

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.*Friday, 21st December, 1934.*

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, SIR CRAWFORD DOUGLAS-JONES, Kt., C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. P. W. King, (Acting).

The Hon. the Attorney General, Mr. Hector Josephs, K.C., B.A., LL.M. (Cantab.), LL.B. (Lond.).

The Hon. T. T. Smellie, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

Major the Hon. W. Bain Gray, M.A., Ph.D. (Edin.), B. Litt. (Oxon), Director of Education.

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

The Hon. R. E. Brassington (Western Essequibo).

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo (Eastern Berbice).

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

Major the Hon. J. C. Craig, D.S.O., M.E.I.C., Director of Public Works.

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, M.B.E., Colonial Treasurer (Acting).

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

The Hon. J. Mullin, M.I.M.M., F.S.I., Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

The Hon. B. R. Wood, M.A., Dip. For. (Cantab.), Conservator of Forests.

The Hon. J. A. Henderson, M.B., Ch.B. B.Sc. (P.H.), (Edin.), D.T.M. & H. (Edin.) Surgeon-General.

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

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

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

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

The Hon. F. J. Seaford (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 20th December, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.**DISPOSAL OF BILLS.**

The Colonial Secretary (Mr. P. W. King) gave notice that at a later stage in the day he would move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable the following Bills to be taken through their remaining stages:—

A Bill to authorise the making of Orders in Council for the purpose of effecting economies in expenditure with respect to the remuneration of persons in the Public Service.

A Bill to continue certain expiring laws.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Before the Council proceeds with the Order of the Day may I ask that these Bills be taken at 12 o'clock to-day, if that would suit hon. Members?

Mr. ELEAZAR: Might we not take item VI. as well? I do not think there will be any trouble about it.

THE PRESIDENT: We might take items VI, VII, VIII, and IX.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not know much about item IX. (Laughter).

DEATH OF SIR JOSEPH NUNAN.

Mr. CANNON: May I be permitted, sir, to make reference to a cablegram which was received last evening announcing the death of our late Attorney-General? I wish to say that although he has not been with us for many years I certainly think those of us who had the pleasure of serving with him still recollect the type of officer he was. I may say that I have lost a friend. He was at any time always willing to assist me in any form whatever. He was always ready with his kindly advice. There were times, of course, when we crossed swords in this Chamber, but more often than not it was in a friendly spirit. We crossed swords when he had to maintain the dignity of his office, which did not always find favour with me, but that did not prevent me holding him in the highest possible esteem, and for myself—I have not discussed it with any of my colleagues—I wish to express my deepest regret at his death.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I wish to associate myself with all that has been said by the hon. Member.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I should also like to join in the tribute paid to the memory of the deceased gentleman. I have not been very intimately connected with him, but I think he has been of great assistance to the New Amsterdam Municipality—in 1916, I think it was. We appreciated the help he gave us on that occasion and recorded our appreciation of the very valuable service he rendered to the Municipality. He was undoubtedly a great figure in this community, one who was very much interested in the development of the Colony. I think he was regarded on all hands as a great personality, a man of unassuming and gentlemanly bearing, and I think he gave of his best to this Colony. (Hear, hear).

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I would also like to add my tribute. I was very intimately associated with Sir Joseph Nunan, and while I did not always agree with him I was always greatly impressed with his abounding fidelity and his constant effort to do something to further the development of this Colony. I also remember many kindly acts personal to myself from him. There can be no doubt that he was always willing to serve this Colony

and that he was an outstanding personality in public and official life.

THE PRESIDENT: I appreciate the remarks which have been made and steps will be taken to convey the sympathies of hon. Members to Sir Joseph Nunan's relatives.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1935.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Item 1 (11)—1 Woman Inspector of Schools (\$2,400—\$2,640—\$120), \$1,200.

