

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Friday, 12th December, 1941.*

The Council met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon Lethem, 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, M.C., K.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. Mc David, M.B.E., 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. B. R. Wood, Conservator of Forests.

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

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. C. V. Wight (Western Essequibo).

### MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 11th December, 1941, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

### ORDER OF THE DAY.

#### ESTIMATES, 1942.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the estimates of expenditure to be defrayed from revenue for the year ending the 31st December, 1942.

#### AGRICULTURE.

##### Item 1—Personal Emoluments.

**Mr. PEER BACCHUS:** I desire to refer to the remarks made by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) yesterday with regard to the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture. When the item was allowed to remain on the estimate this year I think it was Sir John Waddington who promised to enquire into the matter himself, and if he found it necessary he would make an appointment. However, I observed that the vote was allowed to lapse and the logical conclusion was that on enquiry it was found unnecessary to make an appointment this year. I have not heard sufficient to convince me that an appointment for next year would be justified. I happen to know that there is a little bit more activity in the Department so far as loans to rice growers are concerned, but that would not justify the appointment of a Deputy Director. Nor would the increased activity in the livestock industry, for which we will get the assistance of an officer from the Colonial Development Committee, justify that appointment. I therefore make the same request of Your Excellency that you enquire personally into the matter and if you feel justified in making the appointment I personally shall feel quite safe in leaving the matter in your hands. A further request I will make is that if Your Excellency decides that the appointment

is necessary for next year, extreme care should be exercised in the selection of the officer.

Mr. AUSTIN: I should like to support the inclusion of the item in next year's estimate. In the opinion of those interested in agriculture the full and energetic duties of the Department of Agriculture have not been carried out for some considerable time owing to shortage of the executive staff. We find that the Director is compelled to remain far too much at his desk in Georgetown, and unless a Deputy is appointed this state of affairs will continue. In view of the considerable sum of money which is likely to be spent next year on irrigation and drainage and on all agricultural pursuits, it is very necessary and urgent that the Director of Agriculture should have a Deputy. Apart from the desirability of the Director travelling more about the country it is essential that a Deputy should be there, and I strongly urge Members of the Council to take a long view of this post and record their votes in its favour.

Mr. JACOB: I am sorry I cannot find myself in agreement with the last speaker. I gather from what he said that there will be increased expenditure in regard to irrigation and drainage and the expansion of agricultural industries. If I remember correctly, irrigation and drainage problems are being dealt with by one or two other Departments, and I do not think that should be brought into the picture at all. The cost of those works is another sore matter, nevertheless I do not intend to raise that now. As regards the other things the Deputy Director of Agriculture is going to do, I do not know what that officer did in the past. If I am satisfied that a Deputy Director is necessary—I am definitely satisfied that an appointment is not necessary for next year, but probably later in the year—when I see the programme of what is going to be done I may agree to the appointment, but on the whole I am against the appointment of Deputies. With the Constitutional changes we have in view I think Heads of Departments will be at their desks all the time. They will not have to be present at meetings of this Council and at other places. Therefore we will be able to do away with Deputies. I feel that we cannot afford it at the present time, and until and

unless we know exactly what will happen next year this appointment should not be made.

I would further recommend very strongly that if this appointment is to be made some officer from one of the West Indian Islands should be brought here. In view of the showing of this Department up to the present time I am not in favour of the holder of any other post in the Department being appointed to this position. I am sorry to have to make that statement. It is not a general statement I would make in regard to every Department, but I am definitely satisfied that the officers of this Department have not done enough work to justify promotion within the Department. If it is the intention to fill this post next year I strongly recommend that some officer from one of the West Indian Islands should be appointed.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I presume that the Director will give us some idea of what the duties of this officer will be. It would appear, for instance, that if the Director of Agriculture happens to be a specialist in a particular branch that branch need not necessarily be represented by a specialist officer. Again, if the Director is a specialist in a particular branch there would be no need to have all the specialists which are enumerated further down in the estimate. I suggest that in one or two Departments where there are Heads and Deputy Heads and a string of technical assistants, there might be some question that the junior officers are really doing the work while the Heads are desk workers. Specialist officers should do more field work and not be confined to their desks.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture): Sir, I have listened with a great deal of interest to the debate and, as usual, have had some difficulty in separating rural agricultural criticism from a mass of destructive utterances on the part of certain Honourable Members. My hon. friend on my left remarked that my predecessor would not have permitted himself to be questioned or criticised as I have been. Far be it from me ever to adopt an attitude of that sort. I have never at any time tried to stifle discussion or questioning on agricultural matters in this Council. I ought to add, however, that it is always an

easy thing to criticise an Agricultural Department since the average individual finds it difficult to appreciate and assess the large number of complicated factors which affect production. Indeed, agricultural problems in this Colony are never straightforward, and even the framing of estimates is often rendered extremely difficult by considerations wholly unexpected or abnormal.

And that brings me to ask an all-important question: Will hon. Members show me where this extravagant and excessive sum under Agriculture is to be found in the estimate before us? Sir, in spite of certain miscellaneous expenditure now brought under my vote, amounting to some \$30,000, the cost of the Department is still roughly 2 per cent. of the total revenue. And what is this, I ask, in relation to the total value of the Colony's agricultural production? We are carrying out services to-day that the old Department never contemplated, and we are paying comparatively less for them when all the issues are properly assessed.

Boiled down, however, it seems to me that the real complaint centres round financial aid of one kind or another to industries other than sugar. This, of course, is a big question and is a matter of high financial policy. It is not for me to answer, but I will say this: there is not a single item or industry mentioned in this debate which has not been subjected to close investigation by the Department and reported on to Government—the position of the coffee industry and its problems of processing, coconuts, rice, flour mills, local preserves, 'Grow More Food' campaign and many others. If action has not been always favourable it is because economic and financial obstacles have been encountered. But has Government not done and is still doing much that might fall within the category of subsidy, though not direct? What about the large expenditure on reconditioning works and other forms of assistance to village agriculture generally, the periodic writing off of loans or rates to defaulting bodies including Credit Banks? What about cheap, in some cases practically free, services in regard to seed supplies, planting material, use of improved sires, special loans, cheap transport, subsidy to Produce Depot and so on? Added to this, after reading the Department's reports and *Farm Journals*, is it fair to say that no progress has been made?

Now, sir, the question of suitable crops has been raised. I have stated that in my view sugar and rice must be the main basis of our export production, followed by livestock and its products. That does not suggest neglect of crops for local consumption as our efforts have clearly shown. Sir Frank Stockdale and Mr. Wakefield strongly support my conclusions, so that if I have erred I have done so in good company. Incidentally there was not a single reference in the debate to livestock and all the Department has done to foster that industry.

Mr. JACOB: We are only discussing the first page of the Agricultural estimates and livestock does not appear on that page. I reserve my comments.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has been allowed a great deal of latitude in discussing this Head.

Mr. JACOB: I was just pointing out that we will say something about livestock on the next page.

Professor DASH: I would like to refer to the subject of my reorganization plans—Sessional Paper No. 16A/1927, paragraph 13. I think a great deal of that document has been forgotten and overlooked in the process of time. I do not wish to read the whole paragraph, but in that document will be found a full statement of my views in regard to livestock policy; what should be done in regard to animal husbandry, forage crops, some idea of the staff and some idea of what should be done with the dregs of the farm, and so on. I would draw the attention of hon. Members to that paragraph and ask them to say whether it is not the meat and the marrow of the Wakefield recommendations? What happened? I proposed to this Council at the time that I should be given, to start with, a sum of \$120,000 to establish and develop a fully equipped Stock Farm and outstations. This Council turned the propositions down and we have gone on with small inadequate grants ever since. Nevertheless, we have made some very useful progress. The Wakefield proposals, for which I have submitted estimates to Government, are in the neighbourhood of the sum mentioned above. Think how much more progress could have been made had we listened to my early advice instead of urging a banana industry.

There is much the same history as regards drainage and irrigation. Look at paragraph 5 of the same Sessional Paper and you will see what proposals were made for the benefit of the small agriculturist in relation to those questions and the need for help, guidance and assistance in solving his problems. I do not wish to take up too much of the Council's time but there are one or two points in that paragraph which perhaps I should quote. It states:—

“... Indeed, I believe that if the future is to be faced with any degree of confidence, on these lowlands the drainage question (agriculturally) must receive careful study and investigation without delay.”

I even proposed that we should have a properly qualified Agricultural Engineer to go into the problems of the small agriculturist. I ended the paragraph in these words:—

“The whole country's prosperity and progress—large and small cultivator alike—depend on efficient drainage, added to which is the economic use and development for agricultural purposes of the country's water supply.”

What happened, sir? The Council turned down those proposals. In a recent memorandum on agricultural policies I have gone further and made proposals for drainage and irrigation arrangements in addition to those large works which you, sir, have already put before this Council. Whether they will be acceptable or not I do not know. I will add this: absence of efficient drainage and irrigation on the coastal belt increases rather than decreases the work of the Department. The district staff are called upon every year to check up damage and losses, to provide extra seed, loans, and investigate any number of complaints. With crop production reasonably assured, things would be different. I do hope, sir, that when the new schemes are inaugurated this Council will assist the Department in every possible way instead of destructively criticising it as some Members have done in the debate.

So much for the general. I must now pass on very briefly to one or two specific questions which were asked or raised. I can best do that by reference to some of the points which came up or were at least mentioned by each individual Member. The first speaker was the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar). I have covered a good many of the points he raised in my

general remarks. The hon. Member still thinks in the dim past in connection with crops. He does not appear to realize that crop standards and commercial requirements have changed and are changing almost daily. What happened 100 years or more ago cannot apply at all to day. He referred to the question of converting certain articles into flour. I have already stated that we have given a great deal of consideration to it, but that the way has been blocked, perhaps temporarily, by economic and financial considerations. The matter is by no means finished; we are still examining that problem, particularly in relation to the production of cassava flour.

My hon. friend also touched upon the question of Agricultural Instructors and said that the old Department of Agriculture had a large number of Instructors. What I found here were a few part-time Instructors—mostly retired men—engaged on a basis of about one week a month to collect statistics. That is all I found. They were usually retired men and were used for that purpose. I am not criticising the old regime; I am only stating facts, but the Agricultural staff, strictly speaking, was practically non-existent. When Mr. Sampson came to this Colony, just about the time I was assuming duty, I said to him: “I have never yet seen a Department of Agriculture so called without an agricultural staff.” He afterwards wrote in the introduction to his Bulletin on the Agricultural Outlook of the Colony that I had put my finger on the weak spot. Hence, when I put up recommendations for strengthening the staff of the Department my proposals were backed strongly by Government's advisers on the other side.

There is one point I should add here for the information of those who think a great deal of the use of machinery for converting a lot of surplus foodstuffs into human food. I would say that while I agree that efforts should be made in that direction there is a vast market here for livestock and livestock products of every description, and in the livestock markets in our neighbouring Colonies, and much of that material which is said to go to waste—I have never seen any going to waste myself—should be fed to livestock. Conditions have not been better for livestock, yet we are still back-

ward in accepting advice in that connection. I throw it out to hon. Members that when they visit their districts they should urge the production of livestock of every description—cattle, pigs and poultry.

The next speaker was the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh) who is not here at present. He spoke on the question of mechanized agriculture for the small man. That subject has come up in this Council from time to time, and I think hon. Members pretty well know what the position is. I cannot myself see any small agriculturist embarking on capital expenditure for mechanized equipment. I think it would be a good way for such a small agriculturist to get into bankruptcy.

