases of distress in relation to prisoners' dependants and where necessary financial aid was granted by the Poor Law Commissioners.

The sum of \$5,316.60 was disbursed to discharged prisoners by way of assistance. All prisoners serving a sentence of 3 years or over continued to receive clothing on discharge.

TABLE I.—CASES OF CRIME REPORTED TO POLICE — 1959

A. Number of Cases.

CRIME	Total cases known or reported to Police		Cases not accepted				Disposal of accepted cases								
	Total Number of Reports	PENDING	Complaint due to mistake of Law or fact	Frivolous vexatious or false complaint	Insufficient evidence	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES ACCEPTED	Accused dead or insane or too young to be prosecuted	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Convicted	Cases proved and order made without conviction	Closed undetected	Pending investigation or trial	Awaiting trial	
<i>Against Lawful Authority</i>															
Against Public Order	18,656	69	402	1,175	9,173	4,103	4,676	3	293	320	2,948	22	604	52	434
Perjury	44	2	11	...	2	2	53	1	9	3	25	1	1	3	11
Escape and rescue	31	8	18	...	...	9	51	1	...	7	32	1	2	4	4
Other	380	...	12	1	...	2	389	...	49	13	288	2	...	1	36
<i>Against Public Morality</i>															
Rape and Indecent Assault	174	16	30	1	12	13	194	...	39	11	68	1	10	25	40
Unnatural Offences	11	...	4	...	...	...	15	...	...	1	7	...	...	3	4
Other	3,528	51	208	46	183	273	3,285	1	141	75	2,591	17	119	51	290
<i>Against the Person</i>															
Murder and Manslaughter	56	...	26	1	...	...	81	8	8	8	26	...	5	6	20
Attempt Murder and Suicide	43	...	8	...	1	6	44	2	3	2	27	3	1	2	4
Grievous Harm, Wounding, etc.	2,420	149	219	10	32	46	2,700	3	181	83	1,509	7	235	222	460
Assaults	8,637	444	304	474	3,996	1,947	2,968	1	228	125	1,779	8	332	143	352
Other	341	6	27	...	2	5	367	...	32	25	231	...	12	1	66
<i>Against Property</i>															
Thefts and other Stealings	90,66	2,988	371	404	919	488	10,414	1	274	71	1,093	47	5,046	3,560	302
Robbery and Extortion	126	47	16	1	4	3	181	...	9	2	20	...	50	75	25
Burglary, House and Store Breaking	1,078	649	61	...	14	10	1,764	...	39	9	165	1	619	844	87
False Pretences, Cheating, Fraud, etc.	383	78	56	1	43	25	448	...	32	12	206	1	102	46	49
Receiving Stolen Property	15	...	6	...	...	1	20	...	8	1	10	...	...	...	1
Arson	28	19	6	...	2	15	36	...	3	1	6	...	14	9	3
Praedial Larceny	397	61	7	17	53	26	369	...	29	4	103	1	176	36	20
Other	6,223	4,045	95	86	2,520	244	7,513	2	157	37	635	6	1,179	5,862	135
<i>Other Offences Against the Penal Code</i>															
Forgery and Coinage	35	4	9	...	2	3	43	...	2	1	9	...	1	8	22
Other	27	7	1	...	...	...	35	...	2	1	7	...	3	4	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51,702</b>	<b>8,649</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>16,958</b>	<b>7,221</b>	<b>35,646</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>11,785</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>8,511</b>	<b>10,477</b>	<b>2,883</b>



TABLE II.—PROSECUTIONS BY THE POLICE IN RESPECT OF STATUTORY OFFENCES—1959.

Offence	Reports	Number of Cases					Number of Persons Convicted												Persons awaiting trial						
		Prosecuted	Postponed from previous year	Convicted	Discharged	Pending at end of year	Total				Imprisoned			Corporal Punishment			Fine				M	F	Juv.		
							M	F	Juv.		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				M	F
									M	F															
Against Traffic Ordinance	12,001	11,108	2,557	8,678	623	2,926	8,515	342	41	4	2	...	...	...	...	7,970	273	24	3	2,856	98	21	...		
Against Liquor Ordinance	89	76	15	59	15	9	91	2	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	62	2	...	...	6	1	...	...		
Gambling	78	56	4	41	8	10	57	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	41	...	6	...	20	...	...	...		
Other Offences	2,305	1,046	83	829	122	130	836	94	14	...	4	...	...	...	...	748	79	8	...	189	18	1	...		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,473</b>	<b>12,286</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>9,607</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>3,075</b>	<b>9,499</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>	...	...	...	<b>2</b>	<b>8,821</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>22</b>	...		

OFFENCES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES

1959

	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
CLASS I: Offences against the person:		Larceny ..	187
Assault ..	42	Larceny from the Person ..	14
Assault C.A.B.H. ..	40	Prædial Larceny ..	41
Assault: Indecent ..	5	Obtaining Credit by Fraud ..	2
Assault Unlawful ..	1	Obtaining money by false pretences ..	4
Assault with Intent to Resist Lawful Apprehension ..	1	Unlawful Pawning ..	3
Assaulting Peace Officer ..	1	Unlawful Possession ..	17
Attempted Suicide ..	3		<u>280</u>
Child Stealing ..	1	CLASS IV: Malicious damage to property	
Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm ..	2	Malicious damage to Property ..	5
Obstructing Peace Officer ..	1	CLASS V: Offences against the currency	
Resisting Peace Officer ..	2	Offences against the currency ..	—
Unlawful Wounding ..	21	CLASS VI: Offences not included in other classes	
	<u>120</u>	Abusive Language ..	1
CLASS II: Offences against property with violence		Breach of Demerara Water Conservancy Ordinance ..	1
Break & Enter with Intent ..	6	Breach of Probation Order ..	14
Break & Enter & Larceny ..	28	Breach of Sea Defence Regulations ..	2
	<u>34</u>	Careless use of Vehicle ..	9
CLASS III: Offences against property without violence		Carrying Offensive Weapon ..	5
Attempted Larceny from the Person ..	2	Cruelty to animal ..	4
False Pretence ..	4	Disorderly Behaviour ..	30
Found by night in building ..	1	Driving cattle without proper assistance ..	1
Fraudulent Conversion and Misappropriation ..	5	Exposing person ..	1
		<i>Carried Forward</i>	68



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		<i>Number</i>			<i>Number</i>
CLASS VI: Offences not included in other classes (cont'd)			<i>Brought Forward</i> ..		130
	<i>Brought Forward</i>	68	Public Mischief ..	1	
Exposed goods for sale except at a stall ..	5	Releasing stray ..	4		
Failure to provide proper steamer ticket ..	1	Unauthorised Removal of shell from foreshore ..	1		
Fighting .. ..	13	Roguary & Vagabondage ..	5		
Gaming .. ..	6	Traffic Offences ..	40		
Giving false information to public servant ..	1	Threatening Behaviour and Language .. ..	2		
Indecent Language ..	31	Throwing Missiles ..	22		
Injury to cattle ..	1			<u>205</u>	
Pedestrian Causing Obstruction ..	2	Unlawful Possession of Bush Rum .. ..	1		
Possession of ammunition without Licence ..	1	Vagrancy .. ..	12		
Provoking Breach of Peace .. ..	1	Wandering .. ..	38		
		Wilful Trespass ..	24		
				<u>280</u>	
	<i>Carried Forward</i> ..	130			

*Analysis of Treatment of Juveniles*

Judicial Districts				Probation	Essequibo Boys' School	Belfield Girls' School	Reprimanded & Discharged	Whipped	Fined	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Struck Out	Bonded	Total
Georgetown	...	...	...	92	20	2	156	2	29	62	11	8	...	382
East Demerara	...	...	...	51	2	2	20	...	1	27	7	1	...	111
West Demerara	...	...	...	32	4	1	21	...	4	19	8	6	4	99
Berbice	...	...	...	4	9	...	15	1	7	20	6	...	2	64
Corentyne	...	...	...	16	4	1	2	...	...	24	1	...	...	48
Essequibo	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	1	6	...	...	...	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	...	...	195	39	6	218	7	42	158	33	15	6	719

## *Chapter X : Drainage and Irrigation, Other Public Works and Public Utilities*

The alluvial coastlands of British Guiana are approximately four to five feet below sea level at high tide. To protect the agricultural and residential areas from flooding from the sea, it is necessary to maintain an elaborate system of sea defences, comprising earthen sea dams, reinforced concrete sea walls, and rubble masonry sea walls, as well as numerous groynes designed to bring about accretion on the foreshore.

The problem of obtaining adequate drainage at moderate cost is a constant and difficult one because of the fact that the average rainfall per annum is as high as 100 inches. Drainage by gravity is possible only when the tide is low, and this form of drainage is affected by the ever changing levels of the foreshore outside the sea defences. On this account it has been necessary in many areas to resort to the expensive method of drainage by pumps. In some areas, the larger rivers provide satisfactory drainage at all times.

Another major difficulty is the problem of ensuring an adequate supply of irrigation water when needed for the cultivation of the two main crops—sugar cane and rice. The supply of irrigation water comes mainly from large shallow reservoirs or conservancies situated behind the cultivated lands and is conveyed by natural flow through a system of canals to the cultivated areas. The upkeep of these reservoirs or conservancies is costly, and a considerable portion of the water conserved is lost by evaporation and absorption. On this account, they are often unreliable in prolonged periods of drought.

A comprehensive system of water control is being investigated by the Department following preliminary plans put up by Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, C.I.E., M.I.C.E., who was Consulting Engineer for Drainage and Irrigation between 1949 and 1952. The aim is to achieve a multi-purpose system providing flood control and irrigation facilities at the same time.

### *Drainage and Irrigation Department*

The Department's activities fall into two main divisions—one embracing project activities (present and future) and the other the activities in connection with the administration of drainage and irrigation areas and new areas on completion of the projects.

### *Corentyne Drainage and Irrigation Scheme*

This scheme covers an area of the coastlands between the Corentyne and Berbice Rivers extending about 22 miles along the coast and

is designed to make available approximately 47,000 acres of rice lands and 28,000 acres of pasture lands.

The scheme is divided into three main parts, particulars of which are given below together with an indication of the progress made up to the end of 1959:

- (a) Block III, providing 20,000 acres of ricelands and 28,000 acres of pasture lands, served by a 400-ton per minute pumping station on the Canje River—all major works have been completed and the area is fully cultivated. Even in spite of the continued drought in 1959 yields of padi have been very good. With regard to the pasture lands, internal works for 10,000 acres are complete.
- (b) Black Bush Polder (previously called Blocks I and II) when completed will reclaim approximately 27,000 acres net of which 23,000 acres will be used as rice lands while the remaining area will be used as settlement areas for 1,510 families. Each family will have a 2½ acre plot for residence, cow paddock and kitchen garden in the settlement area and in addition will be allocated a 15 acre rice plot within easy reach of their homestead.

The lands will be irrigated by pumping from the Canje River. Detailed topographic and soil surveys of this area carried out in 1955 confirmed that the area was suitable for rice cultivation. A tentative lay-out of the drainage and irrigation works was prepared early in 1956, and a firm of Consulting Engineers, Sir William Halcrow and Partners, was engaged to design and supervise the construction work. The work which commenced in October, 1957, is being executed by Messrs. Pauling and Company Limited, who have taken full advantage of the very favourable weather for construction.

Three large drainage sluices of which two are larger than any previously constructed in British Guiana, were completed in 1958 and the area drained by these sluices which was formerly a swamp has been completely reclaimed. The pumping station, which supplies 600-tons of irrigation water per minute to the Polder area and the area between the Polder and the Sea was completed in 1959. The Lesbeholden section of the Polder amounting to 5,542 acres is almost complete, apart from the inter-settlement road, which links the four settlements of the Project. This Polder will be functioning in time for 1960 Autumn rice crop. It is anticipated that the Project will be completed in early 1961.

- (c) The Torani Canal which is British Guiana's deepest and longest controlled waterway is 99% complete. The works

are operating, but at a limited efficiency due to blockages formed by the canal banks slipping intermittently into the waterway over a two-mile long section. Work began on removing the blockages in the 2 mile long section in October, 1959. The blockages are likely to be cleared by the middle of 1961 and will phase with the completion of the Black Bush Polder Project.

The Canal, designed to augment the natural available water supply of the Canje River in drought years, has made possible the development of some 75,000 acres of land within the Corentyne Drainage and Irrigation Scheme, of which the new Black Bush Polder Project is a part. The regulator structures at each end of this Canal are surely among the most interesting civil engineering structures to be seen in British Guiana. The steel gates are raised and lowered electrically at a touch of a button thus ensuring quick operation of the eight gates and the maximum possible discharge from the Berbice River into the Canje River. In addition to its main function as a supply of fresh water, it can work in reverse during periods of flood and can relieve the Canje River to a certain extent by discharging the flood water into the Berbice River. This controlled waterway was opened by His Excellency Sir Patrick Renison on 3rd April, 1958.

#### *Boerasirie Extension Project*

This project is designed to provide main water control facilities for the coastal area lying between the Essequibo and Demerara Rivers and of riverain lands lying between the mouths of the Bonasika and Kamuni Rivers and the Sea.

The area benefiting from the project amounts to 112,169 acres of which 54,272 acres were drained and irrigated prior to the inception of the project. Approximately 5,000 acres of land receive flood control benefits only from the Project whilst the remaining acreage receives either drainage only or both drainage and irrigation benefits. The Project has been substantially completed.

The works entailed a low dam 36 miles in length of average height of 6ft. which now forms a shallow water conservancy capable of storing 8,600 million cubic feet of water above dead storage level.

The relieving capacity of the project amounts to 21,000 cubic feet of water per second—3,000 of which is provided by three escape sluices which can draw down the conservancy to levels below full supply level whilst 18,000 is the relieving capacity of the 8,000 feet long weir which has its crest fixed at full supply level and discharges the amount stated when high flood level, which is 1 foot higher than the

crest of the weir, is attained. All of the relief sluices have functioned satisfactorily in 1959.

The 16 canal head regulators set in the conservancy dam have all functioned although not all for the purpose of supplying regular supplies of irrigation water owing to the fact that much of the new land commanded by the project has not been provided with internal drainage and irrigation systems by the private proprietors who own the majority of the land.

The works were designed by Drainage and Irrigation Department and the final cost of the project is now in the vicinity of 12 million dollars. The bulk of the works was executed by Messrs. Sir Lindsay Parkinson and Company, Ltd. in their five year contract with the Government.

#### *Tapacuma Project*

Sir William Halcrow and Partners, Consulting Engineers to the Drainage and Irrigation Department, have completed the investigation of the project and submitted in April the preliminary project report to Government together with an estimate of the cost of the scheme. Detailed plans and contract documents are being completed and should be available early in 1960 in order that a call for tenders may be made.

The area benefiting under Stage I of the Project is 35,396 gross acres extending from Zorg-en-Vlygt to Somerset Berks on the Esse-quiibo Coast of which 22,674 acres gross are partly commanded from the existing lake conservancies. Stage II of the project will benefit 15,000 new acres of land lying between the Somerset-Berks Canal and the mouth of the Pomeroun River.

The project will by means of low embankments and a dam across the Tapacuma River raise the retention level of the existing Tapacuma Conservancy by about 18 inches to 59 E.D. thus giving reasonable command of the area in dry periods.

For Stage I of the project two pumps each of 100 cubic feet per second capacity will be housed in a pumping station located on the Tapacuma River to supplement the conservancy in dry periods by pumping water from the Pomeroun Catchment Area into the Conservancy. Provision has been made to house two additional pumps each of 100 cubic feet per second capacity in the event of Stage II of the project being undertaken.

The project also allows for the improvement and extension of the main supply canal and regulator system for the area commanded under Stage I of the project, improvements to main drains of the area and the renovation and reconstruction of the sea sluice controls to these drains where necessary.

*Land of Canaan Relief Canal Project*

Design work on this project commenced in 1958 and was finalised in the year under review. The Project is designed to provide additional relief to the East Demerara Water Conservancy which at present has insufficient relieving capacity. The relief is designed to discharge 2,000 cubic feet per second. Documents for the excavation of the 100 ft. bed width canal were prepared early in the year and tenders have been invited for the excavation of this canal. It is hoped that work on the construction of the five gate reinforced concrete road bridge relief sluice will start in the middle of 1960. This road bridge sluice when completed, will be the largest ever to be constructed in the Colony.