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education): I had almost concluded my remarks when the Committee adjourned yesterday afternoon, in explanation of the need for an appointment of this nature. It must be obvious to anyone who thinks about it, that there are many duties in connection with the training of young children which a woman Inspector can do a great deal better than a man can, and it is becoming the universal practice in all Education Departments to include at least one woman. I think I also mentioned that in Trinidad the last Committee reported that there was need for another one. We agreed that we might make just one appointment, and I think the time has come to make an appointment.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I ask you, sir, either to delete the item or leave it over because since yesterday I am more convinced than ever that we do not want a woman Inspector. More than that, I have discovered from "The Daily Chronicle" newspaper that she is going to get \$220 per month while the maximum salary of the male Inspector is \$150. It grieves me to think that the whole community is against the item and that the Government majority will carry it through. It has come up every year: can't it be put down for another year? I can foresee the failure of having a woman Inspector. Can she be sent to outlying districts? Where is she going to sleep? I appeal to Government

not to use the power it has in carrying the item.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am sorry that the Director of Education has not yet even convinced me of the necessity for this woman Inspector. It seems to me that this is going to be in the nature of an experiment which is likely to cost the Colony a lot of money. First of all, we are told that she is to come on contract for three years and her salary is fixed at a maximum of \$2,640. Before the experiment is over we are liable to be saddled with something like \$7,000, and I am not sure that at the end of the term we will be told it was satisfactory. My suspicions are that at the end of the term, unless Government gives an undertaking to-day, she will find her way on the Fixed Establishment. I do not think this is the time for us to embark upon these grandiose schemes. We have been doing without a woman Inspector for years. Government would be well advised to leave it alone.

Mr. AUSTIN: May I suggest that it be carried out at \$1,440 rising to \$1,550? In addition we are going to vote a travelling allowance. What Government is paying those ladies in the Colony who are doing much the same work compares very unfavourably with what it is proposed to give the woman Inspector.

Mr. WIGHT: I am entirely against this. We have done without it for a long time and we can remain as we are at present.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I also support the deletion of the item. We are getting on fairly alright without a woman Inspector and I understand further that the Inspectors are being kept in office all the time, therefore there is no need for an Assistant Inspector. One of the two Inspectors is being kept in the office to do office work, which shows there is no necessity for a third.

Major BAIN GRAY: No such statement was made. I did not suggest or convey that in any way. What I referred to was one officer being engaged at the Teachers' Training Centre. There is no suggestion that any officer is kept in the office.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I did not sug-

gest that the Director had said so. I said that information had reached me. I think the Director's answer should be whether it is a fact or not.

Major BAIN GRAY: It is not a fact. There is no Inspector kept in office all the time.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I join the hon. Member for Berbice River in asking Your Excellency to defer consideration of this matter. From Your Excellency's Speech it would appear that we are budgeting for a large deficit. The matter might well be allowed to stand over. It is no use proceeding with the matter which is causing a great deal of opposition to the Education vote.

Major BAIN GRAY: Government proposes to defer consideration of the matter chiefly from the point of view of the salary and the expressions of opinion. The matter of salary will be reconsidered, and if necessary the question will be brought up again.

Item deleted.

Item 2—Grants to Primary Schools—Existing Schools, \$334,295.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I ask that this sum be increased, if possible, or that something should be done to give teachers the honorarium they previously received. Before the advent of the present Director, and for some time since, teachers received from the Government an honorarium of \$25 for every pupil teacher trained successfully by the headmaster, and \$25 also for every pupil who passed the Primary Scholarship Examination. To-day that is absolutely withdrawn. A schoolmaster is supposed to teach the teachers and pupils for scholarship without any remuneration. What is the alternative? In every school I know the headmaster has resorted to the expedient of making the children pay for such preparation. A private scholarship class is organised and every child pays. Very often clever children whose parents cannot afford to pay are left out. Every child should have the opportunity to sit for the scholarship. That part of the Code has been left out entirely by the Department. If Government cannot give the headmasters an honorarium of \$25 it should give them \$15 or \$10. Those who

can pay might pay, but those who cannot should still be taught. Very often the best children are not trained at all.

Major BAIN GRAY: It is all a matter of money. It was an economy made in 1930. A considerable sum of money was involved, varying from \$2,000 to \$5,700 in one year, so that it was one of the reductions made in the late Sir Gordon Guggisberg's regime in the interest of economy.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The effect is that the majority of the children, being poor, are not trained at all, while the headmaster tries to get his little bit back from the others.