My friend the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) touched on the question of subsidizing products which I think I have covered in my general remarks. We do sympathize with those views. They are to-day quite naturally discussed in all agricultural countries of the world. We would like to think we can do it. I would like to feel that we have the resources to do that sort of thing. Most countries that are doing it to-day have large reserves of funds from sources other than agricultural. They have manufacturing industries from which to draw to subsidize agriculture. We may have to do it in certain respects, but that will have to be considered in due course.

I have already pointed out what Government is doing in connection with many of these matters, and I would state here that local produce is fairly high priced compared with outside, and that is a point that will have to be borne in mind. We are all seeking, if possible, to reduce the cost of living, and that is a factor that must not be forgotten—the question of the prices of local food stuffs. The minute local food, stuffs go up in price the consumers will be bound to pay higher prices and will prefer to buy imported stuff. There must be a balance, a long-range view in such matters.

The hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) spoke on almost everything, but as a matter of fact, apart from very general destructive criticisms, there was nothing constructive in his whole speech. He made the usual broad, sweeping statements, but of course we all know what to

expect when the hon. Member begins to speak. The question of coffee was raised by him and also by my friend on my left (Mr. Woolford). The Department has studied that question and Government has studied it. We all know pretty well what the position is but it is strange that coffee, with its high protection existing as it does at present, does not allow the farmers to profit by that great advantage. The price has jumped up, but what is remarkable is that the Control Board has imported coffee here, and with all the additional expenditure has still been able to sell it in competition with the locally produced coffee. My friend the Comptroller of Customs will be able to substantiate that. Of course that coffee is of a better quality too. Unfortunately we know to our cost what is the position as regards Liberian coffee in the market to-day. It is not possible to get a market for it however good it is. Surinam knows that to her cost, and it is a very difficult proposition. The question of centralizing machinery for pulping and so on has been examined by Government. It is a very difficult matter for cultivators to bring berries and raw material to some central point and then find, when the coffee has been improved in appearance, that the price does not suit. Surinam definitely proved that.

My friend went as usual over the whole ground in connection with rice. Most of the points he tried to get at were dealt with yesterday afternoon, and I do not wish to go over all that ground. We know that the question of rice is important to him but we would like to know that he realizes all the problems involved and all the facts of the case before he makes in this Council a number of statements which he knows cannot be substantiated. As far as my Department is concerned I think it is fair to say that we drew attention—

Mr. JACOB: To a point of order. I do not think it is fair for the hon. Member to say that I make statements which I myself know cannot be substantiated. He may say that I have made statements which have not been substantiated, but I object strongly to his making the statement that I make statements which I know cannot be substantiated. That is accusing me of dishonesty of a kind.

Professor DASH: I was saying, sir,

that I think it is within the knowledge of Members of the Council that the Department has fathered the rice industry in this sense. When the Department was reorganised we were barely feeding ourselves on rice. Our exports were under 2,000 tons and high quality seed did not exist. The position with regard to rice varieties was chaotic, and we set about earnestly and seriously to put it right, and we succeeded quickly. As the result of the special drive we made, our production increased and our exports increased, but we have those problems to-day which we are still far from solving, because the real solution is still outstanding. I refer to central milling, and I make bold to say that if we had central mills to-morrow I do not believe that we would hear any criticisms whatever of the rice industry. That is my considered opinion. It has been difficult in days past to put that over, but better days are coming and sooner or later I hope we will get central mills.

The hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. deAguiar) made some general criticisms. I think the most outstanding was when he said that the staff of my Department was top-heavy. Let us examine it. Take the Director and the Deputy Director. In recent times Sir Wilfrid Jackson made a careful enquiry into the position and he found that a vast amount of Committee work and Board work fell to the lot of the Director. I make bold to say that 50 per cent. of my time is taken up in that way. There is not a single day or evening when there is not internal work of the Department which I must take home. The hon. Mr. Austin made the point quite clearly. I do feel that in some of these things I have to be tied down too much to my desk, but it has to be done. There is a vast amount of file work and reports which have to be attended to, and this has been increased as the result of the Colonial Development schemes. There is a tremendous volume of work passing through my hands as the result of those and subsidiary schemes which have to be gone into and examined most carefully in order that well considered minutes might be put up for the Governor's information.

Without a Deputy Director of Agriculture at least 50 per cent. of the work of the Department will have to take

care of itself. I make that statement absolutely convinced of what I am saying. I know something about the work of a Department of Agriculture, and I know that unless our district work in this Colony is properly co-ordinated and supervised we shall be wasting a considerable amount of money. Hon. Members do not conceive and cannot conceive the vast amount of minor detailed work that has to be executed by the district staff, and much of that work must be supervised and co-ordinated. Controlling expenditure is most important in this Colony, and there is a tremendous amount of work of a detailed nature which nobody can appreciate except he comes to the office and understands what is going on. In one year alone I opened 500 files in my own office.

Then there is the Entomologist who is very necessary as there are a plenty of insects to control. We have a solitary Veterinary Surgeon to cover the whole coastal belt and the whole of the livestock activities in the Rupununi, the Berbice river and goodness knows where else—one Veterinary Surgeon for the whole of the livestock activities of Government.

We are bound to have a Chemist to examine our soils and to work out some of the problems which I have indicated. We are agreed that a Botanist and Plant Pathologist is not necessary now in this Colony. We have investigated the plant diseases and know what they are, and unless there is some outbreak of new disease I do not think we need such an officer. I have put that up to Mr. Wakefield and he has examined the position in the same way as he has examined that of the Deputy Director of Agriculture. He agreed that the post of Deputy Director should be filled and the post of Plant Pathologist should be abolished.

The hon. Member asked what are the duties of a Curator? A Curator actually and in fact must be a Botanist. If we do not call him by that name we shall have to pay more. There is an old institution established and maintained for a long time by a very worthy officer of the Government. I refer to the late Mr. Jenman who was held in the highest repute by institutions abroad, and unless we have a Curator with the necessary knowledge to

maintain that Herbarium, add to its collections and exchange with similar institutions in other parts of the world, that very valuable work would lapse into a backward state. There is a large amount of correspondence in that connection which I have not been able to deal with. We are in touch with all the best known Herbariums, and it is a very valuable asset to the Colony. Plant propagation and nursery work will be in the charge of the Curator. The supervision of the Botanic Gardens and the labour in connection with it will also form part of his duties. I think that explains to the hon. Member what the duties of the Curator will be.

Then there is the Sugar Agronomist and Plant Breeder towards whom Government receives a contribution from the Sugar Producers' Association. There are four Agricultural Superintendents whose appointments we were absolutely in need of. We have an Agricultural Economist who has done valuable work in carrying out agricultural surveys, but that is not his only job. He is also the Agricultural Officer for the East Bank district, editor of the publication of the Department, Chairman of the Georgetown Co-operative Credit Bank, and Secretary of the Beekeepers' Association. We have an Assistant Chemist who is also very necessary. The Chemist is now on leave and his assistant is acting. The question of leave plays a very important part.

The hon. Member wants to know where the Agricultural Instructors are going to be posted. I think it is a bit too soon to say, but they will all be located in the various districts. We are already short of Agricultural Instructors. Mr. Wakefield said that in his opinion each Agricultural Superintendent ought to have at least six of those Instructors under him. We recommended that 12 be appointed at once and that another 12 be appointed very soon. I looked at my estimate and I found that by readjustment I need only ask for eight of them this year, and that is what has been put on the estimate.

I think I have said enough to answer the charge of the Department of Agriculture being top-heavy. I plead with hon. Members to appreciate what has to be done. It is a scientific Department after all and, cannot carry on without proper staff.

Staff is our stock-in-trade. We have no goods, but we must have staff.

My friend, the hon. Mr. Jackson, made a very useful contribution to the debate in connection with the Board of Agriculture. I am sorry that more members of the Board are not in Council to support him. In closing, sir, I would like to say one more word with reference to my friend the hon. Member for North-West Districts (Mr. Jacob). He made the statement that the Department has misdirected or misapplied its energy. He made other statements which hon. Members must know are too ridiculous for me to reply to. He said that the Colonial Treasurer is not competent to be Chairman of the Rice Marketing Board, and that the Director of Agriculture should be Chairman. Yet he says I am practically useless, misdirecting my Department and misapplying my energy. What sort of sincerity is that? I have never come up against that sort of thing in my life.

Item 2—Deputy Director of Agriculture, \$4,320.

MR. DE AGUIAR: I wish to move the deletion of item 2—Deputy Director of Agriculture, \$4,320. In the absence of a pronouncement such as the one we had last year from the President—that no steps will be taken to fill the post next year—I feel compelled to formally move that the item be deleted. I would prefer, however, to take the same action as was taken last year if I could receive an assurance that the item would be allowed to remain on the estimate to be reviewed again next year, but in view of the pronouncement that steps will be taken to fill the post I can do nothing else than formally move the deletion of the item.

MR. JACOB: I beg to second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: I was going to say that I proposed, unless Members have any objection, to take the whole of Part 1 of the estimate which deals with personal emoluments, but there is now an amendment that item 2 be deleted. I do not wish to speak at length on the motion, but there are one or two points upon which I think I should make some observations. First of all, I would like to say that I

have listened with a great deal of interest to the debate, and I have made copious notes of a great number of subjects which were particularly drawn to my attention. I will deal with them in due course.

There is one thing that has amazed and astonished me about this debate. We have had during the year 1941 an examination of the agricultural conditions and possible development of this Colony, by a man who is probably the best qualified person in the world on tropical agriculture. I refer to Sir Frank Stockdale, and he has with him an Adviser in Mr. Wakefield, a man of wide experience and ability. I am speaking subject to correction, but I do not think I heard one reference by Unofficial Members during the debate to those memoranda which have been published. It seems to me that there has been a Bible on agricultural development laid out in front of us, and surely it was on that text that any criticism or constructive criticism should have been based. I said when I came to the Colony that I must regard myself as an executive officer charged with carrying out propositions that have been considered and recommended by persons much better qualified than myself. There is particularly this one of agriculture, and failing destructive or constructive criticism from this representative body I feel myself bound to carry out or attempt to carry out as closely as I can the programme laid down for me.

I would like to refer to one or two matters dealt with in the observations of the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. DeAguiar). They are not immediately relevant to this debate but I take this opportunity to mention them. First of all he referred to the form of the estimates which he said had been largely altered in recent years as the result of directions from the Secretary of State. If I understood him correctly he took exception to the fact that those instructions have been or had to be followed by this Government. I have already expressed my degree of sympathy with that, and I have myself protested to the Secretary of State two or three years ago against certain changes in the form of estimates. One of the reasons I put up was that it made the estimates less easy to understand by the ordinary layman and by the Unofficial Members of Council. At the same

time I must also say that the object with which he put forward those proposals was one which not even the Member for Central Demerara would oppose, and that is precisely in order to bring the financial transactions of Government within the purview and direct supervision of the Legislative Council.

Under the old system they did not so appear, or if they did appear at all, they did so in certain appendices. It meant that those self-balancing accounts of Government did not go directly to the Legislative Council and did not require the direct and specific approval of the Council. The Council could, of course have taken direct action by stopping the Governor's salary or something like that, but in actual fact they did not come before the Council at all, and the Secretary of State's reform was directed towards making that possible. If the hon. Member has a better plan then let us hear it; I have given mine—by carefully discriminating throughout our estimates between what is annually recurrent revenue and extraordinary revenue, and extraordinary and capital expenditure and annually recurrent expenditure, and that those amounts should be shown on both sides as special or extraordinary. I have been accustomed to that elaboration, and there may be one or two items under this head which might have been explained with a little note on the right hand side to the effect that they were self-balancing items. I have suggested my own plan and I propose in next year's estimate to amplify it a little more by means of notes and by means of that discrimination, but if there is another way of doing it I would be perfectly prepared to do so. The object is to bring these items within the purview of the Legislative Council, not necessarily in the same way as is being done in financing the Colonial Development Fund Schemes.