*Mahaica—Mahaicony—Abary Project*

Investigation work commenced for Stage I planning of this project was accelerated during the year. Proposals entail the control of the Abary River commanding an area of 330,000 gross acres much of which is useless in wet years at present owing to the inability of the Abary River to discharge peak flood loads, which in consequence causes widespread flooding in its lower catchment area. The alignment of the dam which will control this river has now been fixed and site investigation work is proceeding along the alignment, in order that the dam may be finally designed.

The flood absorption of the reservoir and its corresponding relief weir will be designed to deal with a storm which exceeds the maximum recorded in a twenty year period by 25%. The relief weir with a fixed crest will be 9,000 feet long and will discharge into the Berbice River. The reduced catchment area of the lower Abary will thus permit adequate drainage without flood.

*Cadastral and Topographic Surveys*

In 1949, Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, was engaged by Government as a Consulting Engineer, to investigate and report on the Drainage and Irrigation problems of the Colony. After completing his investigation, Mr. Hutchinson advised that the annual recurrent flooding of the coastal lands could only be alleviated by the construction of flood control reservoirs in the upper reaches of the rivers and that piecemeal empoldering had served its purpose and should now be discontinued as this type of empoldering only tended to aggravate the flooding in the empoldered lands and to render the maintenance of existing empolder dams more difficult and expensive.

With this in view, Mr. Hutchinson submitted to Government reports on the Boerasirie, Tapacuma, Canje and the Mahaica Rivers. Unfortunately, his short stay did not permit him to report on the area

between the Mahaicony and Berbice Rivers, but before his departure he did put up a shadow project for this area.

After his departure, Mr. Gerald Lacey, Colonial Office adviser on Drainage and Irrigation matters, visited to review Mr. Hutchinson's Project reports and to report on their feasibility. Mr. Lacey agreed with Mr. Hutchinson's concept of solving the Colony's Drainage and Irrigation problems, but advised that any project on the Mahaicony, Berbice Area should be made to include the Mahaica area.

Cadastral and Topographic Surveys in the Mahaica to Berbice Area were initiated in 1956, and continued in 1957, 1958 and 1959. At the end of 1959, the Surveys of the Reservoir Area and for the alignment of canals and drains etc. were 95% completed, and will be carried to a finality in the coming year.

Surveyors were also attached to the Consulting Engineer throughout the year on work at the Black Bush Polder Project and on the Tapacuma Project investigations.

#### *Hydrological Surveys*

Discharge measurements of these three rivers were made at two points on each river from 1954 to the end of 1958 when they were discontinued. During 1959, a new station on the upper reaches of each of the Mahaica, Mahaicony and Abary Rivers was established and measurements taken.

#### *Minor Drainage and Irrigation Works*

A heavy programme of work valued at some 1.2 million dollars was scheduled by the Department to recondition and improve Drainage and Irrigation facilities throughout the declared areas of the Colony. The final programme falls far short of the figure, as a start could not be made on the larger schemes—draining of the Golden-Grove-Clonbrook backlands and the East Coast Demerara conservancy relief canal at Land of Canaan. The hold-up was due to legal requirements of land acquisition. The Department however was fully taxed and administrative and field staff had their busiest year since the formation of the Department in 1954.

On the Corentyne, the Crabwood Creek Cattle Pasture of 700 acres was improved by the excavation of a new drain. Construction commenced on an R.C. Sluice at Gibraltar to replace the existing greenheart structure. Late in the year work started in reconditioning the whole of the drainage and irrigation works in the Manchester-Lancaster area.

In the East Coast Demerara District, the improvements to the drainage and irrigation facilities for Craig were completed. An R.C. Sluice was started at Park, Mahaicony, to replace a condemned greenheart structure, and a major work was begun improving the drainage



and irrigation system for the Mahaicony/Abary drainage and irrigation area.

In the West Coast Demerara District, development works proceeded at Toevlugt, (under the Boerasirie Extension Project Scheme) and the long delayed work at North Klien Pouderoeyen was virtually completed with the construction of a main distributary and an R.C. Intake Sluice at the Windsor Forest Irrigation Canal. The dams of the La Jalousie irrigation canal were rebuilt in the pegasse section near the conservancy in order to augment the distribution of water to the Windsor Forest Canal.

On the Essequibo Coast the main work was completed for the Mainstay/Lima backlands development and improved distributary supply from Lima to Walton Hall.

#### *Agricultural Machinery Hire Pool*

For the benefit of farmers to develop their land and improve drainage and irrigation facilities in their estates, the Department operates an Agricultural Machinery Hire Pool. This Pool has at its disposal 16 draglines, 13 tractor-bulldozers and 14 centrifugal pumps as well as ancillary equipment, all of which have a total value of about \$750,000. The cost of operation of the Pool continues to be more than the revenue earned because in most cases full utilisation of the machines is not achieved as the demand is for work of minor nature from a number of farmers in scattered localities.

During the dry season last year, the pumps were in constant use and provided great assistance in helping farmers to minimize their loss of padi crops.

#### *Other Drainage and Irrigation Works*

The Drainage and Irrigation Board is responsible for the administration of 26 declared drainage and irrigation areas of the Colony covering altogether 127,720.51 acres. Officers of the Drainage and Irrigation Department are the Executive Officers of the Board which functions under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 192 of the Laws of British Guiana.

The maintenance of the declared areas is financed from rates collected from proprietors of the lands, and the rate per acre levied in each area, which varies from \$0.53 to \$26.31, is determined by dividing the estimated cost of maintenance charges (excluding administrative expenses such as salaries for Engineers and Overseers, stationery, etc.) by the number of acres comprising the area. The estimated expenditure in 1959 was \$372,089.67, and the average rate per acre assessed was \$6.00. All areas received Government grants which reduced their individual rates. A new system of rating is now under consideration by Government.

All drainage and irrigation works under the control of the Drainage and Irrigation Board were satisfactorily maintained and operated during 1959. During the year, reconditioning and improvement works entailing the construction of concrete and greenheart sluices and aqueducts, repairs to dams, redigging trenches, etc., were carried out.

Four areas, Den Amstel, Fyrish, Garden of Eden and Manarabisi Cattle Pasture, were declared drainage and irrigation areas in 1959. No rate was however assessed for these areas, as they were declared late in the year. The cost of maintaining these, was therefore met from public funds.

There were also two other areas, Vergenoegen/Bonasika and Potosi/Kamuni, which were declared previously but which were not assessed as the main works were not completed.

#### OTHER PUBLIC WORKS

##### *Buildings*

The total cost of building construction carried out by the Public Works Department during 1959 was approximately \$1,363,065. Of this amount \$596,793 represented expenditure on maintenance, \$244,602 expenditure on the non-recurrent vote, and \$521,670 on the Development Programme. These figures include works carried out on behalf of other departments, e.g. schools, hospitals, health centres, mortuaries, etc.

The following are some of the principal buildings completed during the year:

2 Blocks of Flats; 12 Houses; 2 Rural Post Offices; New Kitchen, New Amsterdam Hospital; Conversion of Barracks into Flats—Atkinson Field; New Work-shop, P.W.D. Yard, Kingston; New Administration Building, Vreed-en-hoop; Physiotherapy Clinic; Temporary Theatre—E.N.T. Department, Georgetown Hospital; Extension to Ministerial Building; Conversion of Labour Department into Teachers Training College and Teachers Training College into Labour Department.

The following principal works were in progress at the end of the year:

3 Cottage Hospitals; 17 Health Centres; 6 Mortuaries; 6 Primary Schools; 2 Rural Post Offices—at Tuschen and Fellowship; Laboratory and rock store for Geological Surveys; G.I.S. recording studio.

##### *Pure Water Supply for Rural Areas*

The total expenditure incurred during the year on pure water supplies was approximately \$614,663. Of this amount \$55,000 represented expenditure against the annually recurrent Estimates and

\$559,663 represented expenditure against the Development Estimates. The sum of \$18,000 was also spent on well drilling for private companies and individuals.

Producing water wells were completed at Cullen, Hague and Albion during the year while two test wells were drilled in the Queenstown/Affiance area one of which is being developed as a producing well. One deep test well was drilled nearby the site of the Water Works, Georgetown, for investigation of the lower aquifer; it will be handed over to the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners at whose expense it will be completed as a producing well.

Approximately 5.25 miles of 6 in. and 4.06 miles of 4 in. pipes were laid and 4.03 miles of 4 in. and 3 in. pipes were re-laid during the year.

Overhead tanks, sumps and pumps were completed and put into service at Pouderoyen, Vreed-en-Hoop, Vergenoegen, West Coast Demerara, and Palmyra, Corentyne, while tanks and pumps were erected at Best, West Coast Demerara, Onderneeming, Essequibo and La Bagatelle, Leguan. A water supply was installed at Hosororo, North West District.

The following works were in progress at the end of the year:

- Extension of distribution system at Wismar/Cristianburg;
- Erection of tanks, sumps and pumps at La Grange, West Bank Demerara and Danielstown, Essequibo;
- Tanks, sumps and wind-mills at Queenstown and Huis T'Dieren, Essequibo;
- Tanks and pumps at No. 1 Canal, West Bank Demerara.

#### *Sea and River Defences*

The Sea Defences of the Colony are divided into eight Declared Sea Defence Areas consisting of a total of 138.68 miles of earth embankments of varying sizes and protected from wave action in many places by reinforced concrete slabs, sandcrete slabs, grouted boulders, steel and timber sheet piles and 38.7 miles of natural sand ridges or dunes.

The River Defences maintained by Government consist of 17 miles of earth embankments along the banks of the Demerara, Mahaica and Berbice Rivers. Some 4 miles of earth embankments are protected by reinforced concrete slabs, sandcrete slabs, reinforced concrete and timber sheet piles.

During 1959, the cost of maintaining the Sea Defences was \$400,000 while the sum of \$28,500 was spent on the maintenance of River Defences.

New works and continuing works under the Development Programme were also carried out during the year involving expenditure of about \$1,100,000. These consist of:

- 2.7 miles of earth embankments

- 300 feet sandcrete walls
- 160 feet reinforced concrete wall
- 10,247 feet boulder protective walls
- 8,527 feet reinforced concrete wave-screen to prevent over-topping
- 175 feet existing wall refaced in reinforced concrete
- 2,903 feet boulder groynes
- 20,000 feet earth embankments reconditioned
  - 1 double 16 foot reinforced concrete sluice
  - 1 single 16 foot reinforced concrete sluice

During the year, erosion threatening the defences between Nabaclis and Annandale continued and large scale works involving the strengthening of the earthen dam, facing with grouted boulders, driving of timber toe piles and the construction of a reinforced concrete wave-screen were carried out over the greater part of the affected area.

In early December, emergency strengthening of the defences between Vigilance and Buxton sluices was necessitated following the lowering of the foreshore during the spring tides.

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES

##### *Electricity*

##### *Georgetown*

The Demerara Electric Company Limited supplies Georgetown and its environs with electric light and power. The plant consists of one 5,000 kw., one 3,500 kw., and three 1,250 kw. Fraser and Chalmers turbine-driven alternators with five steam boilers (three oil fuel and two wood fuel). In addition Government has provided and installed two 4,160 Volts/2,400 Volts 400 kw. 3 phase 50 cycles/500 kw 3 phase 60 cycles General Motors Diesel Mobile Units for use as a supplementary source of energy for Georgetown supply. Distribution is by overhead open wire—4,000 volts 3 phase 50 cycles primary and 230/115 volts single phase secondary. A 230 volts 3 phase supply is available for special requirements.

The average peak load is 9,560 kw., and the annual output 43 million kilowatt hours. There were 29,024 consumers in 1959.

The tariff during 1959 was as follows :

- (1) Lighting: 15 cents (7½ d.) per kw. hour.
- (2) Domestic lighting and heating: in blocks starting at 15 cents (7½ d.) reducing to 3 cents (1½ d.) per kw. hour.
- (3) Commercial light and power: 12½ cents (6¼ d.) per kw. hour for the first 100 kw. hours per month/kva connected load: 5 cents (2½ d.) per kw. hour for excess.

- (4) Industrial power: Demand charge \$1 (4s. 2d.) per month connected horse power.
- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1st block:       | 10 kw. hours per H.P.—free               |
| Next block:      | 200 kw. hours—6 cents (3d.) per kw. hour |
| Excess kw. hours | —4 cents (2d.) per kw. hour.             |

*New Amsterdam, Berbice*

Light and power for New Amsterdam are supplied by plant owned and operated by the Municipality consisting of 3—500 kw. diesel driven units. Distribution is by overhead open wire—2,300 volts 3 phase 60 cycles primary and 220/110 volts single phase secondary. A 200 volts 3 phase supply is available for special requirements.

The average peak load is 534 kw. and the annual output 2,310,040 kw. hours. There were 2,559 consumers in 1959.

The tariff during 1959 was as follows :

- |                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lighting—           | 25 cents (1s. 0½d.) per kw. hour. |
| Power (Commercial)— | 12 cents (6d.) per kw. hour.      |
| Power (Domestic)—   | 10 cents (5d.) per kw. hour.      |

*Bartica*

Light and power are supplied by the plant owned and operated by Messrs. Bookers Sugar Estates Limited. The plant consists of 2—69 kva., 1—60 kva. (rated higher), 1—80 kva., 1—75 kva., (out of commission) diesel driven alternators. Generation 440 volts 3 phase 50 cycles. Distribution 3,300 volts at (1) 220/120 volts 3 phase 4 wire and (2) 208/110 volts 3 phase 4 wire. Peak load was 100 kw. and output 466,819 kw. hours for 1959. Number of Consumers, 791.

The tariff during 1959 was as follows :

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Lighting:   | 18 cents (9d.) per kw. hour.  |
| Light and power (Domestic and Business)                                 | \$3 (12s. 6d.) per month for 20 kw. hours; excess at 12 cents (6d.) per kw. hour.     |
| Light and power (Domestic and Business exceeding 3 kw. connected load); | \$10 (£2. 1s. 8d.) per month for 75 kw. hours; excess at 10 cents (5d.) per kw. hour. |

*Mackenzie*

The power is distributed at 2,300 volts 3 phase 60 cycles primary and 220/110 volts single and 400 volts 3 phase secondary. The output for 1959 was 24,067,687 kw. hours.

The plant is owned and operated by the Demerara Bauxite Company Limited for private supply to their works, offices and residences.

*Atkinson Field*

A plant comprising 3,150 kw. diesel alternating sets is operated by the Public Works Department and supplies light and power for Atkinson Field and neighbouring villages.

The power is distributed at 2,400 volts 3 phase 60 cycles primary and 240/120 volts single phase and 208 volts 3 phase 4 wire earthed neutral secondary.

*Rural Electrification Scheme*

Work on this scheme was suspended in May, 1959. Operation of the Scheme is in abeyance on account of lack of funds to carry through the programme.

## *Chapter XI : Communications*

### SHIPPING

British Guiana is in direct communication by ship with the United Kingdom, France, Holland, Canada, the United States of America, The West Indies, Surinam and French Guiana. The principal lines calling at Georgetown, the capital, are the Saguenay Shipping Limited, the Booker Line, Harrison Line, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, the Alcoa Line and the Surinam Government Intercolonial Steamers plying between Surinam and British Guiana.

A number of schooners also ply between the West Indian Islands and British Guiana.

#### *Ports and Pilotage*

Georgetown Harbour, situated at the mouth of the Demerara River is about half a mile wide and two and one half miles long. The east bank of the river is lined with wharves built of greenheart. The controlling depth over the Demerara Bar is 9 feet M.L.W.S. The bar is approximately two miles to the north-east of the harbour entrance, and the mean range of tide is, Spring 9 feet—Neap 7 feet. The best anchorage in the harbour has a minimum depth of 24 feet, and the harbour bottom is of soft mud. Loading and discharging are carried out at privately owned wharves with ships' appliances.