Major BAIN GRAY: We do hear these rumours about schoolmasters charging fees, and perhaps it is better to give it publicity. It is entirely against the principles of the law and the Code that fees should be charged for primary education, and the Department is strongly opposed to the practice if it does exist. We do hear these rumours, but we have not had a definite complaint from parents or schoolmasters, or anybody who can give first-hand information.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am giving you first-hand information, but I say it is wrong for you to withdraw it.

Major BAIN GRAY: No hon. Member can give me a substantial case.

Mr. LUCKHOO: We are expending large sums of money on primary education and I should like to see headmasters taking an interest in all the children in the schools. Poor children should not be deprived of the benefits of full and free instruction. It seems to me a severe indictment against the schoolmasters. I know that for purposes of economy the practice of giving schoolmasters an honorarium was discontinued, but I do not like the flavour of the remark that they are paying attention to those children who are more favourably placed, while those whose parents cannot pay are deprived of what they should get under the Code. It is a most serious state of affairs. If we pay for free and compulsory education all children should get the benefit of it. I shall certainly make inquiries into the matter. I know there is some truth in

the statement made by the hon. Member and the matter should be gone into.

Mr. ELEAZAR: There is no going into the matter. I can call the names of several schoolmasters, but it is not fair to those men to withdraw all they used to get and tell them that they must do the work without remuneration. There is nothing in the Code which says he must train scholars for scholarship. The schoolmaster goes out of his way to train for these competitive examinations a child who would benefit from a scholarship. Government having withdrawn the allowance the parents say that rather than their children be not trained at all they would pay for their tuition.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member's allegations will be investigated.

Item 6—Grant to Berbice High School for Girls, \$750.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I desire to make a special plea on behalf of the Berbice High Schools for Boys and Girls. The Canadian Mission has been the pioneer of secondary education in the County of Berbice. For many years we had been deprived of any secondary education in the County. Protests were lodged from time to time and public meetings held protesting against such unfair treatment. The Canadian Mission stepped into the breach and inaugurated in New Amsterdam in the first instance a Boys' High School. I have a very vivid recollection of Sir Cecil Clementi presiding over one of the meetings. That school has grown to a large extent and a Girls' High School has also been established by the Mission. When we consider that Georgetown is provided with Queen's College and other secondary schools it does seem to me very necessary that every possible support and encouragement should be given to the Canadian Mission in its laudable efforts to provide secondary education for the people in the County of Berbice.

We are not so favourably situated as in Demerara where there is a train service, and certain facilities and concessions are allowed to children attending schools. In Berbice the children have to travel from all parts of the County to attend the schools, and I have made an appeal to

Government in the matter of providing additional travelling facilities for pupils living on the Corentyne Coast. At present they have to travel by 'bus, and the cost works out at about \$4.80 per month for each scholar. Some of the children live about 20 miles from New Amsterdam. Representations were made to Government that if a grant were given arrangements could be made with the 'bus owners to convey the children to the schools which are open to the entire community. In the cause of education Government should not scruple to give the fullest advantage to the people resident in Berbice. It is not an unreasonable request that the Mission should be assisted in its laudable effort. I have submitted a petition on the subject but I have not heard from Government. I therefore thought it necessary to bring the matter to the notice of Government. The recent successes of the Schools justify me in making that request. I am making an earnest request to Government that a sum might be placed on the Estimate to increase the grant by \$300 to meet the requirements of that School.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I had intended to ask that Government increase the grant to \$1,500, but for a different reason. I do not think Government should assist people in getting to school. My reason for asking for an increase is that the Girls' High School has been without a headmistress for nearly two years because of the necessity for economy. That School is certainly doing very good service, and I ask that the grant be made the same as that given to the Boys' School so that it can be provided with a more efficient staff. It only wants an enterprising 'bus owner to cater for the children coming from the Corentyne. It pays the man who takes them from Cumberland to New Amsterdam and back.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I must support the suggestion made by the hon. Member for Eastern Berbice, and I suggest that if and when Government can increase the vote it should be a grant direct to the School authorities, on the understanding that the fees for County Scholarships payable to the School will be reduced correspondingly. It is a fact that the Railway provides passages at a very small figure to pupils attending Queen's College, and, of course,

it is greatly to the advantage of parents and children residing in Berbice that there is a subvention payable to this School. If the Canadian Mission were not assisted in this way there would be no provision of secondary education in Berbice for either boys or girls. For that reason I think the grant should be increased. I do not think \$300 would be required; I think it could be made less. However, that is a matter of computation.