The hon. Member's reference to service conditions is analagous. I do not know the details, but certain things have been decreed by the Secretary of State and accepted by this Government. I cannot understand that feeling of irritation. It is asked why should our service conditions be subject to somebody outside? You have to take the rough with the smooth. One of the things I have heard on the more progressive side in the West



Indies, and quite a lot in this colony, is : "Why don't we have a common Service and more interchange with the West Indies and with the rest of the Colonial Empire?" If we want that then we have to have conditions of service common to all these Colonies. If this Colony is going to insist on every little detail being subject to this Legislative Council, with the inevitable result that those details are going to differ between one Colony and another, then goodbye to our unified Service or any hope of getting officers from outside. My point is that those details are not worth bothering about. You will find when you examine it that the amount of saving that you achieve by conditions of your own is nothing, except you make the pay so low that you cannot get officers from abroad. It is one of those matters of detail which are not worth worrying about. Those remarks are purely of a general character. I have not yet looked into the particular points hon. Members have asked me to look into.

I come now to the particular question of the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture. I have listened to the comments made that the Department's administration is top-heavy in general and possibly departmentally. I have been far too little in the Colony to know if that is so. In the first Colony of which I was Governor I did have to say so, and I decided to amalgamate some Departments with others, but I did not do it until I was satisfied that it was possible. My first general impression is that I am a good deal concerned to see that a number of senior officers of Government are kept away from getting down to their immediate jobs by having to attend every kind of meeting—Board meetings and committee meetings, on which a vast amount of time must be spent in somewhat desultory discussions. Let me give an instance. There was a certain proposal which I desired to be followed up immediately. I referred to the Colonial Secretary who replied that the officers concerned were going to a meeting on that date and were going to a certain place in January. I said "This is November, surely it could be done in December," but the Colonial Secretary replied showing quite successfully that those officers could not do it. I had to accept that much against my will,

Now let us take the question of the Deputy Director of Agriculture. I have been asked to accept an amendment for the deletion of the item unless I can give an assurance that Government will not proceed with the appointment. Again I have to say that I am here as an executive officer trying to get something done, and from what I have seen of these papers so far it is quite clear that this appointment of a Deputy Director is one of the things on which our agricultural schemes, for which we are going to get finance from outside, will depend. We have a very definite recommendation from the Agricultural Adviser, that the appointment should be made. Am I seriously asked to hold it up for another period of months? That is what this Colony is suffering from—absence of executive action and decision. Am I seriously asked to throw overboard what has been approved by my predecessor, by Sir Frank Stockdale, his Agricultural Adviser and by the Secretary of State in order that I personally should have six months or more to review the position? Gentlemen, I cannot do it. The only result of holding up this appointment will be that we hold up all of our agricultural schemes. I am perfectly certain that will be the result and therefore I cannot accept that.

I have already said that I am concerned to see the degree to which senior officers are pulled away from their immediate work to attend to this and the other thing, involving extra work and constant long hours of overtime work. I have experienced a constant strain to keep up with a whole mass of papers. A good deal of them are just sheer rubbish. They are coming to me constantly and I have to spend hours on some petty quarrel which has been put up as a special representation to Government.

Hon. Members will agree that the Agricultural Instructors are necessary. That is very strongly stressed by the Comptroller and his Adviser. It is no use making this appointment unless there is a sufficiency of supervisory officers to look after the work of the Department. If we do not appoint a Deputy Director we cannot appoint Instructors, and we hold up the schemes for another six months. Finally, I would like to put on record a few remarks made by the Inspector General of Agriculture in his report. In paragraph 20 he states :—

20. It is important that the vacant post of Deputy Director be filled as early as possible. A livestock officer will be essential for the development of animal husbandry. The junior executive staff should be increased by 12 immediately and 12 more in the second year. A Botanist/Mycologist is not required, but a Curator should be appointed for Georgetown Gardens and nursery work.

In paragraph 86 of his Notes on Agricultural Development in British Guiana Mr. Wakefield also states:—

86. I am surprised to find only 3 Agricultural Instructors on the Department's establishment, especially when compared with the 42 Sanitary Inspectors of the Medical Department. Each Agricultural Superintendent should have at least 6 Agricultural Instructors to assist him; in no other way can the services of the higher paid technically trained officers and the results of experimentation and agricultural advance be extended to the peasantry. Personal contact and close follow-up is essential if the confidence of the peasant-farmer is to be obtained. I strongly recommend the early appointment of 12 Agricultural Instructors and 12 more in the second year. It is not essential for such men in the first instance to be holders of an agricultural diploma: they can be trained at the livestock and rice stations where they should demonstrate their ability to do with their own hands the agricultural methods they will be expected to impart to the peasant. They should not be placed on the fixed establishment until they have proved their suitability in the field and especially their power to influence and to encourage the peasantry to adopt better agricultural methods.

Again in paragraph 90 Mr. Wakefield states:—

90. I consider that the vacant post of Deputy Director should be filled as early as possible. There is a great deal of planning to be done, and it is desirable for a senior headquarters officer to maintain the closest contact and supervision of the field staff and, equally important, to meet as frequently as possible the Village Committees, Committees of the Co-operative Credit Banks, etc., in order to keep them informed of the objectives, work and policy of the Department and to encourage communal effort and outstanding individual enterprise. It struck me very forcibly that development in British Guiana could only be efficiently carried out on a big scale: this was the opinion of many of the planters and traders with whom I came into contact, but the Colony cannot expect the Department to carry out its present programme under the present arrangements, let alone to prepare or to carry out further development work without adequate staff.

I am afraid I cannot accept the amendment proposed that item 2 be deleted. I feel myself rather bound, without further closer examination which would require some period, to make this appointment early in 1942.

Dr. SINGH: My question may seem puerile, but will this appointment be filled by a qualified person?

THE CHAIRMAN: That is a matter of which I have no immediate knowledge. I can only say of course it will. The appointment will be subject to the approval of the Comptroller and finally of the Secretary of State. It is not an appointment which is in my immediate personal power. If you have any representations to make about the qualification by all means do so; I shall be prepared to receive them.

Dr. SINGH: I would really like an appointment like this to be filled by a fully qualified person, not an unqualified person who may have experience.

THE CHAIRMAN: I shall be perfectly prepared to make that representation. According to the procedure of the Council I will put the amendment first—that item 2 be deleted.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: You have already said that you cannot accept the amendment. I therefore take it that it has been thrown out.

THE CHAIRMAN: An amendment can be voted upon. What I said was that I cannot direct Government to accept it.

The Committee divided on the amendment and voted:—

*For*—Messrs. Peer Bacchus and DeAguiar 2.

*Against*—Messrs. C. V. Wight, Mackey, Jackson, Jacob, Humphrys, Walcott Gonsalves, Percy C. Wight, D'Andrade, Austin, McDavid, Woolford, Dr. Singh, Professor Dash, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—16.

Amendment lost.

Item passed as printed.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I am asking you, sir, to record that the seconder voted against the amendment, which is a record. (laughter).

THE CHAIRMAN: I think he is entitled to do so.

Item (25) Grading Inspector (\$1,440 to \$1,920 by \$120;—\$1,920.

Mr. JACOB: Yesterday afternoon I reserved my comments on a certain very wild statement made here by one hon. Member, and I think I indicated then that I would deal with the question of the Rice Grading Inspector to-day. I have always endeavoured to make statements in this Council which are fairly accurate and reliable, because they go on record and are referred to from time to time. This Council was told yesterday that the Rice Marketing Board had made profits and so on. I wish to refer to the fact that in one half-year there was a loss, and when the method of control came into operation it was based on the fact that the purchase price of rice by the Board would ensure a margin of 40 cents to the growers, and the selling price would be fixed by adding 40 cents. Since then the grading standards have been altered.

THE CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. Member somehow or other to relate what he has to say to the item before the Council.

Mr. JACOB: I am referring to item 25—Grading Inspector. I move the deletion of the item. The grading standards have been altered and at the present time the Board buys rice on the certificate of its own Grading Inspector. In the past there was a technical officer who did the grading, and consumers and sellers were perfectly satisfied. Of course now and then there were grievances.

Professor DASH: The original grading was for the purpose of export; it had nothing to do with local sales.

Mr. JACOB: I quite understand that. We had whole grain Super, Super, Extra No. 1, No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, and a few others. That was when the Board took over and the purchase price was fixed by Defence Regulations, and the sale price also, allowing a margin of 40 cents on the bag. Since then the very wise and clever Board has changed those standards. It is now buying from the producers those grades I have enumerated, together with an Extra No. 2, but it is selling to the consumer as Grade A and B. I have been able to figure that the profit now being made by the Board on those grades, as shown by the publication made recently, is at least 80 cents per bag by that shuffling

with the rice, or by blending operations. It is extremely difficult to find out exactly what is the purchase price and sale price of rice by the Board as the result of those standards being changed. That has caused a great deal of discontent throughout the Colony, and if I say that the Board receives numerous complaints every day I would not be exaggerating the position. I know that has been one of the serious causes of criticism and representation and the cause of the lowered production of rice.

I do not want to take up too much time on rice, but I was amazed by the statement made by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. DeAguiar) about evil propaganda or subversive propaganda. I do not know if I understood the Chairman of the Board correctly, but when I made reference to his statement about subversive propaganda he confirmed it yesterday. I should like to have that stated very clearly. What is the position in the constituency of my hon. friend, the Member for Central Demerara? I know there were 17 rice mills between Kitty and Buxton, but to-day there are only 10, and a few of them are likely to go out. If my friend is satisfied that there has been subversive or evil propaganda between Kitty and Buxton, his own constituency, I should like him to give direct evidence to this Council or to Government in writing. I am satisfied that those seven rice mills have gone out of existence because of discontent caused by the various methods of control adopted by the Government since 1933. Two of my uncles had rice mills in that area and they have sold or dismantled them for that very reason, and I know why the others have given up their mills. If my friend can give Government evidence that subversive propaganda or evil propaganda has been responsible for the closing of those mills then I think Government will have something to work on. I welcome the idea that Government should work on things like that, but I detest the attitude of making statements here which are like the betrayal of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was done by J.I.—Judas Iscariot.

Reference has been made to the Rice Association and other things. I was President of the Rice Association in 1935 and 1936. That Associa-

tion endeavoured to do everything possible to co-operate with this Government but it could get nothing done, and it went out of existence. Why? There was a Rice Producers' Advisory Committee recently formed by Government. Has Government accepted the advice of that Committee or the advice of the majority of that Committee? Government has not; and I am thinking seriously that there are "fifth columnists" at work in this colony. I wish to refer Your Excellency to page 84 of the debates in this Council on the 5th December, 1940, in which I said:—

"... I feel, sir, that the industry as controlled now—let me make it perfectly clear that I am not against control but I am against control of the kind that you have now—is not properly managed."

The Colonial Treasurer, the Chairman of the Board, selected about a dozen words later in the debate and tried to convince Your Excellency that I am against control. I am sorry to have to say this: I asked for an interview with Sir Frank Stockdale, Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Hammond, and immediately as I approached Sir Frank Stockdale he said: "I am very busy, I can only give you 15 minutes." I said "I have documentary evidence to put before you and I would like to engage you for a little longer than that." Immediately I opened my mouth he said: "I understand you are against control; you are interested in the rice industry." I told him I was not interested in the rice industry then, and that I was not against control. I merely mention that to show—I am sure that that gentleman got that from an official source. The official source which give strangers to this Colony information about people here is a dangerous thing. It was tried here yesterday when the Colonial Treasurer tried to convince Your Excellency that I was against control. When I asked the attendant in this Council to ask that gentleman to let me see the paper he had referred to he definitely refused, and if Your Excellency did not intervene—

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think I should let that pass. I do not think the hon. Member's way of trying to get that paper was quite the right one. I am President of the Council and the proper way is to get it through me—not to send

around the table and demand it while the hon. Member was speaking.

