

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 17th December, 1941.

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

PRESENT.

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. F. J. Seaford, O.B.E., (Georgetown North).

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 16th December, 1941, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

STATEMENT ON COST OF LIVING.

THE PRESIDENT: There are just one or two short announcements which I wish to make to the Council. The first is that the Conservator of Forests will make his statement about the organization to deal with matters in connection with the cost of living on Friday morning.

The other matter is that the end of the year is approaching and there are two Bills, the Income Tax Bill and the Excess Profits Tax Bill, which should be considered before the end of the year. As we will be a long time in considering the Estimates I propose to take those two Bills on Tuesday morning. It looks as if we will have to sit on Christmas Day and every other day in order to get through the consideration of the Estimates.

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 31st December, 1942.

EDUCATION.

Sub-head 1—Personal Emoluments.—

Mr. OGLE (Director of Education, Acting): Sir, I was glad to have an en-

quiry from the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) about visits by Inspectors to the schools in that area, because it serves to give point to the application for an additional Inspector. In 1940 all the schools in that area were inspected by the Inspector of Schools. In 1941 a visit had been planned about the same time of the year, early in the year, but had to be omitted because travelling was not easy enough to allow of the district being properly inspected. It was inspected later on in September, 1941. All the schools, except six which were difficult of access up the Barima and Waini rivers, were inspected. I would like to point out that an inspection of that sort, if properly done, takes a whole month. There are three Inspectors of Schools and when one remembers that there are very nearly 250 schools in the Colony which to-day should normally be inspected or visited at least twice a year, I think that the request for an additional Inspector is thoroughly justified. There are various other calls on the Inspectors' time. For instance they are bound to assist in examination work. A good deal of their time is spent in travelling and not in visiting schools, and if we remember that there are approximately 40 weeks in the year and only five days in the week when schools can be visited, making a total of 200 days in the year, and that there are 250 schools to be visited I think everybody will agree that a staff of three Inspectors is inadequate.

The hon. Member also asked about the appointment of teachers to the schools in his district. I assume that he was thinking of teachers in what are known as Regulation 95 schools—schools in remote areas, usually very small in size and in number of pupils attending, which receive grants under a special Regulation. It is not possible to supply such schools with trained certificated teachers or even uncertificated teachers with the usual qualifications such as are found in the fully aided schools in the more accessible parts of the Colony, and a system has grown up of appointing to those schools teachers with practically no qualifications whatever. When one considers that such teachers often have to go to a school 50 or even 100 miles away, from anywhere so to speak, it is not difficult to understand why teachers of good qualifications cannot be obtained. Then there is also the difficulty that the schools

are owned by religious denominations, and they are not only schools but mission centres.

Naturally the Education Department looks upon the appointment of a teacher from a different angle from that taken by the Manager, who is also thinking of the maintenance of his mission. The Department tries to maintain a minimum standard of qualification, and that is very low indeed. That minimum is the Primary School Certificate obtained by children at the end of the primary school course. I can assure the hon. Member that the Director of Education tries to make every allowance for the special needs of those schools, and although the Inspector naturally has in mind the efficiency of the school more than anything else, yet the very best endeavour is made to combine the two—efficiency of the schools and the special needs of schools which are also missions.

The hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Humphrys used as his text, or possibly one of his texts, the case which he quoted of 400 applicants for a job, all of whom had, I think he said, Junior Cambridge Certificates. I deprecate this bringing of what amounts to secondary education into a discussion of primary education. It is essential that we should be quite clear about what we are discussing, and the head we are discussing is primary education and not secondary education. There are, I will agree, one or two primary school boys and girls who occasionally take the Junior Cambridge examination, but it is not the function of the primary schools to prepare children for that examination. I should say that over 90 per cent. of those who take that examination are prepared either by grant-aided or private secondary schools. I think, therefore, it is misleading to quote such an example in reference to any discussion of primary education. In other words, it does not affect any number of primary schools at all.

The hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) referred to the visit of Sir Frank Stockdale and his Educational Adviser last year, and what they propose in regard to education. I feel sure that the proposals of Sir Frank Stockdale will meet every one of the very true criticisms made by the hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) of our educa-

tional system. They were mainly of things which have been forced upon that system by the economic position of the Colony, and now that we can expect some definite help from the Mother Country I think we shall be able to meet every single one and reorganize our whole system as well as rebuild our schools. I only hope that since the Education Department will have to undertake a very considerable amount of extra work in connection with those plans when they are put into operation, hon. Members will co-operate not only by giving assistance whenever they can in their own particular area, or in any particular respect in which they are interested, but also by their criticisms. The Education Department always welcomes criticism, and especially constructive criticism, and I think that whatever work is done under the Development Fund should be done not purely and simply by the Home Government but by the people of British Guiana working with that Government.

Mr. LEE: I am sorry I could not be here before, but I would like to make one or two remarks if I may be permitted to do so. First of all, I would like to find out whether Government has received any report from the Educational Adviser to Sir Frank Stockdale. I understood that a report had been submitted and I applied to Government for a copy, but feeling as I do that we are in a way co-operating and advising Government I am not satisfied with the answer that was given me. I would like to know if Government has received that report and whether it will be placed on the table for the use of Members. When I get a reply I will proceed to comment on some phases of education.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will reply to that question myself later. The hon. Member may proceed to make any particular comments he wishes to make.

Mr. LEE: Government has realized that the Government schools controlled by the Education Department have been a success. If that is so and the principle is accepted by Government, then I respectfully submit that whenever there is an amalgamation of schools in a district—I speak on behalf of the Essequibo River district where there is an amalgamation of schools in the island of Leguan—

Government should take an interest to see whether it is possible to erect a Government school for the benefit of the surrounding inhabitants. Your Excellency will notice, if you travel on the West Coast of Demerara, that certain grants given by Government have been utilized by the denominational Body who have selected a very good site for the erection of a school, but in my constituency the site chosen by the denominational Body for the erection of a building for the amalgamation of the schools is not a proper one. I feel sure that if the Education Department or Government had taken an interest in the matter that site would not have been selected. Apart from that I am submitting that if Government schools have been successful a Government school should be erected wherever there is amalgamation of schools. It costs money to erect a school building but it is money spent in a laudable cause.

I do not know whether Government would consider it a constructive suggestion, but while Members of this Council and the public are crying out for vocational training of school children Government has within its grasp workshops at the Transport and Harbours Department, the Public Works Department, at Bartica, and on the West Coast of Demerara where vocational training can be given the youngsters who could either be selected or made to pass an examination to become eligible for training. I feel sure that if that were done Government would find within a short period it has made a step forward towards vocational training in engineering, carpentry and motor mechanics. I also feel certain that if Government approached the principal firms which have workshops they would be prepared to accept apprentices chosen by Government.

This is an agricultural country and if we are to develop agriculture Government should utilize the services of the Agricultural Instructors in the various districts for the training of the children in the school gardens. In my constituency the Department of Agriculture provided a small sum of money to pay a man to plough the school garden because the work was too heavy for the school children, but that assistance has been stopped. Is that encouragement of vocational training of the

school children? It should be made part of the duties of the Agricultural Instructors to go around and lecture to the pupils of the schools throughout the Colony. In that manner a start would be made in vocational training.

It has been brought to my notice that under the present system head teachers are paid on average attendance, and my information is that as a result of that the Colony is not getting value for the money spent on education because there are certain children who are on the dull side and the teachers take no interest in them whatever. (Mr. Jackson: Question). That is my information and I am passing it on to Your Excellency in order that you may make some inquiry into it. I am not saying that it is absolutely true. I have not inquired into it myself but it is something about which Government should make enquiry. Long ago teachers were paid by results, on the number of passes at the examination. To-day they receive payment on average attendance and they do not take as much interest in the children as they would if they were paid on the results of examinations. I respectfully suggest that Government might consider the question of a bonus to teachers on the results of examinations. In that way we may get better value for the money expended on education.

An experiment was tried in the island of Wakenaam by which a head teacher was given the duty to visit the grant-in-aid schools where there were perhaps uncertificated teachers and teachers with low grade certificates, in order to see that the teaching in those schools was being carried on in a proper manner. That experiment was carried on for about a year, and it was said that it failed. I respectfully submit that results from such an experiment in education cannot be seen in a year. It should have been carried on for a longer period and extended throughout the Colony. It would not be a waste of money as it would be a check on the teaching that is carried on in the primary schools. I was once travelling on the same steamer with an Inspector of Schools and I jocularly suggested to him that as he was on his way to Suddie he should get off at Wakenaam and see whether the head teachers were at school. When he returned to the steamer he told me that one of them was not at school. I suggest that surprise visits should be paid to the various schools.

There is one other matter I would like to draw attention to. There are many children who do not go to school through the fault of their parents, and head teachers have complained to me and asked me to suggest to Government the adoption of some system whereby they would not be made responsible for reporting non-attendances. There are reasons for that. One of those teachers explained to me that he visited the homes of people and tried to encourage them to send their children to school. In some cases he had to report them to the Attendance Officer and they were prosecuted and sometimes fined by the Magistrate. The result in such cases was that the parents took their children away and sent them to another school.

In my constituency there are several schools which cannot accommodate the number of children who seek admission, and it is impossible for one teacher to teach a class of anything between 50 and 80 pupils. I am asking Government to consider that phase of the problem carefully in order to see what can be done to relieve the situation.

Mr. OGLE (Director of Education Acting): I would like to reply to one or two of the points made by the hon. Member. He spoke of the amalgamation of schools. That has been done so far normally in the case of schools which were very close together, and in the case of Leguan two schools were amalgamated which were, I believe, within a matter of two miles of each other, and one of the schools was also very sparsely attended. Therefore the other school was made to absorb it and was slightly enlarged to some extent in order to take the extra pupils. That is the normal procedure in order to avoid excess expenditure in such cases. No doubt a better building could be obtained if a Government school were put up, but so far it has not been possible to do that for financial reasons.

The hon. Member has also spoken of vocational training and suggested the use of the Transport and Harbours Department's depôts. The whole question of vocational training is being vigorously discussed at the present moment in particular relation to Sir Frank Stockdale's proposals, and I can assure the hon. Member that the question of apprenticeship is

taking a prominent part in the discussion together with the provision of a special institution for instruction.

The hon. Member also mentioned the question of school gardens. There is a regular system under the Code of 1940 by which grants could be made to school gardens for such purposes as mentioned. Unfortunately, I rather suspect that the school he has in mind is one which comes under Regulation 95 and is therefore not eligible for the grant that I am speaking of. If so the only possibility is that the Department of Agriculture may be able to make some small grant.

The hon. Member also mentioned the perennial question of teachers' salaries in connection with payment by results, but I would strongly deprecate a return to payment by results. It had no doubt the effect of making teachers concentrate on the duller children, but I sincerely hope it is not necessary to enumerate now the many disadvantages of payment by results which led to its abolition in England many years ago, and in the United States quite a considerable number of years ago.

