

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Constituted under the British Guiana
(Constitution) (Temporary Provisions)
Order in Council, 1953)

FRIDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1954

The Council met at 2 p.m. His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C., in the Chair.

PRESENT :

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members:—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Mr. John Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. F. W. Holder, Q.C.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary, Mr. W. O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council:—

The Hon. Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E. (Member for Agriculture, Forests, and Lands and Mines).

The Hon. P. A. Cummings (Member for Labour, Health and Housing).

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall.

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E.

The Hon. G. H. Smellie.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

Deputy Speaker;—

Mr. W. J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Officials:—

Mr. W. T. Lord, I.S.O.

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

Nominated Unofficials:—

Mr. W. A. Phang.

Mr. L. A. Luckhoo.

Mr. W. A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Mr. E. F. Correia.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb.

Mr. H. Rahaman.

Miss Gertie H. Collins.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey.

Dr. H. A. Fraser.

Mr. R. B. Jailal.

Mr. Sugrim Singh.

Clerk of the Legislature—Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature—Mr. I. R. King.

Absent:—

Mr. T. Lee—on leave.

Lt. Col. E. J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D.

The Speaker read prayers.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN MINUTES

Mr. Macnie; Before we confirm the minutes of yesterday's meeting,

[Mr. Macnie]

may I ask whether we would be supplied with copies of all the reports and documents referred to therein as having been laid on the table. Members are not yet in receipt of copies of those documents and would certainly like to get them as early as possible.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to have to say that Members should not expect to get them in a short while; only two or three of them have been printed.

Mr. Macnie : I think we appreciate the difficulty existing in that respect, but as long as we are assured that we will get them it will meet us.

Mr. Speaker : If any Member wishes to get information from them they are available, but they cannot get copies until they are printed—I suppose within the next month, or may be longer than that. These reports are all in manuscript form and have been laid on the table in that form. They are not in printed form and, of course, we are sorry to have had to lay them like that.

MINUTES CONFIRMED

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, the 11th February, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

EARLY ADJOURNMENT PROPOSED

Mr. Speaker : I wish to take this opportunity of announcing that I propose, with the approval of Members, to adjourn somewhat early today. There is a function (connected with the St. John Ambulance Association) at half past four, and I do not know if hon. Members would like to attend.

I suggest that we adjourn at a quarter to four if that suits the convenience of Members.

Agreed to.

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

LOYAL ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN IN JAMAICA

Sir Frank McDavid: With reference to the item appearing in yesterday's minutes relating to the Loyal Address from the Colony to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her visit to Jamaica, I desire to take this opportunity of formally laying on the table a copy of the address presented, in order that it should be incorporated in the minutes in this form.

Mr. Speaker : One copy has been framed and is being kept in the office of the Clerk for future reference. I thank the hon. Member.

NOTICE OF QUESTION

ATKINSON FIELD—MACKENZIE ROAD

Mr. Speaker : I shall be glad if the hon. Member, Mr. Carter would see me about his proposed question (enquiring what action had been taken by the previous Government, now deposed, with respect to a motion he had tabled for the construction of a road from Atkinson Airfield to Mackenzie City). I do not know what action has been taken by the last Government, but I want to inform Members that I am most anxious—and I am sure we all are — to get down to our own business. We do not want to waste time in enquiring what the last Government has done or was unable to do. I do not believe any reference to the

past is necessary in that respect; we do not want any *post mortem* examinations. It might be better for the hon. Member to table a fresh motion.

With regard to the other question, I do not know what has happened. The hon. Member might ask the hon. the Chief Secretary whose Department is concerned. I really do not know what action is being taken and what expert is being brought from Europe. My office does not know, and I suggest to you to see the hon. the Chief Secretary.

Mr. Carter: I will do so in due course.

ORDER OF THE DAY

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Chief Secretary : I beg to move the first reading of the Bill intitled:

“An Ordinance further to amend the Friendly Societies Ordinance.”