Dry dock facilities are available in Georgetown for ships of shallow draft up to 200 feet long, and there are machine shop facilities for ship and engine repairs.

New Amsterdam Harbour is situated at the mouth of the Berbice River and is approximately three quarters of a mile wide and four miles long. There are wharves for coastal and small foreign going vessels. Controlling depth is 6 feet M.L.W.S. over the Berbice River Bar, situated approximately three miles seaward of the river entrance. Depths in the harbour are from 10 to 15 feet M.L.W.S.

Bauxite is loaded on ocean-going freighters at Mackenzie, 67 miles up the Demerara River and at Everton on the Berbice River, about 10 miles from the mouth of that river.

The Essequibo River has several timber loading berths with depths ranging from 20 feet to 40 feet, and the bar which is composed of hard mud and sand has a minimum depth of 9 feet M.L.W.S.

Springlands on the Corentyne River is the point of entry and departure of passengers travelling by launch services from Surinam. It is also a shipping point for rice, sugar and other produce from the Corentyne Coast to Georgetown.

The Transport and Harbours Department operates a compulsory pilotage service at Georgetown, New Amsterdam and the Essequibo River as far as the small town of Bartica.

The number of vessels on which light and tonnage dues were collected was as follows :

	<u>1958</u>			<u>1959</u>		
	No. of Vessels	Light (Tons)	Tonnage	No. of Vessels	Light (Tons)	Tonnage
Steam	885	5,717	4,748	954	1,618,392	1,309,064
	115	1,589,747	1,319,023	125	7,042	4,088
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,595,464</u>	<u>1,323,771</u>	<u>1,079</u>	<u>1,625,434</u>	<u>1,313,152</u>

The gross revenue collected in respect of pilotage, light and tonnage dues amounted to \$652,046 (£135,843) in 1959 as compared with \$655,318 (£136,525) in 1958.

#### *Internal Shipping Services*

The Transport and Harbours Department operated daily ferry services at regular intervals across the Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo Rivers. The ferry across the Essequibo River serves the Essequibo Coast and small islands in the estuary.

Transport and Harbours Department's coastal and river cargo/passenger vessels operated:—

- (a) A thrice weekly service between G'town, Parika, Fort Island and Bartica.
- (b) A twice weekly cargo service between G'town, the Essequibo islands and the Essequibo Coast.
- (c) A twice weekly cargo service between G'town and New Amsterdam.
- (d) A weekly service between G'town and the North West District.
- (e) A fortnightly service between G'town and Pickersgill in the Pomeroon River.
- (f) A weekly service between New Amsterdam and Ituni which is 110 miles up the Berbice River.
- (g) A weekly launch service between New Amsterdam and Kwakwani which is 136 miles up the Berbice River.
- (h) A weekly launch service between New Amsterdam and Ikuruwa which is 60 miles up the Canje River.

A commercial firm operated a thrice-weekly passenger/cargo service between Georgetown and Mackenzie (the Bauxite mining town) 67 miles up the Demerara River.



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Revenue statistics of traffic carried on Transport and Harbours Department Shipping Services are tabulated below:

	1958	(1959)
Passengers carried	3,549,583	3,459,271
Pcls. & Misc. items (carriage)	\$64,351	\$77,199
	£ 13,407)	(£ 16,083)
Goods Tonnage	91,669	90,555
Gross Receipts	\$1,221,416	\$1,244,408
	(£ 254,462)	(£ 259,252)

*Railways*

There are two single track railroads — one (60½ miles) connecting Georgetown on the right bank at the mouth of the Demerara River, with Rosignol on the west bank of the Berbice River opposite New Amsterdam; the other (18½ miles) connecting Vreed-en-Hoop on the left bank of the Demerara River, with Parika on the right bank of the Essequibo River.

Statistics of passengers and freight carried were as follows:

	East Coast Railway		West Coast Railway	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
Passengers carried	1,772,079	1,576,348	1,312,692	1,283,593
Pcls. & Misc. Receipts	\$ 140,552	\$ 126,040	\$ 21,180	\$ 25,497
(Carriage)	£ 29,275		£ 4,413	£ 25,497
Goods Tonnage	43,383	47,047	22,628	19,887
Gross Receipts	\$ 752,690	\$ 716,310	\$ 403,311	\$ 399,065
	£ 156,810		£ 84,023	£ 83,139
Goods Train Mileage	24,843	23,158	12,101	10,590
Passenger Trains Mileage	221,852	209,350	122,844	119,473

*Transport to Mining Areas in the Interior*

The Transport and Harbours Department operated interior road services from Bartica — which is at the confluence of the Essequibo and Mazaruni Rivers to

- (a) Tumatumari, Kangaruma and Potaro on the Potaro River 95, 109 and 108 miles respectively from Bartica.

(b) Issano on the Mazaruni River — 126 miles from Bartica.

An auxiliary launch and boat service owned by private enterprise, operated from Issano to the gold and mining areas up the Mazaruni River.

Private launches and boats carried tourists to the Kaieteur Falls, prospectors and cargo, to the gold and diamond areas, the upper Mazaruni and Potaro.

Revenue statistics of Transport and Harbours Department's Road Services were as follows:

	1958	1959
Passengers carried	6,628	5,910
Pcls., Misc., & special service	\$ 706	\$1,193.
Receipts (carriage)	(£ 147)	£ 249
Goods Tons	2,563	2,285
Gross Receipts . .	\$119,797	\$129,394
	(£24,956)	(£26,952)

#### *Improvements to Transport Services during the Year 1959*

Progress was made on development works. The biggest project in hand is the modernisation of the Demerara Ferry Service to be finished early in 1961.

On the 30th November, 1959, a modern ferry boat — m.v. "Makouria" — built to order on the Clyde, capable of carrying 1,100 passengers on the passenger deck with 25 cars, bicycles and hucksters' produce on the car deck, was placed on the Demerara Ferry. One class only passenger accommodation is provided and it can carry the heaviest type of commercial vehicles.

The keel of a sister ferry of identical design was laid on 18th June, 1959 at Colony Ship Building Yard, Georgetown, to be completed in 1960.

#### *Railways*

Track rehabilitation, improved condition of Stations and enhanced sanitary amenities were achieved.

#### *Harbour Services*

A consultant engaged by the United Nations Special Projects Fund visited British Guiana in August and September to examine the colony's seaboard, estuary bars, and ship channels.

A representative from the Hydraulics Research Station at Wallingford, England, also visited British Guiana in September, 1959 to look at Sea Defence Works, harbour and estuary bars.

A Harbour Station at Vreed-en-Hoop on the west side of Georgetown Harbour was completed in 1959. The Station has facili-

ties for berthing 2 dredgers and 4 Pilot Launches. Harbours stores and a maintenance workshop have been provided and radio tele-phones linking the Harbour Master's Office and Pilot Launches have been installed.

The export of Manganese Ore from the North West District of British Guiana is expected to commence in July, 1960. This is a new export industry involving the construction of a power station, a crushing, sorting and washing plant, 32 miles of 3 feet 6 inches gauge private railway and a shipping port on the Kaituma River at a point 65 miles from the coast. The ore will be carried to Trinidad for transshipment *via* the Kaituma and Barima Rivers and through Mora Passage to the seaboard at the Waini River approaches.

Planning for the improvement of existing navigation aids at the Waini River estuary and the erection of new lights marking the channel to Mora Passage were carried out during the year; the work will be undertaken in 1960.

#### *Roads and Vehicles*

The main highways of the Colony consist of approximately 305 miles of roads stretching along the coastal belt and 58 miles of branch roads leading to settlements.

About 102 miles of these roads are asphalt surfaced and the remainder are constructed of burnt clay, the latter being used in preference to stone for economic reasons.

The Bartica/Potaro Road system in the interior consists of 177 miles of natural soil surfaced road with wheel tracks of broken stone in areas where stone is obtainable near the road.

#### *Roads, Rivers and Trails*

540 miles of Public Roads comprising earth, sand, sand-clay, burnt earth and asphalted surfaces, were maintained during the year.

In addition, about 400 miles of trails, providing communication between air-strips, ranches and settlements, were maintained in the Rupununi Savannahs.

Under the Development Programme, the following works were done in connection with the road improvement schemes of the Colony:

- (i) Reconstruction of the East Bank Demerara Road continued.
- (ii) The geometric design of the Parika/Makouria Road completed.
- (iii) Preliminary surveys for the Potaro/Lethem Road continued.

- (iv) Reconstruction and realignment of the Bartica/Potaro Road continued.

Surveys, soil investigations and designs for the reconstruction of the East Coast Main Road were completed during the year by Messrs. Scott and Wilson, Kirkpatrick and Partners, Consulting Engineers.

Motor  
Vehicles

Comparative table showing the classification and total number of motor vehicles, including vehicles owned by Government and by the Municipalities, which were in operation during the years 1957—1959.

	Number of new vehicles registered in			
	1957	1958	1959	1959
Buses	87	101	118	18
Lorries	2,215	2,369	2,390	106
Vans	394	450	528	78
Private Cars	5,790	6,619	6,035	746
Hire Cars	1,357	1,372	1,386	29
Tank Waggons	28	32	45	2
Articulated vehicles	24	24	24	—
Construction vehicles	62	62	84	—
Station Waggons	147	198	276	60
Hearses	18	21	22	1
Tractors	2,064	2,596	3,546	419
Ambulances	—	—	17	3
Fire Engines	—	—	23	—
Motor Cycles	1,605	2,394	2,861	547
	13,791	16,238	17,355	—
Trailers	186	270	578	110
Total	13,977	16,508	17,933	—

Registration  
of New  
Vehicles

2,366 2,322 2,119

NOTE—The number of vehicles in operation includes vehicles not registered, but in use in remote areas of the Colony.

Revenue

The total amount of Revenue derived from Motor Vehicle Licences during the year was \$490,480.58 as compared with \$454,421.74 during 1958, an increase of \$36,058.84.

General Information. Approximately 24,500 Drivers' Licences were issued during the year.

Of the 2,119 Motor Vehicles registered during the year, 1,502 were of British Manufacture, 42 American, 7 Canadian, 1 French, 378 German, \* and 189 Italian \*.

\* mostly autocycles.

The following makes of Motor Vehicles (other than motor cycles) were registered during the year:—

Austin	Vauxhall	Willys
Chevrolet	Opel	Commer
Ford	Volkswagen	Scammel
Hillman	Triumph	Karrier
Humber	Mercedes-Benz	Wolseley
Morris	Osmobile	Bedford
Standard	Pontiac	
Rover	Cadillac	
DeSoto	Land Rover	

There were 42 different makes of motor cycles registered. The majority were light weight vehicles such as autocycles, scooters and mopeds.

#### AIR SERVICES

##### (a) *International*

At the end of the year the following international services operated into Atkinson Airport:

- (i) British West Indian Airways—daily flights to and from Trinidad using Vickers Viscount and Douglas DC—3 aircraft.
- (ii) Pan American World Airways—two return flights weekly from New York: one on to Paramaribo and the other on to Paramaribo, Cayenne and Belem: with Douglas DC—6B aircraft.
- (iii) K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines—two return flights weekly between Curacao (Netherlands Antilles) and Paramaribo using Douglas DC—6 aircraft.
- (iv) Air France—two return flights weekly between French West Indian Islands and Cayenne with Douglas DC—4 (C.54) aircraft.

- (v) Cruzeiro-do-Sul (Brazil)—one return flight weekly from Rio via Manaus and Boa Vista using Douglas DC—3 aircraft.
- (b) *Domestic*
- (a) British Guiana Airways (Government) with Douglas DC—3 and Grumman (G21A) aircraft operates internal scheduled services to:
- |        |                                       |   |                               |   |                   |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| (i)    | Rupununi District<br>(North Savannah) | — | Weekly                        | } | DC—3              |
| (ii)   | Rupununi District<br>(South Savannah) | — | Fortnightly                   |   |                   |
| (iii)  | Orinduik                              | — | Weekly                        |   |                   |
| (iv)   | Imbaimadai                            | — | Fortnightly                   |   |                   |
| (v)    | Bartica                               | — | Thrice<br>Weekly              | } | Grumman<br>(G21A) |
| (vi)   | Mazaruni District                     | — | Thrice<br>Weekly              |   |                   |
| (vii)  | North West District                   | — | Monthly                       |   |                   |
| (viii) | Mackenzie                             | — | 2 Flights<br>Thrice<br>Weekly |   |                   |
- (b) Fairey Air Survey Limited who were awarded a contract for the air photography of Western British Guiana operated again this year—during the last quarter—using DC-3 aircraft.
- (c) Private companies: Light Aircraft (Cessna and Piper) owned by local companies, are operated commercially and can be chartered for flights in the Colony.

### STATISTICS

Following are the particulars:

TABLE I

*Atkinson Airport*

Type of Movement	1958			1959		
	Landings	Take-offs	Total	Landings	Take-offs	Total
Scheduled Services ..	1022	1022	2044	1127	1127	2254
Non-Scheduled Services	924	923	1847	892	892	1784
Test/Training ..	74	74	148	278	278	556
Private ..	494	494	988	567	572	1139
Military (British & Foreign) ..	173	173	346	82	82	164
	2687	2686	5373	2946	2951	5897

TABLE II

*Georgetown (Water) Aerodrome*

<i>Type of Movement</i>	1958			1959		
	<i>Landings</i>	<i>Take-offs</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Landings</i>	<i>Take-offs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scheduled Services ..	317	317	634	529	529	1058
Non-Scheduled Services	681	681	1362	637	637	1274
Test/Training ..	30	30	60	46	46	92
Private ..	2	2	4	1	—	1
Military ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1030	1030	2060	1213	1212	2425

TABLE III

*Passenger Traffic at Atkinson Airport*

<i>Arrivals</i>		<i>Departures</i>		<i>Intransit</i>	
1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
12,671	13,173	13,493	14,051	10,789	10,920

TABLE IV

*Freight in tons exclusive of mail*

<i>Set Down</i>		<i>Pick Up</i>		<i>Intransit</i>	
1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
1060.2	1100.3	1951.8	1875.9	491.7	505.5

The percentage increase or decrease of the 1959 figures on those for 1958 is shown hereunder:

TABLE V

	<i>Percentage</i>	
	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
(a) <i>Atkinson Airport</i>		
Scheduled movements	10.3	
Non-Scheduled movements		3.4
Test/Training	275.7	
Private	15.3	
Military (British & Foreign)		52.6
(b) <i>Georgetown (Water)</i>		
Scheduled	66.9	
Non-Scheduled		6.6
Test/Training	53.3	
Private		75.0

(c) *Atkinson Airport*

Passengers: Arrival	4.0	
„ Departure	4.1	
„ Intransit	1.2	

(d) *Freight in tons (exclusive of mail)*

Set Down	3.8	
Picked Up		3.9
Intransit	2.8	

*British Guiana Airways*

British Guiana Airways, the Government-owned airline, continued to operate scheduled internal services with a fleet of three DC-3 and three Grumman (G21A) aircraft which were also available for charter locally. The Grumman Goose Amphibious aircraft which had been made available to the St. Vincent Government on a contract basis to provide scheduled services from that island to others in the Windwards and Leewards was withdrawn from the service during 1959.

*Aerodromes*

Atkinson (International) Airport, 28 miles from Georgetown and the principal port of entry to the Colony, continued to provide on a 24-hour basis air traffic control services, aeronautical telecommunications and radio navigational aids. Atkinson is also the Rescue Co-ordinating Centre for British Guiana, Surinam and Cayenne. Customs and Immigration facilities, full refuelling (including jet turbine) and limited repair services are available. A simple approach lighting system will shortly be installed at Atkinson Airport.

On 5th August, 1959, the Atkinson Airport Terminal Building was completely destroyed by fire but with the co-operation of the Airline Companies and International Aeradio (Caribbean) Limited, the Airport continued to function without interruption. Air traffic control is now exercised from a reactivated United States Air Force Control Tower. The disused United States Air Force Terminal Building on the south side of the aerodrome is being renovated and modified, and it is hoped that this will be put into use as the Airport Terminal early in 1960.