The hon. Member also suggested visits to the schools by head teachers, and I think he also suggested that some head teachers should make surprise inspections. I am sorry I cannot support such a suggestion because a head teacher cannot be an inspector at the same time. If we had what might be called Travelling Demonstrators who would spend six months or perhaps a year at schools to see how they might be run more efficiently than that would be very well, but to take head teachers from their schools just for six months and send them around to other schools would, I think, be entirely inadvisable. It would be a challenge to the other head teachers which I am quite sure they would not fail to accept.

THE CHAIRMAN: Before I put the question I would like to say a few words. I cannot be expected to embark on this very controversial subject of Education which arouses so much feeling, because I do not confess to have any knowledge of it in this Colony, but the hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) and the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wright) raised certain points

which I might answer. The hon. Member for New Amsterdam made the statement that I said that Members of this Council were quite incapable of offering constructive criticism. What I said was that I was surprised during the debate on Agriculture, when we had a memorandum from a person extraordinarily qualified to advise us, that Members did not use that as their text.

I might at this stage clear up something about a certain report, because I was told a few nights ago by a gentleman that a report had been written on educational problems in British Guiana which had been suppressed by the Colonial Office. That statement has been repeated in this Council, but it is so misleading and so wrong that I feel I would like to dispose of it now. Mr. Hammond was appointed and paid by the Carnegie Trust to report on educational problems in the Leeward and Windward Islands. He was appointed for three years and had to write three reports. He wrote the first and the second which were published, and then as his final effort he wrote the third. In that report he raised questions of very great importance. He pointed out that the great question was: were they to continue the present system of education in those islands and face the astronomical expenditure it was going to involve? If they were not prepared to face it, what were the alternatives? He put up suggestions of alternatives which are very interesting but very revolutionary. That report went to the Advisory Committee on Education who advise the Secretary of State, and they were exceedingly moved by it, but in the meantime the whole question, the whole atmosphere had been altered by the decision to go on with the recommendations of the Royal Commission and the appointment of Sir Frank Stockdale as Comptroller for Development and Welfare, and Mr. Hammond as adviser on Education. The Advisory Committee on Education advised the Secretary of State that we should get back to the practical question in the light of what might be possible under the Development Act. That report did not affect British Guiana at all; it purely concerned the Leeward and Windward Islands.

There has been a further memorandum on Education in British Guiana written

by Mr. Hammond and submitted to my predecessor by Sir Frank Stockdale, but the actual position at the moment is that Sir Frank Stockdale proposes to come back to this colony in March next year and take up Education as his primary term of reference. He has pointed out that the observations made so far are tentative, raising certain questions of policy which, until decisions are settled, will not permit us to go on with practical action. He has therefore suggested that nothing should be regarded as final and definite until he comes and makes his recommendations in March next. Therefore the position is quite different from that in respect of Agriculture, Drainage and Irrigation, and Medical Services, in respect of which definite recommendations have been made and published, and we are going ahead with them. To make a confession, I have not fully read Mr. Hammond's report myself. I have had, as you appreciate, quite a lot to do, and I did not read right through the memorandum, but what I did read were minutes submitted to the Secretary of State. They were the foundation of my remarks in my address to this Council on the practical steps we hope to take first—those touching equipment, buildings and grants. Mr. Hammond's report is of a hypothetical character and I shall read it and see what action I can take on it. I think the Education Authorities generally have taken action on a great many parts of it which demanded our attention.

The nature of any report or recommendation which will be made will, I have the strongest reasons to believe from what I know are the views of the Comptroller and Mr. Hammond, meet very largely the points of view urged by several Members of this Council. That is to say I should anticipate that the recommendations follow along the line suggested by the Acting Director of Education—that education should be for life and not for a job. The first step we should take is that primary education in the rural districts should be framed with the view that the children in those schools, or most of them, are going to follow an agricultural career, and that there should follow from that an opening for all pupils who are worthy of receiving further literary education to get a literary education, and for those specially qualified, some practical means of educa-

tion by apprenticeship to trades. I have served in a country where that was so carefully controlled that the number of pupils who went forward for secondary literary education and therefore were going to qualify for collar-and-tie occupations was limited to what it was known the country would demand.

I find that the recommendations made and the views expressed by Mr. Hammond met with the most astonishing amount of opposition and fear. I am not referring to this Colony. I was surprised to see the old-fashioned prejudices coming out for literary education—I will not say the collar-and-tie aim in life, but for the old-fashioned literary education. The fear those proposals, especially those relating to rural education, were deliberately designed to push the people of the African race back to the conditions of the past is entirely unjustified, but I can see myself that that fear was responsible for a great deal of opposition and criticism. I think there will be less opposition in this Colony to reasonable reform even where it is revolutionary. I took the opportunity to indicate that to one of the deputations I received, which was led by a Nominated Member, and I asked whether they were likely to oppose on old-fashioned grounds reforms in the near future, and one of them smiled at me and said "You need not fear that here. We are reasonable people and understand that change is necessary." I am fairly hopeful.

As regards the practical steps which the hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) asked me to take, my attitude must be this: We have Sir Frank Stockdale coming here in March and I have to await very specific and definite recommendations before I can move beyond those questions which have already been raised, such as buildings, equipment, etc.

The hon. Member also raised the question of Boards. Well, in principle I should certainly say that I am in favour of an Education Board, but I have experience of Boards. I was a member of one Board in a large Colony. I think it had executive as well as advisory functions, and I think it was extremely good. I have since then had acquaintance with four other Education Boards which were just terrible. The meetings of those Boards were distinguished

by quarrelling and narrow-mindedness, so that they accomplished precisely nothing. However, in principle, I should certainly approve of Boards and, if possible, with executive functions.

We come now to the matter mentioned by the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) of the rising tide of expansion. That is in many ways the crux of the whole thing. While the debate was going on I figured out the percentage of the cost of Education as against the total recurrent expenditure of the Colony. It works out at just over 10 per cent. I did that because it is a kind of rule of thumb which is applied in certain parts of the Empire. The expenditure on Agriculture works out at 13½ per cent. The percentage for Education is not bad. I have known a number of Colonies where it has been less, and even down to 7 per cent. What we are faced with in this Colony is the enormous recurrent expenditure on certain things necessitated by its physical conditions, such as sea defences, drainage and communications of all kinds. To start off with that percentage of 10 per cent. the position as regards Education in this Colony, as in other Colonies in the West Indies, is that we have a system which is based fundamentally on a copy of the European system of education in very wealthy countries, and that is what is hitting us. We have a system which can only be run at a vastly greater expenditure than we can face. It may not have been obvious 100 years ago but it is terribly obvious now. In other words, the kind of education England can stand we are trying to apply here without the means to do it.

I would like to give you the question which I had to work out in 1939—a comparison between the Leeward Islands and the Virgin Islands of the United States of America. The Virgin Islands are very small. St. Thomas, for example, has a population of only 9,000, while the whole Colony has a population of 22,000, and the tremendous resources of the Federal Government were being poured into that tiny place. The British Virgin Islands were administered at a cost of about 17 to 18/- per head as compared with £18 to £19 per head in the American portion of the Virgin Islands. Whether they were getting value for their money was another thing. I am pretty sure they were not. Yet you could

see the youth of the British Virgin Islands often preferred in the American Colony when it came to getting jobs. We worked out what it would cost the Leeward Islands under similar conditions to make their system of education something comparable to that in the American Virgin Islands. It meant raising the expenditure from 10 per cent. of the normal recurrent expenditure to 35 per cent., and I have no doubt that the same thing applies here.

If you want to raise your present system of education to a proper standard, abolish all the faults that exist now—poor buildings, crowded classes, poorly paid teachers, uncertificated teachers and pupil teachers in places they are not fitted for—and have all teachers properly trained and remunerated, and classes of proper size it will cost you 2½ million dollars a year. Can we in any conceivable future face that? That is the question we are up against, and that is the question which has been referred by Sir Frank Stockdale to the Imperial Government. He wants an answer to it before he can go on with those specific recommendations. When he has got that answer we will begin to know where we are. It envisages permanent reliance on the Imperial Government unless we change our system to something which would cost less, and personally, I believe, would give us a great deal more. The question “Are we getting value for our money?” depends a great deal on that. The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) raised another angle. He said we should be getting better value for the money we are spending. That, of course, is almost always true, but again I come back to the question: can we face the necessary changes to get that? I personally can suggest all sorts of things, some of which would horrify the hon. Member for Berbice River.

I come back to the question with which Government is always bombarded. Government is there to be shot at because it is in power, but there is nothing more misleading than the allegation that the Government of Crown Colonies has for generations been autocratic and dictatorial. To my mind it has been the other way around—that the Executive Government in the Caribbean area has been very much led by public opinion or unofficial opinion, particularly in the matter of education.

Influence has been brought to bear on Government to do this or that, or not to do this or that, by several classes of the community. That influence has been very great. Take the Churches alone. I refer to an Education Board over which I presided. I took a special Officer to discuss a certain matter with representatives of the three influential Churches. One favoured the proposal, one completely opposed it, and the other said he did not care so long as his Church had freedom of choice. The result was a complete stalemate. Had I been a dictator I should have forced it through.

Another point raised by the Nominated Member was that we should cut out all increases and simply spend on what we have been spending. That is logical, but we come up against the policy of His Majesty's Government. They have taken the view that in spite of the war we have an obligation to go on with every kind of social and welfare development in the West Indies, and that includes education. We are expected to go on with educational reform and I do not think we can stop this expenditure which has been forced upon us by various factors. Need we go on damning and derogating our education system so much? It is full of faults, of course, but it has done quite a lot of good work. One Nominated Member pointed out that many people have risen to positions of distinction in this Colony and in the West Indies who had never darkened the door of a secondary school. I do not know why he used that phrase because I have met a number of persons whose only education has been that of a primary schoolboy, and I think we should recognize that with all its faults our education system has served us pretty well and produced very good results.

Why should we damn the schoolmasters so much? I think a schoolmaster's job is about the hardest there is. It is a very hard job, poorly paid, and it must be a great mental strain on them to keep going. They have only had a primary education and yet they go on qualifying themselves and making themselves better in many ways than Government clerks make any attempt to do. I hope they may be better remunerated, and I will close by quoting what has been said by a famous schoolmaster in my own country, Major-General

Beith, who wrote in one of his books that the teaching profession was perhaps the worst paid and yet the greatest rewarded in the world.

Mr. LEE: I would like to find out whether Members cannot be supplied with copies of Mr. Hammond's report in order to be able to study it before Sir Frank Stockdale arrives.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to read it first and I shall have to consult Sir Frank Stockdale's views as to the way in which I should put it before the Council. I now put the question, that the following sub-item be inserted in the estimate:—

“d. Second Inspector of Schools—
(\$1,920 x \$120-\$2,400)--\$1,920.”

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I am opposing the insertion of that item on the ground that I maintain that while the war is on, or at any rate until Sir Frank Stockdale's report has been fully considered, we should not increase this vote by a dollar unless we cannot possibly help it. Such things like salaries and increments we know must be provided, but this is a new item.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I too am opposed to any new item. I do not think it is necessary at this stage when there is so much talk about reform. If we have been doing without an Inspector all this time we can do without him now.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: Sir, I think you will find that Members on this side of the table will oppose any new posts, for the time being at any rate. I respectfully submit that the creation of new posts in this Department might be deferred until the whole position is examined. If we are going to have reform it is going to be very long before that takes place, and for that reason the creation of new posts might be deferred. I refer, for instance, to item “k”—3 Junior Attendance Officers (\$450 to \$600 by \$30), \$1,350.