Mr. JACOB: I quite agree with that sir, but it simply shows the feeling that exists. If it is the intention that we should do everything strictly parliamentary I am wholly in favour of that. When that hon. Member speaks it is extremely difficult to hear him at this end of the table. I could not get the reference number and he simply drove the attendant away. Your Excellency will not remember that. I have brought these things out to show the evil propaganda that goes on in high Government circles, and there is connivance with it by a great many hon. Members of this Council. That is all I have to say on the item—Rice Grading Inspector. I move its deletion for those reasons. There is no one employed at the present moment. The Rice Marketing Board grades rice through its Assistant Secretary, and I think the Board should pay for rice grading and not the general revenue. It should not be a direct charge on this estimate.

Further, I do not see the necessity for shipping rice out of the Colony now by the different grading standards. It is not done in the case of exports from India. There should be recognized grades. It may be introduced in order to standardize certain grades of rice in our West Indian markets, but at the present time, with one single agency exporting rice, it is a waste of money to have a Rice Grading Inspector grading rice and going through all the details for export to our customers when most of them do not even look at the grading certificates. When my firm was exporting rice very few of our customers wanted to see the grading certificates, and they were all piled up in our office. It is highly undesirable to be spending money we have not got on something that is of no value to our customers. I think our customers would be quite satisfied with the standards that may be sent, and so long as the rice conforms to that standard, and so long as there is no competition within this Colony with our customers abroad the necessity for grading certificates does not exist.

The CHAIRMAN: I am prepared to accept that amendment. The post is vacant and the Colonial Secretary informs me that it is not necessary to fill it.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I wish to say something about grading generally. Although I have risen to join in the debate against even what I consider the sound advice of my colleagues, I could not allow such illogical reasoning to be placed on record in Hansard, especially as the hon. Member who has just taken his seat is very fond of referring to Hansard. A few years hence, if no one joined in the debate to point out how illogical the reasoning of the hon. Member was, it might be thought that there was some point or merit in his argument. First of all his argument lacked a good deal of sincerity, and I make that observation because the hon. Member knows that what he said in this Council this morning is not a true picture of the situation. He knows that prior to the fixing of grades of rice in this Colony there was a terrific upheaval in our export markets for the reason that rice was then sold on sample, and the avaricious speculators of this country shipped rice which was not in accordance with the sample submitted. The hon. Member knows that, and I challenge him to say that that statement is not correct. That was the reason for introducing grades here. But if he asks me to agree with him that the fixing of grades was not in the interest of the avaricious speculators I have referred to I entirely agree. It definitely was not in their interest, and that of course is where the shoe pinches. I want to say, too, that the hon. Member knows that prior to the establishment of the Board as it is at present constituted, the same avaricious speculators purchased rice of no standard at all for export or for local sale. No standard was fixed for purchasing rice. Those same avaricious speculators—and the hon. Member knows to whom I refer—

Mr. JACOB: I must rise to a point of order. I objected this morning to a statement made by the Director of Agriculture, but Your Excellency did not uphold my objection. I cannot see that it is proper when a Member is speaking to interpolate that another Member knows to whom he is referring. I think is improper.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has been allowed a good deal of latitude in debate in the last two days. I must allow the hon. Member to proceed.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I said that the hon.

Member knows, but if the hon. Member objects to that statement I would amplify it by saying that he should know to whom I refer. When rice was purchased here on sample—the hon. Member called the name of the Almighty and I will do the same—God helped those poor people who sold their rice to those speculators under those conditions. What is the position today? When the producers bring their rice to Georgetown it is graded, and as soon as they know the grade they know the price they will obtain for their rice. It is true that there is bound to be disagreement as to whether the rice falls within a certain grade. That is bound to arise; it arises in every other product sold from day to day. The hon. Member knows, and I will keep on emphasizing that he does know that the Board attempted to meet those complaints by the creation of an Appeal Committee to consider any grievances that may be lodged against the grading of a particular parcel of rice. I am sure the hon. Member is not going to say that he does not know all that, because I think there is an abundance of evidence to show that at least he knows that that facility is afforded those people.

He speaks about evil propaganda. I have no desire whatever to retract anything I said yesterday in that regard, no matter what irresponsibility the hon. Member invokes in his utterances. His reference to the closing down of a few rice mills in my constituency is mere clap-trap, and he knows that too. He cannot say that the closing of those mills has been a direct result of any action of the Board as it is at present constituted. He has refrained from stating when those mills were closed down, although he did try to cover himself by saying "since 1933." But let us leave that alone. I have no intention whatever to invoke the assistance of any person in anything I am about to say, and I leave the hon. Member to interpret in his own language the meaning of C. R.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I think it has been accepted by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. DeAguiar) that there is dissatisfaction in certain quarters with the grading of rice. That dissatisfaction was evidently in the mind of Mr. Wakefield when he was writing his report. In his report he distinctly says that grading is necessary for the future development of

the industry, and he also seems to have some misgiving as to the system of grading in the Colony. He refers to the question of outside purchasers when he says: "... they do not always know where they are with the British Guiana system." When we hear remarks here that there is dissatisfaction with the grading it can be accepted that there must necessarily be differences of opinion with regard to grading or any other form of control by Government.

With regard to the remarks made by the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) I feel sure that he appreciates control, but I will call his attention to a passage in Mr. Wakefield's report, and if that is his contention then he has the support of Mr. Wakefield when he says: "I consider that as soon as conditions permit, actual rice growers should be appointed on the Board;" but he qualifies that by saying: "This will be difficult so long as growers fail to co-operate amongst themselves."

You suggested, sir, that the debate has not taken cognizance of the report of Mr. Wakefield, but it may be that I was not very clear in my remarks when I referred to the *Journal of the Parliaments of the Empire*. I also referred to the question of subsidizing farmers and to the Board of Agriculture. I find this morning that one of the themes on which Mr. Wakefield has laid a considerable amount of stress is one which I have advocated continually in this Council, and I am hoping that some day some notice will be taken of it. I refer to the question of the security of land tenure to the farmer as provided by the Agricultural Holding Act. It was that I had in mind when I suggested that Government should appoint a Committee to consider the adaptability of certain legislation before the Marketing Officer arrives, so that when he arrives he will have before him certain concise facts which have been gathered. I submit that a marketing officer coming to this Colony would be unable on his own, and after a short stay, to come to any conclusions without having some local knowledge placed before him. I may not have been clear but I think that in my previous remarks I addressed myself to Mr. Wakefield's report.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I

would like to say that when the Officer Administering the Government I received a deputation of rice growers from Leguan and Wakenaam. At that interview the hon. Members for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) and Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) were present and they raised the same question of land tenure. Since then there have been more discussions between the Attorney-General, the Colonial Treasurer and myself, and the Attorney-General has pointed out the difficulties which arise. Government has been in communication with Sir Frank Stockdale who has undertaken to get a copy of some legislation which he thought existed in India. Shortly before your arrival, sir, I heard from Sir Frank Stockdale who is endeavouring to get that information. It is an extremely difficult question but it is not one which Government has brushed aside.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: May I suggest that the Attorney-General be asked to invoke the assistance of members of the legal profession? Surely there are two or three legal members of the community who would be only too willing to suggest to him some suitable system of land tenure. I do not think he will find the system of land tenure in India suitable for adoption here. We have a certain system of land tenure here which can be easily adapted; we have the transport system. I feel sure that legal members of the Executive Council and this Council—three or four of them—would be able to suggest some system adopting the principles of the Agricultural Holding Act or some other form of land tenure.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has made a very important suggestion, and as far as I can speak for Government I am extremely keen on getting this question settled as soon as we can. Some reference has been made to the Indian system. In my last Colony we did produce an Act which was passed in 1937, but if there is a better model I would be the last to suggest that. We found certain difficulty in its operation owing to the existence of written contracts, and both landlords and tenants took advantage of that. I would like to assure hon. Members, if I can speak for Government, that I am most anxious to see such legislation put through as soon as we can, and I am

much obliged to the hon. Member for his offer.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am asking you, sir, to pause before you agree to the deletion of this item. I think it is essential that the grading of rice should go on. It is true that I do not know much about the actual process, but I realize that under ordinary circumstances we must have grading.

Mr. McDAVID: The holder of the post is the officer who is now Secretary of the Rice Marketing Board. Of course rice grading is going on and will continue. It is well to retain the item on the estimate in order to provide some kind of security of office for that officer in case his present post was not continued after the war. As we now know and believe that the Board's operations will continue I do not think it is necessary to retain the post on the estimate, but that does not mean that rice grading will not go on in the same way.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the post on the pensionable establishment?

Mr. McDAVID: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will delete the item but I think you are satisfied that grading will go on.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am satisfied with what the Treasurer has said but I would like to make a few remarks on the item which has been used for the purpose of very severe criticism of the Rice Marketing Board. The hon. Member on my left (Mr. Jacob) suggested that the Rice Marketing Board is not functioning correctly. The language he used was so strong that it almost led me to believe that the Board was not functioning honestly. I would be the last person to have an opinion like that about the present members of the Board. The hon. Member questioned everything that the Board does. I consider that extraordinarily good, healthy and helpful criticism because he gave no reason for it whatsoever. It seems to me hard that busy men should have to be members of that Board and to give decisions which may not be appreciated by people who are always inclined to grumble and make complaints, and are encouraged by people who ought to know better

but, I am sorry to say, do not know better. We are living in a time of serious crisis and when a member of this Council refers to "fifth columnists" I think Your Excellency should demand that the "fifth columnists" in this Council should be named. I know of none, but perhaps a "fifth columnist" is sitting next to me on my left. I am sorry that we have to sit here and listen to such accusations as are made by this Member continuously during the last three or five years.

Mr. JACOB: Is it the best thing to have rice stored at the Petroleum Warehouse where you have gasoline and kerosene moving in and out?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The gasoline and kerosene will be moved out, if not to-morrow, very shortly afterwards.

Mr. JACOB: I do not think the question has been answered. I have been informed that a large quantity of rice, I think 4,000 bags, has been stored in the Petroleum Bond where it will be damaged by the smell of gasoline and kerosene, particularly kerosene. I do not know if that is correct or not.

Mr. McDAVID: Government has been good enough to give the Rice Marketing Board the use of the Petroleum Bond for extra storage of rice. Our stocks of rice are coming in so fast at the moment that it has been necessary to move up there at once before the petroleum has been shifted to its new quarters. That is being done almost immediately, and after that I do not think there will be any trouble as regards smell. Some persons have raised the question as to whether the petroleum will affect the rice but I am assured it will not. The Board would have preferred not to have moved in before the petroleum had been removed but, unfortunately, it was necessary to go there at once.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: Do I understand the Colonial Treasurer to say that rice grading will be done independently of the Board by a Government Inspector?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, it is the other way around.

Mr. WIGHT: I observe that Mr.

Wakefield states that if the grade certificates are to have any negotiable value the grading should be done by a Government officer independently of the Board.

Mr. McDAVID: That is quite true in a general sense, but this is one occasion on which I will agree with the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) that the standard for export lately is very high and a certificate is not really necessary for each consignment of rice going out of the Colony. In a general sense Mr. Wakefield's advice will have to be accepted.

THE CHAIRMAN: If that is so might it not be desirable to keep the name of the post on the estimate?