The Attorney-General seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

CUSTOMS (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Financial Secretary: I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intitled:

“An Ordinance to amend the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1952.”

Sir Frank McDavid seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

APPROPRIATION BILL

BUDGET DEBATE

The Council resumed the debate on the second reading of the Bill intitled:

“An Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the Current session of the Legislative Council.”

Mr. Farnum: I was very pleased yesterday to hear the encomiums showered on the hon. the Financial Secretary. The pleasure arose from the fact that he is a fellow-villager of mine and we have been friendly for quite a long number of years, and I like to think that any honour that comes to him in some way reflects on the other persons residing in Kitty Village. However, I do like to join the other Members in offering congratulations to the hon. the Financial Secretary on the Budget Statement which he presented. I think it gives a very clear picture of the financial position of the Colony, and it has been so drawn up that I can see like other Members, especially the Lady Members who are familiar with figures, and can follow the position quite well. I think the hon. the Financial Secretary in his Budget Statement at paragraph 5 has paid a large and charming tribute to his predecessor, Sir Frank McDavid, and I do think that our Financial Secretary is a worthy successor to that brilliant officer.

The hon. the Financial Secretary brings a wealth of experience to his office because I can remember — I do not know if I am correct in saying this—he started off by serving in the Canadian Cavalry in the First World War and then in the Customs Department, then in the Harbour Board where he was Secretary, then in the Education Department. I think that at the Harbour Board he showed outstanding ability because — I think I am correct in saying so — he was responsible for Government substituting the

[Mr. Farnum]

Lightship for the Beacon thereby saving an immense amount of money on Maintenance.

But the hon. the Financial Secretary has not only been outstanding in that direction. He has been outstanding in connection with animal husbandry. I know that as the result of his initiative and patience he has been able to demonstrate to cattle owners of the country that we can develop a first class milk strain cow from an ordinary or insignificant creole cow, which we were accustomed to see yielding four to five pints of milk per day. He was able to demonstrate that by up-grading, a milch cow can be obtained giving between 30 to 40 pints of milk per day. For that the cattle-farming community owe him a very great debt of gratitude. I know that animal husbandry is very close to his heart and nothing would delight him more than to see a dairy industry established in this country. But, Sir, I think I have been fortunate so far to get him to agree to accompany me in some of the country districts of the Colony and to tell the people all there is about cattle rearing and to step up their enthusiasm, so that they would realize and put into practice what he would tell them and so be able to produce cattle of the strain which I have already mentioned—animals giving thirty to forty pints of milk per day.

I was also pleased yesterday to hear Members state that we should go into the villages and the rural districts and get into contact with the people there and acquaint them of what is to be done, and so let them know that they are not neglected but are considered as an economic unit the same as the people in the city. It was stressed, Sir, that we must go to those people but I would point out, Sir, that while I agree with that, His Excellency the Governor and

Lady Savage have certainly set an example that way, because I believe in the short space of time His Excellency and Lady Savage have been in the Colony they have visited every village in the Colony at great inconvenience to themselves. I may mention, too, with some pardonable pride, that I have made contact for years and years with the people of the country districts, so much so that Sir Charles Woolley very frequently referred to me — jocularly perhaps—as “Farnum, the Farmers’ Friend.” But, Sir, while it has been stressed that we should go and make contact with the people in the rural districts, Members really were thinking of the farmers. I think we should go further than that.

We should get into contact with the fisherman who has his grievance, the woodcutter and the miner who also have their grievances. There is a certain amount of unrest in the minds of certain miners. They have suffered a lot of privation and difficulties and in some cases they have discovered rare minerals, and their complaint is, that when they placed applications to explore those rare minerals in a particular area they got no reply but instead of that they sometimes saw the particular area in which they wanted to operate reserved. As a result of that, rare minerals are being found and the miners are afraid to disclose the fact. I mention that because I think it is a matter that concerns Government. My attention has been drawn to it. I was recently told of a case where a man, after suffering privations for over a long period in the Interior, came across a large deposit of iron ore. He has been treated very badly by the Government and, I believe, there is now a petition sent to His Excellency in respect of the matter.

