

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Friday, 6th October, 1944.*

The Council met at 12 noon, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT.

The President, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary (Acting) Mr. M. B. Laing, O.B.E.

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

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. E. F. McDavid, C.B.E.

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

The Hon. J. A. Luckhoo, K.C. (Nominated).

The Hon. J. I. deAguiar (Central Demerara).

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

The Hon. H. N. Critchlow (Nominated).

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

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo, O.B.E. (Eastern Berbice).

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

The Hon. J. B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

The Hon. C. R. Jacob, (North Eastern District).

The Hon. A. G. King (Demerara River).

The Hon. J. W. Jackson, O.B.E. (Nominated).

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. A. M. Edun (Nominated).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Hon. C. P. Ferreira (Berbice River).

The Clerk read prayers.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on Thursday, the 3rd day of August, 1944, were taken as read and confirmed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DECISIONS ON FRANCHISE COMMISSION'S REPORT.

The PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I feel that the statement made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons on October 4 should be formally announced to you by the President of this Council. I propose, therefore, to read what many of you may have already seen in the Press. The Secretary of State said:—

"The report of the Franchise Commission of the Colony of British Guiana has been laid in the library of the House of Commons to-day. The Legislative and Executive Councils in British Guiana have been consulted and I have had advantage of discussing the report personally with Sir Gordon Lethem in this country.

The following are the main recommendations of the Commission with the action which it is now proposed with my approval to take upon them. That action will involve an amending Order in Council, draft of which will be laid on the table for comparison and local legislation which will be prepared and submitted to the present Legislative Council of British Guiana."

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**Paragraph 59.**—The Commission with one exception recommended that membership of Legislative Council should be open to women on the same terms as men. I have accepted this recommendation.

**Paragraph 63.**—The Commission with one exception recommended that financial qualifications for membership should be reduced from (a) possession of income of \$2,400 a year or over (b) possession of property to value \$5,000 to possession of property of \$1,000 or over (c) the holding of a lease to annual value of \$1,200 to holding of income of annual value of \$300 or over. I have accepted these recommendations.

**Paragraph 64.**—The Commission unanimously recommended that any person before becoming eligible for election to Legislative Council must at some period of his life have previously resided continuously in the Colony for at least one year before nomination. I have accepted this recommendation.

**Paragraph 65.**—The Commission unanimously recommended removal of present disqualification of Ministers of Religion who possess other qualifications required. I have accepted this recommendation.

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTERS FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**Paragraph 11.**—A majority of the Commission recommended qualification of exercise of franchise should be reduced as follows:—

(a) ownership occupation or tenancy of land of 6 acres to 3 acres (b) ownership of land to value of \$350 to \$150 (c) occupation or tenancy of property of rental to value of \$96 a year to \$48 a year (d) possession of income of \$300 a year to \$120 a year.

A minority of the Commission recommended Universal Suffrage.

It will be recognised that the majority report of the Commission provides for a very substantial extension of the franchise though one still falling short of universal adult suffrage. The matter has been fully debated in the British Guiana Legislative Council, a substantial majority of whom stated that they approved of the majority report of the Commission; that report was also accepted unanimously by unofficial members of Executive Council. On the other hand representations have been received from numerous bodies in the Colony such as those from the East Indian Association in favour of universal adult suffrage. At a recent conference of Chairmen of the Village Councils, however, 150 delegates passed a resolution strongly supporting the majority report. The matter is clearly one in which there is a considerable division of opinion in the Colony, and where a large majority of the Commission which was fully representative and responsible and was appointed in exactly the same manner as the Trinidad Franchise Committee has reported in favour of an extension of franchise falling short of universal adult suffrage and this report has met with approval of the majority of Legislative Council, I feel I should accept it.

It is true that in Trinidad and Jamaica the principle of universal adult suffrage has been accepted but in Trinidad this was recommended by a majority of a Committee which as I have said was appointed in the same manner as the British Guiana Commission, while in Jamaica universal adult suffrage was unanimously recommended by responsible local bodies including the Legislative Council. Moreover, conditions in British Guiana are not in all respects parallel to those in Jamaica and Trinidad and I feel it would not be reasonable that a Colony with differing conditions should be held bound to follow measures adopted in others.

