

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Thursday, 11th December, 1941.*

The Council met at 10.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, Sir GORDON LETHBRIDGE, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. G. D. OWEN, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. E. O. Pretheroe, K.C., M.C.

The Hon. F. Dias, O.B.E., (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. N. M. MacLennan, Director of Medical Services.

The Hon. M. B. Laing, O.B.E., Commissioner of Labour and Local Government.

The Hon. G. O. Case, Consulting Engineer.

The Hon. B. R. Wood, Conservator of Forests.

The Hon. F. Ogle, Director of Education (Acting).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves, O.B.E., (Georgetown South).

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

The Hon. F. A. Mackey (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. C. V. Wight (Western Essequibo).

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 10th of December, 1941, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

## PAPER LAID.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. G. D. Owen) laid on the table the following report:—

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the question of restoring grants for Missions in this Colony.

## ORDER OF THE DAY.

THE PRESIDENT: Before proceeding with the Order of the Day I would like to make one comment on the debate yesterday as to a point on the framing of the Estimates. The hon. Colonial Secretary and the hon. Colonial Treasurer have agreed with me that it may be useful somewhere in the Estimates to show clearly how the Budget balances as between Revenue and Annual Recurrent Expenditure. I do not want to go to a great deal of trouble in reprinting the sections in which that discrimination can be shown. It will be sufficient to do it on the first page which shows—I think you call it—A General Statement of Assets and Liabilities. I propose to do that, as it will only involve the reprinting of but one page of the Estimates.

We will now proceed with the Order of the Day. A motion has been accepted that the Council proceeds in Committee of the whole Council to consider the Esti-

mats for the year 1942. If that motion is still agreeable to hon. Members I propose to declare the Council in Committee.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and proceeded to consider the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1942, which have been laid on the table.

### ESTIMATES 1942.

#### GOVERNOR.

Item 1 (e)—Private Secretary, \$1,920.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: May I enquire whether there is a vacancy here, and whether this amount of \$1,920 is being paid to someone who has been appointed to this post? It is common knowledge that at the present moment there is a Class III. Clerk and an Assistant Superintendent of Police carrying out the duties of that post. I am wondering whether it is proposed to appoint some other person to carry out the duties of Private Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have taken on the arrangement made by my immediate predecessor, Sir Wilfrid Jackson, and I do not propose any change as it seems to be one very suitable. Both officers are very fully occupied, I can assure the hon. Member. I have not really considered any change, and I prefer at the present to leave the arrangement as it is.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: Then this vote is being utilized?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is being fully utilized. I think the explanation is that the officers are receiving this amount between them and half of their substantive salaries. Is that so?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is the original arrangement and it is being continued.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I only wanted to know whether the money is being spent.

THE CHAIRMAN: I can say that is so.

Mr. JACOB: I beg to move the reduction of the entire vote under this Head by one dollar in order to make certain observations. I think, I am in order. In the first instance while we welcome the presence of His Majesty's Representative to preside over this Assembly, I think it is below the dignity of His Majesty's Representative to sit in this Chamber while the Estimates are being debated. It would be far more desirable and, I think, it is the majority opinion in this Colony that a Speaker should be appointed to occupy the Chair in this Legislative Council. I do not know what other hon. Members will have to say about it. Perhaps I stand alone, but I would like to say that I took the opportunity to go through the whole Colony holding meetings at various places together with the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee), who unfortunately is not here, and we have public opinion behind us—I may say 90 or 95 per cent. of the people. It is a question which I think should be given consideration a little later on. I have been authorized by my constituency and so am obliged to read a resolution that was passed there on the 3rd July, 1941. I would like at the outset to say that any criticism I make in this Council must be considered as wholly impersonal. I have a duty to perform and, as I have stated on several occasions, I am compelled to carry out that duty. The resolution reads as follows:

That the Imperial Government be asked to refund every cent received by Sir Wilfrid Jackson from this country as salary, emoluments, etc., as he had not earned it.

I want to say that I took no part in the matter (laughter).

THE CHAIRMAN: I would just like to say that the hon. Member has moved the reduction of the vote by one dollar in order to raise certain points, one of which I can answer immediately. The other is a motion which he cannot move now.

Mr. JACOB: I am reading a resolution that was moved in my constituency and that I was asked to mention in this Council so that a record can be made of it. The resolution was carried to my surprise unanimously at a meeting convened for the purpose, and I was specially requested not only to read it but to do something further in this Council. I do not think, however, I can do anything more than read the

resolution and let it be placed on record so as to show the feelings of the people in some parts of the Colony at least. I should like to say further that a copy of the resolution was submitted to the Colonial Secretary in a letter from me dated 5th July, 1941.

THE CHAIRMAN: The only part that is relevant in the hon. Member's remarks is that dealing with the President of Council. If the hon. Member would do me the honour of reading my speech to the Council on the opening day, he would see that I myself made some such proposal without knowing anything of the opinion in this Colony. I am quite prepared, when we come to suggest the putting of a resolution dealing with the Constitution, to accept a clause that the Governor should not be President of the Legislative Council.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I do not know whether the hon. Member refers to the whole payment to your predecessor or only to the amount which should have been deducted for Income Tax. I do not know what he is getting at, when he refers to the refund of the whole salary.

THE CHAIRMAN: It seems to be quite clear. It is intended that the whole sum paid as remuneration should be refunded by the Imperial Government.

Item 3—Transport on Official Visits, \$1,000.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: In view of the fact that Your Excellency has expressed a desire and willingness to do a greater amount of travelling than has been done by previous Governors and also in view of the fact that the people welcome such visits, I am wondering whether the figure of \$1,000 for 1942 is sufficient. It is not within the province of an Unofficial Member to move an increase, but I think that as the result of a suggestion the item may be carried out at \$1,500.

THE CHAIRMAN: Only \$611 was spent in 1940. I have no details of what I have spent to date; it may be considerable. The hon. Colonial Treasurer may have an idea as to the adequacy of the vote.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: May

I suggest that after trying out the vote, if Your Excellency requires more money we may approach the Council by way of a supplementary estimate. I am unable to say whether \$1,000 is adequate.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is far better to do it now and save paper in the issue of special warrants. Has the hon. Colonial Treasurer any idea?

Mr. Mc DAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I think the amount of the vote is too small, especially if Your Excellency intends to travel around the country districts. This vote merely applies to normal transport. I suggest that the vote be increased by at least one-half.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is my own feeling, but I did not want to say so. If one is to use the Air Service which is something very remarkable in this Colony, I doubt if this vote would suffice. I am quite prepared to keep myself within any vote the Council fixes, but if I travel around then I must ask to be given what to travel with.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: That is what I am zealously endeavouring to safeguard—the privilege of Members of this Council in the matter of Government spending money without coveing authority.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the amount of the item be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Mr. MACKEY: I am in entire agreement that the vote should be increased to \$1,500, but surely this is an item which can be brought up every month. If I remember rightly, Your Excellency made the suggestion that you should have a meeting once a fortnight or month with the Unofficial Members. The item can be dealt with then and passed. I am in favour that more travelling should be done not only by the Governor of the Colony but by the various Heads of Government Departments as well.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is quite true we can deal with it in the way suggested, but if you are sure that the vote is not enough it is wiser to increase it now and save paper and time in doing it later.

Mr. MACKEY: If it is found necessary

at any time that more money is required, that is a matter which can be brought up before the Finance Committee later on. I entirely agree that the amount should be increased, and I emphasize that more travelling should be done by Heads of Departments.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item passed as amended.

#### LEGISLATURE.

Mr. JACOB: I beg to move the reduction of this vote by one dollar in order to make certain observations under this Head. In the first place, Your Excellency, a suggestion had been made on several occasions previously that the attendance of Members in this Chamber would be better if the hours of sitting were changed. I merely raise it to-day to show that it may be advisable later on to have the sittings beginning at 1 p.m. and continuing to 4 or 5 p.m. or to some other time in the evening. I think it is rather inconvenient to legal practitioners who are Members of this Council to come here during a Session from 10.30 or 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. It cannot be disputed that the attendance of legal Members of this Council has not been very satisfactory. So far as I am concerned I have always attended here fairly punctually and regularly, but I think it will be far more desirable to have one sitting in the afternoon, as Members would like to do some private work between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and then attend the sitting of the Council in the afternoon. I would like to hear an expression of opinion by other Members so that there can be a record of it.

Further I think I am within my right—I am just feeling my way at the moment—to refer to the change of the Constitution and the attendance of Members here. I am strongly of the opinion that the constitution of this Council particularly in the passing of the Estimates should be somewhat different. Maybe there are very good reasons for having the present constituted Council sitting, but when it is remembered that suggestions have been made since June or May and here we are in December while Your Excellency has made certain pronouncements, the whole country is not at all easy over the proposed changes and what has been done at the

present time. This is the only place where Members can express the views of the people of this Colony, and when some of those views cannot be expressed for obvious reasons then one must feel compelled to make reference to the fact. I had the unfortunate experience of retiring from this Council for a few hours. The day prior to that I had also the unfortunate experience of being the only Member of this Council who voted against the confirmation of Minutes, which to my mind was highly irregular. I have always stuck out, sir, for order and the proper conduct of affairs in this Council.

Those minutes have been confirmed, but I propose to refer that matter through, you to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to show how this Council, constituted as it is and with the advice that it gets, can confirm minutes that do not represent the correct procedure or the correct happenings when that meeting was held. I stated then that there was a way of correcting or amending minutes, but the highly irregular way adopted in this Council with every Member present then voting for it amuses me tremendously. I claim to know a little about minutes and something about Companies' Law too, and I am not a lawyer too. Minutes are correct records of what happens but this Legislative Assembly has confirmed minutes that do not give correctly what happened at that time. Maybe I have no redress, but why did this Government not want to confirm the correct minutes? I tabled and asked certain questions but four of them have been deleted from the minutes. If it would embarrass Government to answer those questions it might have said so in its usual pet phrase "It is not in public interest to answer those questions." That strikes at the root of this Assembly. I maintain that it does.

I have been threatened with criminal libel because I attempted to criticize and ask that certain things be investigated. One hon. Member of this Council, who is a Member of Executive Council, got up and threatened an Elected Member with criminal libel. I would like to be put in gaol for criminal libel. I want him to repeat that outside this Chamber. Because I dared to ask that the government be run in the cleanest possible fashion I have been threatened



with criminal libel and all kinds of things in this Council. I cherish too highly the privileges of this Council, and I ask that in future a little more care be taken as to how we proceed with the business of this country in this Legislative Council. The Constitution is to be changed very shortly, and the personnel of this Legislature is also to be changed. I hope it will be done very rapidly and that the public will regain confidence in this Legislature. I have addressed several letters to the Government on this question and I have taken care to collect public opinion on it. Public opinion is definitely against the constitution of this Legislative Council as it is at present, and it is hoped that Government will see the advisability of having this Council properly constituted at no distant date.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I would just like to say that the suggestion by the hon. Member for a change in the hours of sitting of this Council is one, I trust, Government will give some consideration. I speak not only as a legal Member because from my various other activities this year I do not think I have done much legal work and I have been told so by the clerks in my office. However, I do think that the hours of sitting of the Council cause a certain amount of inconvenience, while one does not care to say anything about it. It is true that legal Members of Council are treated with some courtesy in the Courts in order that they may attend the sittings of the Council, but there is some inconvenience caused not only to legal Members but to other Members of this Council as well.