So far as the appeal of the hon. Member for Berbice River is concerned, I understood him to suggest that the sum of \$750 in respect of the Girls' School be increased. That is a great necessity. The lady who came out as Principal has got married and her place has never been filled. I am not suggesting that the present Head Teacher is not efficient, but I do not think she is a graduate, and although she is quite competent within her limits, the School has not a Mistress who is a graduate, which is necessary in the case of secondary education. I cannot conceive that we should remain in the position in Berbice, having to contribute towards the subsidy to the Bishop's High School in Georgetown, without providing the means of replacing the graduate who has left the School. It is an absolute necessity.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I am very grateful to the two hon. Members for their advocacy to have the grant increased. It does not matter whether they agree with the reasons assigned by me or not. My main object is to get the grant increased in order to provide teaching facilities. If a greater amount were placed at the disposal of the authorities they would be able to make the necessary arrangements. With respect to the Girls' School, I think it could have obtained a Mistress to carry it on. The present acting Mistress is very capable, energetic and zealous. The one aim is to afford better facilities for children attending the Schools. The Canadian Mission is doing what Government should have done years ago.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I believe Government will give the matter favourable consideration. I also desire to make an appeal on behalf of another secondary school, the Convent, the grant in respect of which has been deleted from the Esti-

mate. I think it can be said with equal force that the work in that school has been efficient in every way, and I feel sure that Government will favourably consider both items.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: While I cannot speak on an item that has been struck out—the grant of \$360 to St. Joseph's Intermediate School—in respect of which I have presented a petition to Government that it be continued, if Government has decided that it cannot continue the grant it might be added to that of the Berbice High School for Girls. I think it is useless appealing to Government to continue the grant to St. Joseph's School.

Mr. CANNON: There is no doubt that we have a powerful team representing Berbice, and I do not wish to say anything that would detract from their getting what they are asking for, but I cannot sit here and allow them to get away with the goods all the time. I therefore wish to associate myself with the appeal made by my friend the hon. Member for Central Demerara. I think if there is any school to be considered it should be the Convent where they are doing excellent work. It is quite fresh in my mind the reason why the vote was struck out, and I think the time is ripe for it to be replaced.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I thank the hon. Member for New Amsterdam for being able to give very cogent reasons why the vote should be increased to \$1,500. His point is that if the grant is increased the School authorities might be able to charge a smaller fee for children coming from the country, and also enable them to appoint a Principal.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am sorry I do not represent any constituency. We heard at the beginning of the session of cutting our coats according to our cloth. I hope that in all these cases where recommendations are made for increases we are going to be told where the money is to come from.

Mr. CANNON: I never suggested the cutting of any coat. From the outset I said I was prepared to vote anything that was asked for on this occasion, and I have no doubt that my friend will on this occasion support education.

THE CHAIRMAN: As regards the

recommendation made by the hon. Member in regard to granting travelling facilities to pupils attending the schools in New Amsterdam, I think that would be a very dangerous precedent indeed, and I do not think Government, without very careful consideration, could accept it. I would like to hear the Director of Education with regard to increasing the grant to the Berbice High School for Girls in order that they might obtain a Headmistress. That seems to me a very reasonable request.

Major BAIN GRAY: On this occasion I am in the peculiar position of being in agreement with the hon. Member for Berbice River. (Laughter). There is no doubt that to organise and conduct a secondary school for girls in this Colony there ought to be at least one Mistress who is a graduate, and preferably somebody who has had experience in another country. They were fortunate in getting a very good Head Mistress but she got married soon after she came to the Colony. I do not suggest that the present acting Mistress is deficient in any way. I think she is one of the most capable young women we have in this Colony, but she would be the first to recognise the fact that she would benefit by having a Head Mistress who has had opportunities which she has not had. I would willingly agree to an addition to the grant. The only thing is that it is peculiarly the province of the Education Committee, and it might be well if I asked that it be considered by the Committee. It is definitely the province of the Committee to recommend grants to secondary schools, and it might just raise the question of the position of the other schools in Georgetown. There is no doubt a 99 per cent. case for assistance.