Finally, Sir, I remember in the last Legislative Council the then Financial Secretary told us when we were debating the Budget Speech, that we have a

roving commission and we can touch on any matter. There are lots of matters I would like to touch on but, I think, it would be better to refrain from doing that now and to do it when the Development Budget is before us. Again, Sir, I say, I would like to join other Members in their congratulations to the hon. the Financial Secretary on the full picture he has placed before us in his Budget Statement.

Mr. Bobb: Hon. Members who have spoken before me have taken the opportunity which was theirs to bestow on the hon. the Financial Secretary a just meed of praise and congratulation. If there is such a thing as a surfeit of praise and congratulation I think he will have to adapt himself to receive that surfeit during the debate on this Bill. I too would like to associate myself with those who have already spoken, in expressing here what I have done elsewhere — my personal appreciation and feeling of just pride in the magnificent presentation of the country's Budget for the current year. When I speak that way myself I am sure I am also expressing the opinions of a considerable number of people outside this honourable Council. The reflection of the Financial Secretary's caution, foresight and administrative ability in the Budget proposals does credit to this country, to him personally, and is a very safe pointer for those who may come after him, as to what they should seek after.

I am going to follow in his footsteps somehow, because in his statement he made mention of the fact that he regretted that it was not possible for him to put before the Council at the same time the Development proposals, and I regret, too, that we have to isolate in some way the Budget Statement from the Development Programme, in the larger picture. Yet I cannot see that we can do justice to the statement before us, and the proposals associated

with it, unless some reference is made to the Development Programme. I want to say, generally, that to me this statement seems to take into account two important features. The first is the administrative machinery which is to be in operation during this year and the next five years. The second is a definite understanding of what is taking place in the minds of the people whom this administrative machinery is to serve. In regard to the first point I would like, with your permission, Sir, to read the opening words of Chapter VII of the Report on the Investigation into the Public Service, where it is said:

"The advance of the people of British Guiana towards constitutional self-government will require the creation of machinery through which the proper development of the whole administration shall be secured, and by which it will be ensured that the members of that administration shall have high and uniform standards of character, educational background and professional competence."

I wish I had the competence to add something to that. What I should like to add is in the nature of a statement which, in my opinion, must always be before the minds of those who are to administer the affairs of this country. I have not yet read the Report right through, so I cannot say whether what I am going to suggest is expressed elsewhere in it, but the addition I should like to make is that there should be a satisfied and contented Civil Service in order that the administrative machinery could work smoothly and to optimum advantage. One of the things which any intelligent and interested person must take notice of is the measure of anxiety which is so often expressed in different places on the question of the contentment and satisfaction of members of the Civil Service.

I am sure that if one were to reflect upon the number of questions

[Mr. Bobb]

and motions which have come before previous Councils, and even the House of Assembly which has ended, one would see that there was a common thread of concern, and I am of the opinion that that common thread of concern has not commanded enough attention in those places where effective remedial action can be taken. We cannot equate the measure of speed of the Civil Service with the measure of speed of the commercial services, and I am not at one with those who are continually levelling criticism at the Civil Service because of certain delays. Some are justified and some are not, because the whole operation is completely different. But I feel that we ought to have continual regard of the fact that the members of the Civil Service—and I am speaking very broadly of all levels — must be in a position where they can give service very faithfully without any of the frustrations and limitations to which they might be subject otherwise.