Mr. PEER BACCHAUS: I do not subscribe to the views of the two hon. Members who have spoken. I happen to be a Member from the East, and when I leave home to attend the meetings of the Legislative Council I have to remain all the time in town. I therefore prefer to give the whole of my time when away from home to the business of the Council rather than to spend half a day doing nothing. I would remind the hon. Members that when they decided to give public service they knew they would have to make some sacrifice. I do think that much of the time spent in this Council can be lessened a great deal, and I wish hon. Members will bear that in mind in their consideration of the Estimates,

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I would not have risen but for the appeal on behalf of the legal Members and the plea for the country Members, and I think I am entitled to plead for the commercial Members. I cannot see that it is convenient for commercial men to come here and spend half a day as suggested by the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob). It means that commercial men will have to divorce themselves from their businesses for a whole afternoon. Time may not be valuable to a legal man but it is very valuable to the commercial man. I am not telling tales out of school when I say that commercial Members leave here at 4 o'clock in the afternoons and go back to their offices and try to finish up what work is there to be done. It is true that we find it inconvenient to be here, but that is a matter for us to decide. Perhaps we may suggest that we sit on Sundays. One hon. Member had in mind our sitting here in the evenings, but I would remind him that when that was done there was a special reason for it. No one would like to come here in the evening to consider estimates and listen to drowsy speeches. Unless the meetings are made very attractive I do not think I would welcome coming here night after night and hearing some of the speeches made here even including those made by me.

The present hours are all right, unless we decide to sit longer in the mornings and go away. If we sit only from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and do not come back for the balance of the day, that would suit me best, but that would only prolong the meetings of the Council. At the present moment we sit for four hours—two hours in the morning—from 10.30 to 12.30—and two hours in the afternoon—from 2 to 4—and those hours, I submit, are very convenient to all concerned, even the lawyers find them so. I see a good many of them here today, and those who are not here have some special fixture which has caused their absence, and we cannot be guided by that.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I have only risen to say that I thought when the hon. Member referred to commercial Members returning to their business houses after 4 o'clock in the afternoons and doing work, he would have added that in future any legislation coming before this Council in respect of the work done in business houses after 4 o'clock

should exclude the staff or shop assistants. I take it that is taken for granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think we should enter into a debate on this question now. We may discuss very fully at another time this matter of the hours of sitting of the Council. Personally, I would like to see it pursued. I raised it the first day I presided over the Council, and I was speaking then entirely from a selfish point of view and was not thinking of the hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peer Bacchus). I just raised it as in the Mother of Parliaments it was found that a great number of the Members could not do their other work unless they had the morning hours free; therefore Parliament does not meet in the mornings. I find myself in the same position. I have to come here and sit for four hours a day, giving up a part of the morning and a part of the afternoon, and I find it difficult to get through with my other work. I went to bed this morning at half past one o'clock because I had to spend the whole evening in reading documents on what took place during the day. I am expressing a personal opinion, but there are a number of Government Officers sitting here whose work is piling up in their offices and I would like to hear them speak for themselves. Anyway, let us discuss it at some convenient time later.

The question of the Constitution has been raised. We are going to discuss that later and do it very fully. I hope to have something done in the next few weeks or months. Before we can come to any decision there is a considerable deal to be done, even before the first change which is the abolition of the large Official membership. The hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) I take it, is not pressing his amendment having had his say.

Mr. JACOB: Yes. I only moved the reduction for that purpose.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment being withdrawn we will proceed to pass the whole of Item 1.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### AGRICULTURE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY  
There are two matters I want to refer to before we deal with sub-items (1) to (16)

on page 3. With regard to (2)—“Deputy Director of Agriculture”—I would like to state for the information of the Council that it is Government's intention to take steps to have this post filled as early as possible in the coming year. I mention that because an undertaking has been given that the post will not be filled without Government first informing this Council of its intention.

With regard to the abolition of the post of “Botanist and Plant Pathologist” and the substitution of the new post of “Curator, Botanic Gardens”, in view of what was said by one hon. Member yesterday I would like to inform him that it is a recommendation not only made by the Agricultural Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies but by the Comptroller himself. Both strongly advise that the post of “Botanist and Plant Pathologist” be not filled but that the post of “Curator, Botanic Gardens” be created.

THE CHAIRMAN: There will be a saving as the result of the change!

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, a small saving in salary.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not want to rise over and over again on account of my state of health, and so I will just speak generally on the Head and refer to one or two items on these estimates. Before I commence to speak, I may tell Your Excellency a story I have read. It is the story of a lawyer who always, when he had a very bad case and was addressing the Court, worked himself up into a state of emotion until he burst into tears. The old Judge on one occasion said to him “Oh, Mr. So—and—So, you do not mean to say you are coming with that old stunt again!” “Yes, Your Honour,” the lawyer replied, “but every time I have a new jury”.

Some of the old stunts that will come up here you will excuse me for staging, because I have you and the new Member on my left (Mr. Ogle, acting Director of Education) as a new jury. (laughter).

I do not understand this Department. It has great mathematicians. The Head of this Department will get up here and tell you nought from nought leaves fifty-two, but he will not put the minus sign

before it. During the last ten years the expenditure of this Department has risen from \$112,000 to \$168,000. What have we got for it? We are told, despite all the things that we have grown here before and are growing to-day, that nothing can grow here except rice and sugar—two things that have been growing here all along and very well before the present Director undertook, as he said, to reorganize the Department. Cotton was a special product of this country before sugar became king, but we are told that it cannot be produced here now, and the reason given for leaving cotton alone is that labour is not sufficient. Cotton ruled until the time when competitive prices became too strong and then sugar came and took over, and most of the people went off to sugar. There were other things grown here as well. At a time like this when a war is on and there are several things we cannot get from abroad such as jams, jellies and things of that kind, and when we are making sugar in this country and have tropical fruits of all kinds growing all over the place, it is possible for the Director to show his metal. We have a band of highly specialised men, a highly specialised and expensive staff in this Department, and at a time like this we cannot hear the Department say: "We are going to produce jams and jellies to take the place of the imported articles". Nothing is done and yet we get an increase in the estimates of this Department.

To show how things are done in this Department: Two or three years ago this Council after a long debate seriously decided to try the curing of tobacco in this country. We knew that tobacco can grow here very well. The Aboriginal Indians know more about that than anybody else, and everyone on the coastlands knows that we can grow tobacco here. One scientist once said that we are growing tobacco here better than in Havana, and he gave the scientific reason for that. He said that the tobacco grown here is thinner than that grown in Havana. It was decided that this Government should get an expert who can cure tobacco, and this Department was charged with the responsibility of bringing that individual into the country. When eventually we got that individual, he was not from Brazil where they grow tobacco in galore, not from Cuba which has such a high reputation for tobacco growing,

but from the wilds of Africa. I have never seen that gentleman and I do not know him, but I understand he was brought from Africa. Two gentlemen who are still living in the County of Berbice, whose characters are above reproach and who have been dabbling for some time in the growing of tobacco but without success, approached that gentleman in order to get him to help them. That gentleman told them that he did not know how to cure tobacco but he knew how to grow it in the field.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: To a point of explanation! I think it is only fair to say that this story has been given to the Council before and to remind the Council of the statement made then. What the officer said was that he was not *au fait* with the curing of "black fat" tobacco, which is a particular kind of tobacco.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I have said what was told to me.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member wish to move a motion with reference to any particular item on page 3 of the Estimates?

Mr. ELEAZAR: To save myself getting up to speak on every item I am making a speech on all.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are speaking generally on page 3 and not on any particular item?

Mr. ELEAZAR: Yes, sir. I am only drawing attention to particular items as I go along. I was told that the expert did not know to cure tobacco. Only to-day I was again told that.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you desire particularly to refer to the tobacco industry we would take it when we get to page 5 where there is an item—Tobacco Industry Development. You can keep your remarks on tobacco until we get to that.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I would like to do what you suggest, but I am making a speech now on general lines. If I am to speak on every item I will have to make several speeches and I have not the energy to get up so often. When I am finished and we come to the items I will not say a

word. If, however, you prefer the other way then I will have to do so.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suggest that if you have any remarks on the items on page 3 to make them, but what appears to be a particular item with a particular provision on the estimates should be dealt with when we get to it.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Speaking on the Head generally, this Department is not pulling its weight. I expect more from it especially as its expenditure has been mounting up from 1931 to the present time. I see an item—"10 Agricultural Instructors." I understand that the Inspector General of Agriculture in the West Indies has actually recommended that there should be one or two Agricultural Officers in every district, and so we want 10 Agricultural Instructors now. Your Excellency will be very much surprised to learn that the immediate predecessor of the present Director had men trained by himself and stationed in all the districts and that they were cashiered as soon as possible after the new Director arrived and said he was reorganising the Department. The men were sent away and specialists and 'ologists were brought in. It was left to someone from outside to come along and say what was the correct thing and that the Department was doing the wrong thing all the time. I do not know where we are going to get the ten men from. I suppose they are going to be brought from Timbuctoo. Your Excellency, those men who were trained by the late Sir John Harrison were doing a good job when they were got rid of. I do not know whether the Department is going to begin to train these ten Agricultural Instructors now or is going to send abroad for them. This sending abroad for men for agricultural or any purpose in this country has not been a very happy project in times past. We do not want any more men to come here to teach people to grow rice and when they see the plant cannot distinguish it from grass. That is common knowledge. An officer when taken into a field of growing rice said to the man "Why do you not cut down all this grass?" The man replied: "This is not grass, boss, this is rice". That is the danger when you get men from abroad. They always come to learn.

This Department more than any other

Government Department is like the schoolmaster in a story I am going to give you. He had a little boy named John in his school who showed an aptitude for figures. One day the Authorities visited the school—I suppose the Governor was among them—and he wanted to show off his scholars. He called John and gave him a simple problem in arithmetic.—20 sheep are in a pen and five get away, how many remain. John replied "None". "What!" said the master, "you don't know subtraction?" John replied: "You know subtraction and I know sheep; if one get away all gone". This Department knows "subtraction" very well, but it does not know "sheep". That is what we have in this Department here. I do not know if it is absolute obscurantism, conceit or hypocrisy. What I do not understand, is what everybody else in the country sees possible this Department sees impossible. I read that the Americans are actually making bauxite out of some other stuff because of emergency as it is wanted for war purposes. We don't want to take something and make something else, but there are certain seasons here when we have ground provisions in galore—at this present instance we have a lot of rice—and the surplus can be profitably utilised. We get flour from Canada and U.S.A. and that commodity is scarce, but I do not hear the Director of Agriculture say that we should get a mill and make rice flour. I cannot hear him say we must get a mill and make plantain flour. Plantain flour is most nutritious especially for children. The Agricultural Department with all its 'ologists sits tight while the country wants all these things and cannot get them. Although we produce the raw material here we have not got enough brains to make the fullest use of it. That is why I say it is obscurantism. The Department is deceiving us and the community and keeping us in the same position all the time.

There are several items here which I do not know how the Department is going to justify them, but they are here and are going to be passed. I want this Department to understand these things, but the Director will not budge. When you tell him these things he makes excuses for not doing them. He takes up the attitude: "I am Director; I know that you may grow anything other than rice and cane but let everything else go hang". And



yet we go on spending money on this Department and every year it is increasing. Now that we have an Inspector General of Agriculture in the West Indies we must have ten more men to go into the villages to teach the people, but we had those men before. Sir John Harrison, one of the greatest scientists the West Indies has ever seen, had them but they were all cashiered and sent away after he left. Those men had been experimenting in the Department for a considerable time and are now knocking about town because the present Director has been reorganizing the Department. I do say that we are not getting value for the money we are spending on this Department. We have a lot of men there and we think they ought to address their mind to converting some of the local products into articles which we cannot get from abroad. We have peppers wasting here and other things of that nature which can be used in making pickles. We cannot get pickles from abroad now but nothing is done in that direction by the Department. Left to me I will give everybody in that Department who is entitled to lump sum and pension their pension and lump sum and let them go, because by doing that we will save something. We are spending money on the Department and are not getting anything for it, and if we pay them off we will spend less money on the Department.

This is a department that Your Excellency has to address your mind to particularly. Perhaps if that is done in conclave with the Director you would get to know why he tried, to my mind, to provide a coffin when the man is not dead. Your Excellency, this Department is not doing us justice. As I said yesterday, I do not wish to indulge in incrimination or re-priming because that cannot carry us one step further. I make these remarks so that the Director will see the possibility of viewing the picture on the other side as well. For years we have been telling him to look on the other side but he has taken no notice of it. I think if he does that the Department will prove more useful to the country, especially at this time when we want things which we cannot get from abroad and which can be produced here.