THE CHAIRMAN: In view of what the Director has said I am prepared to accept the suggestion to increase the grant to \$1,500, subject to the recommendation of the Education Committee that the money should be spent.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item increased to \$1,500.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I would ask for the views of the Director with regard to my

request for the renewal of the grant to the Convent.

Major BAIN GRAY : It raises a series of other questions in connection with the education of girls in Georgetown. I personally have no objection. It was not withdrawn on my suggestion or on the suggestion of Government. The matter must receive the consideration of the Education Committee.

Mr. LUCKHOO : I am sure the Director will get the support of the Education Committee on both items.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I am sure you will get opposition for reasons which were debated in this Council.

Major BAIN GRAY : The position as regards the Ursuline Convent is a strong one but requires further consideration by the Committee and Government. I will give a definite undertaking that it will be considered at the first opportunity.

Item 27—Passage of woman Inspector of Schools, \$183—deleted.

Item 28—Visit of Mr. A. Wright, \$515.

Major BAIN GRAY : This item can be deleted also. I have just had information that the visit will be carried out without expense to this Colony.

Item deleted.

The Council resumed.

BARTICA-POTARO ROAD.

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works) : I beg to move :—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 7 of the 5th of November, 1934, this Council approves of the acceptance of a further loan of £8,500 from the Colonial Development Fund for the purpose of effecting improvements to the surfacing and bridges of the Bartica-Potaro Road between 91½ miles and 12¾ miles on the old Potaro Road, subject to interest at the rate of 3½% per annum being paid thereon and the capital sum repaid by equated annuities within 20 years from the date of each advance.

The position of the road is very clearly stated in the Message. The road beyond Garraway Stream is a very old road and was never intended for the heavy traffic

that goes over it now. The reason for this loan is to strengthen that road to take the heavy traffic. There is a portion of the road from Bartica to Potaro, at 91½ Miles, which has been corduroyed, but that method of construction is not sufficiently strong for the heavy traffic. It is proposed to replace that with macadam which will be obtained quite near to the site.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I certainly have very great pleasure indeed in being in the peculiar position to agree with Government once at least. I think we should get money where we can because we need it, and for more reasons than one. This piece of road does not by any means provide a pleasure trip. The Attorney-General will support that. I do not think he would like to go back there for love. He might go for money.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL : Certainly, for love. (Laughter).

Mr. ELEAZAR : If I got a good fee I would go back, but I do not think I would go for love. (Laughter). Work is a necessity. I have great pleasure indeed in seconding the motion and in congratulating Government in using some foresight and good administration.

Mr. SEAFORD : I see that the money is to be borrowed at the rate of 3½ per cent. I do not know much about financing, but in the case of the sea defence I think it was borrowed at 3 per cent. Is there a difference between the two ?

THE PRESIDENT : One is borrowed in the open market. This will be from the Colonial Development Fund, and the rate of interest has been fixed at 3½ per cent., and when ordinary borrowing was about 4 per cent.

Mr. SEAFORD : That is correct, but in view of the fact that we can borrow at 3 per cent. to-day, is it necessary to borrow from the Colonial Development Fund ? I think there is money in the Colony to be had at 3 per cent. to-day.

Mr. CANNON : Borrow from the Imperial Government when there is no chance of repaying. I compliment my friend who has at least realised what I told him at the opening of the session—

let us pass everything. We would have been finished to-day instead of having to come back here in the new year. I wish to associate myself with the motion. If Government can get double the amount it should get it even at 5 per cent.

THE PRESIDENT: We will go into the question of the interest.

Motion put, and agreed to.

DISPOSAL OF BILLS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable the following Bills to be taken through their remaining stages:—

A Bill to authorise the making of Orders in Council for the purpose of effecting economies in expenditure with respect to the remuneration of persons in the Public Service.

A Bill to continue certain expiring laws,

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

PUBLIC SERVICE ECONOMY BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move the second reading of "A Bill to authorise the making of Orders in Council for the purpose of effecting economies in expenditure with respect to the remuneration of persons in the Public Service." I do not think it is necessary to say anything as regards the purpose of the Bill, the provisions of which are well known. It is merely a repetition of the Bill which has been introduced into the Council for the last three or four years, from year to year, and its object is to make provision for the Governor in Council to make Orders for the abatement of the salaries of certain Civil Servants.