To amplify that, I should point to a cause of concern when matters of housing accommodation have had to be faced by members of the Service. I am happy to be able to make a note of a promise made elsewhere, that in the near future, and moreover as a matter of continuing procedure, a maximum effort will be made to provide suitable housing accommodation for those persons who are operating the Service at all or most levels. We appreciate fully the need for looking after adequate housing accommodation for individuals who hold certain posts, because of the obvious difficulty for them to provide suitable accommodation for themselves at normal expense within their incomes, but there is a large proportion of persons in the Government Service for whom it would

appear there is not enough attention given and not enough care taken to provide this necessity of life. We welcome the day when we shall no longer have to hear disgruntled policemen, disgruntled dispensers, disgruntled teachers and disgruntled clerks repeating the same old story of having to go under orders from one place to another and being unable to adjust themselves as far as housing is concerned. I refer again to the hopeful note which has been struck in another place, that attention is going to be given to this matter. While it may be my privilege and opportunity to serve in this Council I shall endeavour to keep the matter before the Council and the hon. the Financial Secretary so that it will never be lost sight of.

The second point to which I would like to refer is the question which is clearly stated in that very opening paragraph which I quoted a while ago—the question of having in the Civil Service persons of educational background, competence and so on. All that points to the need for training more and more local people in order that they may be able to fill those posts satisfactorily. Let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the efforts which have been made to single out and give adequate training to men and women of this country in order that they may be able to carry out the duties of their substantive posts, or posts to which they may be promoted. I take my hat off to those colleagues before me who have been fully aware of the responsibility upon them to make sure that there is adequate, intelligent and regular recruitment for those important offices in the direction to which I am referring.

It might even be said that enough has not been done, and to that the reply might be that enough has been

done up to the limit of our ability. But I am not sure about that qualification. Sir, I am not sure that enough has been done up to the limit of our ability, because I think that there is still a great deal which could be done if, as I see it, certain things were realised as prior and important. I think there need to be an acceleration of training of people of this country for posts, administrative or otherwise, and I think there ought to be more sympathetic and definite planning in order to take advantage of all the facilities abroad which are offered, so that they may obtain that training.

Two years ago, I had an opportunity of speaking to an officer in the Trusteeship Division of United Nations, Caribbean Affairs, and what I learned from him I propose, at the proper time, to bring before this honourable Council. I am sure, if we do not have adequately trained personnel in our services, we would not be remiss in taking every possible opportunity in assisting them to qualify. I am very grateful for the men and women who come into this country and make worthwhile contributions to its advancement. I do not think it would be good policy to exclude entirely from the services of this country people from outside who have something new and fresh and important to give to us. I work on the principle that the country with 'open arms' is the country that always advances, but I think the more we are able to attract men and women of proved ability the better the country goes forward.

I know there is a saying among teachers that the function of the teacher is to be unnecessary, and I think that is perfectly true about those persons who come to us sometimes at great sacrifice—I am not thinking particularly of financial sacrifice, but breaking away

from home associations—to do a job of work. But if the training of our own people is taken more seriously even outsiders would have pleasure in giving way in order that the people of the country which belongs to the British Commonwealth, may be in a position to take their rightful places in it and elsewhere in the Commonwealth. So this matter of training which is implicit in the expectations of this Budget Statement so far as administration is concerned will, I hope, receive increasing attention by the Administration.

I would like to make one more reference to this subject of training, and ask the hon. the Member for Health and Housing to discover within the Department of Health whether there are any more avenues open which may be beneficially used by a group of servants within the Department at the present time to be trained for higher posts. We have had in the past few years creditable reports on the training of nurses, and some have come back to this country and have done well. I wonder whether it might not be interesting to see if there are also in the same department other persons who, at perhaps a little cost might not be assisted in becoming better qualified, instead of being relegated into a position of stagnation. I think I am touching on one of the places where there is trouble brewing, and where there has been a great deal of frustration and complaints of dissatisfaction. At another time, I shall regard it my duty to pin-point what I am talking about. As a matter of general policy I shall be very glad to see something done in this direction in order to rectify what might become a very serious situation.