I desire, however, to make it plain that as envisaged by the Commission the aim of policy in British Guiana will be the adoption of universal suffrage at a later date and as suggested in paragraph 57 of the Commission's report a census of the country will be taken as soon as practicable as a step towards that end.

**Paragraph 19.** The majority of the Commission recommended that every elected representative would be required to pass a literacy test in English.

A minority of the Commission recommended that the existing literacy test should be abolished.

As I have already explained the British Guiana Legislative Council will not be invited to approve of the introduction of adult suffrage. There is therefore less reason than there was in the case of Trinidad to invite the Council to accept the abolition of all literacy or language tests. But just as in Trinidad I saw objection to the recommendation that ability to understand spoken English should be a qualification for franchise so I do not feel able to accept the majority recommendation in British Guiana for a literacy test confined to English. I have therefore approved in British Guiana retention of existing test of literacy in any language. I have however, accepted the recommendation of the Commission for the literacy test in English for membership of the Legislative Council on grounds of practical convenience, since otherwise members would be unable to carry out their duties. Moreover, the necessity for such a qualification has been expressly submitted in writing to the Franchise Commission by the British Guiana East Indian Association and the Islamic Association among other organizations.

#### ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

**Paragraphs 81 to 91.** The Commission recommended certain modifications of existing electoral districts subject to a final decision on the franchise question. I accept these recommendations.

The Commission refer in paragraphs 104 to 105 of their report to certain proposals for other constitutional changes which were put before them. The Commission did not agree among themselves as to these proposals and felt that in any case it was not within their province and ventured no opinion of them. They therefore contented themselves with merely transmitting them for consideration by the proper authorities. These recommendations will be considered by the Governor as and when it appears desirable.

The Commission was a carefully selected body fully representative of general opinion in the Colony and its recommendations provide for a marked advance in association of the people in the Colony with management of their affairs. I should like to pay a tribute to

the thorough and exhaustive manner in which the Commission carried out its enquiry and to the undoubted service which members under the valuable guidance of its Chairman, Woolford, have rendered the Colony."

Gentlemen, I will lay a copy of that statement on the table formally, and on the receipt of instructions from the Secretary of State the necessary amending legislation will be prepared by the Attorney-General and presented to this Council.

#### EXPERIMENTS WITH D.D.T. IN THE COLONY.

I have two other announcements which may be of interest. I do not know if some of you have seen the October number of the *Crown Colonist*, if not I will just read you this extract:—

**D.D.T. v. Malaria.**—Two of the world's greatest anti-malaria experts are keeping R.A.F. airfields free from mosquitoes, and incidentally bringing new health to surrounding towns, Lord Swinton told a Press Conference in London recently. "They have started experimenting with D.D.T. against the malaria mosquito," he said, "and I think it is going to be as damaging to that as it is to other things. It is a real killer." (D.D.T. is dichlorodiphenyl-trichlorethane, a powerful new insecticide).

On several occasions in Finance Committee, in Executive Council and other places I have made reference to the great importance I attach to the recent visit of the three scientists, Prof. Simonsen, Prof. Sir Robert Robinson, and D. King, and I think now is the time to inform this Council that during conversations with those three scientists when they were at Government House the question of the experimental use of D.D.T. in the Colony cropped up. As a result of those conversations and meetings with the medical officers concerned a telegram was despatched to the Secretary of State asking whether D.D.T. could be released for experiments on a large scale in this Colony. I will not tell you more now, except that it is increasingly apparent from the world's

experts and such extracts as I have just read, that D.D.T. is going to revolutionize anti-malaria control and, of course, with it yellow fever, filaria and other mosquito-borne diseases.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that as a result of representations made by those scientists the Secretary of State has agreed to experiments being carried out here. (Applause). I hope, I cannot say for certain because the arrangements have not been concluded—that the experiment will be carried out here on a large scale, and, if successful, the results would be very far-reaching. I do not want you to go away with the idea that everything has been arranged, but it has got to that stage when I can tell you that that is probably what will happen.

#### GOVERNOR RETURNING TO THE COLONY

The other announcement I have to make is that I have received a telegram from Sir Gordon Lethem informing me that he was leaving England to return to British Guiana at the end of the month. He did not give me the actual date he expects to arrive. (Applause).