*Aerodrome Fire Service*

The Aerodrome Fire Service at Atkinson Airport was strengthened by the addition of a new dual-purpose Fire-fighting appliance capable of discharging either 2,500 gallons of foam a



minute (with a total capacity of 8,000 gallons) or pumping 400 gallons of water a minute. With this new appliance the fire cover at Atkinson is just below the minimum recommended for an international airport of this class. A new Water Tender, expected to arrive in the Colony shortly, will give a small margin over present minimum fire cover requirements.

#### *Georgetown Aerodrome (Water)*

The operations of British Guiana Airways Grumman amphibious aircraft from "The Ramp" at Ruimveldt on the right bank of the Demerara River were seriously impaired and almost brought to a standstill, as pile-driving for the construction of a bulk-sugar loading installation in the deep water channel of the river adjacent to the Ramp progressed. Plans have been made for the construction of an angled slipway from the Ramp to allow the aircraft to clear the obstruction caused by the piles and thereby ensure that operations continue at least for some time to come. It is hoped that work will commence in early 1960 on the construction near the city of a land aerodrome capable of accommodating all the aircraft operated by B.G. Airways and which will eventually replace the Georgetown Water Aerodrome as the base for Grumman operations.

#### *Interior Aerodromes*

Funds are being made available in 1960 for the purchase of two aircraft for the Civil Aviation Department and the inspection of interior aerodromes will then become a more regular and frequent feature of the Department's activities.

The Kamarang airstrip is nearing completion and will be ready for use early in 1960.

#### *Aeronautical Telecommunications*

The operation and maintenance of the air to ground telecommunication service, the point to point services between Atkinson-Trinidad to Atkinson—Surinam—Belem as well as of the navigational beacon at Atkinson Field continued to be carried out under contract by International Aeradio (Caribbean) Limited.

#### *Meteorological Services*

Forecasts continued to be made by the Main Meteorological Office in Trinidad. Weather observations are made hourly at Atkinson Airport, and reports sent by radio to Piarco, Trinidad and Zanderij, Surinam. Pilot balloon ascents are also conducted.

#### *Accidents*

There were five (5) aircraft accidents in 1959. In two cases the aircraft concerned were United States registered—one, a Cessna 310 on a demonstration tour and the other a DC-3 of the United States

Air Force engaged on a Geodetic Survey operation in the Colony. The third mishap occurred when a B.G. Airways DC-3 ran off the runway at Lethem on landing; the fourth, when an Auster Agricola of Bookers Sugar Estates, which was engaged in crop-dusting operations, swerved off the runway during a take-off which was discontinued; and the fifth when a person was injured by the turning propeller of a Piper Tri-Pacer aircraft engaged in providing pleasure flights to the public. The only other accident which resulted in any injury to person was the U.S.A.F. DC-3 aircraft, the pilot of which suffered slight injury.

#### *Light Aircraft Flying*

There has been a marked revival in the activities of the Demerara Light Aeroplane Club, which was dormant during 1958 because it had no airworthy aircraft. The two light aircraft on the Club's register during 1959, were responsible for the revival. During the year 10 Student Pilot's Licences were issued.

Considerable agricultural flying continued to be carried out by Bookers Sugar Estates Limited who operated three aircraft.

Guiana Air Limited, a local Company engaged in private charter operations, has attracted much interest in executive flying by introducing two new Cessna aircraft for their operations. Two other local parties who operate light aircraft are interested in operating commercially in the charter field. There was also a considerable amount of light aircraft flying done in the Interior by missionary groups and private prospectors.

#### *General*

It is to be noted that the statistics for Atkinson Airport represent the operations of the international carriers and those of B.G. Airways DC-3 aircraft: while the statistics for Georgetown Water Aerodrome represent exclusively the operations of B.G. Airways Grumman aircraft. Most of the operations of light aircraft both on charter and private flying are not accounted for in the figures for these two aerodromes, since these operations normally originate and terminate at a private aerodrome (Ogle) where these aircraft are based, and for which no movement figures are available. In spite of this, the statistics indicate that the upward trend in general activity in the field of aviation continued in 1959. If the operations of light aircraft from Ogle aerodrome were taken into account, the increase in activity could be considered to be substantial.

#### POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Post Office Department operates the Postal, Telephone, Telegraph and Inland Radio Communications Services. Information

relating to the operations of the Post Office Savings Bank during the year under review is given in Chapter IV.

In 1959, the Administration of the Post Office Department passed from the Postmaster General to a Director of Posts and Telecommunications—a post to which Mr. E. E. Cassell, former Postmaster General, Malaya, was appointed with effect from May 7, 1959. The Department's establishment during the year consisted, in addition to the Director, of a Postmaster General—a post substituted for that of Deputy Postmaster General—an Assistant Postmaster General and a staff comprising 467 officers. There were also an Engineer-in-Chief in charge of the Telecommunications Branch and a Telecommunications staff of 277 while the Electrical Branch which also falls under the supervision of the Engineer-in-Chief carried a staff of 42. These figures do not include Postal Agents and casual employees.

From 4th to 16th December, 1959, certain sections of the Department's manipulative staff joined other Government employees in a strike for increased salaries and wages. During this period every effort was made by the Administration to keep public inconvenience to the minimum.

#### POSTAL SERVICES

##### *Post Offices and Postal Agencies*

The total number of Post Offices, Travelling Post Offices and Postal Agencies maintained during the year remained at 135 made up as follows:

Post Offices (full service)	50
Postal Agencies	67
Travelling Post Offices	7
Travelling Postal Agencies	11
Total	135

##### *Inland Mail*

Surface mail was transported by rail and water services of the Transport and Harbours Department and in areas where these services were not available, by motor transport operated by this Department, and in a few cases by private contractors.

Air Mail services with the Rupununi, Mazaruni, Bartica, Mackenzie and North West Districts were operated by British Guiana Airways (Govt.).

##### *Overseas Mail*

12,599 bags were received by surface mail in 1959 as against 12,578 in the previous year. 2,556 bags of outgoing mail were despatched as compared with 2,616 in 1958.

Air Mail traffic continued to increase. During the year approximately 6,036,170 air mail packets were handled as against 5,106,350 in 1958.

*Parcel Post*

The total number of parcels and challenged packets handled during 1959 was 146,955—a decrease of 6,412 on the 1958 total of 153,367. Particulars are as follows:—

	1958	1959
Local	32,228	25,279
Overseas Surface (out)	15,890	14,912
Overseas Surface (in)	64,120	59,796
Overseas Air (out)	3,982	4,075
Overseas Air (in)	6,009	7,260
Challenged Packets	31,138	35,633
	153,367	<u>146,955</u>

*Money and Postal Orders*

Money orders to the value of \$6,464,828 (£ 1,346,839) were issued and \$6,567,015 (£ 1,368,128) paid during the year. These figures represent increases of \$215,526 (£ 44,901) and \$20,387 (£ 4,247) respectively over money orders issued and paid respectively in 1958.

British Postal Orders issued by Post Offices throughout the Colony during 1959 numbered 69,017 valued at \$345,021 (£ 71,879) as against 78,014 valued at \$298,847 (£ 62,260) in the previous year. The number of orders cashed was 71,879 valued at \$602,988 (£ 125,623) as compared with 60,462 valued at \$518,878 (£ 108,100) in 1958.

Inland Postal Orders issued during 1959 amounted to 142,939 valued at \$866,355 (£ 180,491) as compared with 142,693 valued at \$717,871 (£ 149,556) in 1958. Orders paid during the year numbered 138,458 valued at \$822,752 (£ 171,407) as against 141,461 valued at \$705,477 (£ 146,974) in the previous year.

*Postage and Revenue Stamps*

As from 30th September, 1959, King George VI (Ordinary) Stamps and Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Stamps were demonetized and as from that date the use of these stamps for Postage and Revenue purposes was discontinued.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

*General*

The inland public telegraph and radio communication services are operated and maintained by the Telecommunications Branch of

the Post Office Department under the immediate control of the Engineer-in-Chief.

#### *Telephones*

There were 5,346 telephones in use in 1959, as compared with 5,178 in 1958. 189 sub-exchanges, call offices and private branch exchanges were in operation during the year. The number of route miles in the coastal area remained at 340 miles.

#### *Telegraphs*

36 land-line stations were maintained at Post Offices in the Coastal area. 5 Post Office Department wireless telegraph stations were maintained in the interior providing communication with the coastal area through a central telegraph office in Georgetown. The number of telegrams transmitted amounted to 159,912 to the value of \$113,435 (£23,632) in 1959 as against 244,519 to the value of \$128,538 (£26,779) in 1958.

Overseas telegraphic communication was provided by Messrs. Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd.

#### *Radio Telephones*

In Georgetown, a central radio station provided facilities for radio telephone communication with 6 branch offices (5 operated in combination with the wireless telegraph stations mentioned above), 7 stations operated by other Government Departments, 34 stations operated by private concerns (including mining, ranching, timber and other commercial interests) and 9 coastal ships and launches. This system is linked with the telephone system and is available to the general public.

Overseas radio-telephone service was provided through the facilities of Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd., in association with the Post Office telephone system.

#### *Aeronautical Radio*

Communication and radio beacon services at Atkinson Field were maintained and operated by International Aeradio (Caribbean) Ltd., as Agents of the Government.

British Guiana Airways (Government) maintained a number of radio stations in connection with its flight operations in the Colony.

A non-directional radio beacon service controlled by the Department of Civil Aviation and operated and maintained by the Post Office Telecommunications was operated at Lethem during daylight hours.

#### *Electrical Branch*

The Electrical Branch of the Department carried out inspections and certification of electrical installations in all types of buildings

to ensure public safety. The number of installations inspected was 13,004 as against 12,277 in 1958. The Branch was also responsible for the operation and maintenance of all Government-owned lighting plants and also for the installation and maintenance of electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances in all Government Departments.

The estimated cash deficit of the Posts and Telecommunications Department amounted to \$1,035,448 (£215,718) in 1959 as compared with the revised amount of \$822,872 (£171,432) in the previous year. This amount, however, does not take into consideration "free services" to the estimated value of \$667,092 (£138,978) rendered other Government Departments during the year, nor does it include \$19,450 (£4,052) paid to certain categories of employees during December, 1959, as advances against revision of wages.

#### *Improvement of Telecommunications*

The programme of rehabilitation and expansion of the entire system continued during 1959. At the end of the year \$7,324,481 (£1,525,934) had been spent on the programme and the construction of the new Georgetown automatic exchange virtually completed. No progress was made in the construction of the New Amsterdam Exchange building. Laying of underground asbestos cement ducts in Georgetown was completed and nearly all cables drawn in and jointed. Small automatic exchanges were put into service at Atkinson and Bartica. In the rural areas more buildings to house small exchanges were completed.

## *Chapter XII: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services*

### PRESS

Dailies	..	..	The Daily Argosy, the Daily Chronicle, the Guiana Graphic, Wisdom and Justice and the Evening Post. A fortnightly "Mail Edition" of the Chronicle is also issued.
Weeklies	..	..	The Official Gazette, the Labour Advocate, the Thunder, the New Nation, Independence, the Sunday Times and the Catholic Standard.
Fortnightly	..	..	The British Guiana Bulletin (Organ of the Government Information Services), Booker News, the Catholic Standard Newspaper.
Monthly	..	..	The Commercial Review, the Diocesan Magazine, Q.C. Lictor, B.G. Sugar.
Quarterly	..	..	The Guiana Times, the Catholic Standard Magazine.
Half-Yearly	..	..	Kykoveral, the Farm Journal.
Annuals	..	..	Timehri, the British Guiana Medical Annual, the Police Magazine, Chronicle Christmas Annual, B.H.S. Journal, Q.C. Annual, St. Stanislaus Magazine.

### *Broadcasting Services*

Broadcasting Services were operated by the British Guiana United Broadcasting Company, Limited under the designations Radio Demerara and Station B.G.B.S. (British Guiana Broadcasting Service).

The operations of the Company were governed by an agreement executed in 1950 between the Company and Government under which the former was granted a 15-year franchise. Two Government nominees served on the Company's Board of Directors as provided in the agreement.

The Company derived revenue from commercial programmes and announcements and in addition received \$30,000 from the licence revenue collected by Government on broadcast receiving sets. 1959 however, was the last year the Company would receive any licence revenue. In 1958, 30,416 such licences to the value of \$45,624 (£9,505) were issued as compared with 29,146 to the value of \$43,719.00 (£9,108).

The Company's broadcasts on Radio Demerara were transmitted on two wave lengths simultaneously using a 2 Kw. output transmitter on 5981 kc/s and 32.55 kc/s and a 10 Kw. transmitter on 660 kc.s (455 metres). The hours of broadcasting on weekdays were 5.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 49 metres; 4.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. (12.00 midnight on Saturdays) on 90 metres and 5.30 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. (12.00 midnight on Saturdays) on 455 metres; On Sunday 6.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on 49 metres, 4.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. on 90 metres and 6.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. on 455 metres.

B.G.B.S. operated a 10 Kw. transmitter on 560 kc/s (536 metres). The hours of broadcasting on weekdays were 6.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m. and 4.00—10.30 p.m.; on Sundays 7.00 a.m.—10.30 p.m.

British Broadcasting Corporation relays and transcriptions took up 14 and 13 hours respectively each week.

#### *Government Information Services, 1959*

The Government Information Services maintained channels of communication between the administration and the public using the media of press, broadcasting, films and photographs to publicise Government's policies as well as successful examples of self-help, co-operative endeavour and community development which were evident throughout the territory.

#### *History and Culture Week*

As in the previous year, Guianese History and Culture Week was again observed in October 1959, the slogan being "One people, one nation, one destiny", and the theme "One Hundred Years Ago".

#### *Press Division*

The most significant development on the side of press liaison during the year was the regular weekly press conference by Dr. Jagan, Minister of Trade and Industry, in which questions ranging over the broad field of Government were discussed. These and other Ministerial press conferences were arranged by the division and were attended by reporters of the daily press and the radio and by "stringers" for overseas news agencies.



*Broadcasting General*

Increasing resort was had by Ministries to the medium of radio for the explanation and defence of Government's policy especially as this medium alone reached the rural audience regularly and continuously.

By far the most important development in radio during the year was the establishment by the British Guiana United Broadcasting Company of a second radio station — the British Guiana Broadcasting Service. The aim of this station was to provide radio fare of a different type to that provided on "Radio Demerara" under the pressures of commercial sponsorship.

During the year construction of a Government Recording Studio on a site at D'Urban Park was begun. The cost is being met partly by a C.D. & W. grant and partly by Government funds. Completion of this project, scheduled for September 1960, will allow the Department to record its own programmes.

*Broadcasts to Schools*

The third of a series of county SEMINARS ON BROADCASTS TO SCHOOLS (introduced early in 1958) was held at the Anna Regina Government School on Tuesday, February 17, 1959, when some 80 teachers from the Essequibo Coast and Essequibo Islands attended the three sessions of the day. The purpose of the seminar was to provide a short intensive study of the techniques used in the production and presentation of the service, and to enlarge the scope of teacher-participation.

With the co-operation of the Department of Education and with a view to widening teacher-participation in the service, the Unit continued the scheme (begun in 1956) of training batches (two at a time for a period of six months) of Primary School Teachers in microphone and other broadcasting techniques. From the beginning of the year, also, a qualified teacher was seconded to the Government Information Services as Assistant to the Schools Broadcasts Organiser.

In addition to two series scheduled for Secondary Schools, special Saturday evening broadcasts were arranged (for the benefit of organised listening groups).

*B.G. Representation at London Radio Conference*

British Guiana was among the 20 territories represented at the Conference on Radio Education arranged by the Colonial Office in conjunction with the British Broadcasting Corporation. The Radio Conference, the first of its kind ever held for people participating in

School Broadcasting in Overseas Territories was held in London in July 1959.

### *Field Service*

The operations of the Field Service during 1959 were highlighted by a number of special assignments. These included the explanation of two major policy decisions of Government, coverage of the official visit to Nickerie by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, and publicity exercises supporting the Department of Agriculture's policy of crop diversification.

The District Information Officers maintained their weekly despatch of material to Headquarters comprising stories, newscasts, photographic negatives and tape recordings for use in the G.I.S. Bulletin, the newspapers and the G.I.S. radio programmes.