Now I come to the people who are served. I cannot help but congratulate the hon. the Financial Secretary on his caution—characteristic caution, shall I

[Mr. Bobb]

say—in taking into account all the factors of the country: fiscal, economic, social, and having put before us a scheme—what else shall I call it? I am happy to be able to say he has taken into account all the people. It appears to me that while he was preparing his proposals he had before him in miniature the population of British Guiana. It did not matter how much money came into this country, and it did not matter how efficient the service was, unless we are going to pay attention to the essential need of preparing the minds of people to appreciate that service and to use the money, both the service and the money will be well-nigh wasted. The position in the country makes it compelling that enlightened interest should be increased; that more and more the ideas which are shared in a Council like this should be put into acceptable form and made to become the ideas of the man in the street. One of the ways in which this may be accomplished is by seeking to bring to the people a new outlook and an appreciation of what the Government stands for, what it is attempting to do and what it hopes to achieve.

It is in this connection particularly that I wish to refer to the attention to the young people of our country. It is not enough just to bemoan the fact that from the age of 18 upwards our young people have no employment, though I know it must lay heavy upon our hearts that they have no employment at all. But it seems to me that is not the only problem. We have to take into account the sociological environment in which people are living, in their homes and associations outside. I am cherishing the hope of a more vigorous movement among our youth, even if it becomes necessary to return to this Council for more funds to prepare our young people for what is coming, as I see it. The

half has not been told. Let that be questioned. The time has come when we have to think of them as people in a group and not merely as individuals; in terms of the family unit. The answer to our problems in this connection is, if I am to follow the trend of what is taking place in other parts of the world, necessary funds. I sincerely hope that the expenditure on services like youth organisations and the Bureau of Public Information, will tend to underline this necessity and to make full use of the innumerable resources of the virile and militant youth of this colony.

Passing from that I must say something about those who are not so young. Only today I was speaking to someone on the possibility for development in the next few years, and I was told, "What strikes me is that the emphasis is on youth. What about those like me who have passed the age of youth?" There must be something in that. We have to take care of people who have borne the heat of the day.

Speaking particularly for the people of the rural areas, we have to make sure that what is done with the expenditure would tend to increase their chances of employment. There are some industries which have come in for no little hardship. There is a great deal of anxiety and dissatisfaction among coconut growers in spite of what has been attended to. I know of a Report which has been or is to be presented on what might be done in regard to the coconut industry, and I want to point to the fact that the industry holds possibilities for the small man, as perhaps no other does, and if production of oil is going to be by the primitive or Colonial method, what the man in the industry is concerned with is a remunerative method. If he can get returns for his efforts, and have the necessary satisfaction, that is most important; something done, something accomplished

something enjoyed. I might be quite misled in saying this, Sir, but I believe that the safest way of advancing the people is to begin from where they are and convert them to new ideas, bit by bit, until you get them where you want them to be. I shall not be surprised if at some future time this hon. Council is deluged with letters and petitions for some kind of assurance as to what the position of the ordinary man is going to be with regard to the coconut industry, since it is linked very largely with the rearing of pigs.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Member contending that there should be a better price for coconut growers and that the price at the moment is not remunerative? I would like him to develop his point. These people are not prevented from selling crude oil, they are prevented from selling refined oil. I should like the hon. Member to develop his point for the benefit of myself and other Members.

Mr. Bobb: My point is that while it is a fact that these people are not prevented from selling crude oil, they are not being encouraged to produce this oil, because a certain percentage of the oil remains in what is called the "cuss-cuss", and it is said that pigs reared on that meal do not produce very satisfactory meat. (Voice: "It's a fact.") The point which perhaps I might enlarge upon, is the fact that there is this shortage of stock feed and with that shortage there is a cramping of the pig industry. If the meal which comes from copra is not available as stock feed for the industry, the only alternative is the material which comes from the extraction method used by the pig rearers. The position is that unless we are going to provide opportunities for these rearers to obtain more food, I do not see how it is going

to be possible to give the necessary and deserving fillip to this industry.