Mr. GONSALVES: We have heard criticisms as regards children not attending school, and that nothing is done either by the Department or by Government in order to get those children into the schools. It is proposed under item “k,” which has been referred to by the hon. Member, to appoint three Junior Attendance Officers

in order to get those children into the schools. If that is so and more children are anticipated to attend school it must necessarily follow that we will need an addition to the Inspectorate. On the ground of consistency I cannot see how this Council can say in one breath that the Department is not doing enough to get children into school and in another oppose the appointment of an Inspector of Schools. I think one must go with the other.

MR. DEAGUIAR: We are agreed that children should attend school, but we also agree that at the present time the accommodation is not sufficient. Are we therefore going to whip children to school and when they get there we put them under a tree? It seems to me that is what we are going to do. We admit that we have no accommodation and no equipment. That is the fault in this country. We always start at the wrong end of the stick. We are going to create posts when we have not the accommodation and equipment in the schools.

MR. C. V. WIGHT: I would like to know whether this Department, which Government is now attempting to strengthen by the creation of new appointments, cannot be reinforced by the return of the Head of the Department to his post. I feel and I think most Members, including Official Members, feel that it is not necessary to have the Director of Education as Chief Censor. There are other Government officers who are very well paid and have very little to do. There is a competent officer drawing a fairly large salary who should be made Chief Censor. Was the Director of Education appointed Chief Censor because he can read and write better than any other Government official? In view of the recommendations that may be made by Sir Frank Stockdale I am asking Government to consider whether it should not be arranged that the Director of Education should return to his Department. I am not saying anything against the present acting Director. This is his first appearance in this Council and he has conducted himself with admirable precision and given us a dissertation on some of the problems of education.

THE CHAIRMAN: I made some proposal about a fortnight ago but it has not

so far been accepted by the people to whom I made it. I am prepared to consider the matter again. As an alternative to using some other officer who is available it was suggested to me that we should employ an expert Censor from the Imperial Censorship Department. Of course that means pay. That is as far as the discussion has reached between myself, the Chief Censor and others. Have you any other alternative? I would be glad to hear it.

MR. WIGHT: I was waiting for the hint. I would like to know, for instance, how some of the officers of the Forestry Department occupy their time?

THE CHAIRMAN: Bring it up some other time.

MR. JACOB: I am afraid I cannot agree with the hon. Members on that side of the table. I think it is absolutely necessary to have an additional Inspector and to have these three Junior Attendance Officers. I am wholly in favour of the vote and I think the majority of the Members on this side of the table are in favour of it. I cannot understand the argument on the other side at all. I think it is the idea of certain Members—

MR. ELEAZAR: I move that the motion be now put. We have spent two days discussing it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Member finish what he has to say.

MR. JACOB: I have taken up a consistent line with this Department during the last six years, and I have blamed the Education Committee and blamed them very strongly for the attitude they adopted in the past. The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) is a member of the Education Committee, and complaints have been pouring in on the Committee in regard to lack of supervision, and of the small number of Attendance Officers, etc. Whilst it is true, generally speaking, that there is lack of accommodation and equipment it is not wholly so. There are certain schools which can take more children and there are certain schools which have sufficient equipment. The statement has been made that it was not possible for an Inspector to visit the schools in my constituency in 1939 and 1941, but even if he went there in September, 1941, I do not

think one inspection was sufficient. We were told here definitely that those schools were not inspected. I am not in favour of paying teachers and not seeing that they perform their duties properly.

It was a lack of foresight on the part of the Administration in the past in reducing the number of Attendance Officers, and now the suggestion has been made to increase the number I am really surprised to know that hon. Members are not in favour of it. When the vote for secondary education comes up I will see what certain Members will do. I am inclined to think like them that the vote for secondary education should be reduced, but I am sure they will not support that view. I feel that more should be done and that there should be no check to the progress of primary education.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I would like to hear from the Director of Education whether the Attendance Officers are instructed by the Department to enforce the system by persuasion or by compulsion.

Mr. OGLE: The question is rather a difficult one to answer, because actually the Attendance Officers do not attempt to use force—at any rate not physical force. The general practice of the Attendance Officers is always to try to persuade parents to send their children to school rather than force them to do so. For instance the actual procedure in the case of children who are not sent to school is to send a warning notice to the parent and not take any action in the Courts until no notice is taken of that first warning.

Mr. WIGHT: I do not know how that coincides with what some of us know—the number of orders which are made in the Magistrate's Courts throughout the Colony. In fact I have had the experience myself of having to sign quite a number of orders on parents, and occasionally an attempt is made to enforce them. The Magistrate is in a quandary to decide what to do between the Education Department and enforcing a penalty on people who are little able to pay the money.

Mr. JACKSON: The Members on the opposite side of the table are labouring under a delusion. The item for the new

Inspector of Schools has not been introduced in order to implement any findings that may be made by Sir Frank Stockdale. It is put there to meet a clear necessity that has been existing for some time, and I think we would be putting the clock back if we allowed what has been going on to continue. I support the item and I believe all reasonable Members of this Council will support it.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am asking Government to defer consideration of this item for three months, by which time Sir Frank Stockdale will be in the Colony. If we have been doing without a Second Inspector of Schools for several years I do not think three months will make the slightest difference. It has been suggested that Sir Frank Stockdale might alter the whole basis of our education system. If that is so, we may require very much more than this or very much less, and it would be a pity if we vote certain expenditure which may not be necessary. If Sir Frank Stockdale advises that this appointment is necessary I am quite certain that the vote will be unanimous.

THE CHAIRMAN: Here is a relevant note by Mr. Hammond who is supported by Sir Frank Stockdale:—

“I feel restricted in advising on this matter in that permanent increase of general administrative staff cannot be aided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and must therefore fall on the resources of the Government itself. But I can testify from personal observation that the schools lack supervision, and that the administration is unduly centralized in Georgetown. In effect (although the Assistant Director has also the title of Chief Inspector) the Department has but one Inspector and one Assistant Inspector for the whole Colony, and inspection of one day only, once a year or at even longer intervals, is as much as most schools can expect. This is not enough for proper control, much less for the aiding of the under-qualified teachers who number more than half the teaching force. The Director and Assistant Director appear to be chained to Georgetown by the centralization of correspondence.”

That is in support of the appointment of an extra Inspector, so that I do not think any changes in policy recommended in March would affect the position as it is now. The need exists at the moment. I am quite willing to make it a completely open vote so far as the Official Members are concerned, and I would be prepared to have a meeting with Members before we

proceed to make the appointment. It has been put on the estimate after careful consideration and approval by the Executive Council.

The Committee divided on the amendment and voted :—

For—Messrs. C. V. Wight, Lee, Jackson, Jacob, Gonsalves, Percy C. Wight, Ogle, Case, Laing, Austin, Seaford, McDavid, Woolford, Dias, Dr. Singh, Dr. MacLennan, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary.—18.

Against—Messrs. Mackey, Humphrys, Peer Bacchus, DeAguiar and Eleazar—5

Amendment carried.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Director's minute was that there is a most urgent need for an Inspector in Berbice. He is in accord with the observations made by Mr. Hammond.

Sub-item k, relettered 1—3 Junior Attendance Officers (\$450 to \$600 by \$30)—\$1,350.

Mr. ELEAZAR: What is the business of these officers? I understand that an Attendance Officer goes to a school and gets the names of the children who are not attending school. He summons the parents and they appear before the Magistrate. Incidentally he may find a boy knocking about who should be in school. Children are not admitted in school until they are six years, and it's no fault of the officers that children do not go to school, nor is it because there are too few Attendance Officers. Would it improve the situation if there were 30 officers?

Mr. SEAFORD: Will the Director of Education tell the Council why there is necessity for the appointment of three Attendance Officers?

Mr. OGLE: An addition to the number of Attendance Officers was approved because it is anticipated that there will be accommodation in the schools for all the children of school age in British Guiana, but it takes quite a long time for an Attendance Officer to get accustomed to his job. It is not quite correct, for instance, to say that he never goes to the schools but occasionally picks up a boy in the street. There are house-to-house visits to be made, and there

is a certain definitely laid down procedure which must be followed. The whole thing must be learned as a new kind of job. It is proposed to make the three appointments from the beginning of next year in order that when the extra accommodation is provided we shall have at least some Attendance Officers to try to bring the children in, not necessarily by force but by visiting the parents of those children.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: It seems to me that we are getting somewhere now. I suppose the next proposal will be that we should set up a Department to train these Attendance Officers so that they can go out and perform the duties expected of them. So far as I am concerned I formally move the deletion of the item. I wanted to ask the question whether, in view of what has just been passed by the Council, there is any necessity for item "i"?

Mr. OGLE: Item "i" is the remuneration of the Acting Assistant Inspector of Schools. In 1940, when the present arrangement in regard to the Director of Education was made, there were only two Inspectors visiting the schools. In 1941 an Acting Assistant Inspector was appointed from among the head teachers of the Colony, and that made three Inspectors. The proposed additional Inspector will make the fourth, and I submit that even that is the absolute minimum of Inspectors there should be for the number of schools and the circumstances of the Colony.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: It is evident that some of these appointments are in consequence of the fact that the Director of Education is not at his post. I do not know whether he actually did any work as Director of Education while he was Chief Censor. I presume he has gone on leave. I am tempted to move that the Education vote be referred to a Committee composed of Elected Members of this Council.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. DeAguiar) asked whether it would be necessary to appoint someone to train these officers. I would like to refer him to page 5 of the memorandum which was prepared in the Secretariat. I think we should cease to prepare it because nobody reads it. When we appoint Attendance Officers they more or less know the duties they

have to perform. I should like to refer to two paragraphs of the memorandum because they should help Members to realize that Government is not asking for something it has not had. The memorandum states :—

“In 1925 there were 9 Attendance Officers; there are now 3. The number has been reduced from time to time on grounds of economy.”

“Two of these officers are stationed in Georgetown and one in New Amsterdam. The number of children attending school is 55,000—a number who should attend do not do so. It is a physical impossibility for three officers to see that children throughout the Colony attend school. Provision has therefore been made for three additional officers to permit of each County having what is considered to be the minimum number of Attendance Officers.”

Mr. SEAFORD: What the Council is saying is that this is a time when we should economize more than at any other time. I do not remember seeing on the Estimates any provision for new schools or extension of existing schools.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has read my Address to the Council at the opening of this session in which I stated that Sir Frank Stockdale has proposed an expenditure of \$100,000 per annum for five years to rehabilitate existing schools.

Mr. SEAFORD: But when does that start, sir?

THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot tell you.

Mr. SEAFORD: It may not be for a considerable time. There is a great shortage of skilled labour and a shortage of materials, and it will be a very long time before we can start with the building of additional schools. I think this is an item we should defer.