While on vacation leave during the year, the Information Officer (Field) attended with 25 other overseas officers a course in Community Development and Adult Education conducted at the Institute of Education of the University of London.

### *Visuals*

Early in the new year, the Films Officer who a few months before had returned to the Department from an audio-visual leadership training course at Indiana University, made a country-wide survey of film needs at the district level. The Films Officer also took the opportunity during these visits to discuss and explain to Government extension officers the value of visual aids in their work. This survey became the basis of the film making programme.

### *Films*

Three films were completed during the year. They were (1) "Mackenzie — The Bauxite City" portraying the life of that mining town; (2) "People With A Future"; and (3) "Education for Progress" portraying aspects of social development among Amerindians in the North West and Upper Mazaruni districts. Two other films on fish cultivation and the work of a self help group were also shot and were being processed at year end. Preliminary work was also done on films on poultry rearing and cocoa propagation.

At year end the Division successfully carried out an experiment in which a newsreel sequence on the arrival of the new Governor Sir Ralph Grey was filmed, processed and made available for showing with sound track the same evening.

## Chapter XIII : Local Forces

### *The British Guiana Volunteer Force*

*General:* Volunteer Forces have existed in the Colony since 1878. The present Volunteer Force was established on the 14th June, 1948, under Ordinance No. 20 of 1948, which provided for a maximum strength of six hundred officers and men, exclusive of any troops which might from time to time be seconded or attached to the Force from any other Corps or regiment. The Force has been organised on the lines of a Territorial Infantry Battalion, comprising Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Company and five Rifle Companies, of which one is stationed at New Amsterdam and one at Mackenzie.

*Command.* From the date of its formation in June, 1948, to the 11th of July, 1957, the Force was administered at two levels, *viz:*

- (i) By the Commissioner of Police who, in his capacity of Commandant Local Forces, was responsible for the operation of the department, and
- (ii) By the Commanding Officer who was responsible for training, discipline, recruiting, etc.,

With the enactment of the Volunteer (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 33 of 1957, the dual responsibility of the Commissioner of Police for command of The British Guiana Volunteer Force as well as of the Police Force, was brought to an end, and the Volunteer Force became an independent entity under its own Commanding Officer.

*Staff.* A permanent Staff, comprising a Staff Officer, with the rank of Major, six Warrant Officers and nine other personnel, is provided for the general administration of the Force.

*Recruiting:* Initially, recruits were drawn largely from ex-servicemen of the South Caribbean Force who served with the British Guiana Battalion during the Second World War. In succeeding years, recruitment has been based on selection by a Selection Board in the first instance, and thereafter on a period of probationary training prior to attestation. There is always a waiting list of young men eager to enlist. Service is for a period of three years in the first instance, renewable for any period up to three years thereafter.

Officers were at first selected on the basis of war service, but are now provided partly by promotion from the ranks and partly by selection from members of the public with previous military training and experience.

*Training.* Training is divided into two annual periods, namely, January to June, and September to November. The first training

period is generally devoted to ceremonials and consists of one drill of one hour per week for trained men, recruits and officers and N.C.O. cadres. During the second training period, emphasis is placed on the annual training camp.

*Colours.* The Force possesses both the Regimental and Queen's Colours. The former was presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, during 1951, and the latter by Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, during Her Royal Highness' visit to British Guiana in May, 1958.

*Ceremonials.* The parade to celebrate the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen did not take place during 1959 owing to rain. The Force, however, took part in the Remembrance Day Parade, and provided Guards of Honour for the opening of the Third Session of the Legislative Council on Tuesday, 15th December, and for the swearing-in ceremony of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Ralph Grey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., on Tuesday, 22nd December.

*Alliance.* During the year, Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve of an Alliance between the Worcestershire Regiment and the Force, which was promulgated in War Office Army Order No. 58 of 1959.

*Camp.* The Annual Training Camp is usually held in September of each year at Haywood Camp. This Camp was constructed during 1955 at Tacama, Berbice, by members of the Force, and is named after Lt. Colonel E. J. Haywood, O.B.E., T.D., who commanded the Force from its formation in 1948 to August 1955.

The Camp consists of some twenty buildings providing barrack accommodation for the Battalion along with Stores, Offices, Messes, etc.

The site is approximately 100 miles up the Berbice River and 5 miles inland from the River on broad rolling savannahs which provide excellent ground for all phases of Infantry Training.

In 1959, Camp was held in February instead of September.

## *Chapter XIV : General*

### *The British Council*

During 1959 the pattern of the Council's activities continued to be varied, although special emphasis was again given to education, including adult education, the exchange of persons and broadcasting.

The programme of rural courses in such subjects as Local and Parliamentary Government, described in previous reports, completed its third year, by which time over one hundred courses had been conducted. The Council became also increasingly associated with other agencies in conducting courses and seminars. The Adult Education Association arranged two training courses for workers in adult education, and symposia on 'Adult Education and Radio' and 'Trade Union Education'. The Association co-operated with the Technical Institute and the University College Extra-Mural Department in conducting an appreciation course on 'Modern Management'. Two seminars based on the Council's study box 'Voluntary Action and Social Progress' were arranged for Government officers by the Community Development Division. The Council was actively involved at all stages of these projects.

Books assumed more prominence than in previous years. An exhibition of about two thousand recent British books was held in the Public Library Georgetown on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary celebrations. The political science and drama sections of the Council's library were extended and a new section of books dealing with the teaching of English and other school subjects and with the selection of pupils for secondary education was added. The open hours were extended and there was an increase in membership and use of the library. Books and periodicals were also presented to a wide range of societies and organisations, and particularly to independent secondary schools.

Bursaries were awarded to a member of the Theatre Guild, who attended one of the British Drama League summer schools, to two members of the B.G. Cooperative Union Ltd., to a voluntary lady welfare worker and again to a machine-shop engineer. Professional programmes of observation were also arranged for eight visitors to Britain. The induction courses for students proceeding to British Universities and Colleges were again arranged.

There was one British Council specialist lecturer, Mr. Graham Suter, who spent five months in British Guiana. During this time he served as adjudicator at the first National Drama Festival, conducted eight training courses embracing 275 students, recorded a series of ten school broadcasts on Shakespeare and produced a programme of excerpts from the plays of Shakespeare and Shaw.

Three radio programmes were presented each week. On Sundays a programme of recorded classical music by international orchestras and soloists was Broadcast. The other two programmes, the one mainly literary and the other of a general educational nature, frequently took the form of discussions. The value of the programme 'Talking about Books', for example, was as much in the examples of free and informed discussion which it offered as in the information about new books.

Two photographic exhibitions, 'Westminster Abbey Monuments' and 'English Handwriting', were displayed in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Mackenzie and on a number of sugar estates.

*Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies*

The Resident Tutor, Mr. Harold S. Blackmore, arrived in British Guiana from New Zealand on February 14, 1959 and left on April 30 of the same year. He was succeeded by Dr. Bertram Collins of British Guiana who arrived here on May 1 on transfer from his post as Resident Tutor in the Leeward Islands.

Evening classes were conducted in the following subjects: English, Conversational Spanish, Public Speaking, Practical Art, Economic Analysis, Planning the Contemporary Home and Italic Handwriting. The policy of preparing students for the G.C.E. Examination was discontinued, though 26 students previously enrolled for this were allowed to take the examination in June.

The Resident Tutor conducted a week-end course in "Human Relations in Industry" at Mackenzie in November. Plans were drawn up for reviving activities of the Mackenzie Adult Education Council during the year.

85 Guianese students applied for entry to the U.C.W.I., 60 of whom took the scholarship examination in February. 37 entered the College in October. Of this number 8 were winners of scholarships or exhibitions. It is to be noted that Guianese won 4 of the 8 Open Scholarships offered by the College.

Visitors to the Extra Mural Department from abroad including staff members of the U.C.W.I. were:

Dr. Carleen O'Loughlin	Research Fellow, ISER, UCWI.
Mrs. Lucille Mathurin	Warden, Mary Seacole Hall, UCWI.
Dr. Douglas Manley	Lecturer, Dept. of Education, UCWI.
Dr. Z. M. Konasiewiz	Lecturer, Chemical Technology, UCWI.
Dr. R. B. Davison	Lecturer, Dept. of Economics, UCWI.
Mr. Aston Preston	Bursar, UCWI.
Dr. Francis Mark	Lecturer, Dept. of Economics, UCWI.
Mr. Peter Newman	do.

Inter-viewing Team	Dr. W. R. Chan	— Lecturer, Dept. of Chemistry, UCWI.
	Dr. Ronald Read	— Lecturer, Dept. of Mathematics, UCWI.
	Dr. Sydney Patrick	— Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry, UCWI.
	Mr. W. S. James	— Lecturer, Dept. of Education, Bristol University.
	Prof. B. C. Roberts	— Reader, Industrial Relations London School of Economics.
	Mr. Gower Markle	— Director of Education and Welfare, United Steel Workers of America.
	Rev. Patrick Malone	— President, St. Mary's University, Halifax.
	Mr. Dudley Seers	— United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America.
	Dr. Cyril Houle	— Professor of Adult Education, University of Chicago.
	Mr. Kenneth Holley	— Director, Public and Business Administration Course.
	Mr. Gordon Merrill	— Associate Professor, Carleton College.

Public lectures were sponsored by the Department in Georgetown at the Public Library, the Extra-Mural Department, the Town Hall, Bishops' High School, and Queen's College, and in New Amsterdam and Mackenzie.

#### *Resident Tutors' Conference*

In the first week of September 1959, the first Resident Tutors' Conference to be held outside the College took place. The Conference was declared open in the British Guiana Legislative Council Chamber by the Hon. Balram Singh Rai, Minister of Education and Community Development. Private sessions were held in the Town Council Chamber. For this Conference, Resident Tutors came from Trinidad, Barbados, Grenada, Antigua and Jamaica, together with Staff Tutors in Industrial Relations, Radio Education, Social Work and Drama. The Conference was presided over by Dr. Rawle Farley, Acting Director of Extra-Mural Studies and Dr. Cyril Houle, Professor of Adult Education at the University of Chicago attended all meetings as specialist Consultant.

#### *Visit of Dr. Arthur Lewis*

In November 1959, Professor Arthur Lewis, Principal of the University College of the West Indies came to British Guiana to hold talks with the B.G. Government about the future of the College. Dr. Lewis gave a public address at the Georgetown Town Hall in which he spoke of developments at the U.C.W.I., and appealed for moral and added financial support.

### *Cultural Activities—The Theatre*

In the field of dramatics, the major event was the first National Festival of Drama organised by the Theatre Guild of British Guiana to encourage dramatic production by amateur groups.

The Festival in which 44 dramatic groups took part was held in June under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Renison. The groups who entered went through preliminary adjudicators in six centres in various parts of the country. The finals were held in Georgetown under the Adjudication of Mr. Graham Suter, actor producer and Member of the Guild of Drama Producers in the United Kingdom. Six selective plays were performed in a contest for four trophies.

During the period April to August, Mr. Graham Suter conducted a series of training courses in various parts of the country for producers of dramatic groups under the sponsorship of the British Council and the Theatre Guild.

The festival gave amateur theatre groups in the towns and villages an opportunity of assessing their own standard of work by seeing other groups perform and by hearing constructive criticism from experienced judges. It provided not only entertainment but also education in dramatic appreciation for the audiences.

The prize of the Theatre Guild Cup was awarded to one of the country's new dramatic groups, "The Demerara Foundry Dramatic Group 'A'", which emerged champion out of the 31 groups taking part.

The Theatre Guild in cooperation with Radio Demerara sponsored a Radio-Play competition for which prizes were presented by Radio Demerara. Thirteen one-act plays were submitted. Several of the prize winning plays are being adapted for stage presentation.

The Sugar Estates' Drama Festival, which was held in October, created wide interest in all sections of the Sugar Estate communities. Thirty-five groups entered and performed from a choice of three plays.

In July a fund-raising committee was appointed by the Theatre Guild to secure the sum of twenty-thousand dollars for the establishment of a national theatre "The Playhouse" and had by year end, ensured collection of more than half of the required sum.

### *Literary Activities*

During the year literary activities in British Guiana continued to increase.

The several periodicals, literary and semi-literary, cyclostyled and printed, were published with the usual unfailing regularity. These were mainly:—

The Queen's College Magazine (printed)



The B.H.S. Magazine (printed)  
The St. Stanislaus Magazine (printed)  
Timehri (printed)  
Kyk-over-al (printed)  
The Pen Number (cyclostyled)

Several clubs and youth organisations also published periodicals, e.g. "Youth Review", published monthly by the Catholic Youth Organisation.

### *The Rambler*

Early in the year a group of young civil servants at the British Guiana Treasury came together and formed a literary and debating society, which began, in August, to publish regularly a cyclostyled magazine, "The Rambler". This journal consisted mainly of short stories, factual articles and book reviews, and was sold to members and friends at a nominal fee.

### *Other publications*

Perhaps the most important of the occasional publications was "Laugh With Sam Chase", a hundred-page book published by British Guiana's leading comedian. The 50 stories used in the book were culled from various sources and adapted into dialect for radio by Mr. Chase, who used them in his daily radio programme "The Sam Chase Show" which had been broadcast during 1958.

### *Book Reviews*

During the year books reviewed in the press were more often of local rather than foreign origin.

The *Guiana Graphic*, one of the country's three dailies, started the trend with a weekly column written by a Guianese reviewer. The British Council Book Review programme also continued its radio discussion of books from the Guianese point of view.

### *Guiana Week Literary Competition*

In order to collect and preserve the many fascinating legends and folk talks of Guiana which have been passed by word of mouth from one generation to another, and to stimulate the writing down of stories in the Amerindian tradition and others which have their origin in Africa and India, the Guianese History and Culture Week Committee sponsored in August the first all-Guianese literary competition. Writers were allowed to choose from a wide variety of subjects, and a total of \$350.00 was offered in prizes.

The first prize went to "The Tale of Teddy the Toucan", a story for children in the Amerindian tradition, which when published in January of 1960 will make a welcome addition to British Guiana's primary school libraries. A biographical study of British Guiana's well known labour leader, Mr. Hubert N. Critchlow was awarded second prize, and "Lulu and the Camoodi", a creolese folk tale was awarded third prize.

A Gold Medal for Literature donated by the Minister of Trade and Industry, the Honourable Dr. Cheddi Jagan, was awarded to Mr. Sheik M. Sadeek for his unpublished novel "The New Land".

#### *Kyk-over-al*

Kyk-over-al, British Guiana's leading literary magazine, is published twice a year, in June and December.

The June issue of Kyk was specially devoted to discussions, articles and letters on the many and varied aspects of The Theatre in British Guiana and carried in full the texts of two plays written by Guianese playwrights. The plays, "It's Brickdam" by Sheila Van Sertima and "Porkknockers" by Sheik M. Sadeek have both been performed on the stage by the Theatre Guild of British Guiana.

#### *Proposed B.G. Branch of P.E.N.*

During the year it was decided to found a British Guiana branch of PEN, the world association of writers with headquarters in London.

Formal recognition by the International Executive Committee of PEN is expected and when established the British Guiana Centre of PEN will generally co-ordinate the literary affairs of British Guiana.

*Honours.* The following persons received awards for meritorious, public and social services in Her Majesty the Queen's New Year and Birthday Honours List:—

#### *New Year*

Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire  
Mr. R. R. Follett-Smith.

Officers of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire  
Mr. J. I. Ramphal and Mr. H. E. Turner.

Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire  
Mrs. Eleanor Kerry and Miss L. Dolphin.

Queen's Police Medal  
Mr. D. Matheson.

Colonial Police Medal  
Mr. A. H. Jenkins.

*Birthday*

Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael  
and St. George

Mr. F. W. Essex.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Lt.-Col. C. M. Bernard.

Honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British  
Empire

Dr. C. Romiti.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Miss M. Savory.

Queen's Fire Service Medal

Mr. J. T. Atkinson.