Dr. SINGH: Most of the inhabitants of this Colony, especially the peasant farmers, expressed feelings of hope when this

Department was inaugurated. They felt that this Department would assist them to raise the agricultural standard of the country and that good would accrue therefrom. Since then I have been sitting in this Council year after year and hearing adverse criticisms against this Department: that it is spending huge sums of money, that it is top-heavy and that there is nothing to show for the money which is being spent. But I still hope that this Department will be encouraged and given an opportunity to show its worth. Since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe the Department very prudently advised colonists to grow more food, but I expected as a concomitant to "grow more food" that some kind of machinery would have been introduced whereby the people would be assisted in the form of an agricultural bank and co-operative marketing. It is true, sir, that an agricultural bank is a stupendous move entailing huge expenditure, but at the same time I feel it is the only thing that will assist our agriculturists in this Colony because, I think, it will be based on a long term credit with the usual repayment system. It is true that at the present time the Co-operative Credit Bank is giving loans to farmers, but these loans are for a short term period and the percentage of interest is rather high.

As regards marketing, I think the resources of our farmers should be pooled in the different parts of the country and then sent to a central place in Georgetown where they could be sold and after deducting the expenses the balance given to the farmers. But what do you find to-day? Take for instance the farmers of the Demerara River District. They come to Georgetown with their produce and have to spend two or three days perhaps in getting a fair price for their products. The wily consumers wait until possibly the last moment for him to return home when he is compelled to sell for little or nothing. If there is co-operative marketing much time will be saved the farmers in the disposal of their produce and the days they spend in Georgetown can be beneficially occupied in doing work on their farms.

We have also to think of juvenile delinquents. Their numbers are in the ascendancy all the time and, I think, their employment on the land is the only solution to the problem. There are thousands

of boys and girls leaving school every year, and there is not enough encouragement for them in Water Street. Employment seems difficult for them to obtain, and the only solution is the land. If something can be done whereby these boys and girls can be attracted to the land, I think it will save them from becoming delinquents. After all they are going to be the future men and women of British Guiana. They are going to be the citizens of the future. It is true that the type of training the children receive at the present time, perhaps, makes them look upon agriculture as some sort of menial vocation, but with modern implements and mechanised facilities I think our boys and girls will be willing to take to the land. I make this suggestion because we are hopeful that this Colony, which is in the main an agricultural one, will progress and the people made better off by our producing not only enough for ourselves but for export.

Mr. C.V. WIGHT : With your permission I propose to quote one or two passages from the "Journal of the Parliaments of the Empire" in regard to the policy adopted in England in relation to agriculture, and to enquire of our Department how that policy is to be continued and whether it will not be advisable to set up a committee to enquire into the various legislative enactments which have been passed for the benefit of agriculture and also to coalesce certain local Ordinances and expand them if necessary. I have referred on several occasions to these chapters namely, 152, 153 and 155. Yesterday I referred briefly to the question of stabilization of prices with regard especially to the grower and suggested that if necessary it might be desirable to subsidize the farmer in various forms. I would just like to say that these expressions of opinion are not necessarily mine but have the authority of no greater person at the moment than the Minister of Agriculture, and if I may be permitted to make reference to one or two passages in the various journals I have referred to - I have several of them but I do not intend to quote them all - it may shorten what little I have to say.

A committee of that sort should sit, I suggest, and make a report which should not be treated as is usually done with committees' reports, and that is to take no

action of their suggestions until four or five years after. This one will require immediate action as in the case of the rice industry which, I venture to suggest, assumes greater importance to-day than in the immediate future by virtue of the conflict which is now going on in the Pacific. The Minister of Agriculture—I take it for granted and am presuming that hon. Members of Council are fully aware of these several passages—has repeatedly throughout the various debates stated, but in different words, his policy. He is reported as saying :

"Farmers would be asked in many cases drastically to alter their normal production and in all cases materially to increase it. They must be assured of a market for the increased products and of a reasonable return for their increased expenditure."

Your Excellency has referred to the appointment of a Marketing Officer. I take it that it will be part of that officer's duties when he arrives here to co-ordinate the various policies which have been set up but I think some initial work should be done before he arrives. I am not for one moment saying the hon. Director of Agriculture is not capable, but I do subscribe to the view that one is a specialist in a particular branch and another is not. Again we have the Minister of Agriculture saying :

"In the course of the next few months they would have to take steps which were economic and, from the long term point of view, unwise but which were forced upon them by the inescapable necessities of the situation. They must ensure themselves against stoppage of the present importation programme by enemy action and the only way to do so was by increasing domestic production."

I think those words are very apt to this case. We have a suggestion for the appointment of a Curator, Botanic Gardens. The hon. Director should be in a position to enlighten us more on it, but that appears to me to be a long term view and nothing immediate. It is something which you must satisfy the needs of and keep contented by remunerative prices—the producer, who is more commonly known in this Colony as the farmer. The hon. Member for Demerara—Essequibo (Dr. Singh) suggested a return to the land, but those who have spoken to the farmers realize their difficulties in this country. We are now attempting to alleviate their lot by instituting an extensive

form of irrigation and drainage and, I think, it only remains now for us to fix remunerative prices. I know the hon. Colonial Treasurer will say the Rice Marketing Board—and I have no hesitation in saying I am a supporter of that Board, as the Chairman knows, and I assist it where possible. I am going to suggest that with the conflicting reports received from the various elements of the industry, perhaps, some evidence in a legal form may be taken and some definite price fixed which is satisfactory—I am not concerned so much with those at the top in the industry—to the producer, and from that we can build.

These are some of the suggestions I venture to make with some hope that after the fear of the price, which is unremunerated to the farmer, has been reduced, in the future there will be very little difficulty and trouble for the industry or industries as a whole. When I say fear I refer to the constant change in prices. One year the price is \$1.20, and the next year it may be more or less. The constant change in the price is no encouragement to production, which should be encouraged and which is necessary according to all the expressions of opinion made by the Ministry of Agriculture. I venture to suggest that, perhaps, the rice industry is finding itself in a parlous condition. Some people say that as the result of the incidence of war the price of rice should go up. I know there is a restive Member who will speak on rice. But there is a feeling of uncertainty among a number of persons who have worked and are working in the industry and who should be encouraged to develop it. I go further and refer to another passage in the report of sayings by the Minister of Agriculture.

“The Government had, by ensuring a guaranteed market at guaranteed prices for the principal agricultural products for a year ahead, helped to create more stable conditions up to the 1941 harvest. They had now decided to go further and to guarantee that the present system of fixed prices and an assured market would be maintained for the duration of hostilities and for at least one year thereafter. Prices would be subject to adjustment to the extent of any substantial changes in cost of production.”

“Agricultural wages would continue to receive the protection afforded by the minima prescribed under the Agricultural Wages Acts. The Government, representative as they were of all major Political Parties, recognized the importance of maintaining after the war a healthy and well-balanced agriculture as an

essential and permanent feature of national policy.”

I would suggest that this Government adapt that policy in relation to the rice industry. I do not mean that industry alone, as there are others which may be considered but in a small way. Undoubtedly on account of lack of shipping the position in respect of our supplies becomes more acute daily, and we have to consider that this Colony may yet have to supply all our bodily needs. I would just like to mention one or two matters which might be expressed in dealing with the question: Is there sufficient co-operation in the several Government Departments in dealing with certain matters of this kind? I would refer briefly to the recent decision which has been given on the question of coffee. There was undoubtedly a coffee shortage. I do not know if the hon. Director of Agriculture would subscribe to that view, but I myself found it difficult for several weeks to obtain coffee. Yet we have one branch of Government prosecuting a retailer for adapting a very reasonable attitude in selling a quarter-pound instead of a half-pound when people were glad to get what they could. I am not cavilling or saying in a carping spirit that this Department is not entitled to do its duty. What I am saying is that there is a policy of Government and it is perfectly easy for those in authority to say whether they should prosecute or not so as to get at the root or cause of the trouble and, if there is any hoarding of coffee, to get at the hoarders, but they should not get at a man for selling a quarter-pound of coffee to everybody when the difficulties of supply are known to Government. I trust that whatever I have said will be taken as having been said in a general way and, I hope, in a constructive way and not as an attempt in any way to disparage the work of the Department. I am asking that this suggestion be given some consideration. Your Excellency has in your speech yourself more or less indicated that there are difficulties and that it may be the duty of the Press to support any reform. I have not quoted exactly your words. They may be misinterpreted but I hope not. You indicated that the Press should give some fillip to matters which are in the interest of the majority of the community. I feel sure that the inhabitants of this Colony will suffer gladly, willingly and



even in silence such reform. I trust that Your Excellency will feel that the Elected Members of this Colony are not only paying heed to what you have said, but that they are endeavouring to act and use their influence where they can in the interest of the Colony generally, and that constructive criticism in any form or shape which they may deem advisable to place before Government will be given every consideration.

Mr. JACOB: It is usual for hon. Members of Council to make statements here sometimes which we do not quite like to do at times. I hope that when I make any statement under this Head it will be what I intend to make. My hon. friend, who has just taken his seat, referred to me as being a little restive. I do not think I am. I think I am very cool. I am anxious sometimes to speak and to get my point of view taken into consideration, but I hold I have always taken an extremely keen interest in this Department. It may be well to state that this Department has a poor personnel which, on looking at it, one will think it has brains, men of initiative and everything that can make the Department a huge success. If, however, I gather aright from the remarks of the three hon. Members who have spoken, everyone criticizes this Department very strongly. The expenditure has risen from \$112,346 in 1931 to \$168,087 for 1942. I know that my hon. friend, the Director of Agriculture, is going to accuse me of being ungenerous. I expect that. I have to be ungenerous at times with the taxpayers' money. I would agree to an expenditure of \$200,000 on this Department, provided we obtain results. We have had very little results from this Department up to the present, and when I quote figures I know that certain hon. Members do not like to hear me. I am, however, quoting them for Your Excellency's information. When I quote these figures Your Excellency will see what progress this Department has made and what help Government has given to the producers of agricultural products with the exception of sugar.

While speaking on the Budget motion yesterday I suggested a reduction of salaries. I indicated a reduction of 20 per cent. in the highest salaries down to 5 per cent. in salaries over \$220. When I made that suggestion I might have been con-

sidered ungenerous, but the taxpayers of this Colony cannot afford to pay these high salaries. I am, however, not saying that the officers concerned are not entitled to them. This Government will claim that they are fully entitled to them, and the Imperial Government, as the framers of the Civil List, will also claim that the officers concerned do earn these salaries. I have no objection to the Imperial Government paying these officers double the salaries they are now getting. I have no objection to these officers earning double or treble their salaries. My point is the taxpayers of this country cannot afford to pay these large salaries. That may be termed ungenerous, but if this Department had been a private business concern with a capital, as soon as that capital had finished the business would have gone into bankruptcy. I say that this Department has gone into bankruptcy years ago. I do not know what they do, but what they do may be is wasted energy. I would not say some energy is not displayed, but it is misdirected. I suggest for the careful consideration of Government that we have to stand on our own resources now as we are not going to get any loans in aid or grants in aid free of interest from the Imperial Government. We have to meet our expenditure without them. We have to budget for it. I say if a new era is to come in our affairs, if there is to be the dawn of a new era, I hope that era would come tomorrow. We cannot go on at this rate. This is the seventh time that I have had the honour to speak on these estimates and sound the same tune all the time. I cannot be wrong all the time. I know I am perfectly right. I am sure I am right.

Let me deal with coffee. Coffee used to be the main product of my constituency. I have a statement here of the exports of coffee. Although Your Excellency has been told that we cannot tell fairly accurately what is the production of coffee in this Colony, even if you are given figures they are not correct. That is a bold statement, but I make it knowing fully what I say. I was elected Member for the North-Western District, which is the largest producer of coffee in this Colony. In 1935 and the year before—1934—317 tons of coffee valued \$47,238 was exported. These are the Customs figures and they correspond with those in the report of the Director of



Agriculture. My figures are therefore official. This year only thirty tons of coffee valued \$240 has been exported. There is a huge shortage of coffee in the Colony at the present time. I think it was in 1937 that Government was good enough to appoint a Select Committee of the Legislature to go into the question of the coffee industry, and the hon. Director of Agriculture and myself went to Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, to investigate certain conditions in regard to coffee there. We returned and made a report, but unfortunately I found myself in the minority. I was alone in my recommendation. Although the hon. Director and myself had agreed on every point that help must be given to the coffee industry, when we arrived back in British Guiana and the report was being written we differed. I maintained that if help is to be given the industry it must be to the actual producer, the one who tills the soil, grows the crop, reaps it and sends it to the market. It is usual in British Guiana for such help to be given through the middle men—the merchants and their agents—but I have never been in favour of that. I hold that such help must be given to the producer direct. But I found myself in a hopeless minority.