Mr. JACOB: I am insisting that this item be passed. (laughter). I hope Government is not going to back down, because I think it is absolutely necessary to have Attendance Officers. If I related my experience here it would take quite a long time. I think certain hon. Members are quite familiar with my experience in regard to attendance at school, and the interest and the census I took of children not attending school. I pleaded year after year that the number of Attendance Officers should be increased. Now that I hope to see some improvement I find some of my brother Elected Members opposed to this addition.

In 1925, as stated in the explanatory memorandum, there were nine Attendance Officers but now there are only three. Is it the intention of certain Elected Members of this Council to keep 30 per cent. of the children out of school perpetually? There has been a feeling in the past, and it is still there, particularly amongst Indians, that it is not necessary to send their children to school. Why, they ask, should we send our girls to school? I think it is necessary that Government should take the initiative and appoint these officers. I suggest that the right type of officers should be appointed—officers who will persuade people to send their children to school. I admit that there is a lack of accommodation in certain places, but the Officers should be stationed where there is accommodation. I support the view, too, that in addition to the Attendance Officers the Director of Education should be relieved of the post of Chief Censor in order that there should be better supervision. There has been laxity in the supervision of education in the Colony.

I feel sure that the item will be passed. It is no use keeping the people of the country illiterate. That seems to me to be the policy of certain hon. Members here. The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar), has been on the Education Committee and I am astonished at the attitude adopted by him this morning.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot force a horse to eat grass or drink water. Am I to get a policeman to force people to send their children to school?

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: The hon. Member was not present when Your Excellency visited a school in a certain district and showed consternation at the attendance. Your Excellency knows the experience you got when you asked the headmaster “Where is the balance of the children?” I hope when the Attendance Officer resorts to the Court in order to compel parents to send their children to school the hon. Member will go to that district and represent the officer in the prosecution of his duty. We talk about persuasion, but how is compulsory education to be enforced but by an order of the Court? The hon. Member glibly suggests that other Members have no care for the education of the chil-

dren, but I would ask him to say if he thinks that members of his race who fail to send their children to school on the persuasion of the Attendance Officer should be compelled to do so by a blue paper from the Magistrate's Court?

Mr. JACOB: I make the definite statement that if a parent refuses to send his child to school he should be fined and, if necessary, put in prison for a few days.

Mr. WOOLFORD: The hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) invited the Director of Education to say whether the Attendance Officers carry out their duty by force or by persuasion. I understood the Director to have some difficulty in answering the question. I think I can answer it. There are two classes of school children. There are those who have never attended a school at all but who have reached school-going age, and there are others who do not attend school in compliance with the Code. One must know the Code to understand what that means. It requires that every child should attend a minimum number of sessions during a term. In Georgetown I think it is 30 and in the country 35, or *vice versa*. My mixed feelings are caused by the obvious neglect of parents in this Colony to do their duty to their children. Here is a system which provides free education, but it is also made compulsory, and the only parents I feel sorry for are those who really cannot afford to clothe their children properly. By that I mean providing them with clothes and shoes. There is a large number of parents in that position and I have had experience of that in the Courts where I have seen 150 persons lined up. In almost every case the Magistrate has been unable to do otherwise than comply with the law which says that a parent must have some lawful excuse for not sending his child to school. If a parent can offer a lawful excuse to a Magistrate he would not make an order, but it is very difficult for a Magistrate to determine what is a lawful excuse where a child has never been sent to school at all.

There are other cases where a child has failed to attend the minimum number of sessions, and that is where the problem comes in. It is inconsistent to say that you support the system of compulsory education and not provide the Attendance

Officers, because it is the compulsory clause of the Ordinance that the Attendance Officers enforce. An Attendance Officer should be familiar with his district. He must have a keen sense of observation, and usually has been a schoolmaster or an ex-policeman. He more or less knows those children who do not go to school and meets them every day in the village. He goes to the school and finds out how many sessions a child has attended, and if he has attended no session at all he goes to the parent. The parent says: "I have not been educated. I want my child to go to the shop and buy for me in the morning, or to go to the well for a bucket of water." In other words the parent is using the child for service at home and relies upon being able to send the child to school in the afternoon. In the afternoon the rain falls or something happens, and the child does not go to school at all.

There must be some means of enforcing the compulsory clause, and I do ask that the vote be carried if we are to continue the system which, after all, may be right. It has nothing to do with the Comptroller. I am sure he is not going to say that some regularity of attendance should not be enforced. What we have to do is to impress upon parents the necessity of sending their children to school. Each one of us should in our own constituency make an appeal to the people to do so. They do not seem to recognize the necessity for it. There are two classes of parents as well as there are two classes of children. There is the parent who takes the view that he does not find it necessary to send his child to school, and another who says he cannot afford it. I am in great sympathy with the latter. There is also the parent who suffers from false pride and is not prepared to send his child to school unless he can prevent it from being ridiculed. We are not concerned with that; we are concerned with the enforcement of the law and the betterment of the pupil who some day becomes a citizen.

Mr. LEE: I have travelled throughout the Colony and I have found no parent who does not like to send his child to school. Parents are always willing to send their children to school. I know that as a fact. Some say they cannot afford to clothe their children, but that is a different thing from not wanting to send their

children to school. It is on account of their false pride, as the hon. Member says. I know of certain parents who have to go to work early in the morning and give instructions to their children to go to school, but the children do not go. That is where the Attendance Officers will come in; they would be able to make surprise visits. I can assure the Council that parents are afraid of that blue paper that comes from the Magistrate's Court. In my opinion there should be more Attendance Officers.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I must correct the hon. Member. He said he has not come across a parent who does not wish to send his child to school. He has a lot to learn. For many years members of the East Indian community would not send their children to school. Has he never heard of child labour? Hasn't this Government passed Regulations prohibiting the employment of children under a certain age? I wish that the hon. Member will have some ground upon which to correct me.

Mr. JACOB: I would say to the hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) that he has been talking about the dim past. I have done quite a considerable amount of work among the lower classes of people and I have not found a single individual who told me "I do not like to send my child to school," either among my own race or in other races.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I never made the statement that there was to be found an individual who did not like to send his child to school; I spoke of individuals who did not do so, and I gave reasons for it—reasons given in the Magistrate's Court by the parents themselves. It is not that they do not like to but they always had some *arrière pensée* for not doing it.

Mr. JACOB: Then we agree that every parent likes to send his children to school. We say that there should be Attendance Officers to enforce the laws that are in existence in the Colony. I think every legal Member of this Council will agree that those laws should be enforced, and I urge on Government to enforce the compulsory section of the Ordinance. I would not be afraid to say that to any individual, whether he is a voter or lives in my constituency or in any other part of the

Colony. I have always maintained that all the Regulations governing the attendance of children at school should be enforced. Parents should be put in jail for five or seven days for refusing or neglecting to send their children to school. I feel very strongly about it. When that is done we will find the Colony advancing very rapidly.

Mr. JACKSON: I have not toured the country and held political meetings but I have been in a school-room for the greater part of my life. I know as a matter of fact that there are numbers of parents who will not send their children to school if you do not compel them. I say so without fear of contradiction. I have been my own Attendance Officer in my school for a long number of years, and I still visit schools and know that there are children in my own district whose parents have to be persuaded to send their children to school. The need for Additional Attendance Officers is evident. The Education Committee considered the matter very carefully and I do not think Government would be doing the best thing if this item is not pressed. I am positive that there is the necessity. I would not come here and say there is if there was not. I sincerely trust that the item will be passed, and I am quite sure that an increase in the percentage of attendance will ensue.

Dr. SINGH: The argument seems to cut both ways. I happened to be present at a Parents' Day meeting held recently at Windsor Forest and I was surprised at the smallness of the school. There were so many children that the school could not accommodate them. I had a chat with some of the parents who said they were quite willing to send their children to school but it was leaking too much. There is need for more accommodation in the schools and I agree that children of school-going age should be made to go to school. There is a good deal of talk about the East Indian community. In the past they used their children to augment their earnings, but now they are wiser and make every effort to send their children to school.

Mr. GONSALVES: Your Excellency announced that additional Inspectors of Schools are required in order that one should be stationed in Berbice. I thought after that was settled we would

have got the votes of the Members for Berbice. Your Excellency has not said whether any of the Attendance Officers are going to Berbice, but I am sure that if you said that you would win the votes of two Members on the other side of the table. On the Education Committee there are three Elected Members and one Nominated Member of this Council. One of the Elected Members happens to be a Member of the Executive Council. Another is the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar), and there is also the hon. Mr. Jackson, a retired schoolmaster whose experience and knowledge is always of very great assistance on the Committee. These two items which have been under discussion have been largely due to the advice given by those Members.

I am not concerned as to what class or race of children are going to be made to go to school. The question is one of principle. One of the excuses made for children not going to school is that they have not got clothes, but since there is a new order of dress it seems to me that the order of dress for school children might be modified to some extent so that the excuse of lack of clothing might no longer be put forward. It is necessary to have more Attendance Officers if the Education Department and the Education Committee are to be assisted.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I think two Members who spoke against the amendment rather supported the point I made that the necessity does not arise at the present time for three new Attendance Officers. We have it from the lips of the hon. Member who said he was a schoolmaster, that in his day he was his own Attendance Officer, and I respectfully submit that he achieved very good results. We know that when he was a head teacher in his district he gave very good service, and I know there are other head teachers who do the same thing by persuasion instead of by compulsion. Am I to understand that this Council is going to do something to make criminals of people just because they have not sent their children to school? We might have an Attendance Officer to supervise, but to have a staff of Attendance Officers to go around the districts with whips and blue papers to make children go to school is a wrong thing I submit. I shudder to think what would happen if Govern-

ment had to create posts in order to enforce a number of Ordinances passed in this Council—legislation which, in my opinion, needs more or at least equal supervision in order to put it into effect. I refer to legislation dealing with medical and social services and revenue, which cannot be properly enforced owing to the lack of supervision. I say that perhaps the existence of an Attendance Officer to supervise the attendance of children generally might be advisable. I move that the item be carried out at \$480 because I do not want to do an injustice to the existing officer.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would ask the hon. Member to read the note on the right hand page opposite items "g." and "h". The position is that in 1941 there were two Attendance Officers under "h"—one at \$570 to \$720 and the other at \$450 to \$600. There was a third lower down under "l" at \$288 to \$480. It is proposed in the new estimates that there should be a Chief Attendance Officer, two Senior Attendance Officers, who are now in the Service, and three new officers.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: My original amendment stands after that explanation. As regards item "i" I do not think the reply of the Director can be regarded as satisfactory. I still do not know what is going to happen now with the vote, having regard to the fact that we have appointed a permanent Second Inspector of Schools. Am I to understand that it is for the purpose of substitution for any of the officers who may be ill or absent on leave? That might have been a more reasonable explanation.

At this stage the Council resumed and adjourned for the luncheon recess until 2 p.m.

2 p.m.