Mr. JACOB: No grading standards are used in India. No certificates are issued with shipments of rice from India or Burma, and I suggest that that precedent should be followed. Perhaps Mr. Wakefield was a little bit misled. There may be some value in grading certificates, but at the moment there is absolutely no value, and the general revenue should not be burdened with this expenditure.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have agreed to its deletion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The post can be shown in any case. We have in the past put a sum of \$1 on the estimates where we wanted to retain a post. That can be done in this case.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: Is it not that the standard of grading is higher than usual outside as well as internally? From knowledge I have gained in discussions with various people I understand that one of the bones of contention about grading is that the standard is too low.

THE CHAIRMAN: The immediate point is that we have agreed to delete the item unless there is a formal way of showing it. The suggestion is that we retain the post on the estimate by reducing the amount to \$1.

Item as amended agreed to.

Item 10—Livestock, \$10,000.

Mr. MACKEY: I have spoken to the Director of Agriculture outside this Coun-

cil on more than one occasion and asked him if he could not make provision for the importation of a jack donkey for the breeding of mules locally. I believe that this Colony imports mules from the United States of America to the value of between \$25,000 and \$30,000 a year. Apart from that there is need for improvement of the breed of donkeys. One only has to look at the stables controlled by the Town Council to see some improvement, but there is still a great deal more room for improvement. We have the greatest difficulty in getting suitable donkeys, and that may be due to the fact that the same Veterinary Surgeon buys for both concerns. I suggest that some provision be made in the estimate for the importation of one or possibly two jack donkeys.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I second that. I think I am second to the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) in my correspondence with Government. Some time ago I wrote the Director of Agriculture suggesting that provision be made for the improvement of the breed of donkeys. I support the hon. Member's plea wholeheartedly.

Mr. MACKEY: I suggest that Government take steps as early as possible to provide for the importation, and that the actual number of jack donkeys to be imported should be left to the Director of Agriculture and the Veterinary Surgeon.

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

2 p.m.—

The Council resumed. Mr. Tias present.

#### U.S.A. ENTRY INTO THE WAR.

THE PRESIDENT: Before the Council goes into Committee I would like to say with reference to the decision for the passing of a resolution on the entry of the United States of America into the War, that I understand that the resolution has now been prepared and, I think, it is desirable that it should be passed to-day in order that it should be sent to the American Consul and American Officers in the Colony. It has been decided to take that before the adjournment. I therefore put the question "That the Council



continue in Committee consideration of the Estimates”.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the Estimates of expenditure to be defrayed from revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1942, which have been laid on the table.

### ESTIMATES, 1942.

#### AGRICULTURE.

##### Item 10—Livestock, \$10,000.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture: I appreciate very much what has been said in connection with improving the breed of donkeys. We had a very fine stallion and he died not very long ago, but we have some of his progeny which are doing very good work. I appreciate the request made for replacing the old jack with a new one from the United States of America. The hon Nominated Member, Mr. Mackey, made several requests in connection with the breeding of mules. While I have not made provision in this draft Estimate for a donkey, I have made it on the estimates which have been put up in connection with the Stock Farm extension and, I think, if allowed to remain we would be able to get it. The question is complicated by the point made by the hon. Mr. Mackey, which is that one stallion is hardly sufficient for both mule breeding and donkey breeding. I suggest that the commercial interests should be able, I think, to take care of the mule and mule breeding and leave Government to take care of one Jack for donkey breeding. I throw that out as a suggestion.

Mr. MACKEY: I have listened to what the hon. Director of Agriculture has just said. I first of all thought he was going to omit what I think is the most important part of my remarks, and that is the question of having two animals. I am glad to see that he has realized that two jacks are necessary. The point which I tried to stress and may have failed is that two donkeys are necessary, one as he has said for breeding mules and the other for improving the breed of donkeys in this Colony. He has made the suggestion that the commercial interests should import the

jack for the breeding of mules. I cannot bind the commercial interests in this Colony in that respect, but I may say that certain interests in this Colony are doing what I consider a step in the right direction by importing a medium type of horse which, if bred with a jack donkey, would give a very good type of animal. There is no doubt that at the present time breeding in this Colony is confined more so to race horses and not sufficient attention is paid to the breeding of animals for commercial purposes. If the interests concerned make an attempt with one mare and it proves successful it can be followed with the importation of another for the improvement of the breed of horses. I certainly will put forward that suggestion as well. As regards the question of cost, I cannot speak with any authority. I do know that some years ago the price of a jack donkey was somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$750. If the increase in the price of a jack donkey is more or less on the same lines as the increase in the price of a mule, then the cost of importing that donkey to-day is around \$1,100 and \$1,200. In view of the suggestion made, I think that a formal motion should be put to this Council for an increase of the amount of the item so as to enable the Department of Agriculture to import a jack donkey. Therefore, I have very great pleasure in formally moving that a sum of \$1,200 be added to the estimate for “Livestock” for that purpose.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I am seconding the motion and supporting what the hon. Member on my left has said. I would like to add that I hope that the hon. Director's energy and his forcefulness in regard to the extension of the livestock industry will not cloud his better judgment in regard to any of the other subsidiary lines. I refer particularly to the Report of the Dairy Products' Factory Committee (Legislative Council Paper No. 10 of 1940) to which is appended a Minority Report by me dated 12th April, 1940, in which I suggested that the infinitesimal annual loss of \$693.50 (stated in the Minutes appended to the Report) can be borne by the Colony. I also went further and suggested that the experience gained by that time would be useful in furthering future co-operative efforts. There were several other minor recommendations one of which was—‘inadequate and antiquated transport facilities are also responsible for

the lack of a surplus of fresh milk supplies." I say that because I know that in the report of Mr. Wakefield he stated distinctly in reference to animal husbandry:

There are also valuable markets in the West Indies for ghee (the manufacture of which requires no elaborate processing equipment, and the best quality is sold in the West Indies as P.Y. butter at 2s. 4d. per lb.) and dairy butter.

That was written about a year after my Minority Report, as it was signed on the 17th April, 1941. It seems rather a pity that numbers of recommendations in the Minority Report did not receive a little more consideration, as by now they might have been in operation and we might have been receiving the benefits of that particular industry which would have helped the Essequibo Coast which I represent.

*En passant*, I would also like to mention a fact about grazing. It was mentioned in that Report. The vast expanse of land on the Essequibo Coast between Charity and Suddie, I am told on very good authority, is the best grazing land on the Essequibo Coast but it remains barren and absolutely unused. Perhaps, if there is any necessity for grazing lands to increase the livestock Government may consider some scheme in that direction in those areas. I notice in the Report of Mr. Wakefield mention is made of the Essequibo Coast in matters of that kind and the suggestion is put forward where experiments of that kind may be made.

Professor DASH: That question of the Dairy Products' Factory certainly will come up with the Anna Regina proposals. It has been definitely decided that should be included in our estimates.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not relevant to this item of livestock. The immediate question is whether we should increase this vote. Is it agreeable to you? Would it be useful?

Professor DASH: It would be useful to spend more money on livestock. In connection with the stallion donkey we have made provision for that in the Stock Farm proposal.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have made provision there for one, whereas the hon. Member stresses that there ought to be two. Would it be convenient to bring up the

point when we come to the Colonial Development Welfare Scheme?

Mr. MACKEY: If I understand correctly what the hon. Director of Agriculture has said, provision has been made only for one animal.

THE CHAIRMAN: It would be quite open to us to increase it to two.

Mr. MACKEY: In that case when the matter comes up again I will do so.

THE CHAIRMAN: The proposal is to finance it under the Act but, if the advisers of the Colonial Development Welfare Scheme only recommend one and we want two, we would have to pay for the other. It may be convenient to put down one here.

Professor DASH: I am agreeable to putting down an amount for one here.

Mr. JACOB: I have a little contribution to make to this debate. I had listened with very great attention this morning to the hon. Director of Agriculture. He quoted Sessional paper No. 16A of 1927, paragraph 13, and stated that this Council refused to grant \$120,000 required then for the extension of the livestock industry in this Colony. I consider that a very vague statement to make, as since then there was a change of the Constitution and this Council has a Government Majority. With Government in a position to carry through any money vote, it is somewhat unkind to say that this Council refused to give the money.

Professor DASH: To a point of correction! There was very strong representation on the part of the Elected Members of this Council against the spending of the money.

Mr. JACOB: That was in 1927, but since then the Constitution has changed and after 1928 Government had a majority. It should have been a Government measure. When I attack Government Departments in respect of any matter I wish it to be understood that it is not personal to the Heads of Departments. I do feel that filling the position of a Member of this Council and of the Executive Council the hon. Director of Agriculture is somewhat responsible for the state of affairs existing in the livestock industry in this Colony, and I am sure I can show sufficient reason

to convince this Council that the hon. gentleman is responsible for the present state of the industry. On the 31st December, 1938, I introduced a motion for the establishment of Dairy Products' Factories—one on the Essequibo Coast and others in other parts of the Colony. The motion was unanimously accepted in this Council and a Committee was appointed to go into the matter, but the report of that Committee makes distressing reading. I was a member of that Committee and I have a distinct recollection that every proposal for the establishment of those factories, every recommendation, was opposed by a majority of the members of that Committee and the hon. gentleman was one of those who opposed the erection of those—

Professor DASH: I must rise to a point of correction. What was stated clearly in that Report was borne out by what Mr. Wakefield has said. What our Committee said was that in the present condition of irrigation and drainage on the coastal belt it could not recommend that at once we should make a start with the establishment of a Dairy Products' Factory or Factories, as the conditions were not such as high milk producing cows could live under. On the other hand Mr. Wakefield said that before we establish these things we must have better irrigation and drainage on the coastal belt because high milk producing animals cannot live under the present conditions.

Mr. JACOB: We had these conditions for centuries. Although I seconded the motion for the deletion of Item "Deputy Director of Agriculture", I was forced to agree with Your Excellency's remarks that in considering the Vote it is likely the officer may deal with the development of the livestock industry. That was the one and only consideration that made me vote in favour of that item. I am not against the expenditure of money if results are going to be had, I accepted Your Excellency's suggestion, and I did what I could so as not to prevent steps being taken to improve the livestock industry. But if it is to be admitted that irrigation and drainage were the chief causes why the Committee did not recommend the establishment of Dairy Products' Factories, I wish to say at the outset that was not my own recommendation, and one or two other members of the Committee had

a different idea. Then a start should have been made, but the majority of the Committee were just like the Government Officers. The result is we have no coffee now and by this Committee's Report no start is made for the erection of Dairy Products' Factories.

I took the matter a little further when the Royal Commissioners visited here. I brought the matter forcibly to their attention that we should be self supporting in some instances here. We are importing dairy products from Australia and sundry European countries at the moment and, I believe, those supplies will be cut off. If we had looked a little ahead, in 1938, 1939 and even 1940 a start might have been made. My hon. friend, the Director, is not accepting any blame. He says he has done all he could do. I say: "Quite right, but it has been misdirected energy". He accused me this morning of insincerity in stating that he should be Chairman of the Rice Marketing Board—

THE CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. Member to keep to relevant matters. We are dealing with Items 2 to 10. He can talk on points touching any of those items.

Mr. JACOB: I was not going to refer to the Rice Marketing Board. I am just trying to make the point that I believe those directly connected with any industry should be in charge of that industry or on any Government Committee or Board connected with it. I must, however, refer to the Rice Marketing Board as it is an agricultural undertaking.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Rice Marketing Board is not in Items 2 to 10.

Mr. JACOB: All right, sir, I will refer to the Board of Agriculture. I have to make my point because I wish it to be placed on record. My hon. friend on my left referred to the Board yesterday. I say that the hon. gentleman is Chairman of that Board and some responsibility should be placed on him.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask the hon. Member to confine himself to the items under discussion. He is repeating arguments he has made here already. If he has any comments on Items 2 to 10 particularly we would hear them.