Mr. SMELLIE: I rise to second the Bill for the sake of discussion. I am not in favour of it. (Hear, hear). I think the time has arrived when the abatements which were made in the salaries of the Service should be restored (Hear, hear). The only point that troubles me is that the sum of money required is about \$50,000. Where is it to come from? We have exceeded the expenditure by nearly \$400,000. We are told that \$150,000 is being used for Public Works

Extraordinary, and most of the remainder for the replacement of certain rolling stock and a steamer of the Transport Department. With regard to the last item I have always said that it was a great shame when the Imperial Government took away the funds that belonged to the Harbour Board and the Transport Department for that purpose, and those amounts are now being added to our expenditure when we should be in a position to give the \$50,000 back to Government Officers. It is a very bad thing to have a discontented staff, and rumours lately give me the impression that the junior officers of the Service who are suffering from this "cut" are very discontented. On those grounds I am strongly in favour of the "cut" being restored.

Mr. CANNON: I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. Nominated Member. I have always been opposed to the "cut" and it gives me very great pleasure to support the hon. Member and I heartily endorse what he has said. We should knock it out and let the Secretary of State know and appreciate that there is still a little bit of "guts" left in us.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I have very great pleasure in supporting the abolition of the Bill. I do not believe in giving officers increases of salary here and there, but I do feel that it is a grave wrong to tax one section of the community by taking away a portion of their salaries. It is not economy but parsimony, which cannot be justified at all. I do not want anybody's salary increased by a penny, but let them have all they have been getting before. If it is possible I would ask Your Excellency not to allow the Officials to vote on the Bill because if they do they will have to say "Aye." Let the Unofficial Members vote alone and decide the question for them. Since we cannot give them more, give them what is theirs.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I would like to associate myself with the various speakers. I was rather astonished when I did not hear in Your Excellency's Speech a pronouncement that the salary abatement would be withdrawn. I well remember that at the last Annual Session the hope was expressed that next year the balance of the abatement would be restored. In

addition to the "cut" there are quite a number of officials who have to pay income tax, and a very high tax at that. Surely the people of the Colony, while we have the privilege of expressing our opinions on the expenditure, should have some say as to what we should pay our officials, and I certainly do not think that the Secretary of State will withhold his assent when he knows that it is the unanimous wish of the Elected Members and of the people of the Colony.

Mr. DIAS: It was a year ago, I think, that I joined in a debate on the salaries which had been withheld from Public Officers at a time when it was necessary to vote that the "cut" should be restored to them. I then said that if not the whole a portion of the "cut" should be restored, and I was glad to see at a later period a portion of it was restored to them. I certainly expected to find the remaining portion placed on the Estimate for next year so that officers would receive their full salaries. I was very disappointed to find that had not been done. I am not prepared to support Government's proposal that the "cut" should be continued. It was the boast of Government, and rightly too, that those officers who suffered the "cut" had contributed their quota towards the hard times the Colony was undergoing, but even a worm turns, and I have no doubt that many an officer has had to tighten his belt in order to keep himself in a condition to be able to go on hoping that the time would not be far distant when he would have his salary restored to him. I think that time has come now, and it is necessary to revise the Estimates in order to see whether any savings can be effected.

As Your Excellency knows, I have a personal aversion to personal allowances. I sat on a Committee some years ago which worked very hard in considering these allowances. On this occasion there were a few on the Estimate, but Government withdrew them from the consideration of the Council. If there is anything that will encourage officers to apply for personal allowances it is the withholding of a portion of their salaries, because after all they cannot flourish on their salaries. I am sorry I cannot vote with Government on this occasion because I think it would be doing an injustice to those officers,

Mr. SEAFORD: It is hardly necessary for me to say that I am not in favour of the Bill. At the same time I must agree with the remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Smellie. It occurs to me that should the powers-that-be rule that the expenditure must not be increased, there are certain items on the Estimate that could be cut out in order to make up for the \$50,000 required to restore the salaries of Government Officers. I feel that Government has broken faith with the Service. (Hear, hear). It is not the fault of the local Government but that of the Colonial Office. It should be made clear to the powers-that-be that before any extra expenditure is incurred Government Officers should have their salaries restored.