The Council resumed, Mr. Walcott being present, and resolving itself into Committee resumed discussion on the item—3 Junior Attendance Officers—\$1,350.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: When the Committee adjourned I was dealing with some of the points raised by the hon. Members against the amendment that I have put forward. The hon. Colonial Secretary referred to his explanatory memorandum. I wish to assure him that I do read his

memoranda with a great deal of interest. Perhaps I might inform him that sometimes I get such useful information in those memoranda that I can speak in this Council sensibly. Perhaps that remark can apply to other Members who have not the time and desire to read his memoranda. His reference to what took place in 1925 when there were 9 Attendance Officers is no reason, I submit, to appoint 3 more to-day. If what we have heard is correct that in times past certain sections of the community preferred to augment their income by sending their children out to work rather than to school and the necessity existed to have these Attendance Officers so as to compel those parents to send their children to school, in 1925 we needed possibly 20 Attendance Officers but nevertheless the Council thought in their wisdom that nine were sufficient. I accept in good spirit their wisdom in appointing nine for the purpose, but we have been told here that the people are now alive to the need of educating their children. It seems that this Government desires to assist them further by making it legal to send those children to school under penalties and by appointing Attendance Officers to carry out that statutory obligation. That type of parent referred to by the hon. Member for New Amsterdam no longer exists. With regard to the point raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Jackson, I agree with him as to the influence of a good Head Teacher in a village. The hon. Member for New Amsterdam said there is a type of parent whose children do not attend school regularly. There are such children in a village where there is a good Head Teacher, and when his salary depends on the average attendance of his school it is in his interest to see that every child on the register attends school regularly. If you look at the Code you would see at page 10 various grades of salaries of those teachers. I submit that in the village unless the influences that we hear about no longer exist the Head Teacher, who has always been a very influential person, does not need the assistance of the Court to get the children to attend school regularly. By persuasive measures the Head Teacher in the district would be able to deal and that successfully with the second type of parent referred to by the hon. Member for New Amsterdam. There is no doubt that nothing can be told me by Members to-day which will remove the opinion I have formed and, I submit, it

is a very sound opinion. The need no longer exists for Attendance Officers. Let us forget the past. I quote the words of the hon. Member for North-Western District. This is not the time for us to meet this additional expenditure especially after we have reduced the number of officers from nine on the ground of economy and we have a deficit before us of \$400,000 to face.

Mr. ELBAZAR: Your Excellency does not like me to preach from the New Testament, but I do not know how there can be a fulfilment of the law without referring to it. In my day as a country schoolmaster we had one District Attendance Officer who did all the work. Later on they wanted three, why? The immediate predecessor of the present Director of Education when he came here found that every schoolmaster was himself a District Attendance Officer to a certain extent. He lived in the district, took an interest in the school and visited the parents to find out why their children were not at school. The Director thought the schoolmasters had too much influence in the district for political reasons and would take part in political elections, and therefore he was going to break the back of that. He took from Dan and sent to Beersheba. If you travel by train any day of the week either morning or afternoon you would find young people going from one place to another — teachers from different districts going to or from school situated miles away from their homes. If one teacher happened to be living in the district of his school the Director endeavoured to send him somewhere else. What is the alternative? The people who teach the children have no interest in them and usually have to hurry when school is over to get back to where they live by train or some other means, with the result that we are now called upon to put on three additional Attendance Officers. The schoolmasters were deprived of what they used to do in the past. The Department deliberately did that. I do not see why this Council should allow the Education Department to create this situation and then call upon us to find more officers. This money can be better employed in putting teachers in the schools which are understaffed. Fancy you have schools understaffed and you are trying to put more children in the schools. I like when I come here to be free and frank in this

Council. This country has a heterogeneous population. I am a member of one section of the population, and I contend that is the only section that has any right to special treatment by this Government because that is the only community that has been brought here against its will. Everybody else came here by choice and some of them by arrangement that those who would like to go back to where they came from would be sent back if they did not like the country. Let the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) be frank and say he is referring to members of his race who have gone to live in the Bush away from everybody else; let him come and tell us that the East Indian children do not want to go to school, the parents will not send them, and the Department should get these officers to assist in getting them in the schools. I maintain that 2 per cent. of the children of my people are not out of school. The Department has brought the position to what it is now, and then the hon. Member is helping on the Department. When he speaks about children of school-going age being out of school he means a special set of children, and he should tell us. We may then sympathize with him and do something in the matter. But this money is not going to be well spent. Government is impressed that it is its duty to increase this vote in this fashion because one Member insists in talking about the children not being in school, and Government blinds its eyes and listens to him. I have done what I think is my duty. I have enlightened Government in the matter. These men are not wanted.

Mr. JACOB: I wish I can follow the last two speakers. Looking at the report of the Director of Education for 1939, in Part II on page 1, I notice that the average attendance was 74.04 per cent. in 1939. It was 74 per cent. in 1936 and 74.5 per cent. in 1937, and 73.9 per cent. in 1938. I take it that if for no other reason the Attendance Officers would justify their employment by increasing the attendance in the schools at the present time. I do not know if there is any cause for not saying that the average attendance has increased to 80 or 90 per cent. during 1940 or 1941, but we have it on record here that the average was roughly 75 per cent. If the appointment of two or three additional Attendance Officers to cost \$870 more would

increase the percentage of attendance, I think it would be money very well spent. I cannot understand certain hon. Members arguing so much on this very small sum of money. I think it ought to be admitted that in the past when the number of Attendance Officers was reduced from nine to three it was a retrograde step. We are now trying to go back to a reasonable number. I may be inclined to agree that nine was a large number. The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) said nine is not a large number. If there is a difference of opinion as regards the number, I do not think there should be any difference of opinion as regards the number of five Officers on the Estimates.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The hon. Member has missed one!

Mr. JACOB: If even it is six, I would like my hon. Friends to take a walk not only in the villages but other places, gather a number of children and ask them why they are not attending school. Go during school hours, as I have done. I have called them and encouraged them by giving them sweets and then enquiring the reason why they are not going to school. In the majority of cases the reason was they had no clothes, or their parents could not afford to give them books, or the distance to school was far and their parents had to go away to work. There are provisions in the Estimates for books and with the employment of a few more Attendance Officers those children will find themselves in the schools. It may be argued that is not the right method of approach. While I would agree to some extent that it is not the right method, it must be remembered that this Government had decided at one period and had sent around a circular discouraging certain people from sending their girls to school: Then I submit something ought to be done to counteract that decision and circular. It may be possible to have the number reduced to probably one or two in five or ten years' time, but I maintain it is definitely the right step and the right thing to do to have these officers, and I trust that those hon. Members who are so opposed to the addition of \$870 will see their way to withdraw their opposition.

The Attendance Officers help the

teachers. I think one hon. Member is of the opinion that the teachers require no help and can themselves look after the attendance of their pupils. While some teachers do that, in certain parts of the Colony it is not possible for them to do so, and the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) has given a reason—the teachers live some distance from the schools and have to travel by train and other means to get there. That is a very good reason, I submit, why we should have Attendance Officers to go from house to house and encourage those people, who were discouraged in the past, to send their children to school. I am inclined to agree that item (i)—“Remuneration to Officers acting as Temporary Assistant Inspectors of Schools,” \$360—may be deleted, but as regards item (k)—“3 Junior Attendance Officers”—I suggest that those hon. Members who are opposed to it withdraw their opposition and be satisfied with the \$360 coming off the Estimates. Further with the Director relinquishing the duties of Chief Censor and resuming his substantive post and with the additional Inspector, the Inspectorate will be so strengthened that I see no reason why the Deputy Director or the Director cannot go around and visit the schools. It will do them a great deal of good and it will encourage the teachers and Inspectors to give better service.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: There has been considerable debate on this question, and I now move that the question be put.

THE CHAIRMAN: There has been considerable difference of opinions expressed. I propose to put the question, accepting items (a) to (j) and taking the amendment for the deletion of item (k).

Question “That sub-item (k) as relettered (l) stand as printed in the Estimate” put, and the Committee divided. The voting was as follows:—

For:—Messrs. C. V. Wight, Lee, Jackson, Jacob, Gonsalves, Ogle, Austin, Mc David, Woolford, Dr. MacLennan, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Secretary—12.

Against:—Messrs. Humphrys, Walcott, Peer Bacchus, DeAguiar Eleazar Percy C. Wight, Case, Seaford, Dias—9.

Item passed as printed in the Estimate.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to say that there are no appointments to be made except on specific reference to me, and I would take further advice on the points raised.

Sub-Head 1 passed as amended.

Sub-Head 2—Transport and Travelling.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that sub-item (a)—Travelling Allowances, \$2,140—be increased by \$400 and carried out at \$2,540 and that sub-item (b)—Subsistence Allowances, \$859—be increased by \$150 and carried out at \$1,000. The total will be \$3,550 instead of \$3,000, an increase of \$550. This is a consequential amendment following the increase of the staff by one Assistant Inspector.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I am opposing this addition and so be consistent with my opposition to the appointment of the additional Assistant Inspector, even if I stand alone.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I support the hon. Member on my right. I am not convinced that the necessity will exist for the Attendance Officers to travel—

THE CHAIRMAN: This is in connection with the Assistant Inspector.

Mr. OGLE: (Director of Education, Acting): It also includes the travelling of the Attendance Officers. The addition is for the extra Inspector.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: I rather suspected the Attendance Officers have something to do with it. I am looking forward—

THE CHAIRMAN: They have nothing to do with the increase. It is entirely for the additional Inspector.

Mr. SEAFORD: The \$3,000 down on the Estimates allows for the Attendance Officers

Mr. OGLE: There is an increase of \$550 over the previous year's amount. I do not know if the hon. Member has noticed that. It provides for the extra Attendance Officers.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is an increase on last year's vote and includes a provision

for the increased number of Attendance Officers.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: The increase under this Head is going to be \$1,108 for travelling. If we get two more we would have to pay another \$1,100. I am beginning to get very worried as to where it is going to end. I am opposed to it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will not be spent without further reference to me and discussion on that particular point.— That I guarantee.

Mr. SEAFORD: In that case that extra money will not be spent.

THE CHAIRMAN: That money may be saved.

Mr. JACOB: I think I agree with the hon. Member on the other side that the increase of \$558 ought to be sufficient. I do not think that the additional \$550 should be put on. If more money is required it can be put on a supplementary estimate. I much prefer to let it remain as it stands at \$3,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the Director prepared to leave it at \$3,000? Do that and see how it will work out.

Mr. OGLE: I am prepared to do so. I think that in the circumstances it may work out that we may be able to keep under \$3,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Council agrees to leave it at \$3,000!

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In view of what has been said I withdraw the suggested amendment.

Sub-Head 2 passed without amendment.

Sub-Head 11—Primary Schools—

Item (1) Salaries of 1,292 Teachers.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move as an amendment to sub-item (1)—Salaries of 1,292 Teachers—that the amount of \$438,998 for Aided Schools be increased by \$2,600 to \$441,598, and the total provision \$520,227 increased by \$2,600 to \$522,827. This is due to the expected number of successes at the Teachers' Certificate Examination held in July, 1941.

It is necessary to provide for the payment to those teachers obtaining the higher certificates.

Mr. OGLE: The payments are authorized under the Education Code.

THE CHAIRMAN: We cannot take exception to that.

Question put, and agreed to.

Sub-Head passed as amended.