#### PERSONAL ALLOWANCE TO SIR JOHN VERITY

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL communicated the following Message to the Council:—

#### MESSAGE NO. 14

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:—

At the time of the death of Sir Maurice Camacho, the then Chief Justice, Sir John Verity was Chief Justice of Zanzibar. Special difficulties were being experienced in this Colony at the time, and Sir John Verity was pressed to fill the vacancy. His Honour accepted the transfer though it was of little financial advantage to him. Owing to circumstances arising out of the war, however, the transfer has proved to be seriously to Sir John's financial disadvantage. In view of the pressure

brought to bear on Sir John Verity to accept the appointment, it is not considered equitable that His Honour should bear the whole of the unforeseen burden, and consequently Honourable Members are invited to vote a special personal allowance to Sir John Verity at the rate of £200 per annum, with effect from 1st January, 1944.

W. L. HEAPE.

Officer Administering the Government.  
28th September, 1944.

#### ANOMALIES COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The COLONIAL TREASURER communicated the following Messages to the Council:—

#### MESSAGE NO. 13.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:—

In February last His Excellency Sir Gordon Lethem appointed a Committee with the following terms of reference:—

“To enquire into and to report on any anomalies that may exist in regard to the salaries of subordinate employees having regard to the revised scales proposed for separate departments, and to make any necessary recommendations to co-ordinate these scales and to adjust anomalies.”

As Members will recall, the Committee's Report (Legislative Council Paper No. 19/1944—copies of which have already been circulated to Members) was discussed at a meeting of the Finance Committee of Legislative Council held on 24th August, 1944, and it was agreed that, subject to the Secretary of State's approval, this Council should be invited to adopt the recommendations of the anomalies Committee with the following reservations, viz:—

#### (i) TWO LONG GRADES FOR JUNIOR TECHNICAL OFFICERS.

That in connection with the creation of 2 long grades for Junior Technical Officers, no officer on the junior grade would proceed to the senior grade unless he was of outstanding ability, and fully and specifically qualified for promotion.

The Committee's proposal that officers should proceed automatically to the senior grade after being 3 years at the top of the junior grade has not therefore been accepted, but it is considered that the number of posts in the senior grade should not necessarily remain fixed but may be increased from time to time having regard to administrative requirements and to meet the case of any specially qualified officer on the junior grade whose duties justify his being advanced to the senior grade.

(ii) ADDITIONAL POSTS. — That no additional posts be created as a result of the Committee's Report.

(iii) TRANSFER OF CERTAIN UNCLASSIFIED POSTS TO THE CLASSIFIED CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

That this recommendation be not adopted. It is considered, however, that while the employees concerned should remain outside the general classified clerical service, they should be placed on a continuous salary scale rising from \$360 to \$1,200 per annum, and that Heads of Departments should recommend such immediate increases within this scale as they may consider desirable in the case of those whose work is satisfactory.

(iv) FREE QUARTERS AND HOUSE ALLOWANCES—That decision on this recommendation be deferred.

(v) MILITIA BAND—That the salaries of the Band should not exceed the salaries of equivalent ranks in the Police Force.

(vi) APPRENTICES—That the salary scale of workshop apprentices should not be revised.

(vii) ADDITIONAL INCREMENTS

That the recommendation made by the two members of the Committee representing the British Guiana Civil Service Association, that special increments in addition to normal accruing increments should be granted in the case of officers whose earnings have been small and whose incremental progress has been slow over a period of years should be rejected, but that sympathetic consideration be given to any particular hard cases as previously has been the practice.

The report, together with the reservations mentioned above, were submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for his consideration, and he has now

notified his concurrence in the adoption of the proposals with effect from 1st January, 1944, subject to the approval of this Council.

2. The Council is accordingly invited to approve of the Anomalies Committee's Report, with the modifications indicated above, being adopted with effect from 1st January, 1944, inclusive, and to undertake to vote the funds necessary to give effect to the proposals.

W. L. HEAPE,

Officer Administering the Government,

25th September, 1944.

#### REVISED SALARY SCALES FOR TEACHERS

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

In 1942 the Memoranda on Education in British Guiana by the Educational Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare were submitted to the Legislative Council. While suggestions were made in Memorandum No. 9 as to the principles which should be followed in deciding upon scales of salaries for primary school teachers, no definite scales were recommended, the Adviser considering that such scales should be the subject of an enquiry by the Educational Development Committee.