Mr. AUSTIN: I am going to vote against the Bill. The abatement should never have been introduced, and has been kept on far too long. (Hear, hear). We ought to have removed the "cut" some time ago, but we were told we could not do so and we had to toe the line. The time has come when we should try to make good the salaries of those officers who have suffered from what is to all intents and purposes a breach of faith. Whether Government has been wrong in spending money in directions in which it should not have done has nothing to do with the Civil Service. It is a matter of policy between Government and the Secretary of State. I feel that we are only righting a wrong which should be done as soon as possible.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I am going to vote against the Bill because I think Civil Servants are justly entitled to have their salaries restored. It must be remembered that they are also taxpayers and bear their share of taxation. It has been said that they have taken the "cut" very cheerfully. It does not appear to me that they were ever cheerful over the whole situation, but it would be a pleasure to them to know that the Elected and Nominated Members are to-day endeavouring to assist them. I suggest that Government should at once send a cablegram to the Secretary of State informing him of the decision arrived at so that there should be no misunderstanding. Your Excellency has definitely stated that the Secretary of State has not been able to approve of the discontinuance of the abatement of Civil Servants' salaries,

and that the levy will be continued during 1935 at the existing rates. I think your hands would be strengthened if you got a unanimous vote of the Electives on this matter and took immediate steps to inform the Secretary of State of the position of the Council. I think that would be a wise step to take, and I hope the "cut" will be removed and that Civil Servants will enjoy a happy Christmas.

Mr. WOOLFORD: It was on my motion that a partial abatement was given the Civil Servants. I do not think it is generally realised that this "cut" has been in existence for the past three years. Memories are short, and I know from personal knowledge that the Civil Servants, however loyal their attitude may have been, were never ready and willing to accept it.

Mr. CANNON: Is it permissible to have an open vote on this matter? My reason for asking the question is because of the delicate position in which the Government Section are placed. I would like the Colonial Office to know that the entire Council is unanimous.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Government Officials cannot vote.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am against the Bill for the simple reason that I think Government can easily effect a sufficient saving to cover the \$50,000, and certainly it is the first duty of the Government to restore Civil Servants' salaries. I believe the "cut" has caused dissatisfaction and perhaps some disloyalty, and I believe if it were removed it would result in better co-operation between the Departments.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I understand the amount required is \$40,000.

THE PRESIDENT: It is \$41,000 in respect of 1935.

Mr. WIGHT: I am entirely against the Bill. I see no reason for it. I think Government Officers have behaved very well indeed and I was very pleased to hear the Hon. Mr. Smellie second the motion and make the remarks he made. I cannot see any difficulty in getting the \$41,000. Even if it is brought up on Supplementary Estimate the money will be found. One view of the matter hon. Members have not taken, and that is: why should Gov-

ernment Officers alone contribute \$41,000 of the \$150,000 required for unemployment relief works? The money paid to Government Officers goes back into circulation and most of it goes back to Government

Mr. DE AGUIAR: It is very seldom that Members are so unanimous on any subject. (Hear, hear). I agree with the previous speaker that the Bill should not have been brought before the Council. It seems to me that we are asked to perpetuate the injustice which was done to Civil Servants some years ago. I am totally against it.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I also rise to oppose the Bill. I think we would be doing justice to the Civil Servants by restoring to them what is really theirs. I think the abatement was an unfair act on the part of Government. Their salaries were abated without their consent, and I do not think that procedure can be adopted in any private concern. I think the time has arrived when the salaries should be restored.

Mr. GONSALVES: It seems to me that I am the last to speak, and I am going to support my colleagues. I oppose the Bill on the ground that I understand from the Government that the financial position of the Colony has improved. The position having improved, Government Officers are entitled to have given back what was taken away from them.

THE PRESIDENT: I feel certain that the Civil Service as a whole will appreciate the remarks which have been made by all Unofficial Members of the Council. At the same time the Bill is part of Government's financial policy for 1935, and that being so I cannot put it to the open vote of the Council.