Sub-Head 12—Grants, \$48,279.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the sub-item—"Special Building Grants," \$5,000—be increased by \$1,000 to \$6,000 and the total provision \$48,279 increased to \$49,279. This is to assist in defraying the cost of rebuilding the Graham's Hall Moravian School destroyed by fire some time ago. If this special grant is made it will be on condition that the new building is insured.

Question put, and agreed to.

Sub-Head passed as amended.

Sub-Head 17—Children's Breakfast Centre.

Mr. JACOB: Provision is made in the Estimates for giving children of the City of Georgetown a mid-day meal. It is a very laudable provision but I think there is greater poverty in certain parts of the country districts, and I urge that some provision be made for the country districts. I am not going to suggest Central Demerara or Eastern Demerara, as if I did that the hon. Members representing those Electoral Divisions would be opposed to it. I am going to suggest Western Essequibo, Essequibo River and North-Western District, because I know that in some parts of the Colony and particularly those parts I have named the parents are finding it extremely difficult to provide not necessarily a shirt and pants but in some cases they cannot provide the shirt even and in some cases no shoes at all. In the majority of cases in the country districts the parents can provide no shoes whatever. When a parent has to provide all these things with books being costly nowadays and then to find suitable meals for the children even once a day, I do not

think it is surprising that some children do not get two square meals per day. I think some provision ought to be made for the children in the country districts particularly in those areas I have named. They were once described as Distressed Areas, particularly Essequibo. I do not think that designation can be removed at the moment. I do not think Essequibo has passed the distressed stage as yet. I am not pressing it now, but I do urge on Government to consider carefully and see whether help cannot be given some of the children in Essequibo particularly. So far as Demerara and Berbice are concerned they are slightly better off. Essequibo and the North-West District are very badly off.

The recommendation is made on these grounds—the parents having to provide books and other equipment, clothing, etc.; residences being very far from the schools—for the provision of mid-day meals for some of the children. Their residence is so far from the school that it is not possible for them to go to school in the morning, return home for their mid-day meal and go back to school for the afternoon session. I am making the recommendation on those grounds and not on the ground that there is a lot of money to be spent. It is in the interest of humanity and the interest of the children who are half-starved. It is being done in Georgetown where the economic conditions are better, and it is known that the economic conditions in the whole of the Essequibo County are very bad indeed.

Mr. HUMPHRYS. Arising out of what the hon. Member has said I would like him to let this Council know whether he thinks it is better for the children to be half-starved and have education or for them to be fed and not have education. He has himself said they are half-starved and want all the education in the world. Let them remain half-starved and get education.

Mr. JACOB: I have never heard such illogical argument as that.

Item 20—Allowances to Youths, Kingston Trades Centre, \$1,600.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: An increase of \$100 is asked for and I feel sure it will receive the support of those hon. Members who have been shouting for vocational training,

Mr. JACOB: I think it should be more than \$100. Make it \$2,000.

Mr. SEAFORD: I would like to know the reason for this \$100 or \$2,000 increase that is being asked for. There must be some reason for it. We seem to be bringing things to a pretty past when we can get things without any explanation.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I can quite sympathize with the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) as he has not been around this table very long. I know he is on the Executive Council, but I do not know if he is on the Education Board. This is a sort of vocational training and I do not know if he has interested himself to find out what the allowances to the youths of the Kingston Trades Centre are for. All I can visualize and understand in a small way is that it is some assistance in the form of vocational training. It is an effort in that direction.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member's sarcasm is lost in this Council. I have not been a long time here but I have interested myself in visiting the Kingston Trades Centre very much often and more so than he. I had something to do with initiating the supply of instruments, materials and work for the apprentices, and I know more about vocational training than the hon. Member. What I would like to see is that whatever money is voted is properly spent, as they can get training in other places. That has always been done in the past. I will not agree to spend one cent unless I know how it is going to be used, whether on materials or drawing instruments. We talk airily on many things of which we know nothing.

THE CHAIRMAN: I take it the hon. Member desires to press his amendment.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I do. The hon. Member who took such a large part in building up this Centre no doubt realizes the necessity of the Centre otherwise he has not taken a keen interest in it. I appreciate the fact that there are other industries which lend aid to the apprentices. If you look at the note to Item 20 it would be seen it states: "Anticipated increase in the number of youths employed." On account of that it is asked that the Centre be given \$100 more. We

have heard much talk about unemployment and vocational training.

Mr. JACOB: It is true that merely saying that the amount should be increased is not sufficient. I agree. Nearly every day of the week I find young men or youths between the ages of 14 and 20 seeking employment. If they go to the recognized engineering shops—I think the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) has something to do with several of those shops—they get no employment at all. If they go to the Government Electrical Engineering Department they find the doors closed. That is because there are far too many apprentices. I think that not only \$500 should be added but \$5,000 and that would not even be sufficient. I am not a little surprised that so much objection is taken to such a paltry increase asked for. I agree that the money should be properly spent, and I take it that the money will be properly spent. I press for an increase of the vote by \$500, and I would like to make a further plea for some increase either year by year or every half year of the number of possible children who will benefit by this method and be of great use to the Colony. I do not think there should be any opposition to this increase of the vote from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I feel myself that this vote should be increased by any amount the Department think is necessary, but I have never found the Education Department backward in coming forward with anything it wishes to get. If the hon. Director would inform us that the increase is necessary, without knowing the why and wherefore I am prepared to fight for it.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member for North-Western District says all doors are closed for apprentices. The reason for that is this: You continue training apprentices and when they are finished their apprenticeship there is no employment for them. That is where the snag comes in—to find employment for them after five years of apprenticeship. There is no difficulty in taking on many more apprentices and teaching them trades, but it is to find employment for them later.

Mr. ELEAZAR: When the several Departments of Government ask for an

amount we think it is very high and try to reduce it. This Department knows its business and says it wants \$100 more, and we are saying it should be given \$500 more instead. These gentlemen without knowing the why and wherefore are saying we must give \$500 more for the Director to put in his pocket and take a journey to England or somewhere else. I cannot understand it Your Excellency, I am asking Government not to give any heed to this request.

THE CHAIRMAN: I wish to ask the hon. Director of Education if there is any reason at the moment to handle more under this vote. If there is none I would not consent to these amendments but would ask him to consider them.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: Before the hon. Director of Education replies to Your Excellency I would ask for a little more information. How many apprentices are there now at the school and if any applicants have been rejected how many during this year?

Mr. OGLE: I would like to have notice of those questions as I cannot give the information off-hand.

Mr. LEE: I would like to draw Government's attention to this fact. On the West Coast, Demerara, they have erected a new Trades Centre for vocational training. Can there be an increased number of boys at that Centre? I am sure there are many boys who will join if they know they will be admitted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The only practical way of dealing with this is as I have asked the Director.

Mr. OGLE: Without any specific reason for increasing the amount I cannot see that it should be increased.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will not accept the amendments, but will put the item as it stands.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item 21—Instruction in Woodwork and Domestic Science, Hygiene and Gardening, etc., \$2,700.

Mr. JACOB: Cannot Government make

some arrangement in regard to mechanical work? I know a case of a teacher's son who has matriculated and applied to the Government Electrical Engineer, to Booker's and to the Bauxite Company and can not get on as an apprentice in engineering. We have heard so much about "collar and tie" jobs when this vote was being debated. Here is a case where a teacher's son of 19 years matriculated at Queen's College and wants to go in for electrical engineering. He tried all the responsible places and no employment could be found for him. That is a problem Government has to face.

THE CHAIRMAN : The hon. Director will please take notice of the point.

CARNEGIE TRADE SCHOOL FOR WOMEN.

Item 22—Salaries of Teaching Staff, \$6,658.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : After hearing the hon. Colonial Secretary's reply yesterday, I am rather concerned about this vote and I am wondering whether this money is being usefully spent. I was under the impression all along that this School was doing good work and, I think, I was at pains to point out to the Council that it was my opinion it was doing some good work. Perhaps it was because I charged the Government with having adopted an unsympathetic attitude towards the School that brought the reply I received from the hon. Colonial Secretary. It is true that Government Officials are not always right; they are sometimes wrong. In this instance I am quite prepared to accept the view that Government's view is right that this school is not serving a useful purpose.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : To a point of correction! I never said that.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : From what the hon. Colonial Secretary said I formed the opinion that this school is not serving a useful purpose, if what Government said is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN : I still do not know what Government is accused of.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : The hon. Colonial Secretary said yesterday he had a number of complaints about the girls who are turned out by the school.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : I said that Government did not see its way to grant a wholesale increase of salaries and I threw out the suggestion that the Committee might give Government further information as to the future of these girls after they have passed through the institution. I gave my personal experiences and not the views of the Government, and I adhere to them. I am not the only individual in the Colony who holds that view.

THE CHAIRMAN : I think that is the correct statement. The estimates are prepared by the hon. Colonial Secretary and the hon. Colonial Treasurer and they rejected a recommendation for wholesale increases of salaries to the staff. That is the only position Government has taken up as regards the School. The hon. Colonial Secretary went on to make comments and suggestions, but it would be going much too far to say that Government considers the school unsatisfactory.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : I am accepting and agreeing with what the hon. Colonial Secretary said. I have started off by saying that since my remarks yesterday I feel very much concerned about the School. I made some enquiries and as a result I have formed the opinion now that my views were wrong. I am accepting what was said as being correct. I am disappointed. It seems that we are approaching this thing from the wrong angle. Let us put the whole thing back in the melting-pot and do not carry on as we are doing, talking about results and not getting any. I do not see why this Colony should be saddled with an expenditure of \$13,000 instead of \$9,000, as a saving can be effected. I will not be a party to this Government spending money on anything from which satisfactory results are not being obtained. It is only after what I have heard. I know it may not be easy to move the deletion of the Sub-Head. I was tempted to do that at the very beginning when I rose to speak on it. I make this observation so that the matter may be pursued further in the light of what I have stated.

If it is found that the institution has outlived its usefulness and is not giving the results we hoped for when we got the vote in 1930 or 1932, then we may decide to abolish the work that is going on there.

It is no good tinkering with the matter. We must make up our minds one way or the other. If we want to train our boys and girls to use their hands, we must make up our minds to do it properly. If the present method employed is not giving much results then we are wasting money and it is no use carrying on. Government must be prepared to face the issue. My reason for speaking strongly in the matter is that I would like to see something done properly to assist the girls who are leaving school to carry on a means of livelihood afterwards. If this school is a failure then scrap it and try something else.

Mr. JACOB: I regret to hear the remarks of the last speaker. Looking at the Board of Governors of the School I see the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) is on the Board.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: To a point of information! That is why the hon. Member for Central Demerara speaks so strongly on the subject.

Mr. JACOB: That is what I am getting at. Am I to understand that one of the Governors is condemning that institution? Do I understand him to say that from certain remarks that have fallen from the lips of the hon. Colonial Secretary a Member of the Board of Governors is now wanting to see this institution closed down? I think the remarks were made yesterday or this morning. I would like to hear something more about it. I would like to hear from the hon. Member if it is no use doing anything for the young women at all. I would like to give the hon. Member sufficient notice to come forward with the statement on the next appropriate occasion: "Having sat on the Board of the Carnegie Trade Centre I think it should be closed down".