The position to-day is that there is no coffee in the Colony and we are importing coffee now. Government has taken upon itself to import coffee to supply the merchants duty free. This money is going to our Sister Colonies when we should be getting money from other Colonies to whom we had been exporting coffee. My idea of export and import differs from those of Government and certain commercial interests. Certain commercial interests want to import everything otherwise their doors will have to be closed. Self-preservation is Nature's first law. In the Chamber of Commerce of which I happen to be a member for the last ten years I cannot get support, but they get support to import all kinds of stuff, coffee included. I do not want to say it is done deliberately, but the plain fact remains that the people in my constituency who live on their production of coffee cannot do so now. Your Excellency has seen conditions there, very superficially so to speak, but the physique of the people and their general outlook are very depressing. I have been there about eight times; I have lived in the North

West District for four weeks, and I claim to know something about the place and its people. I have mixed with the people there and can express their views on every occasion. I say that if Government had come in at the right time and given the coffee producer \$5 per acre under cultivation for a period of not more than three years, there would have been coffee in this Colony and we would have been exporting a little of it to-day. I know that I will be told that there is no market for coffee. While that may have been so some years ago, the whole world outlook is definitely changed now and we ought to be able to sell our coffee within the Empire, for there are certain grades here which can be exported within the Empire. I say Government should not be importing coffee into this Colony.

In 1928 we exported 410 tons and in 1941 only 30 tons. That shows what the Department of Agriculture has done to help the coffee producer from 1928. I have selected that year because the change of our Constitution occurred then and Government has been in control since then. Since 1928 Government has governed this Colony. Government has imposed its will on the people, and what has been the result in respect of the coffee industry? I speak feelingly because I have taken considerable interest in the matter. I have worked out several schemes and investigated the matter from all aspects. My hon. friend, the Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) can speak of coffee. He realizes that coffee used to be produced to some extent in his constituency and to-day, I believe, not 5 tons is produced there. He has agreed that is so. I have intimate knowledge of Western Essequibo and have been going there for 20 years and I know every yard of the land. Then again in the Demerara River District coffee was produced. It may be said that the people in the North-West District want to be spoon-fed, but other agricultural products had been subsidized in some way and had it not been for that subsidy they would have gone out of existence—the sugar industry, for example, would have gone out of existence in this Colony. But has Government subsidized the coffee industry at any time?—Never.

I come now to another point—Government assistance in regard to the coconut industry. Government has been helping

that industry by legislation and by various means for some time. Last year, however, we had to import coc nut products and coconut oil, and this year we are importing too. When you look at the figures from 1928 they present a most depressing spectacle. In 1928 the Colony exported 3,510 tons of copra valued at \$352,522. In 1940 through certain people becoming extremely wise, instead of exporting 500 tons we exported 1,027 tons at the end of June. There was a shortage from August to December; everything in the Colony was picked up and exported. They thought they were doing well. They believed that coconuts could be picked and made into copra in a few weeks. From last year on to this year we have been importing copra. In order to deal effectively with the coconut industry you must deal with the exports of coconuts and coconut oil. In 1928 the exports of copra were 3,501 tons valued at \$352,522 and the exports of coconuts were 321,635 nuts valued at \$5,939 while the exports of coconut oil were 26,245 gallons valued at \$24,427, the total value of exports of the coconut industry being \$382,888. In 1940 the total value of exports of the coconut industry was \$76,582 and in 1941 the exports were practically nil. This industry was being helped by this Government with the experts in the Agricultural Department and certain wisecracks advising Government all the time.

There is a definite shortage of oil in this Colony since last year. There is a shortage now, I think, although one hon. Member had the temerity to contradict my figures. We have the position and the contradiction, but the fact remains that the coconut industry is being helped now and its exports have declined. I may be told that I am speaking from superficial knowledge. Certain hon. Members know that I was connected with a few estates and had to do with coconut plantations; I know something about it although I may not have looked into all aspects of it. A company had 500 acres under coconut cultivation and had to abandon it because for many years it could not pay its way. The coconut industry, like the coffee industry, is definitely ruined, but what is worse is that the coconut industry—and let me stress it—had been and is being helped. How is it helped? Would it be unfair to say it was helped to ruin? I am going to be told there were droughts and floods which

must be taken into consideration. That may be so, but the skill of man is there to counteract and overcome those difficulties. Proper steps are not being taken by those interested in these matters, and yet we have a highly paid and skilled staff of Government Officers. I am not sure that irrigation and drainage are not concerned with droughts and floods, but nevertheless it is Government's business to be concerned with these things. Government is governing. Government can put through any measure in this Council. What is the spectacle of the coconut industry? I venture to predict that for some time to come there will be no exports of coconuts nor of coconut products from this Colony. Like in the case of coffee we may have to be importing them for a few years to come. That is my prediction. Let it be placed on record.

I come to rice. I claim to know something about rice. I am a strong advocate of Boards. (Voices: Hear! Hear!) But my advocacy is on certain definite lines.—Boards controlled by Elected Members of this Council, Members with a responsibility to the people who when they attempt to mislead the people will find themselves misled at the polls. That is the test. We can do what we can but not as long as we can or would like. This industry is going to ruin. It is heading headlong to ruin. I will be told "No". I noticed in the "Daily Chronicle" of yesterday an amazing statement which has gone to the public and will be read in Trinidad and other West Indian Islands. Our papers do go around the West Indies. It states:

Record Rice Crop—50,000 tons if no further loss—British Guiana may supply all West Indies next year.

I am ashamed to think that several Elected Members are associated with a Board which makes such a declaration.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): The Rice Marketing Board never made such a declaration. The hon. Member is quoting from a newspaper report for which the Board is not responsible.

Mr. JACOB: I am going to state what the Board states. These technicalities will not help. I am going to give chapter and verse. The Board states in its report—Sessional Paper No. 12 of 1941—at page 7, paragraph 11:—

Unless any further loss is sustained before the entire crop is harvested the crop is still likely to constitute a record, the present estimate being 50,000 tons of rice.

That is wrong too. I am going to read another report of this—

THE CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. Member to let me know what document he is reading. That requires my assent. Would he just say what it is?

Mr. JACOB: I read just now Legislative Council Sessional Paper No 12 of 1941.

THE CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

Mr. JACOB: This document stated what I stated as appearing in the "Daily Chronicle." It is practically word for word.

Mr. McDAVID: What the hon. Member repeated from the "Daily Chronicle" was that this Colony supplied the whole of the West Indies last year. I challenge that statement as coming from the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: That statement came from a newspaper article. I must ask the hon. Member before reading from any document to intimate what it is. I must ask what the hon. Member proposes to read from now, a newspaper?

Mr. JACOB; The "Daily Chronicle" of December 10 with reference to the Rice Marketing Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. Member let me see what he proposes to read?

(Newspaper handed to his Excellency who looked at it and returning it to Mr. Jacob said that he could proceed).

Mr. JACOB: The report of the Board was issued on the 29th November, 1941—that is the date of the report which was printed and circulated to Members a few days ago, and I have no doubt that the "Daily Chronicle" gave a fair enough record of what appeared in the Board's report. I have read paragraph 11 of the Board's report. I wish to read now Legislative Council Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1940—Report of the B. G. Rice Marketing Board for the period ending 31st March, 1940. Paragraph 8 on page 6 gives certain figures and states:

Anticipated exportable surplus to 30th September, 1940—30,000 tons. In addition, there was a "carry-over" from the preceding crop year, the amount of which was unknown but might reasonably be placed at 4,000 tons.

Mr. McDAVID: I rise to a point of order! Would the hon. Member, if he is quoting figures, not omit to read the reference just above—

Spring Crop, 1940—Prospective possible increased yield in view of increased prices and special measures to increase planting undertaken by the Government 15,000 tons.

Which shows that the figures he is quoting are not the actual yield but the prospective yield.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may reply when he is finished.

Mr. JACOB: I have read word for word what appears here. If the hon. Colonial Treasurer requires me to read the whole paragraph and the Chair agrees I will do so. The words are "Anticipated exportable surplus to 30th September, 1940" and this report is dated 29th May, 1940. I am trying to make a comparison. On the 29th May, 1940, the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board issued a report saying that the exportable surplus to 30th September, 1940, will be 30,000 tons of rice. While those connected with the Board may want to minimise the effect of the statement, it is recorded in the Hansard of November, 1939, that I queried strongly the figures given by the hon. Colonial Secretary and the hon. Colonial Treasurer in an interview with the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) and myself in November, 1939, and they laid stress that we have 30,000 tons of rice to export in 1940. I told them that their figures were all wrong and they could not have 30,000 tons of rice to export when the exports for 1939 would be around 12,000 tons. If in 1938 the exports were 12,884 tons and in 1939 they were 12,503 tons, how in 1940 they could go up to 30,000 tons? That was what I—as a commercial man connected for a long time, nearly the whole of my life, with estimates and figures relating to crops—sugar, rice and other things—could not imagine. I laid stress on it in this Council. I think it was on the 22nd December, 1939, and I asked for the detailed figures as to how that 30,000 tons appeared in the document or in any document that the Secretariat or the Treasury had. I spent about six months endeavour-



ing to get those details. When I say that they were denied to me, I do not think it can be disputed.

You have a statement going out of this Colony that we have 50,000 tons of rice to export in 1942. I have written certain letters to Government, the last one as late as December 6, giving certain figures. I would just like to refer to that letter. The hon. Colonial Secretary will recollect that. On page 2 of that letter, dated December 6 and addressed to the Colonial Secretary, I gave a revision of an estimate of exports for 1942. At one time when I had an interview with the hon. Colonial Secretary, some time in October while he was Officer Administering the Government, I stated that from what I was able to gather the exports of rice for 1942 would not exceed 15,000 tons. The hon. gentleman told me that he was making a note of it. I wrote on the 6th December to say that I have revised that estimate of 15,000 tons and have reduced it to 12,000 tons. I have given previous figures here and they have proved accurate. I do not know if I am burdening Your Excellency, but I would like to read those figures.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the hon. Member reading from now?

Mr. JACOB: The letter addressed to the hon. Colonial Secretary.

"On the 27th November, 1939, in this Council I gave an estimate that the exports for 1939 would not be more than 14,000 tons, and the actual amount was 2,503 tons.

On the 4th November, 1940, I gave an estimate in this Council that the exports for 1940 would not be more than 12,000 tons, and the actual amount was 11,691 tons.

On the 4th November, 1940, I stated that the exports for 1941 would not be more than 8,000 tons and up to the end of October they were 7,518 tons, and I figured there would not be more than 1,000 tons to be exported between November and December so at the most the exports for 1941 would be 8,650 tons. Then I predicted that the exports for 1942 would not be more than 12,000 tons except prompt measures were taken to reap a good Spring Crop. The Board estimates that 50,000 tons of rice would be available after the end of the present Autumn Crop. The consumption is placed at 25,000 tons, and so it is safe to say then that the Board estimates an export of 25,000 tons of rice next year. If you have a good Spring Crop the exports would go up, but I challenge these figures and I challenge the statement."

I plead with Your Excellency to give me an opportunity of examining the details

as to how paragraph 11 of the Rice Marketing Board's report happens to appear in that report. Paragraph 11 says:—

"The present estimate being 50,000 tons of rice."