## PART III

### Chapter I : Geography

#### A. POSITION

British Guiana is situated on the northeast coast of the continent of South America between Venezuela, Brazil and Surinam, and between 1° and 9° North Latitude, and 57° and 61° West Longitude. Its total area is about 83,000 square miles. There is no other British territory on the mainland, the nearest being the island of Trinidad, part of the British West Indian Federation, approximately 350 miles to the northwest. British Guiana is about 4,000 miles distant from the United Kingdom.

#### B. PHYSICAL FEATURES

There are three main physical regions :

(1) *The Coastal Plain.* This region, with a sea-board of roughly 270 miles, is composed of recent alluvial deposits. It varies in width from 10 to 40 miles, much of the area being below the level of high tides necessitating the maintenance of costly systems of sea defence and drainage. The Continental shelf slopes gradually northwards for a distance of 80 to 100 miles.

(2) *The Intermediate Peneplain.* Southward, the coastal plain gives way to a gently undulating peneplain, from 100 to 150 miles in width, and from 100 to 500 feet in height. The area is characterised by broad belts of white sand, chiefly marine in origin, which widen towards the coast. Recent elevation and subsequent erosion have caused partial removal of these sandy deposits, especially in the western part of the region. Isolated granite hills, representing part of the exposed Basement System, and with a general north-easterly trend, rise above the general level, and particularly in the west, there are dolerite dykes and wide areas of volcanic and metamorphic rock. Its varied geological structure makes this region the main area of mineral exploitation. Bauxite in the white Sand Series, gold and diamonds in alluvial deposits, manganese, and small quantities of other ores are found in this region.

(3) *The Highland Region.* Most of the south and west of the country is mountainous, the chief ranges being the Pakaraima Mountains, the Kanuku Mountains and the Acarai Mountains in the far south, forming a boundary with Brazil. Granitic gneisses,

diorites and schists of the Basement System appear to dominate the structure of the two latter mountain ranges, but the Pakaraima Mountains, with their highest point in Mount Roraima (9,000 feet above sea level), consist mainly of sandstone plateaux, the Kaieteurian sediments lying upon the basement rocks. Sills of gabbro have intruded into the sediments, which terminate north-eastwards in a long irregular escarpment, 1000 to 3000 feet high, running roughly parallel to the coastline.

The main rivers, the Essequibo, the Berbice and the Demerara flow in a northerly direction to reach the Atlantic Ocean. Although tidal in their lower reaches, 40 to 65 miles from the sea, and navigable in this part by ocean-going vessels, these rivers are restricted in their use as internal communications. In the case of the Essequibo system especially, dolerite dykes outcrop in rapids and hinder the passage of any boats except launches, pontoons and smaller craft. The Mazaruni and Potaro Rivers, tributaries of the Essequibo, are responsible for the bulk of the diamond and gold production of the Colony.

### *C. CLIMATE AND VEGETATION*

The climate is characterised by high rainfall, fairly equable temperatures with a narrow seasonal range, and on the coastlands, the moderating effects of the prevailing North-east Trade Winds. The mean annual rainfall was 92.49 inches for the period 1880 to 1958, but there are wide variations over the region. Rainfall varies from 80 to 100 inches along the coast, falling mainly in two wet seasons, April to August and November to January, to as low as 60 inches per annum towards the south west, with a single wet season from April to September. Occasional marked variations from the mean, as low as 60 inches over the whole region in 1958, adversely affect crops such as sugar and rice.

The mean shade temperatures show an average of 80.1° F from 1846 to 1957 with a daily range of about 18° F on the coast, and a slightly wider range inland.

The natural vegetation reflects the variation of rainfall and soils over the region. The coastal area, originally a region of swamp and marsh, with mangrove and courida (*Avicenna nitida* formation and associated plants) has been cleared to a depth of two to eight miles, for agricultural use, between the Pomeroon and Courantyne rivers. The soil derived from the alluvial clays of the frontland is acid, and badly leached, but when drained is the richest in the country. Expensive drainage and irrigation schemes are in process of completion. Insect pests which are being successfully controlled in the coastal agricultural areas include the locust (*Tropidacis latereillei*) and the giant moth borer of coconuts (*Castnia daedalus*).

Acoushi ants of the genus *Atta* continue to damage farmers' crops, despite efficient attempts at control.

Inland, in the region of heavy rainfall (over 100 inches) extensive equatorial forests are found on the acid white or brown sand soils of the sedimentary rocks, and the red or brown clayey igneous and metamorphic rock soils. The forests, which occupy nearly  $\frac{7}{8}$  of the country are not usually of the dense Selva type. The chief hardwood species in economic use are greenheart, mora, purpleheart and crabwood, but these do not occur in large stands. There are many softwoods of increasing importance. Exploitation of accessible areas, notably the Bartica Triangle, progresses but most of the forest is yet untouched.

In two areas, the equatorial forests give way to grasslands: (1) In the Rupununi savannahs, which lie in the rainshadow of the Pakaraima and Kanuku Mountains, and on which an extensive form of cattle ranching is practised. The soils in this area are naturally infertile and often poorly drained. (2) In the Intermediate Savannahs behind the north-eastern coastlands, there are grasslands and patches of xerophytic scrub known as Muri, dominated by a small bushy tree of the same name (*Humiria floribunda* and *Humiria balsamifera*). Muri is usually found in and near the savannahs and farther south.

#### D. POPULATION

The population of the country, composed of Indians, Africans, Mixed races, Chinese, Portuguese and other Europeans, was estimated at 535,720 at the end of 1959, with an additional 22,240 Amerindians, chiefly forest and savannah dwellers. These figures yield an over-all density of 6.7 persons to the square mile. Since the majority of the population is concentrated on the narrow coastal plain (4 million acres) the ratio of persons to acreage of cultivated land (500,000) would yield a very much higher density. The capital city Georgetown has an estimated population of 94,137.

#### E. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Permanent cultivation on the coastlands is based on monoculture. The principal economic crops include sugar-cane, rice and coconuts. Sugar and its by-products comprise the most important agricultural export. Rice occupies twice as large an area as sugar, but is primarily a peasant crop, very susceptible to drought. The principal export market for rice is the Federation of the British West Indies. Crude and refined oil, copra and fibre are the chief coconut products and margarine and soap are manufactured for local use and export.

There is a large range of minor crops of local importance, especially foodcrops such as maize, coffee, ground provisions and fruit.

Tobacco production is increasingly important in the Rupununi where there are suitable climatic conditions.

The cattle industry is divided generally in production of beef cattle in the Rupununi area and Intermediate Savannahs, and dairy cattle on the coast. Beef slaughtered on the savannahs is brought to Georgetown by air. Exports of beef and pork to the West Indian lands are seasonal and show signs of increase.

The chief mining products are bauxite, diamonds and gold and these are being joined by manganese. Exploration is proceeding for deposits of petroleum, iron, columbite and radio-active minerals.

In the manufacturing industries which include margarine, soap, matches, cigarettes, furniture, clothing, biscuits, beer and lotions, the chief source of power is steam from burning fuel oil or wood, but many newer plants either generate their own electricity or use current supplied by the Power House in Georgetown.

There is a lack of the skilled technicians needed in modern industry, but training along these lines is being speeded up. There is no lack of unskilled and general labour.

#### *F. COMMUNICATIONS*

The country is inadequately supplied with roads, of which there are about 305 miles on the coast, with about 58 miles on branch roads. In the interior a motor road from Bartica to the Potaro, with a branch to the Mazaruni, serves the principal mining districts. Railways, river steamers and coastal vessels provide communications near the coast, but the quickest means of transport in the interior is by air. The country is well served by the B.G. Airways Ltd., several landing strips having been laid down in the more remote areas particularly in the Rupununi savannahs.

## *Chapter II : History*

In history there are really five Guianas — Spanish (now Venezuela), Portuguese (now Brazil), French, British and Dutch (now Surinam) Guianas. Guiana is an Amerindian word that means “the Land of Waters”, and there are few countries whose history has been more greatly influenced by the hydrographic factor, either too much water or not enough water on the land.

A navigable river was so important to the Europeans who first visited the coastline between the Amazon and the Orinoco, that they gave the Amerindian name of each river to the surrounding countryside. Thus the three counties of British Guiana are Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice and the areas known as Rupununi, Mazaruni, Potaro, Cuyuni, Pomeroon, Corentyne, take their names from the rivers that flow through them. The numerous rapids and waterfalls make access to the interior difficult and in consequence the population has settled mainly on the low-lying coastal belt.

The coastline of the country between the rivers was first traced by Spanish sailors in 1499 and 1500; and, during the 16th and early 17th centuries, the search for the fabulous City of Eldorado — forever linked in British minds with exploits of Sir Walter Raleigh — stimulated exploration of this region. Little is known of the first settlements, though they were almost certainly Spanish or Portuguese. The first Dutch settlement was established on the Pomeroon in 1581. The settlers were evicted by Spaniards and Indians probably in 1596. The evicted settlers retired to Kyk-over-al on the Essequibo, where they established a new fort. This colony subsequently came under the control of the Dutch West Indian Company, which was formed in 1621. In 1627, a settlement was founded in the Berbice by Van Peere, a Flushing merchant, and held by him under a licence from the Company.

The first English attempt at settlement in this area was made in 1604 by Captain Charles Leigh on the Oyapock River (in what is now French Guiana). But the effort failed. A fresh attempt was made by Robert Harcourt in 1609. Lord Willoughby, famous in the early history of Barbados, also turned his attention to Guiana, and founded a settlement in Surinam in 1651. This was captured by the Dutch in 1667, and though later recaptured by the British, it was ceded to the Dutch at the peace of Breda.

The Dutch retained their hold on the territory which is now British Guiana, though yielding sometimes to England and at other times to France or Portugal, until 1796 when, during the war of the French Revolution, the country was captured by a British fleet from Barbados. It was restored to the Dutch in 1802 but in the following

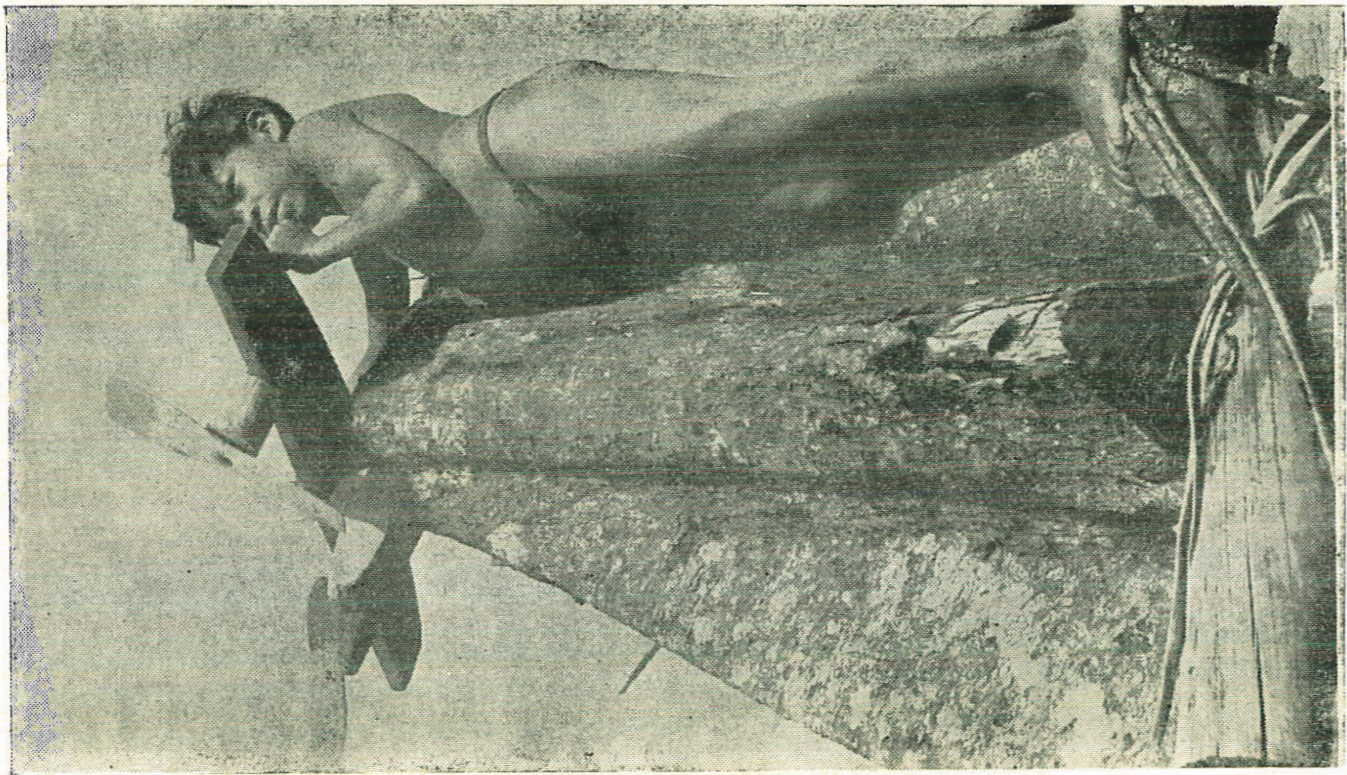


year was retaken by Great Britain, and was finally ceded to that power in 1814.

So much for the sovereignty over the Colony. Internally the records may be summarised as follows. In 1746 colonists from Essequibo and West Indian islands settled along the Demerara River. In 1773 Demerara was granted a certain degree of autonomy, and in 1784 the capital was transferred there, while Berbice continued under a separate government. This arrangement survived under the British Administration until the year 1831.

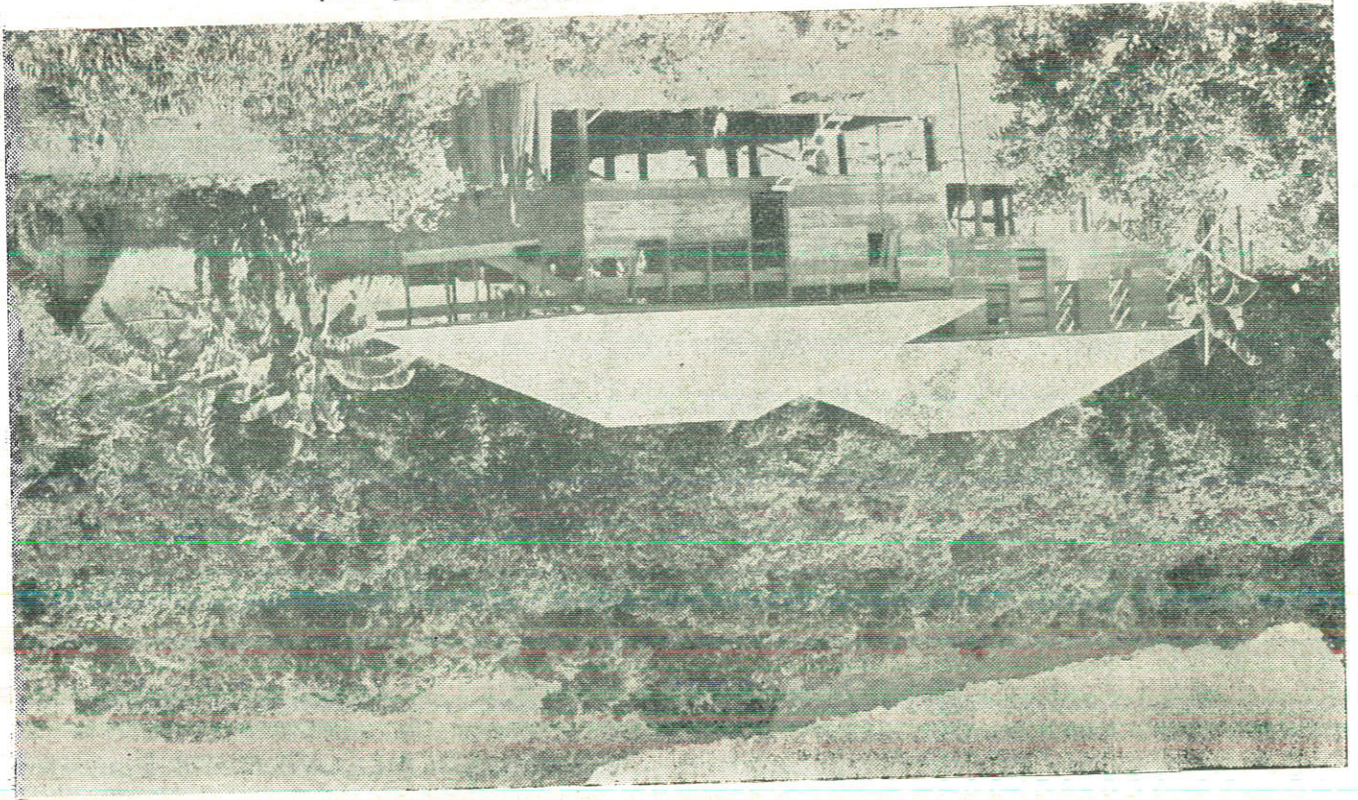
Between 1675 and 1716 all the cultivation on the lands in British Guiana took place upstream; but finding the soil on the coastlands more fertile, the settlers gradually moved downriver. In 1741, English settlers from Barbados and Antigua began to build river dams and drainage sluices in the Essequibo islands, and later tried to reclaim the fertile tidal marshes in Demerara. Until 1804, there were estates, now forgotten, Sandy Point, and Kierfield, on the seaward side of the present seawall of Georgetown.