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I think the hon. Member for Central Demerara finds himself in the horns of a dilemma to erase the impression created in the hon. Colonial Secretary's mind with regard to the increase of salaries of the Carnegie Trade Centre Staff. The reason for that may be that the hon. Member has been attempting not successfully to decrease the votes of salaries under the same Head. He thinks that because these teachers are not given an increase of salaries there is a drag on

the wheel of progress in that institution. It does appear that the hon. Member for Central Demerara who is on the Board can give us some idea—and I submit it is his duty to give us—of what he considers necessary for the better fulfilment of the objects of this particular institution.

Dr. SINGH: If my memory serves me correctly, I believe that when we accepted the grant for this school we were told that the school would be self-supporting. I want to know if there is any income from this institution.

Mr. OGLE: The income in 1940 was roughly \$7,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: \$7,486.

Mr. OGLE: The actual cost was \$5,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: The total actual expenditure was \$12,761 and the revenue \$7,486.

Mr. OGLE: I do not remember the exact figures.

THE CHAIRMAN: None of this expenditure is covered by grant?

Mr. OGLE: This total of \$13,624 is the total estimated expenditure on the institution for 1942. It was \$12,132 for 1941. \$7,000 approximately was received in revenue by the institution from the sale of goods.

THE CHAIRMAN: The position was this in 1940. It cost \$12,761 to run the institution and it brought in return \$7,486. Therefore the actual cost to us was about \$5,000.

Mr. LEE: I was thinking whether Government is not considering the question of extending the usefulness of this service to the community. If this service is extended those girls from the country districts who leave the institution can be of assistance in the country schools. They can be engaged at a small salary to teach Domestic Economy, Needlework, etc., in those schools. I am not opposed to the training of the girls of the Colony. I threw out the suggestion yesterday and I am sorry the hon. Member for Central

Demerara brushed it aside. The Kingston Trades Centre which I visit very frequently, I know, keeps in touch with the boys after they have left there, but no interest is taken in the girls by the other concern, the Carnegie Trade School. Although I have made two requests they have not yet tried to find out what becomes of the girls after they have left the institution. I want to be satisfied that this vote is being spent in the right direction and, therefore, I would like to know what becomes of those girls. Are they being trained along the right lines? I would like to hear from the hon. Member that this point will be followed up. Until that is done I will not vote one penny towards the institution.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: Does the hon. Member mean unless he gets a little more information on the subject than was given by the hon. Colonial Secretary? As far as I know those girls are followed up. It is impossible to follow up each and everyone. In answer to my enquiry I have been told that, I am surprised to hear that when the hon. Colonial Secretary asked the question he did not receive a similar answer. It is most important in work of this kind to be able to follow up the results of the work that is done. I agree with him and I make the promise that I will pursue it further. I have been told on several occasions where the girls go to and how they are getting on. I have heard good news about them and I have also heard news not quite good. I did say that I thought Government was unsympathetic towards the institution. The hon. Member for North-Western District will never follow what any other Member of this Council says, but always tries to put his own interpretation on what a Member says. I never said that girls should not receive training to fit them for after-school life. If he would only recall what I said when this debate began. I was championing the cause of the school. He cannot say that he did not hear me. I admit that he did not follow what I said but he cannot help that. My remarks were very clear. I only speak one language and, I hope, I speak it clear enough for anyone to understand. I advocated this school. I feel that this school can do and is doing good work. I am very much concerned that our girls when they leave school are fitted out for the life they will live after-

wards. Because I was of the opinion that Government was not sympathetic towards it I felt that no useful purpose would be served by continuing the school under present conditions.

Mr. JACOB: The hon. Member, I gather, wanted to move the deletion of this entire vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: No amendment has been moved. We are ventilating our grievances only.

Mr. JACOB: I wanted to move the deletion through pique. That is why I suggested the hon. Member should declare his position. This raises a very important issue. Here is an hon. Member on a particular Board. I take it that the hon. Members of this Council on Boards represent this Council and not themselves and their friends only. Public men on Public Boards represent the public. I shall have something more to say about that very shortly.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: To a point of correction! My appointment as a Member of the Board is not by Statute. I do not consider my appointment is as a Member of this Council. It is not a statutory appointment.

Mr. JACOB: I am surprised to hear that nothing done here is statutory. I see from the Civil Service List book issued officially, the hon. Member is a Member of the Board of Governors of the Carnegie Trade School for Women. If it is not by Statute then it is published to mislead the public. I claim as a Member of this Council that every hon. Member sitting on Boards and Committees has a duty to perform to this Council. It is their duty to let this Council know what is going on at the Carnegie Trade School. I think the institution is serving a good cause. My daughter has been a pupil of that school for the last two years and has benefited tremendously from the tuition she obtains there. She is going to complete her two years' course very shortly and, I believe, there are several persons who want their children to go there but cannot obtain accommodation there at the present time. I have known certain persons who tried to get in there and could not. I say the

institution is serving a very useful purpose and should continue to function in this Colony. I would like the hon. Member for Central Demerara to say whether it should be continued.

THE CHAIRMAN: The record of this debate will be passed on to those responsible and will reach the Governors of the Institution.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I want to tell the hon. Colonial Secretary that the institution is doing well and the economic value of what we are paying for now is well worth the expenditure. I know several of the girls. Some are employed in the Hospitals, and are giving a good account of themselves. Some are in the domestic service. I think it is well worth what is being spent on it, but I would like hon. Members to understand that when it comes to teaching somebody, teachers will always want more money. When teachers complain about salaries, do not take the matter seriously. The institution must be closed down as you cannot give more. If you cannot afford to give them more, let them choose between the continuance of the School and more salary. There is no question about the value of the school to the Colony.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I want my point made perfectly clear. I have said nothing to indicate that I am not in favour of the institution. I asked a simple question: "Let us have a report showing the results concerning the girls who have passed through that institution." Government has not had one single report. Government has been asked to approve of salaries for instructors at a higher rate than is paid to the two Masters at Queen's College who have served for ten and five years respectively. We know the results at Queen's College as we get reports on the boys trained for scholarships, and we know the successes and the failures. As regards this institution there is not a Member of the Executive Council who has ever seen a report indicating what is done there. That is why they will not vote a single penny more for that staff or put it in line with the staff of Queen's College.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Permit me to make one observation not as a Member of this

Council but as a member of the Board. I am simply shocked to hear what the hon. Colonial Secretary has said. I do not know whether I am to form the opinion that there seems to be some difference not between the Board of Governors and the Executive of Government but, perhaps, in some other direction. I can assure Your Excellency and this Council that I personally will make some enquiry into that. As far as I know, I have never heard of a request from the Executive Government for any information regarding the outcome of these girls after they have left the institution. My complaint has always been, as a member of the Board, that there is not that direct communication—I ask Your Excellency to note this—between the Board of Governors and the Executive Government. It seems to me that the means of approaching the Executive Government is by a circuitous route and I can only arrive at the opinion that there must be some grave difficulties along that route. I shall certainly make a very close enquiry into it because I have taken particular interest in the work of the institution even before the present Board of the Governors was formed. The hon. Colonial Secretary knows I was a member of a Committee that sat to consider what should be done with this institution when the local funds of the Carnegie Institute had run out. There was given £10,000 to put up the building and run the institution for a certain number of years, and by gradual process that money was exhausted and this Government was called upon to carry on the good work. A report was sent in to Government and as a result the Board of Governors was appointed and I was honoured with a seat on it. I do not get anything for serving on it. I mention that as a brief history of what transpired. I am surprised to know that no Executive Officer of the institution has been communicating with the hon. Colonial Secretary in the way it should be done. I am very disappointed to hear that.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not want any misunderstanding, any jumping to a conclusion. If the hon. Member asks me if I have had any communication direct with the Principal, my answer is "Yes."

Mr. JACOB: I have in my hand a

report of the Director of Education for 1939. I notice reference is made therein to the Carnegie Trade School on pages 9 and 10. Maybe the hon. Colonial Secretary has not seen that report. A report on the school is there and concludes by saying—paragraph 4—“An employment group permanently organised for sewing and tailoring supplies Government departments and the general public. The revenue received from this work was \$4,708 reducing the expenditure on the institution from \$11,154 to \$6,446.” There is a report on the school to the Government. I cannot follow this whole debate.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not know what all the fuss is about. No one is pressing to delete the vote from the Estimates, and there is no question that Government is unsympathetic towards this institution. In my address I pointed out that specific plans are actually being framed for the expansion of it. If there is no report to Government I do not know what the exact position is. Possibly it has come through the Director of Education, but it seems to me that there should be reports from the School. I was asked to go to the institution and no one in charge of it thought I had not known anything of its affairs. Such a report must be useful. When Government calls on the Board to submit a report, the hon. Member for Central Demerara will have a grand opportunity to tell us all about it.

Items passed without amendment.

Item 34—Grant to the Bishops' High School for Girls, \$4,000.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: May I ask whether the report of the previous year was sent on to Government about this school?

Mr. OGLE: I am not sure what report the hon. Member means. If he means the financial report, we have the accounts of the school for the year 1940, duly audited and received by the Department.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there another report?

Mr. DE AGUIAR: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: All we get is the financial report!

Mr. DE AGUIAR: There is an inspection of the school during the year. There is also a report made by the Principal of the school on matters affecting the school which is also made by the Department every year. My question has only been partly answered. I was dealing with the financial report. When it was agreed to give a grant to this school—I am not against the grant—the point was raised as to whether the finances of the Colony warranted it having regard to the fees collected by the school. At the time it was stated that a report would be sent in the same year the grant was voted and thereafter year by year so as to show whether the continuance of the extra sum was warranted. I am not dealing now with the other undertakings given at the time. I know it is extremely difficult to deal with that to-day, and so I postpone that. If Government is satisfied from the financial statement submitted that this sum should be voted for next year, I offer no objection. I only want to be satisfied that the report is sent in and examined.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I can assure the hon. Member that the financial report was sent in and duly considered. Government is satisfied, more than satisfied, that the amount paid is more than justified.

Mr. SEAFORD: I would like to add to that, Government would be more than satisfied because there was a loss on the year's working. I was not in the Colony when this was agreed to originally. I know what the hon. Member is speaking about as regards the building. In the present condition there is no hope of the Board of Governors carrying out any building programme. The Director of Education did visit the school and send in a report. Mr. Norman visited the school and sent in a report. I think there are three reports Government has, including the financial statement.

Item 36—British Guiana Scholarship, \$5,174.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the amount be increased by \$936 and the item carried out at \$6,110. This is to give effect to the resolution which was passed at yesterday's meeting.

MR. JACOB: I would just like to correct a slight error I made yesterday, simply for the purpose of record. I stated there were two Government Scholars in England. There are three. I do not know whether the second Scholar who has been there for over two years will benefit by his removal from place to place as in the case of Mr. Matthews.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think, I said yesterday that everyone in the United Kingdom now would benefit to the extent of £100 but one particular Scholar, the 1937 Scholar, was going to get an additional sum of £65.

Item 40—Miscellaneous, \$400.