While those responsible for writing the report must have had details, unless those details are given I cannot agree that it was done in the proper manner, and even if the details are given I say here now that those details are wrong. The West Indian Islands can consume 60,000 tons of rice obtained from various sources. British Guiana ought to be able to supply the entire West Indian Islands with rice. When Government began to control the industry and to help it in 1932, it was the hope of all that the exports, then being 29,000 tons, would have increased and we would have been able to double that with the idea of supplying the entire West Indian Islands. But we were doomed to disappointment. The exports declined from 29,000 tons for that year to 8,500 tons this year. If we are only going to export 8,500 tons this year, how at the end of November the Board throws out the statement "We have 25,000 tons of rice to export in 1942"? This Colony had an unfortunate experience in regard to rice exports. One hon. Member of this Council accompanied by others went to Trinidad and sold rice in 1939. 10,000 tons were sold only. Arrangements were being made to sell 20,000 tons, but the Board found itself in difficulty in supplying 20,000 bags of rice. It had to be bought in Barbados by arrangement with the Barbados Government, with the result that British Guiana lost \$8,000 in the repurchase of Barbados rice imported from India and reshipped to Trinidad. The people connected, who know very little about the rice industry, went and made forward sales with the result that the Colony lost, the rice growers lost \$3,000 in one single transaction of 20,000 bags of rice. I wish to issue a warning here that not more than 10,000 tons of rice should be sold for export during 1942. The market has an upward tendency. I understand arrangements have been made to sell a large quantity of rice in the West Indies. I do not pretend to say that it is correct, but our rice will be sold to the West Indies. The West Indies will know that whenever rice is available it will be sold there, and so there is no necessity to sell in advance especially in view of the present world



situation. I hope the Board is not going to sell in advance or arrange the prices in advance.

At this stage the Council resumed.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The hon. Member has spoken for twenty minutes on rice. I do not think the procedure is quite right, as there is no item on the Estimates dealing with the Board, and I would ask the hon. Member if he desires to speak any longer on rice to postpone his remarks to the appropriate time when it seems proper to allow some time to the consideration of agricultural products. If the hon. Member desires to pursue the matter he should submit a motion for the consideration of the Report of the Rice Marketing Board

The Council adjourned for the luncheon recess until 2 p.m.

2 p.m.—

The Council resumed and resolved itself into Committee to resume consideration of the Estimates under Head III.—Agriculture.

Mr. LEE was present.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) was addressing the Committee at the adjournment. Is he prepared to continue?

Mr. JACOB: I did not quite gather what Your Excellency said this morning—that having spoken for 20 minutes on rice I should—

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I merely suggested that if you wished to continue to speak on the Rice Marketing Board it would be better for you to take the opportunity by special motion which could be done, but within limits. I would then be quite prepared to allow you to consider rice as affecting agricultural activity.

Mr. JACOB: I have complained about the constitution of this Council. I have moved several motions in the past, but constituted as this Council is it would be very unwise to attempt to move a motion attacking Government's policy when Government is supported by Government officers here and by members of the Rice Marketing Board who are in a way bound hand and foot to support Government's policy.

I am not going to detain the Council very long. I think it is a subject which wants a little detailed and constructive criticism, therefore I shall take another five minutes to make my points about rice. I started off by saying that the expenditure under this Head has risen from \$112,346 in 1931 to \$168,087 in the estimates we are considering now, and every inhabitant of this Colony expects that with increasing population there will be increased expenditure and increased production, but as regards coffee and coconuts production has gone down considerably.

Rice production has gone down considerably too. In 1931 the exports of rice were 21,331 tons, in 1941 they would be 8,500 tons, and in 1942 they will hardly exceed 12,000 tons. If, as I said, active steps were taken to adopt all the necessary safeguards against flood and drought and we get a good Spring crop, then whatever the Spring crop produces would have to be added to the 12,000 tons. I am so confident of my facts that it would not matter what hon. Members say in reply to the statement I have made. Your Excellency may not be familiar with this industry within the short time you have been here, so I shall endeavour to bring home a few facts to you.

In 1939 Government stated that there was hoarding of rice as, it was said, there was hoarding of coffee. There was no hoarding of rice. It may be true that one or two persons had a few thousand bags of rice put away, but what do a few thousand bags of rice mean to a large Colony like this? The plain fact remains that the Colony was short of rice for several months, and steps were taken to advise the Imperial Government about it. If there is a shortage of rice next year it is going to be said that people are hoarding. All those excuses can be made—hoarding, flood and drought. As a representative of the taxpayers who provide the money to pay the officers, I say that we must get results and increased production of rice and every other commodity grown under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture. I am saying that we are not getting those results. We are wasting money on a Department which is overstaffed. It has misdirected its energy in many respects, and that has been shown by figures.

There is no appreciable export of

anything except sugar. In fact there is no appreciable quantity exported for the amount of money expended on the Department. It may be said that it is well to have decreased production of coffee because we cannot sell it, but can the same be said of coconuts and rice? This Colony can and ought to be able within five years to supply the entire West Indian islands with over 60,000 tons of rice, but I am sure that proper steps are not taken to do so. Proper steps ought to be taken immediately to do so, and I say most emphatically that the present Rice Marketing Board is not competent to do that. As a member of the Rice Producer's Association, which consists of 17 members, I am in a position to say that 16 members of the Association unanimously decided that the personnel of the Board should be changed. That recommendation was made but Government took absolutely no notice of it. The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) and I felt that we were wasting our time and we resigned from the Association. Is it functioning? Yes, it is, but how? To suit the officials. People are starving in this Colony. They are not given an opportunity to eke out even a miserable existence in certain parts, and we are closing our eyes to this fact. Several years ago one could see several fairly large areas of rice growing alongside the public road from Kitty to Buxton. To-day there is hardly anything. Betterwagting had several rice mills. Where are they now?

I crave Your Excellency's permission to refer to the debate in this Council on December 6, 1940. In the Hansard report of that debate on page 129, the Colonial Treasurer said:—

"I know that he toured the country and made speeches of a subversive character against the control which Government was then about to introduce, so much so that he caused a great deal of upset in the minds of the growers. That stopped; I am not sure why, but perhaps one reason is that rice was declared an essential war service, and it is not a very safe thing for anyone to engage in subversive propaganda".

When the hon. Colonial Treasurer was making that speech I heard him use the word "subversive". Sitting, I asked him "Did you say I made subversive speeches?", and he shook his head. I did not hear every word he said, and I was amazed in looking through the report of the debates to find that I was definitely charged by the

Colonial Treasurer of the Colony with going around the country and making subversive speeches. I claim the privilege of this Council. No Member of this Council, and what is more, no Government official of this Council has the right to charge an Elected Member of this Council with making subversive speeches. Has any Member such a right? It was an abuse of the privilege of this Council, and I thought then that it should have been promptly stopped. But that was not all. My hon. friend, who was sitting to the right of me here, had to leave. He has resigned. I know—

Mr. ELEAZAR: I must rise to a point of order. I do not know that we are discussing what one Member said last year. What point does that make with respect to the debate on the Agricultural vote? I am sure I am capable of understanding, but I do not know what bearing it has on the Department of Agriculture.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the hon. Member will adjust his remarks along the lines desired by his colleague.

Mr. JACOB: I am sorry for my hon. friend.

Mr. ELEAZAR: You can be sorry if you like.

Mr. JACOB: He has been a Member of this Council for quite a long time. I have been here seven years and I have a purpose. It is to improve the lot of the country that gave me birth, and if I cannot improve it as a Member of the Legislature I shall resign. I can walk out at any time, and if I find that my privileges are being curtailed here I shall walk out.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have to call the hon. Member to order. There is the question of relevancy. The hon. Member has now spoken for, I think, almost an hour, and we are discussing item 1 of the Agriculture estimates. I must ask him to keep to relevancy and the matter before the Council.

Mr. JACOB: Is Your Excellency ruling that in 1940, when the Agricultural estimates were being debated and one hon. Member of this Council accused another of making subversive speeches, no reference is to be made to that at an opportune time? Has Your Excellency ruled that I am out

of order; that I must be relevant, or that the closure must be applied to me? I claim that I am within my right.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I must rule that if the hon. Member is raising that matter he must raise it as a personal question. I should be prepared to permit him to address the Council at an appropriate opportunity. At the moment he must confine himself to the matter before us which is a motion on item 1 of the Agricultural estimates.

**Mr. JACOB:** Very well, Your Excellency. I am not prepared to enter into any controversial argument now, sir. I will leave the debate right there. I will now turn to sugar. I have dealt with coffee, coconuts and rice and endeavoured to show that although we have been asked to vote \$56,000 more this year than in 1931 the production of rice has declined from 23,000 tons to 8,500 tons, and that in spite of that reduction in exports this Council is asked to vote this additional money. I am definitely against this vote.

As regards the sugar industry, in 1931 the exports of sugar were 118,946 tons. This year I think the exports can be safely put at 175,000 tons. There we have some cause for congratulating those responsible, and may be the Department of Agriculture too. We have seen progress there. Why was that progress made? The progress was made because those connected with that industry have taken steps and done everything possible to safeguard their rights, interests and investments, and they have been able to get that done. I maintain that in the case of the other industries those rights and interests are not safeguarded by the people, and they are not allowed to be safeguarded.

There is a Rice Marketing Board composed of people who are not connected in any way with the rice industry—some of them at least. I do not want to call names but certain members of the Board are not connected with the rice industry in any way at all. There are lawyers and others. There should be men connected with the rice industry in the same way as those connected with the sugar industry. The same thing applies to the Copra Brokers Board. I am a strong believer in Boards. The Copra Board should have a majority

of those people who are actively interested in the coconut industry, planting coconuts and making copra. Those connected with rice planting, milling and marketing of rice should be members of the Rice Marketing Board; not lawyers and others who have very little interest in the industry, directly or indirectly. Why has Government appointed an unsympathetic Board to look after the rice industry? The sugar people have no cause to quarrel because they manage their own affairs. No one dares to tell them that they must accept this or that. They are masters of their own house, but in the case of rice, coffee, copra and coconuts Government comes in—Government clothed with the power to govern. The result is starvation, privation and unemployment throughout the land.

This debate has been most unpleasant. I am sorry for it as much as any other hon. Member here, but it is necessary that I should express myself as I feel, and if my position here becomes intolerable I shall resign my seat in this Legislature.

**Mr. DE AGUIAR:** It is not unusual for this Council to be treated to lengthy speeches at this time of the session, especially when we are dealing with Agriculture. Some of those speeches, it is true, are interesting, some are constructive, but I am sorry to say that some others are rather destructive. As a matter of fact certain hon. Members seem to take the opportunity afforded them under this head to make this Council a cockpit, and to indulge in remarks that are far from complimentary to the proceedings of this Council. I am very pleased to be able to tell you, sir, that it is not my intention to proceed along those lines but rather to try to see in what way I can render some assistance to the subject under discussion.

It is quite fortunate that the Head of this Department happens to be a Member of this Council and therefore will be able to take care of many of the criticisms that have been levelled against it. Speaking for myself I am very sorry indeed that when important Departments such as this one are under fire, so to speak, by Members of this Council the Heads of those Departments are not permitted to reply on their behalf but have to speak very often through the Colonial Secretary or some other officer



of Government who is a Member of the Council at the time. I for one feel that perhaps some machinery might be introduced which would afford those Heads of Departments an opportunity to reply themselves. I cast no reflection on the particular officer who might be charged by Government to reply on behalf of a Department, but I am inclined to the belief that if those Heads of Departments were given an opportunity to reply themselves perhaps it would serve us in good stead.

Mr. JACOB: To a point of order. Am I to understand that my friend is saying that Heads of Departments concerned do not have an opportunity to reply to debates here? Is he suggesting that the Director of Agriculture will not be given an opportunity to reply?

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The hon. Member was not paying attention. I said it was very fortunate that in this instance the Head of this Department would be able to reply to the various criticisms levelled at his Department, and I went on to suggest that perhaps when similar important Departments were under discussion the Heads of those Departments who are not Members of this Council might be given an opportunity to reply themselves instead of having to do so through the Colonial Secretary or some other officer. I never suggested that the Director of Agriculture would not be given an opportunity to reply to the remarks made by the hon. Member because, as a matter of fact, the hon. Member knows only too well that we have had the pleasure of listening here on many occasions to speeches by the Head of this Department in reply to criticisms levelled against it.