Mr. JACOB: The Agricultural Board controls this Department. It is an Advisory Board controlling everything in that Department.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member has anything to say on the Department I would hear it, otherwise I would put the whole Head. I must ask the hon. Member to sit down. I am going to put Item 2 instead of Items 2 to 10.

Mr. MACKEY: The question of travelling was raised by me previously. I am satisfied the amount is adequate for the travelling of the agricultural staff. It has been increased by \$1,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. Director satisfied that amount can do?

Professor DASH: It is a conservative estimate.

THE CHAIRMAN: You will let it stand at that?

Professor DASH: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is just one point I would like to raise. I am rather under the impression that any matter involving expenditure on buildings or maintenance of buildings has to go through the Public Works Department. I am not sure that is not too much centralized. In other words you have an Agricultural Department, and Agricultural Officers should be practical people accustomed to doing various things. I would like to know if I am right in believing that every time the Agricultural Department has to erect a shed you have to apply to the Public Works Department.

Professor DASH: It depends on the size. If it is small we build it ourselves.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you get all you want that way?

Professor DASH: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Once you have a large Agricultural Department all building expenses and maintenance should be put under that Department itself with the exception of permanent buildings of cement, bricks and corrugated iron. But the Director is satisfied and I will say no more.

I shall, however, raise it later when we come to Head "Local Government" as there again I see the existence of it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the item be increased by a further \$1,200, and carried out at \$11,200, a total increase of \$2,200, to enable the purchase of the jack donkey to which the hon. Mr. Mackey referred.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to refer to the Report of the Director of Agriculture for 1940, at page 17, under the head "Breeding Stations", paragraph 127.

Mr. MACKEY: I think the hon. Member can deal with that subject under Item 19—"Maintenance of Breeding Centre and Agistment Area at La Belle Alliance".

Mr. JACOB: I want to suggest that some more money be put on the Estimates for the purchase of bulls. I have read this Report and I am saying that at La Belle Alliance some useful work is being done, but when it comes to the Leguan Station which is dealt with in the following paragraph the remarks are not so good. It states:

The Guernsey bull was brought back to the Stock Farm and replaced by the bull "Candies Garbine."

At the Kitty, Unity and Whim Stations there is only one bull respectively. I would like to be advised how many bulls are in stock, how many service bulls the Department has, and whether it is not advisable at this stage to increase the number of service bulls. In addition to that I think there should be increased expenditure on pigs and poultry. A greater number of boars, and more poultry—more pedigree pullets and cockerels—should be imported. Year after year I have criticized this Department for not doing sufficient work. For instance, at one time the Department only had half a dozen bulls. I know there is a great demand for these bulls. Only a few weeks ago a resident of the Mahaica area came to town for a bull and could not get one. I think Government has been playing with the situation too long. A more progressive step should be taken to increase the production of livestock. While saying that—

Professor DASH: I would invite the hon. Member's attention to paragraph 118 on page 16 of the Report. That will give him the information he seeks.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The same report of 1940!

Mr. JACOB: It states there are 16 bulls in all, but it does not say where they are situated. I do not know if they are all service bulls. I suppose the hon. Director will explain.

Professor DASH: On page 16 of the Department's 1940 Report, paragraph 118 states:—

Cattle—The herd at December 31, 1940, was as follows:—

Breed	Calves.				Total.	
	Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Bulls		
Holstein ...	3	2	3		8	
Guernsey ...	2				2	
Red Poll ...	5	2	1		8	
Hereford ...	1	2	2		5	
Creoles ...		8			8	
Creole x Red Poll	2		4	1	1	8
Creole x Hereford	3			1	2	6
	16	14	10	2	3	46

Since then the numbers have increased. Others have been born and others purchased, and the general scheme of putting bulls out in the districts has been speeded up to the best of our facilities. In some districts what we have done is to come to a certain arrangement with the farmers whereby they do certain things and Government does the other things. In that way a system of co-operation is growing up in so far as the bulls are concerned. It is giving satisfaction and we are receiving co-operation. I quite agree that one of the main essentials is to get on and increase our stock. That is why you have the proposal from Mr. Wakefield to extend the stock farm, that is why stock to be imported should be included. I can easily do with more money on the Livestock Vote, but as we are going to have this extension it seems that the larger issues may take away the grant we are expecting to get.

Mr. JACOB: It is not quite clear to me whether there are 16 service bulls. I have not got that clear.

Professor DASH: I said that at the end of 1940 there were 16 bulls.

Mr. JACOB: My point is there should be a far greater number. There should be more bulls scattered throughout the Colony. In one paragraph of this Report--130—it is stated:

"Unity Station—A new station was started in this area and livestock owners are co-operating wholeheartedly...."

I am sorry the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) is not here. My information is that a large number of bulls are required throughout the Colony. It is true that these people have not been helping themselves as much as they should. The cattle-owners for various reasons in the past did not, but there is a new outlook altogether. It is difficult for farmers to help themselves in the matter of getting pedigree cattle, poultry and pigs, and therefore such a matter should be carefully investigated and other demands created should be filled. When I was in Leguan a couple of months ago, I noticed a few hens and cockerels there. I was told that is how Government wants to improve poultry—with a few dozen hens and cockerels. In Leguan alone Government will get the wholehearted support of the people. I urge on Government and those responsible to do something more. When Your Excellency was in the North-West District, I heard, Your Excellency enquired about livestock, poultry etc. Ever since I was going to the North-West District I have been encouraging the farmers there and other residents to breed as much pigs, cattle and poultry as possible, but the trouble is they cannot get good pedigree stock. I do not know how many boars are available now, whether the order placed for three some time ago has been executed. I would like to be informed how many boars are in the Colony, how many are on order and whether that is sufficient.

Professor DASH: I cannot give an answer right off, but I know we have supplied boars to the North-West District. As to how many I have not the information with me. We have done very well in connection with that matter.

Mr. JACOB: I do not know whether I can move a motion to increase the amount.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may move an addition if I permit it, as

well as the hon. Colonial Secretary may. In this case it is left to the hon. Colonial Secretary to move it. If the hon. Member desires to move an addition to this Live-stock Vote, I am prepared to give him permission to do so, but he must name the figure.

Mr. JACOB: It is very difficult to name the figure. If I am satisfied after the matter has been carefully gone into, it may be passed as a supplementary estimate.

Item put, and agreed to.

#### GRANT TO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

Item 11—Grants in aid of Agricultural Associations, Exhibitions and Competitions, \$200.

Professor DASH: I desire to move an addition by \$480 as a grant in aid to the Beekeepers' Association. This Association is doing very good work in connection with the honey industry and has found itself ready to increase the production by tapping those areas which are at present untapped. I am very familiar with the work of the Association, having created the organization myself and kept in close touch with it as an *ex officio* member of its Committee. This matter was brought to the attention of the Board which has endorsed the recommendation.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I would like to know whether it is proposed that this £100 be paid to this Association for all time or only for one year. Is there any specific proposal before the Council? If it is to be a continuous payment then I am going to ask whether Government is satisfied for what the grant is to be used. It is necessary that this Council be informed as to the use this grant is to be put, if it is intended to be annually recurrent.

Professor DASH: I would not go as far as to say that. One wants to see an item of this kind put to good use, if for no other reason than that it should be regarded at this time when we are trying to expand a minor industry in Home Preserves as a chance to help a struggling association to advance loans to its members and to expand its business in those parts of the Colony which are at present untapped. A substantial area of Courida on the coast-land is not being utilized for the produc-

tion of honey. It is our best honey plant in this country, and for that reason the grant is being advocated to make full use of it.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I am in sympathy with the proposal, but the scheme seems to be half-baked. I am not sure whether the money is to be used for the purpose of advancing loans or not, and I do not think the reply is satisfactory.

Professor DASH: This small grant is to be allocated to the Committee of the Beekeepers' Association of which the Director of Agriculture is an *ex officio* member. The idea is to assist beekeepers with loans, bees and equipment in order to extend the honey production. As it is directly under my care it is but natural that I will exercise every care in seeing that the money is well spent.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I think the motion is not seconded.

THE CHAIRMAN: It does not require it.

Dr. SINGH: Cannot it be put as a sort of revolving fund?

THE CHAIRMAN: I should think, if it is not going to be annual, that it should be an item under "Extraordinary".

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I would rather see it under a separate Head.

THE CHAIRMAN: Take it under "Extraordinary Expenditure" after the last item. Who is the Chairman of the Beekeepers' Association?

Professor DASH: A gentleman by the name of Mr. Blouse.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does he live in Georgetown?

Professor DASH: He lives on the East Coast, Demerara.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can you get him quite easily?

Professor DASH: I think he will accept the assurance I give.

THE CHAIRMAN: Suppose we let the vote stand as it is and bring this up as an extraordinary item?

MR. JACOB: Do I understand it is to be a free grant to the Association?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. DEAGUIAR: We have had it from the hon. Director of Agriculture that this money is to be used for loans. If there are going to be loans then those loans are going to be repaid. I am becoming more and more convinced that it is a half-baked scheme, I am in sympathy with it, but I do not like the look of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let us have a new sub head "Grant to Beekeepers' Association—\$480" inserted.

MR. JACOB: I understand it is to be a free grant to the Association and the Association will utilize it as capital for carrying on its work—lending people money to keep bees—and so encourage the production of honey. I think it is an excellent idea. If any future application is made for more money, then the matter may be gone into a little more carefully as they will not be able to pay it back. I think it is an excellent gesture to the Association for the encouragement of the production of honey.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will bring it back later.

#### RICE GRADING EXPENSES.

MR. C. V. WIGHT: I would like to say that I support the request made for the amount, but I have risen to speak on the question of "Rice Grading Expenses" and the note on page 4 of the Estimates which says; "To be charged against the funds of the Rice Marketing Board".

THE CHAIRMAN: That item is going out altogether, but we have not got to that as yet.

MR. C. V. WIGHT: I see that the amount is to be charged against the Rice Marketing Board. I would like to know whether the Rice Marketing Board is not carrying a charge of 10 cents per bag for licensing exporters, which it should not carry. I would like to hear from the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob), who is a licensed exporter and who was a member of the Rice Growers' Advisory Committee, whether he considers

that as a licensed exporter he should obtain the benefit of that 10 cents per bag which should be charged against the funds of the Rice Marketing Board. I would like to hear from him also whether he was a member of the Rice Producers' Advisory Committee and did not advise against that 10 cents, and whether he is supporting that charge of 10 cents per bag or not.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think you are strictly relevant. It is not part of what we are doing now. If you wish to discuss it, I may point out that it is an item which existed on last year's Estimates and is now going out.

MR. C. V. WIGHT: I was pointing out that this is an additional burden which is going to be carried by the Rice Marketing Board. It appears to be carrying that burden of 10 cents per bag which I personally feel it should not carry as a charge against it. The hon. Member for North Western District and the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) are licensed exporters obtaining the benefit of that 10 cents per bag—

MR. DE AGUIAR: To a point of correction! I would like to tell the hon. Member that the hon. Member for Central Demerara is not a licensed exporter.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think this 10 cents per bag has something to do with commission on exports.

MR. C. V. WIGHT: I am asking the hon. Member for North Western District—

THE CHAIRMAN: You must ask me!