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An Akowoto boy from the village of Jawalla, Kukui River, Upper Mazaruni.

Self-help houses at Waramadang, Kamarang River, Upper Mazarruni.



### Chapter III: Administration.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

An advanced form of Constitution with universal adult suffrage, a two chamber Legislature and a ministerial system, based on the recommendations of the Constitutional Commission of 1950-51, was brought into effect in 1953, and a General Election was held on the 27th April of that year.

A Public Service Commission consisting of a Chairman and four members was appointed on June 16th, 1953.

As a result of subsequent developments it was announced on the 9th October that Her Majesty's Government had decided that the Constitution must be suspended to prevent communist subversion of the Government and a dangerous crisis both in public order and in economic affairs.

The Constitution was formally suspended on the 22nd December, 1953, and thereafter the affairs of the Colony were administered in accordance with the British Guiana Constitution (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, which provided for an Executive Council of three *ex-officio* members and not more than seven nominated members, and a Legislative Council of the same three *ex-officio* members and not more than twenty-four nominated members, presided over by a Speaker.

A Constitutional Commission had in the meanwhile been appointed by the Secretary of State under the chairmanship of Sir James Robertson, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E., and its report was published on the 2nd November, 1954. At the same time Her Majesty's Government announced their acceptance of the Commission's recommendation for a period of marking time in British Guiana's advance towards self-government.

Further constitutional changes were however introduced by the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provision) (Amendment) Order in Council, 1956, dated 19th December, 1956, which provided for a Legislative Council of not more than 28 Members (excluding the Speaker) comprising 3 *ex officio* Members, not less than 14 Elected Members and not more than 11 Nominated Members. At the first elections held under the amended constitution on the 12th August, 1957, the number of Elected Members was 14 and 6 other Members were nominated by the Governor. Five members of the majority party in the Legislative Council were nominated by the Governor to serve on the Executive Council with the 3 *ex officio* Members. The Governor has charged all Members of the Executive Council with responsibility for departments and

subjects; Members other than ex officio Members are styled Ministers.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

British Guiana is divided into nine administrative districts as follows :

Coastal Districts — East Berbice, West Berbice, East Demerara, West Demerara, Essequibo Islands and Essequibo.

Interior Districts — North West, Mazaruni-Potaro and Rupununi.

Each district is under the immediate control of a District Commissioner, whose principal duties are to co-ordinate the activities of the various Government Departments in his district and to provide advice and assistance to the Village communities especially in the management of village affairs. The bulk of the Colony's population is resident in the coastal district in villages with inhabitants numbering between 100 and 6,000, some of the villages being potential towns, because of their area and the size of their population.

*Local Government*

A system of local government is maintained in the coastal districts and for this purpose certain areas have been declared village or country districts under the provisions of the Local Government Ordinance. At the end of 1959 there were forty-nine village and forty-five country districts in existence.

The Central Authority of this system of administration is the Local Government Board, a corporate body, constituted as follows:

Ex-Officio Members (3) The Commissioner of Local Government;

The Director of Medical Services;  
The President of the Association known as the Village Chairmen's Conference.

Members appointed by the Governor (7) Two persons who are members of village councils or country authorities, one person nominated by the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association and four other persons.

The existing members were re-appointed to the Board on 7th December, 1959, for a further period of two years.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board are appointed by the Governor. The Commissioner of Local Government is the present Chairman.

The affairs of the village and country districts are under the immediate direction of local authorities. In the case of village districts the village council consists of elected and appointed councillors in the proportion of two to one, and in the case of country districts all members are appointed. In both instances appointment is made by the central authority—the Local Government Board.

Local authorities are responsible for the maintenance of proper means of communication within their districts. The main roads which pass through the villages are maintained by the central government, but the village roads and the irrigation and drainage canals and dams not under the control of the Drainage and Irrigation Board have to be maintained by the local authorities. Local authorities are concerned with the provision of potable water. The cost of all earth works necessary for the laying of pipes and the maintenance cost of overhead tanks from which water is supplied are borne by the local authorities, but the central government provides the artesian wells and pipe lines as well as the sumps and overhead tanks. Irrigation water and pasture lands are also matters which concern local authorities. The laying out of land for building purposes and the control of trades are others. The local authorities are the Local Sanitary Authorities under the Public Health Ordinance and are responsible to the Central Board of Health for the general sanitary condition of the village. They may provide markets, abattoirs and cemeteries.

Apart from their legal machinery for management and consultation, local authorities have formed voluntary associations for the consideration of matters of general concern. The first Village Chairmen's Conference was held fifty-seven years ago and conferences of this kind are now an annual feature, providing the opportunity for village representatives to meet and consider matters of common interest and to decide on the means of improving conditions and the administration of the villages generally.

Within the six administrative districts in the coastal region, unions of local authorities have been formed. These unions meet quarterly and, to a restricted extent, serve much the same purpose as the Village Chairmen's Conference. The District Commissioners attend and address the meetings, reviewing the main events of the preceding quarter, and commenting on the affairs of the day and the plans for the future. The meetings are also attended by other district Government Officers e.g. the Agricultural Officer, the District Engineer, and the District Social Welfare Officer. In recent years the practice of inviting guest speakers has been adopted, and addresses by specialist officers of Government are frequently arranged. Government's policy in many fields is explained and discussed on these occasions.

*Local Government Reform*

Steps were taken in 1956 to recruit the specialist staff required to formulate the new system of Local Government, and to work out its application to individual areas, as recommended in the 1955 Report by Dr. A. H. Marshall. By the end of 1957 all of the five Commissioners had been appointed but in December of that year Dr. L. C. Hill, Senior Administrative Officer, Local Government Re-organisation, was permitted to relinquish his appointment. In March, 1958, Mr. J. H. Robinson, Financial Officer, was granted permission to terminate his agreement.

Dr. Marshall's recommendations for the reform and extension of local government in the Colony envisage, among other things, a single tier system of local government under which the whole of the coastlands and riverain areas, excluding Greater Georgetown and New Amsterdam but including unorganised areas and sugar estates, should be divided into not more than eighteen Rural Districts to be administered by Rural District Councils. This involves the abolition of the existing village councils and country authorities. The proposed Rural District Councils would each consist of not more than twenty-four members of whom some would be nominated for the first term only. The franchise, which is at present restricted to owners of property above a certain value, would be extended to include tenants occupying lands or buildings above a certain value.

As far as the municipalities are concerned, Dr. Marshall has recommended a single tier system of local government for the Greater Georgetown Area with a separate Ordinance for its administration—the Council to consist of twenty-four elected members with six additional nominated members for the first term of four years; that the town of New Amsterdam should retain its separate identity, but that its boundaries should be extended and that it be brought under the general local government legislation while retaining its borough status and some other privileges.

On the question of universal adult suffrage for local government, Dr. Marshall recommended that if adult suffrage is maintained in respect of the central government it should be applied to local government.

During 1958, Government's proposals for giving effect, with certain modifications, to the recommendations in Dr. Marshall's Report were set out in Legislative Council Sessional Paper No. 5/1958.

In 1959, the Local Government (Valuation of Property) Ordinance 1959 came into force. This Ordinance provides for the valuation of property for rating purposes. A Valuation Officer was appointed under this Ordinance in 1959 and he will commence the valuation of properties in the Georgetown, New Amsterdam and the No. 52 to Crabwood Creek areas in 1960.

Further legislation relating to the proposed local government reforms will be introduced in 1960 to provide for the constitution and election of the new local authorities, the financial and general powers of the authorities and the setting up of a Local Government Service Commission.

#### THE MUNICIPALITIES

##### *Georgetown*

The City is administered by a Mayor and Town Council and is divided into nine wards, for each of which one councillor is elected; in addition, three councillors are nominated by the Governor-in-Council. All councillors normally hold office for a period of two years. The revenue of the Council is derived from a tax and a rate levied on the assessed annual rental valuation of lands and buildings within the municipal boundaries, and from market fees, water rates etc.

The area of the City is 1,612 acres. Its population at the time of the 1946 Census was 73,509 and that of its environs 20,526; at the end of 1959 the population of the City was estimated at 94,137.

##### *New Amsterdam*

The Town of New Amsterdam is administered by a Mayor and Town Council, and is divided into six wards for each of which one councillor is elected; in addition, three councillors are nominated by the Governor in Council. All councillors hold office for a period of two years.

Like the City of Georgetown, New Amsterdam maintains its own Health Department. The Government Medical Officer of Health is, however, honorary Health Officer to the Municipality. The revenue of the town is raised in a similar way to that of Georgetown. The Council operates its own electricity works, supplying electric current in a franchise area within a five-mile radius of the town.

The area of the town is 687 acres. The population numbered 9,567 at the time of the 1946 census, and was estimated at 15,000 at the end of 1959.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERIOR

The Department of the Interior is responsible for the Administration of three Interior Districts, which together cover an area of approximately 70,000 square miles and have a population estimated at 30,000.

It is under the charge of the Commissioner of the Interior who, with Senior Staff comprised of 3 District Commissioners and 5 Assistant District Commissioners, is also responsible for the Admin-



istration of Amerindian Affairs, under the provisions of the Amerindian Ordinance, Chapter 58.

Each of the Districts has a section of international frontier as part of its boundaries. Relations between the residents on both sides of these border areas continued to be cordial.

Approximately 22,000 of the population of the Interior are Amerindians living in small groups thinly distributed over a very extensive area and speaking amongst themselves 10 distinct tribal dialects. Approximately half of these, who border the coastal areas, can read, write and speak English. In the remote areas a great number of the children can now speak and understand English. Ten "Amerindian Districts" were maintained for occupation solely by Amerindians in various stages of advancement from their primitive way of life. In these reservations as well as outside of them, the Amerindian continued to be encouraged, trained and guided into taking his place amongst the other racial groups of the Colony. Satisfactory progress was made in this connexion during the year as additional candidates from centres in each district returned after training at Georgetown to serve as Teachers, Nurses and in other fields. Work was carried out on 21 Self-Help Schemes in Amerindian Districts; 11 local administrative Councils were in operation. The Candidate elected to represent the North West District in the Legislative Council is an Amerindian.

Education in the Interior continued to be provided mainly through the religious denominations at work in remote Mission Centres, and for this work grants totalling \$25,000 (£5,208) were again made to the Churches by Government. A number of new schools was either established or under construction by the various denominations during the year. As soon as such schools qualify for recognition and for Government grants, they are absorbed into the official Educational system under control of the Education Department.

With other inhabitants of the Interior, Amerindians worked mainly in gold and diamond mining, timber cutting and agriculture operations. The work carried out in Interior areas under direct control of various Government Departments is referred to in other sections of this report.

The members of the Executive and Legislative Councils constituted under the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Order-in-Council, 1956 were as follows at the end of 1959 :

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL over which the Governor presides:  
The Honourable the Chief Secretary, D. M. Hedges.  
The Honourable the Attorney General, A. M. I Austin, Q.C.  
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, F. W. Essex, C.M.G.

- The Honourable Dr. Cheddi Jagan (Minister of Trade and Industry)  
 The Honourable B. H. Benn (Minister of Natural Resources).  
 The Honourable Janet Jagan (Minister of Labour, Health and Housing).  
 The Honourable Ram Karran (Minister of Communications and Works).  
 The Honourable B. S. Rai (Minister of Community Development and Education).

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- The Speaker—Sir Donald Jackson  
 The Members of the Executive Council (listed above)

*Elected Members*

Mr. W. O. R. Kendall  
 Mr. Ajodha Singh  
 Mr. S. M. Saffee  
 Mr. E. B. Beharry  
 Mr. A. L. Jackson  
 Mr. L. F. S. Burnham  
 Mr. Jainarine Singh  
 Mr. F. Bowman  
 Mr. Stephen Campbell

*Nominated Members*

Mr. R. E. Davis  
 Mr. A. M. Fredericks  
 Mr. R. B. Gajraj  
 Mr. H. J. M. Hubbard  
 Mr. A. G. Tasker, O.B.E.  
 Mr. R. C. Tello

## DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS

Eight members of the Executive Council held the following portfolios at the end of 1959.

- (1) Chief Secretary's portfolio: External affairs, Defence, Security, Immigration, Civil Service, Administration of the Interior, Information Services, Fire Brigade.
- (2) Attorney General's portfolio: Legal matters and Deeds (The Honourable A. M. I. Austin, Q.C.)

- (3) Financial Secretary's portfolio: (The Honourable F. W. Essex, C.M.G.) Financial and economic matters. Currency Control, Banking and Credit, Government Stores, Statistics.
- (4) Trade and Industry (including Co-operatives and Minor Industries)  
(The Honourable Dr. C. B. Jagan)
- (5) Natural Resources (previously known as Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines)  
(The Honourable B. H. Benn)
- (6) Labour, Health and Housing  
(The Honourable Janet Jagan)
- (7) Communications and Works  
(The Honourable Ram Karran)
- (8) Community Development and Education (including Local Government and Social Welfare)  
(The Honourable B. S. Rai)

## *Chapter IV : Weights and Measures*

Imperial Weights and Measures are in use throughout the Colony.

## Chapter V : Reading List

(Prices are given only for publications printed in British Guiana)..

### HANDBOOKS

- Handbook of Natural Resources of British Guiana* with illustration, maps and charts compiled by Vincent Roth, former Member of the Legislative Council and Chairman of the Legislative Council Advisory Committee for Communications and the Interior Georgetown, Daily Chronicle, 1946. (Obtainable at the Government Information Services, Georgetown. 16s. 8d. postage 1s.).
- The Rupununi Record* (with map of area and some illustrations) by Richard Baldwin, former District Commissioner. Georgetown Bureau of Public Information 1946. (Obtainable at the Government Information Services, Georgetown, 2s. : postage 1d.) (Number 1 of a series of district record books of the administrative districts of British Guiana. Much of the early history of the colony is included and chapters are also devoted to the Amerindians of the area as well as its topography, economic standing and prospects).
- A Modern Geography of British Guiana* with notes on "Our Immediate Neighbours" by E. Fitz Moore. (Obtainable at the Argosy Company, Ltd., Georgetown, 4s. 2d.; postage 2d.) For use in schools, but a useful work of reference.
- Where is It ?* A gazetteer of British Guiana, by Vincent Roth (Obtainable at the Daily Chronicle, Ltd., 2s. 6d. ; postage 1½d.)
- Fifty Facts about British Guiana — The ABC of British Guiana's Constitution.* Numbers 1 and 2 of a series of "Little Books" issued by the Government Information Services, Georgetown. (Price 6d. each; postage ½d.).
- The British Guiana section of *The South American Handbook*, (Trade and Travel Publications, Ltd., London), *The West Indies Year Book*, (Skinner, London), *A Pocket Guide to the W.I.*—Aspinall (Mathuen and Co. 36 Essex Street. W.C. 2 and Whittakers Almanac (J. W. Whittaker and Sons Ltd. 13 Bedford Square W.C. 1) are usually reliable.
- Informatives, Vols. I, II, III and IV.* General information on affairs in British Guiana. (Obtainable at the Government Information Services, Georgetown).