Most of the criticism of this Department is that it is the considered opinion of Members of this Council, and people outside of it, that it is somewhat on the heavy side; that it is top-heavy. There seems to be some justification for that criticism, especially as there is a conflict of opinion. We have been told here that we can grow this and that. On the other hand we have been told that this country is merely a grass country; that our soils are not suitable for this and that. I think I am right in saying that the latter opinion is that of experts, men who are supposed to know what they are talking about.

As a matter of fact several surveys of our soils have been made, and we have been told too that the soil is acid and therefore cannot be expected to produce anything more than grassy substances, such as rice, sugar cane, and things of that sort. That is where the criticism lies. If the experts are satisfied that we can do no more than grow grasses in this country then it seems to me that the criticism is justified that the Department is top-heavy. This Government, I submit, cannot justify carrying such a large Department with so many exports attached to it, so many "logists" as my friend on my left Mr. (Eleazar) always referred to them in the old days, unless we are getting returns for our money. Our complaint is that we are not getting returns for our money. I am entirely dependent on the opinions that have been expressed in regard to the quality of our soil. If that opinion is wrong and our soil is suitable for other things than those we grow at present then perhaps it might be argued that we should carry on with a Department of this size.

Some years ago I think it was as a result of representations made by me in this Council arising out of a debate under this Head it was suggested that perhaps the old Board of Agricultural might be revived. For some reason or another the old Board of Agriculture was abolished or allowed to lie dormant, and the suggestion was put forward that it might be revived. When that suggestion was made I visualized a Board with some executive powers. I personally was very disappointed to find that the suggestion for the revival of that Board was not adopted, and at the present moment the position is that there is an Advisory Board of Agriculture on whom I hope, and I think, the Head of the Department depends for a certain amount of advice. I think it is a matter which might receive consideration by the Government again, although I know my friend, the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) does not like Boards. On one occasion he does and on another he does not. It is very difficult for me to follow him.

Mr. JACOB: To a point of order. I have stated here over and over that I am in favour of Boards controlled by the Elected Members of this Council.



Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am afraid I cannot follow the argument of the hon. Member. A short while ago, not ten months ago, he characterized the members of the Rice Marketing Board as incompetent. Let us examine the personnel of that Board. I think that with two on three exceptions the members of that Board are Members of this Council. I am one and the hon. Member on my right (Mr. Peer Bacchus) is another. There is also another Elected Member who is not here at the moment. The Colonial Treasurer, who is a Member of this Council and a very respected Member, is Chairman of the Board. I really do not know what the hon. Member means.

Mr. JACOB: I have the personnel of the Board in front of me. There are four members of the Board who are not Members of this Council, and the Board is composed of nine members. I state again that I am in favour of Boards controlled by the Elected Members of this Council.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I would like to tell the hon. Member that I am quite accustomed to his interruptions, but if he had allowed me to proceed I would have developed the argument he tried to advance as regards the incompetence of the Board. He said that the majority of the members of the Board should be planting rice or something like that. The Board consists of nine members and I would like the hon. Member to find a majority of hon. Members here who either grow or mill rice, to make up the personnel of the Board. That is by the way.

The Chairman of the Board is here and I know he is capable of taking care of some of the remarks made by the hon. Member, but what I would like to say is that he seems to know so much about everything. He knows that Members of the Board are bound hand and foot. I really do not know what he meant by that remark. Perhaps the hon. Member was giving the Council the benefit of his experience of other Boards he has sat on. So far as I am concerned I am not bound hand and foot to the Board; I am not bound hand and foot to the Government. As a member of that Board I speak freely and express my opinion. It does not always happen that my colleagues are in agreement with my views but nevertheless I

speak freely, and I know of no instance at all where there was any closure on freedom of speech.

There is no doubt that one of the things that have endangered the rice industry within the last few years is the evil propaganda that has been going on throughout the country districts of this Colony. What surprises me is that the Government of this Colony was not bold enough, with the powers it has under the Defence Regulations, to take action under them. There can be no doubt about it whatsoever that within the last two years there has been any amount of evil propaganda circulated around the country districts, and more particularly in the rice growing districts of the Colony. I do not think there is any Member of this Council who is as familiar with the country districts as I am. I feel sure that if at any time Your Excellency desires to be furnished with information on that score you will no doubt arrive at the same conclusion as I have done and several other people have done—that the crisis in the industry has been due to the propaganda to which I have referred. It took several shapes and several forms; it was not along one line. I wish to emphasize that, and, as I said before, it is surprising that Government did not take the same serious view of the situation. The sooner Government takes action along the lines I have indicated the better it will be not only for the rice industry but a few of the minor industries of this Colony.

I do not propose to reply to any of the criticisms that have been levelled by Members in the course of their remarks. That is not my duty. I am not here to defend Government at all, but I must take strong exception when Members make conflicting statements. I feel sure that I am not abusing the privilege of the Council in doing so. Reference has been made to the sugar industry again. I have not risen to champion the cause of the sugar industry, but this I would like to say: that the sugar industry is an organised industry, and despite the efforts that have been made by Government by the creation of a Board to assist in production, to control exports and to control local sales of rice, it has not yet been possible to feel the effects of that organization. The inference is obvious. There must be some reason, and here I

would refer to words I have used before. The only inference that can be drawn from that is that the situation is due to the efforts that are made by ill-advised persons to frustrate the activities of Government in that respect. Happily, there are a number of persons connected with the industry who do not think along those lines. It is a very happy thing indeed. I can assure Your Excellency that there are a number of people engaged in the rice industry at the present time who think along the lines of Government in respect of the organization that has been set up, and not only that, they appreciate the value of that organization.

To go back to principles. I know I will be told that the whole of this estimate has been framed along the lines of instructions received from the Secretary of State. I made reference to a few items which in my opinion ought to be put under separate heads, and the reply received was to the effect that it was done in that way on instructions from the Secretary of State. As this is the first opportunity I have had since that announcement was made I would like to express my disagreement with those instructions and to enquire what form of procedure is necessary to nullify those instructions that are received from time to time in matters of this kind.

At a recent session of the Council I had occasion to protest against the introduction of a new Regulation which varied the commitments of this Colony as regards the payment of passages of officers on leave. At that time I was told that a change had been effected under the Colonial Office Regulations and nothing could be done about it. I said at the time that I was going to move a motion to give effect to my view of the matter, but it seems to me it can be done in another way. I have no desire to involve the Council in any lengthy debate on that subject, and now that these estimates have given me an opportunity to raise the question in a different form, but really affecting the same principle, it has occurred to me that if I brought these two points to the attention of Your Excellency there might be some means of dealing with them other than by way of motion. I do ask that you make enquiry into the Regulation I have referred to dealing with the payment of passages of officers on leave, and perhaps you may

also be shown the old Regulation dealing with the same matter in order that you may review the matter from all angles.

So far as these estimates are concerned, I may mention at once that the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture will again receive opposition, at least so far as I am concerned. For reasons I have given, in my opinion the Department is top-heavy. I was surprised to find the item still appearing on the Estimate—I thought it had been abolished by this time—but when I saw the note that the post was still vacant I was inclined to allow it to remain on the Estimate on the same undertaking that was given last year that the post would not be filled, but that the item would be kept on the Estimate in case better days come and we find it necessary to make the appointment. I think it was generally agreed last year that the appointment would not be made. Now that I have heard from the Colonial Secretary that it is intended to make the appointment early in the new year I consider it very appropriate to raise my voice again in protest against the appointment being made. I do not think we should be saddled with another £900 under this head by the appointment of such an officer.

We have strengthened the staff of this Department by the appointment of additional Agricultural Instructors or Assistants. I do not know which it is. Here I would say that I would not oppose that because it seems to me that those appointments are necessary. We want officers to go around the districts of the Colony and teach the people what they should plant and when and how they should plant. That is certainly a step in the right direction. The only question I would probably ask concerning those items is where are those Instructors going to be stationed? The reason for that question is obvious, because if I find they are going to put an Agricultural Instructor in the Mazaruni I would naturally raise an objection because that is a mining district.

When the Director is replying to the debate I would like him to tell me what will be the duties of the Curator. I would like to know what work he is going to do. Will he be expected to close the gates of the Botanic Gardens in the even-

ing or will he take the place of the Botanist and Plant Pathologist? I would like to be informed as to what will be his duties.

I must, as Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, tell the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) that he has made a statement which is not at all accurate. He complained that he could not get support from the Chamber, but he stopped there. He did not tell us in what way. I hope that when another opportunity is afforded him—he visits the Chamber of Commerce very often—he will tell the members of the Chamber in what way they do not support him. In my own way I always try to support him when I think the matter on which he desires support is one which should be given reasonable consideration.

Mr. JACKSON: It was not originally my intention to take part in the debate under this Head because I have always regarded the attacks made upon this Department as a **hardy** annual, and it has always seemed to me that this Department was selected for special abuse, but I would like to make a few remarks in connection with the Advisory Board of Agriculture and to let those who will understand that the members of that Board perform the duties assigned them to the best of their ability and are given every facility to advise on matters of that kind.

There was one remark made by the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh) to which I would like to make special reference. In his remarks about what perhaps he thought was the helplessness of the Department of Agriculture he stated that there are numbers of boys leaving school who cannot find employment, and that an effort should be made to get them on the land. He attributes the fact that they are not there to something wrong in the Department of Agriculture. It is a known fact that a boy who observes that his father is making a good living in a certain profession or occupation endeavours to follow in his wake. There is no desire on the part of anyone to look upon agriculture as a menial occupation. Those were the words used by the hon. Member to whom I am referring, but everyone who is connected with agriculture in this Colony cannot but realize the difficulties

under which those who till the land labour. I do not know whether the hon. Member thinks that the Department of Agriculture should control droughts, but we have droughts and we have floods.

Dr. SINGH: To a point of explanation. I said that the reason why more boys are not taking to agriculture is because they look upon it as a menial occupation at present, but if modern implements were introduced and there was some form of mechanization we would find more boys taking to agriculture. I did not say it was a menial job.

Mr. JACKSON: I repeat that no boy looks upon agriculture as a menial occupation. I have referred to the difficulties with which the agriculturist has to contend. In the case of rice planting, especially on the Corentyne Coast, a great deal depends upon weather conditions and upon irrigation generally. What is Government's answer to this phase of the question? If hon. Members consult the Estimates they will see that in West Demerara particularly a large sum of money will be expended for the purpose of assisting in irrigation.

I should like to refer to one or two remarks made very frequently in this Council by the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) who speaks perhaps with as glib a tongue as can be expected from one in his position, and says that he has ascertained the views of the whole Colony with respect to certain matters, and then he reads some resolutions which he says were subscribed to by the whole Colony, or by 90 per cent. of the population.

Mr. JACOB: I read no resolution under this head.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: To a point of order. The hon. Member is not in his seat. (laughter.)

Mr. JACKSON: I hope the hon. Member for North Western District will not deny that in all of his speeches he has referred to what he regards as a fact, that he represents 90 or 95 per cent. of the population of the Colony, and that he knows their views. I want to say that that is a very dangerous statement to make in this Council if it is allowed to go unchallenged,



When the hon. Member speaks of holding meetings all over the Colony and of getting resolutions passed it should certainly be remembered that those resolutions are prepared for the purpose. As a matter of fact I am positive that if those resolutions were taken to the persons who are supposed to have agreed to them it would be found that they knew very little about them. It is manifestly unfair for two Members of this Council, who go from one constituency to another getting resolutions passed which had been prepared by themselves, to say that they represent the whole Colony and have the views of the Colony.

I challenge the hon. Member to go on the West Coast of Demerara and give the residents of that district an opportunity to listen to his resolutions and to his remarks. I challenge him to do that with any success. It is positively true that among certain persons who do not think, or persons who are not capable of thinking for themselves, he will get resolutions passed, but I say again it is unfair to this Council for him to say that because he took resolutions to certain people and they passed them, that those resolutions represent the views of the people of this Colony. The hon. Member says he insists on publicity, but what is the underlying motive of his desire to seek publicity? I do not like to be unfair to my friend, but publicity sought and obtained often proves detrimental to the person who sought and obtained it. I warn my friend that the frequency with which he refers to publicity might do him some harm and might be dubbed, as he dubbed some other remarks, misdirected energy. It might be misdirected energy on his part to be stumping the country and flouting resolutions here.