Mr. CANNON: If my request to you cannot be entertained I suggest that Government Members should not be allowed to vote.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a matter on which Government Members must vote in favour of Government's policy.

The Council divided and voted:—

Ayes.—Dr. Henderson, Messrs. Wood,

Mullin, D'Andrade, McDavid, Major Craig, Professor Dash, Major Bain Gray, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Secretary.—10.

Noes.—Messrs. Walcott, Peer Bacchus, Seaford, Austin, Dr. Singh, De Aguiar, Gonsalves, Eleazar, Wight, Cannon, Woolford, Luckhoo, Brassington, Dias, and Smellie.—15.

Mr. WOOLFORD : I am a little out of order, but as I may not have an opportunity perhaps you will allow me to mention the matter now. On page 89 of the Estimate the Pure Water Supply vote of \$37,680 is charged against general revenue. It should not be so. It is properly charged against loan account. I mention that because the previous expenditure was charged to loan account.

Mr. CANNON : I do not agree with the hon. Member. I think things should be allowed to remain as they are. It is going to be a test case. I am very pleased at the record established to-day. For the several years I have been a Member of this Council I do not think we have ever been so unanimous on any measure as we have been to-day. I congratulate my colleagues.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : In view of the vote which has just been given, it does seem a bit of ingratitude that I should have to move the second reading of a Bill which imposes taxes on other people. I beg to move that "A Bill to continue certain expiring laws" be read a second time. Those laws are The Sugar (Temporary) Excise Duty Ordinance, 1935 (No. 2) and The Bill of Entry Tax Ordinance, 1932 (No. 8). Both are familiar to the Council. They were passed last year and were continued in 1934. Unfortunately, we will have to continue them in 1935 also. The Bill of Entry Tax imposes a tax on certain goods coming into the Colony. The other Ordinance imposes certain Excise Duty on sugar produced in the Colony.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Bill passed the Committee stage without amendment.

The Council resumed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : I move that the Bill be read a third time.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question "That this Bill be now read a third time and passed," put and agreed to.

Bill read the third time.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. CANNON : In view of what we have just achieved and the approach of Christmas, I suggest that we adjourn now until after the Christmas holidays. I have not consulted any of my colleagues but Your Excellency might get an expression of opinion on the suggestion.

Mr. BRASSINGTON : We have been sitting continuously and have had very little time for our own business, or to indulge in Christmas shopping. I support the hon. Member's request that the Council be adjourned until after the Christmas holidays.

Mr. LUCKHOO : I desire to join in the request, especially in view of the position of the Members who live in Berbice. I think it is a very thoughtful suggestion on the part of the hon. Member for Georgetown North.

Mr. ELEAZAR : Only 20 minutes remain before the time for the luncheon adjournment, and I think the time should be passed in a little pleasantries. We should adjourn at one o'clock and return next year happy to see one another's faces. We should not go into any controversial matters now which might interrupt that feeling.

THE PRESIDENT : I am in the hands of hon. Members. We have been a little slower in getting through the Estimates than I hoped we would. Government is in no hurry about it, and I suggest that

we should not meet again until January 8, if that date would be convenient to Unofficial Members. I desire to take this opportunity to wish all Members of the Council a merry Christmas and all happiness throughout the new year.

Mr. CANNON: May I be permitted to thank you, sir, and to extend hearty wishes to you and your family, and to all the Government Members at this table.

Mr. SMELLIE: I desire to join in wishing you, Lady Douglas-Jones and every member of your family a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mr. ELEAZAR: May I be permitted to add my quota and to thank you, sir, exceedingly for the patience you have had with me (Laughter). I realise that I have taxed your patience considerably but I

could not help it. I have very great pleasure in wishing you the happiest Christmas you have spent in this Colony. We wish you all you can wish yourself, and a little more.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I as the oldest and most ancient Official Member join in what has been said by other Members of the House with reference to yourself and your family. I am quite sure we are glad that on this occasion we have the opportunity of wishing you as President of the Council a happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year, and may I, sir, in that same capacity venture to extend the same good wishes to all my colleagues in the House, some of whom are just as ancient as myself.

The Council adjourned until Tuesday, 8th January, 1935, at 11 a.m.