*Topic for Tonight, Vols. I, II and III.* A collection of broadcast talks on general subjects. (Obtainable at the Government Information Services, Georgetown).

*This is the Rupununi*, Government Information Services, 1956.  
*Government Information Services—B.G. Land of Opportunity* 1958.

## HISTORY

CAMERON, N. E. *Evolution of the Negro*. Vol. II. Book II. Georgetown, Argosy Co. (an outline of the development of British Guianese of African descent from emancipation to 1934).

CLEMENTI, SIR CECIL, *A Constitutional History of British Guiana*, London, Macmillan, 1937.

DALY, P. H. *Story of the Heroes* (3 vols.) (Daily Chronicle Ltd., 23 Main Street, Georgetown).

NETSCHER, P. M. *History of the Colonies, Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice*; from the Dutch establishment to the year 1888. Originally published by the Provincial Utrecht Society of Arts and Sciences, Translation by Walter E. Roth. Georgetown, Daily Chronicle 1931 (10s. 5d.; postage 4d.).

RODWAY, J., *History of British Guiana*, 3 vols. Georgetown, 1891-4.

RODWAY, J., *Guiana; British, Dutch, and French*, London, Unwin, 1912.

RODWAY, J., *The Story of Georgetown*. Georgetown, Argosy Co., 1920 (5s. ; postage 4d.).

ROTH, VINCENT, *Roth's Pepperpot*—Bits and pieces, odds and ends of Guianese Zoological, Historical and General Interest. Collected by Vincent Roth.

WEBBER, A. R. F., *Centenary History and Handbook of British Guiana*, Georgetown, Argosy Co., 1931.

DEWEEVER, G. E. L., *The Children Story of Guiana*, Georgetown, Argosy Co., (1s. 6d. ; postage 1d.).

DOLPHIN, CELESTE, *Children of Guiana*, Georgetown (2s. 6d. ; postage 1d.).

CLEMENTI, SIR CECIL, *The Chinese in British Guiana*, Georgetown, Argosy Co., 1915.

NATH, DWARKA, *A History of the Indians in British Guiana*, London, Nelson, 1950.

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Guiana Editions. See—Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 17.

BRETT, W. H. *Legends & Myths of the Aboriginal Indians in British Guiana*—S.P.G. 1931.

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BRETT, W. H., *The Indian Tribes of Guiana*. London, Bell and Daldy, 1868 (first published New York, 1852).

BUTT, AUDREY, *A study of the Social and Religious Belief of the Amerindian Tribes of Guiana*.

GILLIN, JOHN, *The Barama River Caribs of British Guiana. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Vol. XIV, No. 2*, Cambridge, Mass. 1936. Bibliography.

GUPPY, NICHOLAS, *Wai-Wai*—John Murray, 1958.

IM THURN, E. F., *Among the Indians of Guiana*. London, Kegan Paul, Trench, 1883.

KENSWILL, F. W., "Children of the Silence" an account of the Aboriginal Indians of the Upper Mazaruni River British Guiana, Argosy Co., Ltd.

ROTH, W. E., *An inquiry into the animism and folk-lore of the Guiana Indians. 30th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1908-09*. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1915.

*An introductory study of the arts, crafts and customs of the Guiana Indians. 38th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1916-17*. Washington Studies, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1924. *Additional Studies of the arts, crafts and customs of the Guiana Indians, with special reference to those of Southern Guiana*, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 91, Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office 1929.

STEWART, J. H. (editor), *Handbook of South American Indians*, Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 143. Volume 3 : *The Tropical Tribes*, Parts 5 and 6. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1948, Bibliography.

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*The Edge of the Jungle*, London, Witherby, 1922.  
*Tropical Wild Life in British Guiana*. New York, N.Y. Zoological Society, 1917.
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- BROWN, C. BARRINGTON, *Canoe and Camp Life in British Guiana*, London, Edward Stanford, 1876.
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- GREATOREX, WILFRED, *Diamond Fever*. Cassell, 1957, 18/-
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- RALEIGH, SIR WALTER, *The Discoverie of the large and beautiful Empire of Guiana*. Edited by V. T. Harlow, London, Argonaut Press, 1928.
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- SCHOMBURGK, RICHARD, *Travels in British Guiana, 1840-44*. Translated and edited by W. E. Roth, 2 vols. Georgetown, Daily Chronicle, 1922 and 1923.
- SCHOMBURGK, ROBERT, *A Description of British Guiana*, London, Simpkin, Marshall, 1840.
- SWAN, MICHAEL, *British Guiana the Land of Six Peoples*, H.M.S.O. 25/- Swan Michael Marches of El Dorado (Jonathan Cape).
- WICKENDEN, JAMES, *Beyond the High Savannah*, Longman, Green Co., 18/-
- ZAHL, PAUL A., *To the Lost World*, Harrup, 1940.

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- Field Experiments with Sugar Cane (Sugar Bulletins No. 1—XIII)* issued by the Department of Agriculture.
- Report on the Economic Position of the Sugar Industry of British Guiana* by Dr. F. C. Benham, Ph.D., B.Sc., (Econ.). Economic Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare. Legislative Council No. 11/1945.
- British Guiana's Drainage and Irrigation Schemes.* Booklet and large scale map of the coast of British Guiana.
- Rice in British Guiana, 1927-1932.* Rice Bulletin No. 1 of the Department of Agriculture, 1933.
- Survey of Animal Husbandry, Feeding, Management and Veterinary Services in the West Indies : Report on British Guiana* by Prof. Wm. C. Miller, M.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., (Principal of the Royal Veterinary College) Bulletin No. 19A of the Development and Welfare Organisation in the West Indies, 1940.
- Report of a Preliminary Agriculture Survey of Areas Suitable for Land Settlement and Colonisation by West Indians* by J. Mullin, M.I.M.M., F.S.I., Commissioner of Lands and Mines, and Capt. F. Burnett, M.C., M.A., Deputy Director of Agriculture (Leg. Co. No. 8/1933. C.S.C., 366/32).
- Report of British Guiana Commission to the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees* with Appendices thereto (Leg. Co. No. 12/39).
- Memoranda on Education in British Guiana* by S. A. Hammond, C.M.G., M.A., Educational Adviser to the Comptroller of Development and Welfare (Leg. Co. No. 11/1942).
- Notes on British Guiana Timber* by F. S. Danks, B.Sc. (Edin.) Dipl. Agri. (S.Af.). Senior Assistant Conservator of Forests and Utilisation Officer—1945.
- \* *Handbook of Natural Resources of British Guiana* compiled under the direction of the Interior Development Committee of British Guiana and its former Chairman (Honourable Vincent Roth).
- Six Reports* by Mr. G. O. Case on the possibilities of manufacturing glass; factory products; white cement and aluminous cement; chinaware, pottery and kaolin fillers for the rubber, paper and paint industries; paper pulp veneers and plywood.

- Administration and Development of the Interior*—Precis and papers from extracts and despatches, 1942—1946. (Leg. Co. No. 3 of 1946).
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- Reports of the Malaria Research Service* (Medical Department, British Guiana) for the years 1945 and 1946.
- The National Income of British Guiana*. 1942. Memorandum by Frederick Benham, C.B.E., Ph.D., B.Sc., (Econ.), Economic Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies (Bulletin No. 17) Advocate Co., Ltd.
- Memorandum on the Financial Position of British Guiana*, 1920-1946, by O. A. Spencer, B. Com., Economic Adviser to the Government of British Guiana.
- Forest Products of British Guiana—Part 1—Principal Timbers* by D. B. Fanshawe, B.A., Senior Assistant Conservator of Forests, British Guiana (Forestry Bulletin No. 1, New Series).
- Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the strained relations between the management and employees of the Transport and Harbours Department.*
- Report of the Enmore Enquiry Commission*, 1948.
- Papers relating to Development Planning*, including as an Appendix. The Population and Housing Problem of the Sugar Estates of British Guiana by Dr. George Giglioli, O.B.E., M.D. (It.) M.R.C.P. (Lond.). D.T.M. & H. (Eng.).
- Report on Local Government in British Guiana* by Dr. A. H. Marshall, C.B.E., May, 1955.
- Census of the Colony of British Guiana*, 9th April, 1946.
- Report on Mechanisation and Organisation of Rice Production in British Guiana*, by H. M. Beachell, Agronomist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and O. B. Brown, Farm Management Specialist, College of Agriculture, University of Arkansas.
- Report of Investigation into the Public Service of British Guiana*, 1953, by E. Mill, C.B.E.
- The Economic Development of British Guiana*—Report by a Mission organised by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at the request of the Government—obtainable

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Sessional paper No. 3/1955. Revision of Wages and Salaries in the Public Service (Hands-Jakeway proposals) April 1955.

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No. 1 — Budget Speech.

No. 2 — Certificate and Report of the Director General of the Overseas Audit Service on the Accounts of British Guiana for the year ended 31 December, 1955 together with the Comments thereon of the Governor.

No. 3 — Report of the Director General of the Overseas Audit Service on the account of the Transport and Harbours Dept. for the year ended 31 December 1957 together with the Governor's Comments thereon.

No. 4 — Primary School Teachers Salaries Anomalies

No. 5 — Development Programme 1960-64

No. 6 — Address by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government on the occasion of the opening of the 3rd Session of the 2nd Legislative Council on 15th December, 1959.

No. 7 — Address to the Legislative Council by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Ralph Grey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., on the occasion of his arrival on 22nd December, 1959.

M A P S

*Map of British Guiana*—Scale 1 : 1,000,000 or 1 inch — 15.76 miles. Compiled in 1943 from data furnished by the Department of Lands and Mines, British Guiana. Not, however, an official document. The boundaries and co-ordinates shown are approximate.

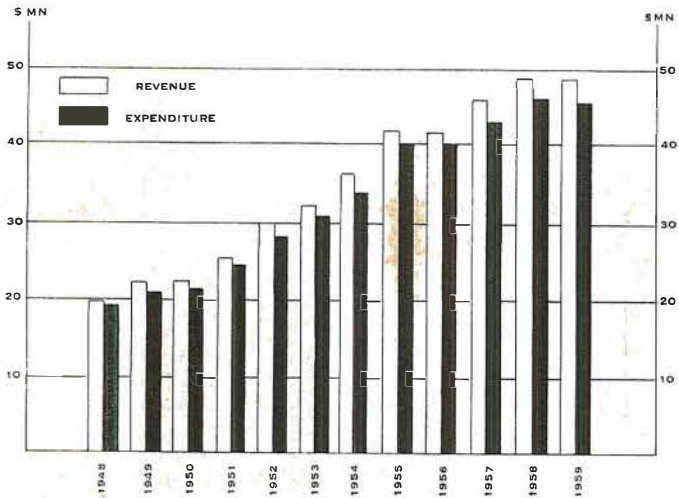
*Plan of the Sea Coast of British Guiana*—Scale 1 inch — 3 miles. Compiled in 1925 from records of the Department of Lands and Mines under the direction of G. D. Bayley, C.B.E., Com-

- missioner of Lands and Mines. (A similar plan showing the Drainage and Irrigation schemes has been prepared by the Office of the Consulting Engineer, the late G. O. Case, F.S.E., and is obtainable from the Government Information Services).
- Plan of the City of Georgetown and its environs* — Scale 1 inch —  $\frac{1}{8}$  miles. Compiled from various sources and corrected and extended to date, 1932. This is not a Government-issued plan.
- Geological Surveys*—Several detailed geological maps of the various mineral bearing areas of the Colony are available and may be obtained on application to the Department of Lands and Mines.
- Map of British Guiana* — (Size 14 inches x 14 inches). Scale 1 inch — 30 miles. Compiled and drawn by the Directorate of Colonial Surveys, D.C.S. 957.
- Aeronautical Map of British Guiana* (in 4 sections) to scale 1; 1,000,000 Published by the Aeronautical Chart Service, U.S. Army Forces, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Air Navigation Map of South America* (4 sections) showing British Guiana. Published by the Engineer Production Plant, U.S. Army. The Army War College, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., Scale 1: 5,444,000 (No longer available).
- Map of British Guiana (Portion of Map of South America)*. Scale 1: 1,000,000. Compiled and drawn by the American Geographical Society of New York, U.S.A. Four sections showing British Guiana. (No longer available).
- A Handy Map of British Guiana* (Size  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches x 6 inches)—Scale 1 inch — 100 miles. Compiled by the Department of Lands and Mines, British Guiana.
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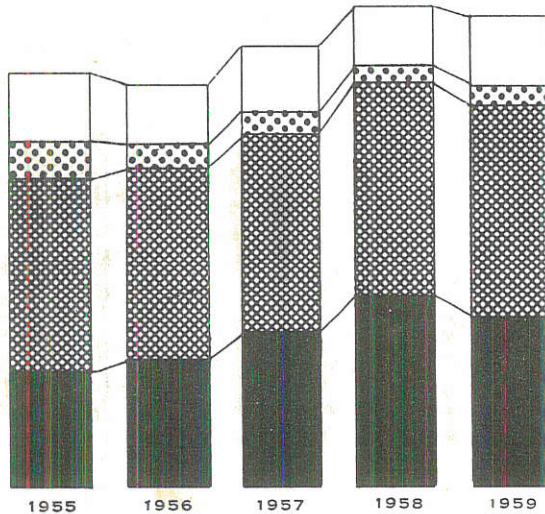
**GOVERNMENT  
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE  
1948 - 1959**



	<u>REVENUE</u>	\$ 000	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
1948	19,791		19,611
1949	22,039		20,951
1950	21,652		23,539
1951	25,199		24,776
1952	29,855		28,459
1953	32,283		31,393
1954	36,102		34,525
1955	42,496		40,202
1956	41,866		40,433
1957	45,753		43,259
1958	49,051		46,704
1959	48,580		45,751

# GOVERNMENT REVENUE

1955 - 1959

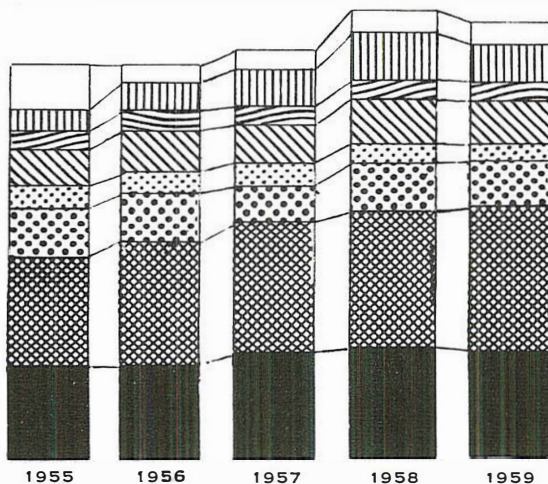


	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
			\$ 000		
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	6.712	6.510	6.512	6.732	7.218
OTHER INDIRECT TAXES	3.837	2.093	1.832	1.780	1.720
CUSTOMS & EXCISE	19.833	20.226	21.470	21.565	22.999
INCOME TAX	12.116	13.037	15.938	18.973	16.743
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.498</b>	<b>41.866</b>	<b>45.753</b>	<b>49.051</b>	<b>48.680</b>



# GOVERNMENT CURRENT EXPENDITURE

1955 - 1959



	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
			\$ 000		
OTHER	4.817	2,470	2.271	2.361	1,860
DEBT CHARGES	1.992	2.601	3.624	4.159	4.687
PENSIONS	1.519	2.035	1.945	2.067	1,958
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	3,732	3,869	4,141	4,884	4,576
POSTAL & TELECOMS	1,936	1,925	2,076	2,075	2,185
PUBLIC WORKS	4,903	4,530	4,461	5,345	4,877
SOCIAL SERVICES	12,317	13,875	14,155	14,474	15,185
ADMINISTRATION	8,985	9,127	10,584	11,339	10,422
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40.202</b>	<b>40.433</b>	<b>43,259</b>	<b>46.704</b>	<b>45.751</b>

N.B. The total is overstated by charges, amounting normally to around 200,000 dollars, which have been set off against revenue in government enterprises. The correct figures are given in Chap. III.