Mr. JACOB: May I interrupt to ask if this speech is relevant to the debate?

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may proceed.

Mr. JACKSON: I am referring to remarks made by the hon. Member during the debate, and I am only advising him that instead of charging others with misdirected energy he should apply the same to himself and his co-adjutor who has been going about with him stumping the country with resolutions prepared beforehand to deceive the unwary.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: The hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) complained some time ago of a definite shortage of edible oil in the Colony. At that time he was supplied with facts and figures to convince him that there was no shortage, but I regret to say that he refused to be convinced by those facts and figures. I am therefore reluctant to quote further facts and figures. The hon. Member further complains that the Copra Board made some shipments immediately before the shortage. A few tons of copra were exported, but I am thinking whether the situation would have been better to-day if those few tons had not been exported. When that export was made only the hon. Member could have foreseen the drought that was coming and the period it would last so as to prevent him from meeting his obligation to fulfil an order which had been accepted. However, he feels certain that there will be no copra or coconuts to be exported this year. I think I will agree with him, but it is due to the effects of the drought during 1940 which has caused a temporary shortage. In view of the fact that the drought was prolonged until late that year it has also affected the crop this year, and I do not think the industry will recover from the effects of that drought until perhaps four or five months hence. I happen to be a member of the Copra Board, not because of my membership of this Council but because I am a producer, and I may inform the hon. Member that every member of that Board holds his seat there because he is connected with and interested in the coconut industry in one way or another. As I mentioned on the last occasion I feel certain that they can take care of themselves.

Another thing which may contribute to this Colony not exporting copra this year is the restriction of exports due to the fact that there are more demands for copra products for local consumption. I hope we will be able to utilize all the coconut products in this country rather than export them at low prices. There is one phase of the question on which I would like to reply to the hon. Member, and that is in respect of the figures he has been quoting continually for the past seven years. I think every time the Council meets he quotes those figures, but this time he said he was quoting them because he desired

that they should be on record. I propose to refer to the figures he has quoted for each year and to show what is responsible for the reduced production in each year. If the hon. Member would take pains to investigate the cause of the drop in the production of rice since 1933 he would find that the reason I am about to give the Council is the correct one.

Although the people of this colony have been charged with having very short memories I do not think anyone in this Council has forgotten the unprecedented floods of 1933. We had a bumper rice crop that year, but owing to the floods even the rice stored at the mills was destroyed. In that year we exported 29,000 tons of rice, but in 1934 our exports dropped to 14,000 tons on account of the after affects of the 1933 floods. The acreage under rice cultivation in 1937 was 79,885 acres as against 88,417 acres in 1933, a difference of about 9,000 acres. In 1935 our export figures dropped to 10,000 tons. In 1934 we had a period of dry weather just when the seeds were germinating and it killed about 50 per cent. of the crop. The acreage under cultivation then was 75,911 acres. In 1936 we exported over 20,000 tons of rice. In spite of the adverse weather conditions in 1935, which affected the crop by about 30 per cent., I must say that the yield in that year was excellent, and but for the unfavourable weather conditions I feel certain that our exports in that year would have exceeded those of 1933. The acreage under cultivation in that year was over 82,000 acres. In 1937 there was heavy rain just at the beginning of the season which prevented the sowing of seeds. The seeds are broadcast in the County of Berbice and on account of the early rains the farmers were prevented from broadcasting. They had to resort to hand planting which of course reduced the crop. That year there were just over 61,000 acres under cultivation. We had adverse weather conditions up to 1941, and I think it is known to the hon. Member that in many villages pumps had to be used for the purpose of irrigating the lands. Government came to the assistance of the farmers with a small pump but more than 50 per cent. of the crop suffered as the result of the dry weather.

I think Government would be grateful to the hon. Member if he could suggest any

means whereby the Rice Marketing Board could make conditions suitable for the rice crops. I would support him if he would advocate that a drainage and irrigation scheme was the only means of increasing the rice production of the Colony. That is what Government has in mind, and I hope that within the next few years we will be in a position not only to maintain but to exceed the export figures of 1933. I know that this Colony can grow sufficient rice to meet the West Indian market if we have drainage and irrigation and I hope the hon. Member will, use his energy in supporting any schemes that are in progress by giving his advice as an expert. He seems to be an expert in every line, and if he can give any advice which will bring those schemes to finality the Colony will be grateful to him and he would be doing the people of the country a service which they really desire and would take every advantage of.

Mr. WOOLFORD: Sir, I have risen to support the claim of coffee to the attention of this Department, and particularly to Your Excellency, in view of the remarks you made in your inaugural Address to this Council.

Mr. JACOB: It is very difficult to hear at this end of the table. I do not know what is the reason, but I have not heard half of what has been said by the last speaker, and I think my friend on my left would say the same thing.

Mr. WOOLFORD: There is one thing the hon. Member will not hear and that is any allusion whatever to his political excursions into his own or even into my constituency. I am not going to follow the hon. Member in that direction; I reserve that for another time. I have risen to support the claims of his constituency and his own representations for the recognition of coffee, and I agree that the hon. Member is entitled to listen to what I have to say, although I do not suppose it would have the slightest effect on him. I am a lawyer but I am not precluded by any proficiency in that profession from expressing my views on the economic condition of the coffee industry of the Colony. I was a member of the Legislature when the then Director of Agriculture was also a Member. In those days there was no criticism of this Department. He would

not have allowed it even from the Government.

I have risen to support the claims of coffee on the ground that it is a permanent crop and enjoyed the benefit of expert cultivation not only by the peasant farmers but by a Scotsman who knew his job and was a very successful cultivator in the North West District. I think that was perhaps before the hon. Member was born. He made a success of his plantation and when coffee met with its mishaps he turned his attention to rubber. In the Pomeroun River there exists to-day either the original owners or the descendants of men who thoroughly understand coffee cultivation. I recall the days in the Canals Polder when coffee was not a farmer's product at all. Very prominent men in Water Street and private individuals owned coffee plantations. Mr. Dias was then a Member of the Legislature. The Canals Polder enjoyed a very extensive coffee cultivation and I have risen to ask you, sir, to implement what was the attitude of Government in subsidising this industry; it deserves it.

Our Liberian coffee enjoys the reputation of being not only a coffee of good quality but an indispensable adjunct owing to the quality of its blend. I know that because I have been Chairman of a Coffee Commission on which I have heard expert opinion, and I know that it enjoys a good export trade not only in Canada but in Scandinavia and Holland. All that is now impossible but we have a local demand which will absorb the entire crop and perhaps leave a certain amount for export. It is the Liberian blend which, I am assured by experts, is a very necessary ingredient in the composition of some coffee. It suits the local taste, it has a ready sale and it is easily cultivable. If there was ever a produce which is a peasant crop and which is entitled to some subsidy it is coffee. It must not be overlooked that sugar gets an indirect subsidy in the form of preference, and we have frequently in this Council relieved the sugar industry of heavy charges.

Having regard to the fact that the people in the Canals Polder are merely cultivators of ground provisions, and having regard to the proximity of the Canals Polder to the Produce Depot their coffee should find a ready sale, and it

should be possible to control its price. Paragraph 27 of the Administration Report of the Director of Agriculture for 1940 should be read by those who are advocating the protection of coffee. It says:—

27. The area under coffee in 1940 was 2,575 acres of the Liberian variety. Export sales became so restricted that production is now viewed purely in regard to domestic demand. Low prices over a period of years have discouraged any but essential field operations with a consequent reduction in output. Surplus stocks were reduced, prices rose and remained at a comparatively high level, the average for the year being approximately eight cents per pound for raw beans.

We know that there has been a visit by the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) to Surinam, and that upon an examination of the question by the Government it was decided to subsidise coffee cultivation at a certain price per acre, having regard to the then price, but we know that a better price is being obtained now. It is a crop which is entitled to support, and we know that it nearly went out of existence simply because it did not pay the farmers to reap the berries. I think that under present conditions there should not be a recurrence of that. The Department of Agriculture can be of real help in suggesting to Government that in the Canals Polder there should be some machinery whereby the raw beans could be properly treated so as to produce a better coffee. We know what success has attended their efforts and I think it is a matter in which the Director of Agriculture could impress on Government the necessity for some form of machinery which would relieve the farmers of the treatment of the raw beans.

Mr. Mc DAVID (Colonial Treasurer): The last occasion on which it was very necessary for me to reply to criticisms by the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) as Chairman of the Rice Marketing Board I spoke for three-quarters of an hour, but on this occasion I propose to be very brief. The reason for my brevity is that I think the Council realizes that the hon. Member has only used this opportunity to relash statements, criticisms, and insinuations which he has made in this Council from year to year. Most of those statements are unjust, and most of them, if not all, are inaccurate. I personally



endorse every word which has been said in this Council concerning the actions or activities of the hon. Member. I retract not one word, jot or tittle I have said, and I have had ample justification for the remarks I have made here. I have tried to find out from the numerous speeches of the hon. Member what is really the meat of his criticisms of the Rice Marketing Board, and I think I found it in a remark made in this Council last year in reply to the President. This is what the hon. Member said:—"If the Board ceases production will automatically go up."

There we have it. It is the hon. Member's idea that it is the Rice Marketing Board that caused rice production to come down, and it is his view that if the Board were abolished the rice production of the Colony would quickly go up. I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to Council paper No. 7 of 1941 which contains a despatch from Sir Frank Stockdale, Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, and a memorandum by his Agricultural Adviser. That despatch and memorandum followed on the visit of those two officers to this Colony. I should just read very briefly a remark by Mr. Wakefield in paragraph 67 of his memorandum. This is what he wrote:—

"... The Rice Board should receive every support as I consider it is essential for its operations to continue both during and after the war. It has undoubtedly done good work and will benefit by experience."

There we have a clear-cut issue. The hon. Member thinks that the Board has caused production to fall and wishes it abolished in order that production might go up, while the Adviser to Sir Frank Stockdale informs Government that in his view the activities of the Board should and must continue during and after the war. I am glad to say that the policy recommended by Sir Frank Stockdale in this particular respect is being adopted by the Government. I cannot say what form the Board will take when the war ceases. As hon. Members know, it is being operated under the Defence (Rice Control) Regulations as a war emergency measure, but obviously when the emergency ceases the Board will be re-constituted under Statute which will be passed by this Council. We must take it for granted that this scheme of single-selling has come to stay, and I challenge the hon. Member

to produce 5 per cent. of the padi growers in this Colony who would object to the continuance of the Board. I challenge him indeed to produce them.

There are just a few minor comments I wish to make on some points of the hon. Member's remarks.

Mr. JACOB: It is extremely difficult at this end of the table to hear what my friend is saying. That has been our difficulty here all the time. I have just asked the attendant to ask the hon. Member to send me the paper he read from and I think he has refused to send it.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member said quite clearly what paper he was reading from, but I have no objection to that being repeated.

Mr. McDAVID: I read an extract from, Council Paper No. 7 of 1941, a despatch from the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies.

Mr. JACOB: I am referring to the remarks he quoted with regard to the abolition of the Board. I would like to get that document.

Mr. McDAVID: I think the hon. Member is referring to remarks by himself which I quoted. I quoted from the Hansard report of the 27th August, 1940, page 921, and the remarks I quoted were:—"If the Board ceases production will automatically go up."

To return to the details to which I referred. The hon. Member has again referred to this curious discrepancy in his own mind. In 1939, just as the Board started, we were called upon to negotiate an agreement with Trinidad and we made an estimate of what the probable exportable surplus would be. At that time Sir John Waddington requested it and we were busily engaged in trying to stimulate the growing of an augmented Spring crop, and in putting forward our estimate of the probable exportable surplus we arrived at 30,000 tons as that surplus after including 15,000 tons as the possible yield from the Spring crop. As I have said here before, the Spring crop did not yield 15,000 tons but no tons at all, for the reason, as the

Council well knows, that we had a drought which was perhaps the worst this Colony has experienced within living memory. The hon. Member blames the Rice Marketing Board for the drought and not having rice to export, and has gone on doing that year after year. I hope that next year when this debate occurs again I may not hear anything more about this missing 15,000 tons of rice.