I referred a moment ago to the question of housing, so far as Government officers are concerned, but I think it is appropriate for me to say that this is a burning question with the rank and file of the population. It is not my intention, however, Sir, to convert hon. Members of this Council and yourself to this point of view. What needs to be emphasized, perhaps, is that when the time comes facilities should be made available for rural housing and it should be possible to have such advisers who would know the needs of the people, in order that they may give not only to those who need but to those who need most. There is, a fear that with all the good intentions expressed, there is going to be a diversion of funds from the quarters in which they are going to be most needed. If I am wrong in expressing that fear here I hope to be excused, but for my own part I would like this hon. Council to know of it. That fear exists because of those who are going to advise as regards the needs of the rural areas, and I say again that I cherish the hope that we are not going to make blunders in this or any other community. Of course, we are all fallible and we have to leave a margin of error in all we do but, surely, we must not be conscious of doing anything without the best intentions for the community and the expectations of our people.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member does anticipate anything like that, I would suggest that he table a motion for the setting up of a Committee to deal with that aspect of the matter. He can always do that, and should not wait for something to happen which we can avoid.

Mr. Bobb: Thank you very much, Sir. I intended to do that later, and I

hope I shall not forget to bring forward the suggestion at the proper time. I desire also to pay one more compliment. I am not trying to share praise around, but it relates to the attention Government has given to this matter of releasing control of certain articles for the benefit of the community as a whole. I hope the time is not far distant when the Committee dealing with these matters would be able to give us an assurance of two things—firstly, that as early as possible all controls would go and, secondly, that subsidization of certain articles would not go now, because if that is done we shall go head on again into economic and political disorder. I am very happy that there has been in the mind of Government enough foresight and caution to tackle this matter in accordance with the needs of the contemporary situation.

Finally, I would like to strike one note and that is, the need for co-operation between the people who serve and those who are served. It happens that just at this time in our Colony's life there seems to be an unfortunate gap in this respect and some people would, naturally, regard this co-operation as a requirement to bridge the gap. There is a gap between those who think that the functions of this Government are good and that before long, all things being equal, there is going to be a forward movement of progress. On the other hand, there is an attitude of non-co-operation by some who think that it is not going to be within this generation. These two contrary opinions are the result of certain basic ideas held by the respective sections of the population, and those who are called upon, like my colleagues in this Council, to bridge the gap, must realize that it would require of them a great deal of sacrifice and the throwing behind their backs of methods which

have got us nowhere in the past. They must realize that they have to teach our own people what they know. We can only improve our people now by teaching them and if we are going to bridge the gap to which I have referred we have to co-operate in the fullest possible manner. We have to bridge the gap, and the sooner the better.

Mr. Rahaman: I desire to add my quota in complimenting the hon. the Financial Secretary for the able manner in which he has presented the Colony's budget. I do agree with him when he says that in the days that lie before us we shall have to face challenges and surmount those difficulties, ahead of us we shall have to face challenges and difficulties, but I do hope that we shall be able to stave off those difficulties. It is heartening to hear from the Financial Secretary that there is to be no additional taxation, since that would assist the economy of the country and help to put it back on an even keel. I am sure that trade and industry are prepared to play their part in this respect, and so is the small man also. I can assure you, Sir, that the people of the Corentyne area at least, are getting up and are willing to play their part. They are ready for action and are just waiting for the execution of this big programme. The Corentyne district is known as the granary of the West Indies, and instead of producing 40 per cent. of the rice grown in the Colony it is prepared to go up to 60 per cent. if the lands are available. I am sure that with the programme we have in hand the necessary lands would become available.

I think that we shall see signs of much improvement within the next twelve months, and I am asking every Member of this Council to let us get together and put our shoulders to the wheel. The eyes of the world are on British Guiana, and

I should like to be able to say that we have people in the Colony who are capable of pulling it through. When the Budget comes up next year I hope that it would show a surplus—not in thousands but in millions. I intend to defer my remarks on the Development Budget until it comes before the Council—at an early date. I must state however, how very much we appreciate the actions of His Excellency the Governor since he has assumed office in this Colony, and I am especially grateful to him for obtaining financial aid for the Colony so as to ensure its progress and prosperity.