MR. C. V. WIGHT: I am sorry! I am asking you whether the hon. Member for North Western District is in favour of giving a reply to the Council as to whether he considers that 10 cents a bag, which is paid to a licensed exporter, is a legitimate charge against the Rice Marketing Board. He is a licensed exporter and is getting the benefit of that. I understand also that the recommendation was made on the Advisory Committee that the 10 cents per bag should be abolished, and I would like to know whether he voted for that recommendation or not. Why I have raised it is because I see no reference to it by Mr. Wakefield in his remarks dealing with the

Rice Marketing Board and the Rice Producers' Advisory Committee. I have heard a lot about the grading of rice but I have not heard anything about that tax which, I submit, is not of benefit to the producer, the farmer, or the miller or the land-owner, but is of benefit to the hon. Member as the Managing Director of a firm of sort. I do not know if the hon. Member for North Western District would enlighten us on that.

THE CHAIRMAN: What relevancy has your question to rice grading?

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: What I am doing is, I am trying to relieve the Rice Marketing Board of this expense of \$2,116, which may in some measure compensate for that 10 cents per bag charge.

THE CHAIRMAN: We accept that as being relevant.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: May I ask if we are discussing the estimates of the Rice Marketing Board?

Mr. JACOB: I think, sir, it would make very interesting reading if a statement is presented to this Council as to the commission which is being paid and the different individuals and firms who are receiving that commission. In so far as I, an individual, am concerned, my name does not appear among the firms or individuals collecting money from the B. G. Rice Marketing Board. The name of Charles Ramkisson Jacob does not appear there but, as I have said, it will make very interesting reading to obtain a statement showing the firms and individuals receiving money from the Board. When my firm began to export rice we made a lot of capital expenditure. We had an agent travelling throughout the West Indies; he was stationed at Jamaica for three years. We had another agent going around the French West Indies Islands selling rice. In 1938 when I went to England I managed to interest a firm there and on my return to the Colony I shipped them some bags of rice. My firm spent a good deal of money in the establishing and opening up of new markets for our rice industry. I felt when Government brought into force the Defence Regulations that the firms which did pioneer work would have been compensated. If it is now felt that the com-

mission should be withdrawn I have nothing to say against the withdrawal. I would like to hear, however, an expression of opinion by other Members who are receiving large sums of money monthly from the Board but whose names do not appear only the names of the firms they represent. It will be interesting reading to see the list and to see which firm got the most money out of that commission. I am interested in one or two, maybe three, concerns which have been receiving sums of money in some cases 30c., 20c and \$1.00.

Item 12—Training of Apprentices, \$1,454.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I would like to see this vote increased. I think that this question of the training of apprentices generally in the Colony—and that is applicable to the Agricultural Department—should receive greater consideration from the local Government as well as other bodies. I think it is very necessary to train a lot of these youths for agricultural and other kinds of pursuits in this Colony. I think that is one of the phases of industrial life in this Colony which has been sadly neglected. I would like to hear what the hon. Director of Education has to say on this question. I would like to see the vote increased so as to provide for much more training and for many more apprentices.

Professor DASH: The hon. Member has raised a very interesting point. I do not know whether it is because this question of Apprentices' Training is set out in the Wakefield Memorandum, but I would direct the hon. Member's attention to paragraph 42 (xii) which states:

I would also recommend that provision be made to take up to 12 pupils for a year's practical training in dairy-farming and pig and poultry keeping. Accommodation and a mess and social room would be required. This might be the prelude to the later establishment of a farm school proper.

In the Estimates to which I have referred several times during to-day, I have included an estimate for extra expenditure in that connection and for maintenance.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In view of what the hon. Member has said in regard to the training of apprentices I



hope he will be in his place when Item 1 (37) under the Public Works Department vote is before the Council.

Item 24—Maintenance of Rupununi Cattle Trail, \$7,500.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the amount be increased by \$2,000. The Government Veterinary Surgeon has recently carried out a tour of the Rupununi and has been all over the cattle trail. He has reported that unless this item is increased by \$2,000 it will not be possible to keep the trail in a fit condition for the cattle to make use of it. There are a number of paddocks to be kept clean and in order, the number being fifteen. There are also three or four bridges to be kept in order. The length of the trail is 334 miles of which 140 miles is partly through dense forest. The present vote is \$7,500 and that works out at only \$22 per mile. When the Rupununi Development Company used to maintain the trail they spent something like \$10,000 on it, and when the Public Works Department looked after it they spent over a number of years an average of \$8,500 a year. Since it has been handed over to the Agricultural Department the vote has been reduced to \$7,500. I hope hon. Members will see their way to increase the vote by \$2,000, as recommended by the Government Veterinary Surgeon.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item increased to \$9,500.

Item 25—Tobacco Industry Development, \$5,084.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I am supporting this item but I have been charged by my colleague on my left (Mr. Eleazar), who is not here to-day, to mention that it is his opinion that it is necessary that the man to be obtained for this work should be one with experience in the curing of tobacco. He seems to have the idea that unless you get an officer out here to carry on the work, one who is experienced in curing tobacco, all our efforts in the industry will be nullified.

Professor DASH: I am amazed at this question being raised at this stage, because this matter has been so much ventilated in this Council. I think hon. Members were

told, at the time when the whole of the recommendations on which the grant was based went forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and his advisers, that the Department had made certain experiments with certain types of tobacco for local use. Prolonged examination of curing under our conditions was made, but we felt that we could not on our own continue to do the tobacco work without the aid of an expert in curing, especially the flue curing of tobacco. The Secretary of State for the Colonies accepted those recommendations on the report I submitted to Government on the whole question, and obtained the services of a big tobacco grower in Nyassaland with special experience not only in growing but the curing of that type of tobacco.

I think what has given rise to the views expressed is the fact that the officer or somebody did say that he did not know anything about the "black fat" tobacco business. That is where the mistake came in. The manufacture of "black fat" tobacco is a secret process and it is not easy to get hold of it. Those commercially concerned with the business zealously guard the secret, and it is only by the slow process of experimentation that we will be able to find the correct method employed. A certain amount of "black fat" tobacco is made, but it is not first class and does not keep like the imported article. The officer, in addition to its use in the cigarette tobacco industry particularly, is looking into the matter. A certain amount of information has been collected by him in collaboration with the Chemist of the Department. What has given rise to the views expressed is, it is thought the tobacco officer is not skilled in curing tobacco.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I knew the answer, but I was only charged with a mission which I tried to carry out to the best of my ability.

Item 27—Granting of Loans to Co-operative Credit Banks, \$15,000.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: With your permission, sir, I move that the amount be doubled and the item carried out at \$30,000. The reason for that is that it is only a temporary measure to aid the farmer. It is the only form or one of the

very small ways in which the farmer or producer is relieved from economic slavery at the hands of the landed proprietor or other persons who may be over and above him. It seems to me that was also realized by Mr. Wakefield when in his report he spoke of short and long term financing. It does not necessarily refer exactly in this way to it, but I think it is the only means of relieving some of those persons. Your Excellency will find on probing into the matter, as I feel sure you will do judging from what you have done in the short time you have been here, that most of these farmers have to pay exorbitant interests and all sorts of extortionate means are adopted against them. This is the only attempt at the present time to relieve the situation.

I am going to make the same plea under item 28—"Loans to stock farmers, \$1,000"—and ask that that be increased by a substantial amount. It is very difficult to confine oneself to the particular area mentioned in the marginal note. I think that is also an item worthy of consideration for developing the Essequibo River District. Similar consideration may apply to Bartica and other areas where assistance of the kind may be given which, I venture to suggest, shows in the hon. Director a sympathy with those persons who are unable by economic restriction to develop their ordinary daily welfare.

Mr. MACKAY: Before I decide whether I should support the hon. Member who has just spoken, I would like to ask the hon. Director how he arrived at the figure, \$15,000. Was it based on applications received in the past?

Professor DASH: I have some very interesting figures which, I think, the Council may like to hear in connection with the remarks of the last two speakers. Here is the position in respect of those loans in 1941. The estimates for 1941 provided \$5,000, and a supplementary estimate provided \$15,000, which has all been allocated; so that means \$20,000 has been allocated, but in addition to that there is a final allocation of a further \$10,000 which has been asked for and approved but has not been allocated as yet. We know precisely what amounts are required by each credit bank. A very substantial sum has already been arranged

for and allocated during this year. For next year we have put on that sum based on the requests we have had, as I have indicated, and we think it will be sufficient, but if the requirements are likely to be greater and the banks are in such a position that they can usefully use more money I am certain Government will be only too pleased to give the matter sympathetic consideration.

Mr. JACOB: On the 17th October this Council voted under Item 25 of Head "Agriculture" the sum of \$11,500 for the granting of loans to Co-operative Credit Banks. I understood from the hon. Director that a further \$10,000 is mentioned. May I enquire if the \$15,000 to be provided for 1942 is exclusive of that \$11,500 voted on the 17th October?

Mr. Mc DAVID (Colonial Treasurer): As the hon. Director has explained, the provision for this year has already been allocated and will be expended, and what is more a further sum will appear in the Third Supplementary Estimate which has not yet come before the Council and which will make a grand total of \$20,000 for the current year. The figure in this year's Estimate is exclusive.

Mr. JACOB: Then I take it that the amount now is for 1942. My hon. friend, the Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight), suggested it should be \$30,000 and I have anticipated that the hon. Mr. Mackay is agreeing with that amount. On the 17th October when loans to Co-operative Credit Banks were voted here I expressed the view that it should be a very large sum. The hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. DeAguiar) said I was not bold enough to suggest a half million dollars. I think that if the Government has in view the extension of agricultural industries and, as Government is going to appoint a Deputy Director of Agriculture, if Government has in mind a real progressive step in the future a "five" may be put before the "one" and make the amount \$515,000. I am strongly of the opinion that if this attitude had been adopted in the past our agricultural industries and other things would have been far better off now. When I asked that \$500,000 be put aside to lend agriculturists I also asked that adequate safeguards be taken to see the amounts

collected and that the interest should not be more than 4 per cent. I think arrangements ought to be made in this Colony to lend agriculturists, the large ones at 4 per cent, and peasant cultivators at 6 or 7 per cent. A step in that direction will help every industry, rice as well.

MR. DEAGUIAR: I would like to say that I am in sympathy with what has been said by the speakers on the item, but I oppose and will continue to oppose the form in which it is put before the Council, or rather the form in which these loans are presented. We are considering the estimates of expenditure upon which we have to frame our budget. We already have it that \$20,000 has been allocated for this purpose this year. It is proposed that we should allocate \$15,000 for next year. One hon. Member has suggested \$30,000. What I oppose is that items of this character should go into the annual budget. Has Government framed a definite policy to advance loans to Co-operative Credit Banks, or farmers, or agriculturists? I do not know who the men are, but is Government working on a definite policy? If Government is coming to this Council with a policy, let us know how much to advance and let us decide how that money is to be raised. I am opposed in principle to the form in which these items appear. It seems that Government is determined to go on in this way. It is bad accounting and bad financing, with all due deference to the hon. Colonial Treasurer who is shaking his head. I maintain and hope to give my authority that it is definitely bad financing. It seems that there is nothing that can be said in support of this method of granting loans or crediting items of a capital nature.

MR. C. V. WIGHT: May I interrupt the hon. Member to point out that the loans are granted by statutory authority vested in the Legislative Council?

MR. DEAGUIAR: I can sympathize with the hon. Member on my right (Mr. C. V. Wight). It is true that legal practitioners have to pass an examination in accounting.

MR. C. V. WIGHT: You find that in the lower branch of the profession.

MR. DEAGUIAR: I do not think, how-

ever that knowledge of accounting is more than to add four columns of figures. Perhaps that qualifies him for examining accounts. I do ask you seriously to consider the points I have raised. I do not know how it is my colleague cannot see it. I do not like the manner in which these items are appearing on these Estimates. I have already said they are going to reach \$150,000. It is wrong to budget for such a large sum out of one year's revenue, especially having regard to the fact that the loans are recoverable.

THE CHAIRMAN: How do they affect revenue?