2. In the following year it was decided that this matter was so important that it should be dealt with by an ad hoc Committee. This Committee was accordingly appointed by Government and commenced its deliberations in November, 1943. The Committee's report was received on the 16th of March, 1944, copies of which have been distributed to all Members.

3. The report proposes that in the case of head teachers the principle of paying salaries according to the average attendance of the school should be abolished, and that in the case of both head teachers and qualified assistants long grade salary scales with suitable efficiency bars should be introduced. The report further proposes to recognize the value of special training at a Training College by permitting trained teachers to enter the appropriate salary scale at a higher point than untrained teachers. Better salaries are also proposed for uncertificated teachers. These recommendations are in accord with the advice of the Educational Adviser.

4. Finance Committee, which gave on the 28th of April, 1944, very careful consideration to the recommendations made in the report, considered them reasonable and fair, and they have also been discussed by Sir Gordon Lethem with the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Secretary of State approved the recommendations in general, but, taking into consideration the immediate and future financial burden to be imposed upon the Colony, advised that the rate of increment proposed should be reduced in the case of qualified teachers so as to extend the incremental period of the salary scales, thus reducing the normal rate of increase in the expenditure and thereby the over-all total cost of the proposals. This modification has been adopted in respect of that part of the salary scale below \$60 per month—and has been incorporated in the attached schedule.

5. On the basis of these salary scales the total estimated expenditure on salaries for the year 1944 (exclusive of temporary war bonus) would be \$800,020, including an amount of \$13,000 for special increments to some teachers (as recommended in paragraph 9 of the report) which would require supplementary provision of \$239,203 on the existing salaries vote. There would also be a consequential increase of \$40,664 on the provision for temporary war bonus, making the total additional cost for 1944 approximately \$280,000. The maximum estimated expenditure on teachers' salaries is shown in the report to be \$1,178,580, but this amount is based on the assumption that all teachers now employed would be able to reach and be receiving the maximum of their scales simultaneously. In practice, the amount would be considerably less.

6. I accordingly invite the Council to approved of the revised salary scales as set out in the Schedule being adopted with effect from 1st January, 1944, and to undertake to vote the necessary funds to give effect to the proposals.

W. L. HEAPE,

Officer Administering the Government.

2nd October, 1944.

#### SCHEDULE.

#### PROPOSED SALARY SCALES FOR TEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

##### (a) PUPIL TEACHERS:—

- |                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| (i) End of fourth year | \$25 p.m. |
| (ii) Fourth year       | 20 p.m.   |

- |                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| (iii) Third year | 16 p.m. |
| (iv) Second year | 14 p.m. |
| (v) First year   | 12 p.m. |

##### (b) UNCERTIFICATED ASSISTANT TEACHERS:—

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| (i) Passed end of fourth year Pupil Teachers' examination or equivalent  | .....\$30—\$2.50—\$35 |
| (ii) Passed end of third year Pupil Teachers' examination or equivalent  | 25— 2.50— 30          |
| (iii) (a) Passed end of second year Pupil Teachers' examination or equivalent  | ..... 20— 2.50— 25    |
| (b) Those uncertificated teachers without qualifications but with ten years' service or over   | 20— 2.50—25           |
| (iv) No qualifications—temporary employment  | ..... 15              |
| (v) An uncertificated assistant teacher who has passed an examination or satisfactorily completed a course approved by the Director of Education in sewing or another specified subject shall be paid an additional \$5.   |                       |
| (vi) Uncertificated assistant teachers in Domestic Science or Handicraft Centres with approved course at Carnegie Trade School for Women or Kingston Trade Centre respectively should be paid at the rate of an uncertificated assistant who has passed the end of fourth year Pupil Teachers' examination | .....\$30—\$2.50—\$35 |
- (c) JUNIOR TEACHERS
- |       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| ..... | \$10 p.m. |
|-------|-----------|
- (d) REGULATION 95 SCHOOLS:—
- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Certificated Head Teacher   | \$40—\$2.50—\$60      |
| (b) Uncertificated Head Teacher | .....\$30—\$2.50—\$45 |

N.B.—Any Head Teacher of a Regulation 95 school who does not hold a teacher's certificate must be required to qualify within 5 years of the coming into force of the new scales of salaries. If he does not qualify he should be called upon to resign.