Dr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker and hon. Members of this Council, may I also add my congratulations to the hon. the Financial Secretary on the very able presentation of his 1954 Budget. In his Budget Statement the hon. the Financial Secretary said that the task falling on the Government and this Legislative Council is an immense and heavy one: the job will call for a new faith and a new approach, and that his task has been considerably lightened by the recent report of the World Bank Mission. The draft has been well done and supplies information for which we should be very grateful indeed. More recently, His Excellency the Governor gave us a new approach and a new outlook when he told us of his success in raising \$42 million for the development of this country. In thanking His Excellency the Governor we owe him a very deep sense of gratitude for the immense labours he undertook for the future development of this Colony.

We have now the money and the plans and we have got the men to be able to implement those plans. I do hope that Government will not waste much time in getting those schemes underway. We are convinced that in agricultural expansion lies the future prosperity and

development of this country. We realize that for the future there must be a raising of the standard of the people of this country. I am sure, Sir, that the people would show their appreciation and confidence in this Government if they are given lands drained and irrigated as early as possible.

Yesterday, the hon. Member, Mr. Jailal, said that much of the trouble we have experienced was caused by frustration, the people being unable to get lands to cultivate, and more often than not they have been experiencing losses through drought and through floods and seeing their labours lost year after year. I agree with the hon. Member's statement, and I think that as the lands become available they should be given to the people as early as possible. But giving lands alone will not put them into full production. I feel, Sir, that the farmer must be given security of tenure, whether he rents the land, or leases it, or owns it. He must have access to agricultural credit as the chief means for him to be able to develop the land, and he must have access to the technique and to the expert knowledge available so that he can put his land into full production and reap the benefits of his toil for himself and for the country. Given those facilities, I feel that this Government need fear no Communistic theories or ideologies that may be preached to the people.

On the matter of control of meat and livestock and of milk, and the difficulty of agriculture, speaking specifically on meat and livestock, I feel that it is time that this control be abolished for it serves no useful purpose. The shortages of meat are becoming more and more chronic every year, and control is certainly not helping to increase any of the sources. I think that rice has been chiefly responsible for the shortage of cattle to supply our meat.

[Dr. Fraser]

Within the last twelve years a matter of 96,000 acres of pasture lands have been put under cultivation of rice and other products. It is not by the expansion of pastures that we can increase or obtain more meat, but rather it should be by the introduction of a new livestock quality and a more intensified system of varied production whereby one acre of land can feed three productive animals instead of three acres of land feeding one productive animal. I feel, Sir, that this matter should merit the attention of the hon. Member for Agriculture and of the Lands and Mines Department.

Yesterday, Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Luckhoo, brought to the attention of this Council the word "magnificent" as applied to this Colony. I think quite commonly the term "Magnificent Province" is spoken of in relation to this Colony with special reference to the productive value of the mineral wealth and the agricultural prospects of the Interior. I agree very heartily with Mr. Luckhoo that this is not by any stretch of imagination a rich country, nor is it likely to become so in the near future. I think, Sir, that the word "magnificent" was used by a former Member of this Legislature. I refer to the late Mr. Joseph Eleazar who had never seen the Interior nor the Hinterland of this country except for one trip he made to the Kaieteur Falls in the company of the then Governor and, I think, some other Members of the Legislature.

Sir Frank McDavid: He did not go as far as the Kaieteur. He got as far as the Denham Bridge.

Dr. Fraser: At any rate when Mr. Eleazar returned to the Council, I think, he made use of the word "magnificent".

Whether he did see the Kaieteur Falls or not, he certainly saw something "magnificent" in the waterfall. In the newspapers the Colony is commonly referred to as the "Magnificent Province" but the word "magnificent" is not used in relation to the condition of this Colony.