MR. LEE: I should have brought this matter up under a previous item, but, if I may be permitted under this item, I desire to enquire what action has been taken with respect to a letter sent to Government from the Trades Union relative to two machinists who were working with a certain firm in Georgetown and were taken off the Lady Boat after they had started on a contract of service.

THE CHAIRMAN: Has your point anything to do with this item?

MR. LEE: It should be under item 23—Payments to Trainees and Bursars.

THE CHAIRMAN: We cannot go back to item 23 now. We are now at item 40.

MR. LEE: I was seeing if I can raise it now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Not unless it has direct application to the item "Miscellaneous." The hon. Member will get an opportunity to do so some other time.

MR. LEE: Very well, sir.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

Item 1—Personal Emoluments.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the following sub-item be inserted in the Estimate between (h) and (i)—"Temporary Assistance—\$135," that

sub-item (i) as printed be relettered (j) and that sub-item (j)—Temporary War Bonus \$365—be increased by \$14 and carried out at \$379. The reason for these two small amendments is that the cook and the baker are not well and they are on sick leave and this slight increase is to enable temporary employees to be taken on until the end of the year.

MR. JACOB: This is an industrial school for boys. Attention has been drawn over and over again to the need for a similar institution for girls. I wonder if it has escaped Government's notice. I hope it has not.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will be recorded that the hon. Member has drawn attention to the absence of a similar institution for girls. I have seen the papers and I know it has been under consideration by Government. This is one of the institutions which simply astounded me when I saw every window broken, and that was typical of what the institution must have been like a few months ago. Substantial repairs had been started it is true, but how long it took before the institution could pass muster. I do not know that any specific proposal has been put up, but I am surprised to find that the Head Master and boys do not attend to that and that most of it is being carried out by the Public Works Department. I cannot comment further on that because I have not sufficient knowledge of the institution.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

Item 1—Personal Emoluments.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I desire to point out a slip in the printing of sub-item (b) which reads "Assistant Commissioner of Labour." It should be "Assistant to the Commissioner of Labour."

MR. LEE: I would like to ask Government what has happened to the communication that has been sent by the Trades Union to Government in respect of two skilled workmen—machinists—who were employed by a certain firm in Water Street...

THE CHAIRMAN: Is it relevant to this item in any way?

Mr. LEE : It is in respect of labour.

THE CHAIRMAN : I do not think so. It is a specific question and the hon. Member must raise it in a specific way. I suggest that the specific way is to ask a question. We have to get on with the business of the State.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : In order to save printing and stationery I may state that a reply has been sent. The matter was referred to me. I should like to remind the hon. Member that there is a special "Reserved Occupations" Committee and Government wants to hear what that Committee has to say on the subject.

Mr. LEE : These men were taken off the boat.

Mr. JACOB : I have in my hand the report of the Department of Labour and Local Government for the year 1940. In pursuance of this report I have seen that the number of days worked by labourers was very low. I know from my personal observation that there are large numbers of people who require work and cannot get. I do not know whether it will be the future policy of this Department to make a labour register so that Members of this Council and the general public will be able to know what is the actual labour position. I think if the problem is faced by knowing exactly how many workers there are in the Colony, how many can be employed in certain and other occupations and how many can be considered as not being suitable for employment, we would get nearer a solution of the labour problem in this Colony. So far I do not think that any reliable statistics can be got. I do not know that any had been prepared. I do hope that in the future Government will face that problem and compile reliable statistics. For instance paragraph 15 of the report, page 2, states : "During the year resident piece workers obtained an average of 3.23 days work per week and resident time workers 4.53 days. Particulars of the average number of days worked by non-residents are not available."

The whole Empire is faced with a very serious problem. Nearly every day we hear of conscription of man and woman

power in the United Kingdom and other places. I think it is an opportune time to ask what is British Guiana doing. I think we are shunning the problem. I think we ought to face the problem, we ought to produce things here. Unless the problem is tackled now, unless arrangements are made to find out how you can employ all these people, I look forward to very bad times in the immediate future. I am sure we can produce very many things here. I am sure we ought to employ all the labour that is available. I merely raise it to-day so that attention can be drawn to the problem, as it is not the best thing to have so many people unemployed when the Empire is passing through a crisis. I do not know if it is the intention of Government to make an early start. I do hope that with Your Excellency's indomitable zeal for work there will be a different aspect in every Government Department, particularly the Labour Department. I think the problem ought to be investigated and remedies started almost immediately. I have merely referred to one paragraph of this report relating to regular workers in one industry. There are large numbers of people in the villages and other places who cannot get work at all. The idea that the people will not work or are lazy, I cannot subscribe to. That idea has been explored over and over. I think arrangements ought to be made to put these people on suitable lands and let them work. Having raised the question I feel sure that Your Excellency is going to see that some real work is done in the new Labour Department.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT : I think, I raised at the opening of the Council the point of the keeping of some form of register for labour. There is no doubt that those who know and come into contact with the people of the Colony have received applications from them daily, an average of 12 and perhaps more, for various jobs. It is true that some of them will tell you that they are chauffeurs, or masons, or other tradesmen. I think there ought to be some place where those persons who require employment can go and have their registration docketed with the respective spheres in which they are looking for employment. There is a great scarcity of work in certain lines, in certain spheres of activity. One hears quite a lot of persons

being able to put up a sham case and get employment up the River as carpenters. While one appreciates and likes to see people benefited in that way, on the other hand the Colony's reputation suffers. That man is working as a carpenter and the ordinary standard of the country will be judged by his standard. I see from documents I have before me that it is proposed that a man be sent out by Sir Frank Stockdale's Committee who will set up a Labour Bureau and, I think, provision is also made for a staff. I am going to ask that we do take action immediately and not sit down and just go along, as I have stated in the past mere words and no action. I am asking that something definite be done and that at the earliest possible opportunity.

With regard to the reference by the hon. Member for North-Western District as to the Labour Bureau, I am entirely in agreement with him. I had bracketed paragraph 15 of the Department's Report for 1940 for comment. Part of the troubles of labour is due to the fact that the people are only working 3.23 or 4.53 days per week, given in that paragraph. Is there going to be any attempt to induce people to work more in an industry which is one of the essential industries, I submit, in the present crisis and so receive more weekly wages? There should be a great deal of expansion. There is need for it. I am not the one to say that the sugar industry is not of considerable import and assistance to this Colony, but on the other hand I am not going to subscribe to the view that it is the only industry to be supported. I think those days are past, and those responsible for the carrying on of the industry should realize that the sooner that is realized the better it is for everyone concerned and for the lessening of friction. I feel that all these labour troubles or disputes arise out of such questions as security of tenure on the estates and must be taken into consideration as a parallel and not as antithesis to any one industry. My own view is that we ought to have a register so that we will be able to say whether we have a considerable number of unemployed or whether a considerable percentage of those are unemployable. I would like to point out that while it may not have a particular bearing on the particular vote in question it has some indirect relation thereto. If we are not go-

ing to have constant employment when the inhabitants of the City are in bodily health and strength and are able to work, what future have they to look forward to when they arrive at an age when they are unable to work?

I have no greater authority than Mr. Hall, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State who was out here. He referred to the matter in the British Parliament in 1940. He said that it is the duty of the State to see that all the people have an adequate income when they retire from active employment owing to old age. That reference was to Old Age Pension. He sees the necessity for an Old Age Pension Scheme, but we have not got that in this Colony. I had moved it and a committee was set up and sent in its report. \$187,000 will perhaps make it possible for a small start. I do not think that is too much to ask any colony to put up in regard to that. I had intended to refer to it before Mr. Hall himself came down to investigate informally conditions in these Colonies. I am sure from his own statement he realizes the necessity for it here as well as in other parts of the Empire. Even after active employment it is the duty of the State to support or assist persons, and I am going to suggest—I am not for one moment saying that Government is to be blamed as Government has not been able to do anything—that Government take the lead and it will get a great deal of assistance. We have heard it said here that there was once a vacancy in the Government Service at \$20 per month and there were 400 applications. That was urged as an argument in support of the great desire for “collar and tie” jobs as against any other. I feel sure that if a register is instituted—it should be instituted at once—and it is known that persons can have their names docketed and every assistance given to place those persons in a job, full advantage would be taken of it. We do not want to report that there were only 1,200 casual jobs obtained during the year. That is the trouble. It is the casualness of the job obtainable. I am of the opinion that it is not so much a question of the rates and wages per day or per job as it is that. I feel sure that if regular and continuous employment is given, the whole of this question would subside and there would be very little anxiety on the part of the Commissioner of Labour

in connection with labour. I do ask that whatever projects Government has in view or on the tapis may be put into operation as early as possible.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Does the hon. Member suggest that a register be kept? There has been a register for years.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I take it for granted when speaking of a register that the reply does not refer to a register as kept in England for unemployment relief or unemployment insurance as we know it on the other side, and therefore I mean a register whereby these things can be seen.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: A register is there but the trouble is to find work for the people who are registered.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: That is the reason why there is no registration. What I am saying is that even if a register is kept there should be some co-ordination between that department and the Departments of Government.

Mr. JACOB: I want to ask the hon. Colonial Secretary if he was serious when he said that there is a register.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Quite serious. I suggest that the hon. Member should go and examine it.

Mr. JACOB: If Government is serious that a register is kept of people who are not employed, I would like the Commissioner of Labour to repeat that statement.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not mean that the register includes all the unemployed. What I mean is a register in which applicants have their names entered.

Mr. JACOB: I have had considerable experience in this matter. I have known that at times when able-bodied workmen cannot find work at suitable or convenient places and have been told by the Labour Department to go and register their names at the Bureau, they have gone there and done so, they have traversed the whole City and gone all over the country and not got work. After a man has done that for a

few weeks he simply ignores the Bureau. The Labour Bureau is serving no useful purpose and should be closed down and all its papers destroyed. It is wasted work and misapplied energy. I want to forget the past next year when we have the new Labour Officer and a real progressive step is being taken and a proper register kept. I hope that will be the means of doing some real constructive work. I merely throw out the suggestion that some real constructive work ought to be done. I am glad that the hon. Member for Western Essequibo is thinking the same way. I have not raised the question only now, but I have been doing so at the last two annual sessions. I have received the rebuff that no useful purpose will be served in doing so. Times have changed since then. There is a new outlook, and that will bring us real progress in the future. I want to mobilize the labour forces in this Colony and utilize them. I want to know how many able-bodied men are on the sugar plantations, in the rice fields, on the village farms, etc. In other words I want to know how many people we can muster at any time for any particular work. I want to see Land Settlement started and the Labour Department taking an active part in putting the people on the land. I feel sure that something is going to be done, but I have only raised it so that it may remain on record and Government will be able to see that certain hon. Members are thinking along those lines.

Mr. ELEAZAR: What I am concerned about is this entirely new department that is being created. I want to ask Government seriously if Government really intends to start that new department on \$23,000 and call it a Labour Department. Your Excellency was surprised to hear hon. Members harping back on the past, but when I tell you that the people of British Guiana, although they have deaf ears, have very sharp and very keen eyes and see everything that is going on. During the years I have been in this Council I have had much experience. This is the thin edge of the wedge now and after a couple of years it will be a tremendous department with an expenditure by Government of thousands of dollars.

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