Now we come to what is printed in the report of the Board for the last half-year. It is there stated that on the estimate provided by the Department of Agriculture the Autumn crop is estimated to yield 50,000 tons of rice. The Department of Agriculture went further. The actual area planted for this Autumn crop has been considerably larger than it has been before, and the yield would have been very much heavier but for the unseasonable rains which fell in October. If it is correct that that Autumn crop will yield 50,000 tons of rice then, assuming that our local consumption is about 25,000 tons, we ought to have an exportable surplus next year of about 25,000 tons, not taking into account any Spring crop. In the opinion of the Board there is ample ground for going ahead and trying to arrange for a sale to Trinidad of their complete requirements in 1942, and I have to inform the Council and the hon. Member that negotiations are now in progress to that end. If we do get a Spring crop, and I think Government and the Department of Agriculture are going to do everything they can to increase production of the Spring crop, then we shall have much more to export.

The hon. Member adopted a word which I used first in this Council two years ago. I used the word "technique" in reference to himself when I spoke about his having acquired abroad "a technique in co-operation."

Mr. JACOB: I should remind the hon. Member that the word "technique" has been very frequently used in connection with the Axis powers. Perhaps—

Mr. McDAVID: The hon. Member's reference then was to the technique in marketing. If there is a marketing technique with which the hon. Member is very familiar then that technique is not the kind of technique that will operate at

the present time in selling rice to Trinidad. I know what occurred before the Board came into being. Middlemen, dealers and sellers went about the country keeping their noses to the ground and trying to buy rice as cheaply as possible to sell it in Trinidad, and cutting each other's throat. That was their technique of marketing. Now we have to sell rice to the Government of Trinidad. The Government of Trinidad buys through a representative body in bulk and is not prepared to buy in small lots. If this colony is unable or unwilling to sell to Trinidad in the way they wish to purchase they will buy their complete requirements of 20,000 to 22,000 tons from India. That is the kind of competition we have to meet. I do not want it to be said that there is strong competition at present because of events which have occurred, but that is the proposition with which the Board has been faced in Trinidad. We were asked by the Government of Trinidad: "Can you supply our whole requirements? If the answer is yes, say what is your price. If you do not meet our requirements we will buy from India." We have to face up to that position, and I am happy to be able to say that for next year this Colony will probably be or will be able to supply Trinidad with rice.

Mr. JACOB: Do you say "probably," or that the Colony will be able to supply Trinidad?

Mr. McDAVID: Yes. I am quite aware that the hon. Member has put it on record that our exports next year will be only 12,000 tons. I do not wish to press too much on the time of the Council. There are so many small details to which the hon. Member referred which have been answered before, but in regard to the constitution of the Board I invite this Council to refer to the remarks made by the President of the Council, Sir Wilfrid Jackson, in closing the rice debate some time last year. I crave the indulgence of the Council to read a few words of the President's remarks. He said:—

"I am trying to avoid personalities, but I think the meaning is clear enough. I have received very strong representations from various sources, including some growers, that the Board should not be interfered with; that it has the confidence of the public and, above all, that the independence of the Board should be preserved. They have gone further than

that and particularly asked in some cases that the Board should be protected from the influence of some of its critics. I think it is well that it should be known that there are strong representations on the other side. It is not well that statements like those which have been made here should be made without an answer to the effect that there is another and a completely different point of view very strongly held by a great many people, to say the least of it."

That was said by Sir Wilfrid Jackson in regard to the constant complaint from the hon. Member that the constitution of the Board should be changed, and certain unspecified appointments should be made in substitution for the present members.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to correct that. No specified appointments were suggested.

Mr. McDAVID: I said "unspecified appointments." Before I sit down I wish to say that my humble opinion is that this single-selling experiment which had been looked forward to for a long time before the war has met and is meeting with considerable success. The Rice Marketing Board was looked upon by some people as a failure before it started. I know that the hon. Member fully expected that in the first balance-sheet there would be a loss. I know that the hon. Member has been expecting that we would be in a mess, but nothing like that has happened. The Board has produced satisfactory figures and has stabilized the price of rice in such a way that the producers know precisely what they are getting, and that all of their rice would be purchased and paid for. I do not think I need say any more. I have already answered on a previous occasion criticisms by the hon. Member, and I endorse everything I have said before.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have just one question to ask in regard to the total of exports. I have heard it put at a very low figure by the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob). Can you give us an estimate of the minimum probable exports for 1942?

Mr. McDAVID: I should say that the estimate is about 25,000 tons.

Mr. JACOB: I should like that to be amplified. Is that exclusive of the Spring crop to be grown in April next year? That

is the interpretation of paragraph 11 of the Board's report.

Mr. McDAVID: You asked me, sir, what is the minimum export which the Board thinks will go from this Colony next year and I answered "About 25,000 tons."

Mr. DE AGUIAR: A great deal of our exportable surplus, not only of rice but every other commodity, is dependent upon our local requirements. I take it that it is the policy of Government, and I am sure it is going to be the policy of the Board, to provide all we need for local consumption first, and whatever surplus is available for export will be exported. I endorse the Treasurer's remarks when he said that the present estimate for next year's export is 25,000 tons, and no question as to any Spring or Autumn crop is considered.

Mr. JACOB: I merely want to get the figures correctly; I do not want any misunderstanding. Paragraph 11 of the Board's report states that there will be 50,000 tons of rice available. The normal local consumption is 25,000 tons. That will not be disputed. I take it that if that consumption is 25,000 tons there will be an available surplus of 25,000 for export. Let us have the figures without any make-up. If it is 5,000 tons or 50,000 tons let it be clearly stated and recorded.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The hon. Member is endeavouring to confuse the issue. When I referred to local consumption I thought the hon. Member would have been wise enough to remain in his seat. It is extremely difficult for the Board or any person in this Colony to say what is the annual consumption of rice, and the reasons are obvious. Rice is sold by the Board but large quantities are kept in the possession of the growers for their own benefit. It is therefore extremely difficult to arrive at any reasonably accurate estimate of what the local consumption of rice is. The hon. Member is assuming that it is 25,000 tons and I am quite prepared to accept his figure. According to the figures submitted by the Board it is estimated that 50,000 tons of rice will be produced next year, so that it only needs a simple subtraction to find out the exportable surplus. It does not need any argument or dispute.



THE CHAIRMAN: I think the point has been sufficiently ventilated.

Mr. LEE: I would like to draw Government's attention to one or two things. Government has deemed it advisable, through the Rice Marketing Board, to increase the price of rice by 20 cents on the bag, but it has not deemed it advisable to fix the price of milling rice. If Government has not the power to do so I think it should have the power. In my constituency the millers have increased the fees for milling by more than 20 cents per bag. Therefore when Government thinks it is giving 20 cents per bag more to the growers in order to encourage them, no such thing is being done. The growers can only be assisted if there is no increase in rental, milling fees, the cost of bags and reaping implements. I respectfully ask Government to see that the millers do not increase their fees.

There is also the question of grading. When the Police take samples of milk from milk vendors for analysis one sample is given to the vendor in order that he might secure an independent analysis if he so desires. In the case of rice grading the owner of the rice only has a right of appeal against the grader. In some cases their appeals are upheld, but on the whole the system is not satisfactory. I wrote Government suggesting the appointment of certain gentlemen in the community who know about rice and grading to see that the growers get fair play in the grading of their rice. I am renewing that application to Government to appoint competent people as licensed grading officers to whom a seller can take a portion of the sample of his rice and have it graded independently of the Board's grading.

I am also appealing to Government to afford rice growers every facility to obtain loans at the Loan Banks for rice growing. The Rice Marketing Board does not assume that responsibility, but if it is to manage the rice industry it should have all the necessary powers, including the making of loans, so as to prevent it from throwing the responsibility for any failure on any other Department. The rice growers in this Colony are in agreement that the single-seller policy is the best. ("Hear, hear"). I endorse that view, but I say that it is not being properly administered.

Mr. McDAVID: On the question of milling fees the Board fully realizes the position, and a proposal is now under consideration to appoint a Competent Authority under the Defence Regulations which would enable the Board to take action in suitable cases if considered necessary. Naturally it is an extremely difficult thing to fix milling fees.

As regards the grading I will ask the Director of Agriculture to deal with that question when he replies to the debate. He has recently spoken to a batch of growers on the subject, and I think he has convinced them that the present arrangement is probably the best.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to refer Your Excellency to the quotation made by the Treasurer when he spoke just now. He referred to page 921 of the Hansard report of August 27, 1940, and read: "If the Board ceases production will automatically go up." In doing so he left out the previous sentence which reads: "We agree to differ on that point." That was the statement I made in reply to the Chairman who said: "From your own showing it seems to be so." This portion of the Hansard does not show it clearly, but I have stated here over and over that I am against the present method of control. I have stated it over and over, and I can produce numerous debates to show that I am in favour of control but control of the right kind. The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) has made the point quite clearly. Wherever we have gone I have stated that we have no objection to control but control of the right kind. In making that quotation my friend desired to convey to the Council that I am definitely against control. I am not. When Mr. Hall was here I made that point quite clear to him. Since that suggestion was put forward I have taken every opportunity to make that point explicit.

We will have another opportunity to-morrow to talk about the Rice Grading Inspector, therefore I am not going to say anything more this afternoon. I do object very strongly to the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar), and I will refer the Council to certain things when we come to the item "Rice Grading Inspector" on the following page.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: It is difficult to understand what the hon. Member says when he refers to the question of control. I agree with control but I think the Rice Marketing Board and the Treasurer are fully aware that I'm insistent on a stronger form of control by Government, something in the nature of a preliminary step to the establishment of a central mill. I quite agree with what the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) has said about the millers. After all they are in the hands of the merchants who have it in their power to call them to order in the interest of the community. I have nothing further to add to that statement, but those persons to whom it refers will be able to draw whatever inference they like. I agree with the hon. Member that the increase of 20 cents per bag to the grower has been practically negated by various forms of increases. We want a form of control which would ensure to the producer the full benefit of a stabilized price which would not be subject to any fluctuations. Perhaps it would clear the atmosphere considerably if Government appointed an independent committee so that those persons who desired to might give evidence as to what they considered to be wrong in the control of the rice industry. It is no good one saying that he agrees with control but control of the right kind, and not saying what is the right kind of control.

Mr. JACOB: The right kind of control. The people who are planting and are interested in rice should control the industry and no one else—no lawyers and others.

Mr. WIGHT: The hon. Member has forgotten that the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) is a lawyer. That is where he finds himself in difficulty.

Mr. JACOB: I will not worry about

that (laughter). I was referring to another lawyer who is never present in this Council. He is on the Board. I would like to ask how many meetings of the Rice Marketing Board have been held and how many the hon. Member attended? The Rice Producers' Advisory Committee, which comprises 17 members, unanimously recommended when 16 members were present that the personnel of the then Board should be changed by at least 50 per cent. No names were suggested, but the Government definitely declined to change the Board. The result was that the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) and I resigned from the Committee. It was as the result of the debate in this Council from which those words were skilfully selected by the Treasurer a while ago.

We suggest that people who are engaged in the industry—those who are planting, milling and marketing rice, and those who know the technique of marketing (laughter) should be on the Board. I have no objection to my friend the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. DeAguiar) or the hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peer Bacchus), but I certainly take strong exception to the Colonial Treasurer being on the Board. I do not know why the Director of Agriculture is not Chairman of the Board, or even Vice-Chairman of it. We have Mr. Macnie as Vice-Chairman. I have no objection to other Members of this Council, who have a responsibility to the people, being on the Board, but I take strong exception to four members of the Board who should be removed as early as possible.

The Council resumed and adjourned until 10.30 a.m. the following day.