Mr. Sugrim Singh: May I rise at this stage to say that I have a recollection that the term "Magnificent Province" was used, I think, by one of the early writers, Anthony Trollope. So Mr. Eleazar is not the author of that term. I think Mr. Eleazar very wisely borrowed that term but, as the poet Burns says "To borrow a man's stick and use it to hit someone is a hit just the same."

Dr. Fraser: The hon. Member may be correct in his statement but, I think I am correct in saying that this term "Magnificent Province" is applied to the Colony's mineral and agricultural possibilities. One who has travelled in the interior of this Colony as I have done on foot and horseback for days over barren white sand and stone, would not think that this is a magnificent country where you would find very, very few fertile areas in the interior. So often has it been said by the people of this Colony that the hinterland should be developed because of its potential value. That is why I have raised the question.

Miss Collins: Sir, I desire to congratulate the hon. the Financial Secretary on his fine and well balanced Budget, and I must also thank His Excellency the Governor not only for showing the greatest amount of personal interest in going to London to negotiate loans on behalf of the Colony, but also for convincing the Colonial Office that accelerated aid was necessary in some directions. The old order

must go; the workers of the lower income group are dissatisfied with it. The old method of piecemeal budgeting must cease also.

On the question of the revision of salary scales for Civil Servants, I will say that there is no doubt that there is great need for this, but I would like you to remember that it is the junior grades and unclassified sections that are in the greatest need of better pay, rather than the senior grades, or the technical section. It is the nurses, ward-maids, messengers, policemen and the like, as well as those who are employed outside the Government Service who find it very hard to live on their earnings.

Much has been said about the Interim Government gaining the confidence of the people, but before this can be done we have to find out the causes of the people's frustration and loss of confidence in the Administration. No matter how clever may be the other arguments raised, the situation can only be remedied by improving the standard of living of the common man to the point where there can be no cause for the dissatisfaction now existing among them. Give them more houses, a basic wage, more and steadier employment. The answer to this Colony's problems lies not only in the organisation and expansion of a number of Youth Clubs, but in adequate employment. Only in the creation of active work to curb unemployment and under-employment, and in the taking of full responsibility for the under-privileged of this country can the solution be found.

After school days, what? I feel that something must be done about the large number of children who leave school annually but cannot find avenues of employment.

An agricultural training scheme should be put into operation to cater for those between the ages of 16 and 21. Instructors should be provided to give 6-months training courses to those desirous of having them. The course should include training in modern methods of farming as well as in the use of modern machinery in agriculture. The rearing and breeding of livestock should also be taught. On completion of the course students should be given suitable land and financial assistance to enable them to make a start as farmers. I entreat hon. Members of this Council to pray to God for guidance in the conscientious discharge of our duties and to let us always hold before our eyes the motto: "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you".

Mr. Speaker : I very much regret to have to tell the hon. Member that a great deal of what she said did not reach us at this end of the table. It is not her fault but from what I know of her—although I have not met her since the meetings of the Franchise Commission — I conclude that the hon. Member's speech contained something of value, and if she wishes to do so she should see the Official Reporter and give him a precis of what she said so as to have it recorded in *Hansard*.

I do not know what provision has been made in the Estimates for improving the acoustics of this Chamber, but there is always complaint about speakers not being heard. I have myself grown accustomed to the criticism but I am not supposed to speak but merely to growl. At the same time I do ask hon. Members to suggest some means by which each speaker could be heard. Had I known in time I would have got the reporter to sit

somewhere near the hon. Member who has just spoken.

As I intimated earlier, I propose to adjourn the Council at a quarter to four. It is nearly that now and I

propose to adjourn now, unless some speaker would like to compress what he has to say in five minutes. As no Member appears to be ready to do so, the Council is adjourned until next Tuesday, the 16th of February, at 2 p.m.