MR. MC DAVID: There is an item under revenue for \$18,000. I would like to make this point. These loans are long term loans recoverable over five years, so that the rate of recovery being so slow the corresponding credit cannot be reflected to a greater extent in revenue than now appears. You yourself have given one explanation of this method of budgeting which has been put forward by the Colonial Office. One reason is that these items come before the Legislative Council for approval. Before 1937 when the change was made, these loans were made entirely on the order of the Governor in Council. They were taken out of the budget and the surplus only appeared on the Estimates. Another reason is, when a large number of loans has been made out of surplus, although that surplus appears on the books, the actual cash is not there. That was the position of this Colony a few years ago. There was a surplus of \$400,000 and most of it had been lent out. That is what the Colonial Office wants to prevent. We want actual surplus and not paper surplus. There is some justification for this definite action which the hon. Member criticizes so much. It is very good business policy in so far as Government is concerned that where there is a surplus it must be cash.

MR. DEAGUIAR: The reply is very unconvincing. Because Government did something wrong many years ago it must come back and do something wrong again in another form? Both actions were wrong.

THE CHAIRMAN: Then I must ask the hon. Member to put up his own form. There are other ways of doing it. You

can collect the whole under one head—Loans—and show it in the Budget as a vote by the Legislative Council. I would much prefer to see the Development Schemes under one head, but our present instructions are to show them under individual heads. Another way of doing it is to take it off the Estimates altogether and give powers under statutory authority to draw funds on the Colony for the Credit Banks, and that will not appear until the report of the Bank is laid before the Legislative Council. I think you should put up a resolution which I would be willing to send to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. You should not blame Government for what it has done before. I have very bitter experience of it where loans used to be advanced by the Executive Council under statutory authority but it did not come annually before the Legislative Council. What I am concerned about before we increase the amount is whether there is the machinery to handle \$30,000 as against \$15,000 effectively.

Professor DASH: These banks come to us as they need funds and the Committee make recommendations. I have pointed out that we have already had \$20,000 and a further \$30,000 is being allocated, and it seems to me we are not bound to allocate more than we can use at a time.

THE CHAIRMAN: It does not rest with the Government to lend out \$30,000 and you do not anticipate there will be applications for more than \$15,000. Government has to wait on the Banks asking for amounts.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I am going to suggest, if that is the view taken by Government, that the hon. Director should not hesitate to come to Government when applications are made by the Banks to him. He must not be afraid to come to the Council and ask for an increase, because I can appreciate what the hon. Colonial Treasurer has said. Perhaps the manner of accounting is a matter for Government. I would withdraw my suggestion if the hon. Director would consider applications for loans as favourably as he can when they are made to him.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does it make any difference to Government machinery? The hon. Director thinks the Banks will not be asking for much. The only way is

for Government to create its own banks and go about asking people to ask for loans.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: Supposing there was a demand for more, he would have to come back here on supplementary estimates for it.

Mr. JACOB: There is something seriously wrong somewhere. The hon. Colonial Treasurer knows there is a great demand by private individuals to get loans through Co-operative Credit Banks and, I think, the hon. Director of Agriculture knows too that in October a deputation of rice growers headed by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lec) saw the Officer Administering the Government and the hon. Colonial Treasurer at Government House Annex and the point was stressed that Government should take the initiative in creating the machinery. Let Government say "We have \$500,000 to lend" and Government will find applications being made for that money, but for the hon. Member to say that applications will not be made I cannot understand it. I think the hon. Colonial Treasurer can recall that members of the Rice Producers' Advisory Committee interviewed Sir Wilfrid Jackson some time last year and the point was stressed that money should be advanced to rice growers, and permission was granted under Chapter 155—Rice Growers Loans Ordinance—which authorized the advance out of public funds to registered Co-operative Credit Banks up to \$150,000. If the facilities are provided applications will be made for the money and agriculture will progress. But while I agree with the hon. Member for Central Demerara that some different method of accounting should be shown and that the present system is wrong, that is no reason why the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) should say he does not agree in principle. I think I know there are other reasons why these facilities are not created. The hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) referred to it. When advances are made to agriculturists it is done on certain conditions. They must purchase their machinery from the other party, they have to pay interest sometimes at 8 per cent, and sometimes more and they have to buy at the seller's price

It is a very big question. I think we are getting on excellently. We just have to do it on a small scale. Tell agriculturists not to go to the money-lenders and the land-owners but that they can go to the Government Loan Bank and get money at 6 or 7 per cent. and you will see how agriculture will progress in this Colony.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The rice growers of this Colony definitely have my sympathy especially in regard to the borrowing of money. I would like to recall a statement made by rice growers on the deputation to which the hon. Member has referred. They pointed out that even if \$500,000 is made available to be lent out one of their greatest difficulties to be overcome is the question of land tenancy. The hon. Member will remember that statements were made of instances where a grower goes to the Bank and borrows money but has to return it and borrow from the land owner instead. The fact of being able to obtain a loan will not get the growers over their difficulties. They want to have the land for a definite period and then they can go to the Bank and borrow money. Until something is done to secure the land to them for a definite period you will not be able to help them to the extent to which it is hoped. What I think the hon. Member is getting at is an Agricultural Loan Bank as they have in other Colonies. Invariably those banks lend money on a sugar crop, but rice crop is a difficult one to borrow money on. It is a big question, this security of tenure of land, but the matter is still being pursued.

Mr. JACOB: I have been asking for these things for nearly 20 years, and that is the type of reply I always get. I went with the two deputations and I endeavoured to make it perfectly clear but the hon. Member would not listen to what I had to say but to the illiterate who cannot express himself perfectly.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I granted an interview at the request of the rice growers and not at the request of the hon. Member. I was therefore prepared to listen to the rice growers and not to him.

Item passed.

Item 27—Government Produce Depot, \$5,500.

Dr. SINGH: Is this amount for the building of another Produce Depot?

Professor DASH: It is the operating cost of the Depot for the year 1942. This question was fully discussed in this Council shortly before Your Excellency arrived in this Colony. The subject was very fully ventilated and statements were made showing what the position would be in 1942. The total sum asked for is \$5,500 and that includes salaries to the Supervisor, the Assistant Supervisor, the book-keeper, the cashier, casual employees, etc. That is the vote of expenditure for 1942, only the operating charges, and has nothing to do with trade. That is done by a revolving fund from which purchases are made. Trading profits are not very much and are especially dependent on the volume of goods handled. I think the total amount of trading profits at the moment is \$1,931.84, all of which will be paid into the Treasury.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I hope the hon. Director will carefully consider the notes of Mr. Wakefield, as I have no doubt he will, and the criticisms made. He stated:—

The establishment of the central depot for the marketing of ground provisions and fruit was hastened as a war-measure. It is not, however, likely to benefit the producer of the outlying districts to a satisfactory degree until the organisation is completed by the addition of country depôts or collecting centres with adequate trained staff under the central direction of a Marketing Officer. In fact, I consider that if complete organisation is delayed, both the depot and Government marketing schemes in general may be brought into disrepute.

If that is the policy, do you not consider the advisability of increasing the amount? If you have to carry out that recommendation you would not want only \$5,500 for Georgetown.

Professor DASH: We appreciate that, but we have to get the Marketing Officer first so as to follow on those requirements. We cannot tackle it without the Marketing Officer.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: All depends on him.

THE CHAIRMAN: When we come to the Development Vote we may include all the expenditure in connection with the Marketing Officer, his salary and other expenses.

Mr. JACOB: It is no use opposing

this item. I did so very strongly on the 17th October. When this Depot was started, the idea was that it will pay its way.

Professor DASH: To a point of explanation! When the Depot was started it was not said that it will pay its way. We said that even if it dropped money it would be going to the farmers.

Mr. JACOB: My conception of the matter is this. Here you have a Government Depot and a certain amount has been voted as a revolving fund to run it. One of the Agricultural Superintendents whose salary is voted under the Head "Agriculture" supervised the Depot for a year, and I strongly objected to his salary not being charged against the Depot, in order to show the actual revenue and expenditure with the view of seeing whether the Depot is being run at a profit or not. We have been told that there is a trading profit of \$1,931.84 and there is the revolving fund, what then is the object in asking for \$5,500 to be voted now for 1942? If the Depot is being run at a profit, is it then a vote for increasing the capital of the Depot?

Professor DASH: Trading profit is the difference between sales and purchases, and it amounts to \$1,931.

THE CHAIRMAN: That goes into Colony Revenue?

Professor DASH: Yes!

THE CHAIRMAN: But the operating expenses still stand, and so there is no trading profit at all!

Mr. JACOB: That is how things are being confused in this Council. This Depot is being run on a trading profit of \$1,931.84, but all the overhead charges of the staff officers against whom serious complaints have been made are charged separately. I presume that all will be charged now with this \$5,500. That is only one aspect. The other is that this Depot supplies Government institutions at prices far above what can be secured ordinarily from firms and individuals in Water Street and the market—

Professor DASH: To a point of correction! That is definitely untrue.

Mr. JACOB: Merely making the statement that it is untrue is not sufficient. I think all Government institutions should ask for quotations on the several items and let the Depot compete in the open market with other tenderers. I am not against the Depot supplying Government institutions, but I think the whole thing is most unbusinesslike. I think Government should open a branch Depot in the North-West District where all the goods can be collected, assorted, graded and then sent to Georgetown. That will be a definite service to the farmers in that area, but the suggestion is brushed aside and not considered.

Professor DASH: That is quite wrong, and I must repeat that the hon. Member must not make these statements. In my reply to the hon. Member I intimated that the whole idea is to create country depots, but the hon. Member still makes the suggestion. It is not brushed aside but I have not been able to take it up as yet.

Mr. JACOB: Months and months ago I asked but did not get a reply. I merely want Your Excellency to see that when we grumble here we have a cause for so doing. This money is being absolutely wasted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member began his speech by stating that Government never intimated that there might be a loss. I would like to refer hon. Members to the Hansard of the 29th August, 1930, where it is clearly set out.

The item was passed.

GRANT TO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

Professor DASH: I move the insertion of a new sub-head—"29. Grant to the Beekeepers' Association—\$480".

Question put and agreed to.

Professor DASH: The net total to be voted under the Head "Agriculture" is \$164,088.

The Council resumed.

## U. S. A. ENTRY INTO THE WAR.

THE PRESIDENT: It is now within ten minutes of closing and we may take the resolution for transmission to the U. S. A. Authorities as to the feelings of the Council relative to the U. S. A. entry into the War. I will accept the motion now.

Mr. WOOLFORD: With your permission I ask leave that the Standing Rules and Orders of this Council be suspended to allow a motion of public importance to be moved.

Professor DASH seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I beg to move the following resolution—

That this Council desires to place on record its deep sense of the complete amity and community of feeling which animate this Colony and every part of the British Commonwealth of Nations towards the Government of the United States of America and its peoples in the grave crisis with which they are confronted by the momentous and untoward declaration of war by

the Axis Powers, and further desires to express its profound sympathy in regard to the loss and damage sustained by that Government and committed in defiance of every code of honour and of common humanity.

And be it further resolved—That this Council pledges to the United States Government its assurances that every effort will be made by the Government of this Colony and its inhabitants to facilitate the onerous and responsible duties imposed on the military authorities at present stationed in the Colony and to co-operate with them in every manner possible in the discharge of those duties.

I feel that the resolution commends itself to the unanimous decision of every Member of this Council, and I would ask that after its passage Your Excellency be entrusted to transmit to the U. S. Consul and other Authorities in the Colony and to the U. S. Government a copy of this resolution.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I beg to second it.

Motion put, and passed unanimously.

The Council adjourned until Tuesday 16th December, 1941, at 11 a. m.