<p>(c) Uncertificated Assistant Teacher—temporary employment \$15 fixed.</p> <p>(e) CERTIFICATED ASSISTANT TEACHERS— One long grade \$40—\$2.50—\$60—\$5—\$80 p.m. with bars at \$50, \$60 and \$70..</p>	<p>Grade Salary per month</p> <p>\$ 80 BAR</p> <p>85</p> <p>90 BAR</p> <p>95</p> <p>100</p> <p>\$100</p> <p>105</p> <p>110 BAR</p> <p>115</p> <p>120</p> <p>\$120</p> <p>125</p> <p>130 BAR</p> <p>135</p> <p>140</p> <p>\$140</p> <p>145</p> <p>150 BAR</p> <p>155</p> <p>160</p>	<p>Starting points within Grade</p> <p>.....2nd Class untrained</p> <p>.....2nd Class trained— remains at \$90 till he has passed the BAR.</p> <p>.....1st Class untrained</p> <p>.....1st Class trained— remains at \$110 till he has passed the BAR.</p> <p>.....Head teachers of senior schools or schools with senior departments or head teacher of a Trade Centre.</p> <p>1. To pass a bar a head teacher must have a clean record for two successive years and receive the award of at least "GOOD" in respect of</p> <p>(a) Organisation, discipline and instruction.</p> <p>(b) School records, at inspection of the school.</p> <p>N.B.—(i) This means a school must be fully inspected for two years running. If through some unforeseen circumstance two consecutive inspections are not possible then the head teacher should not be penalised. If he has a clean record i.e., no complaints for which penalty has been imposed under the Education Ordinance or the Education Code or Regulations, and has been awarded "GOOD" or higher at one inspection then he may be allowed to cross the BAR.</p> <p>N.B.—(ii) Trained certificated head teachers should be at a higher starting point within the grade</p>
<p>Grade Salary per month.</p> <p>\$40</p> <p>45</p> <p>50 BAR</p> <p>55</p> <p>60 BAR</p> <p>65</p> <p>70 BAR</p> <p>75</p> <p>80</p> <p>N.B.—(i) If an assistant teacher is at a point in the above grade equal to or above the minimum of a third class head teacher and is appointed as head teacher he shall start in the long grade for head teachers at the same salary plus one increment and plus First Assistant's allowance, if any.</p> <p>N.B.—(ii) No third class or second class untrained teacher shall be eligible for appointment as a head teacher who has not passed the \$60 BAR.</p> <p>N.B.—(iii) No trained or first class untrained teacher shall be eligible for appointment as a head teacher who has not passed the \$70 BAR.</p> <p>N.B.—(iv) All first assistant teachers shall be paid an allowance of \$10 a month in addition to salary payable under the Regulations.</p> <p>(f) HEAD TEACHERS:— One long grade—\$60—\$5—\$160 p.m. with bars at \$70, \$90, \$110, \$130 and \$150.</p> <p>Grade Salary per month</p> <p>\$ 60</p> <p>65</p> <p>70 BAR</p> <p>75</p> <p>80</p>	<p>Starting points within Grade.</p> <p>.....3rd Class.</p> <p>.....2nd Class untrained:</p> <p>1st Class untrained, 2nd Class trained</p> <p>.....1st Class untrained; 1st class trained.</p>	

than untrained certificated teachers—\$10 above untrained head teachers.

N.B.—(iii) An outstanding head teacher who has given meritorious service and proved himself in every respect, conduct, work, etc., may be recommended for accelerated promotion.

N.B.—(iv) Head teachers who improve their qualifications, i.e. going from third class to second class etc. would be eligible, provided he has a clean record as required by paragraph (i) above, to proceed to the minimum salary in the grade for the class or certificate gained.

N.B.—(v) No head teacher shall be appointed to a school of average attendance of 300 or over until he has reached the point of \$120 p.m. in the long grade of salaries.

2. Head teachers in charge of schools which have no upper division, i.e. Junior Schools:—

- a. 3rd. Class \$60—\$5—\$80—Bar at \$70
- b. 2nd Class untrained.....\$80—\$5—\$100
- c. 2nd Class trained.....\$90—\$5—\$110

N.B.—(i) No first class trained or untrained teacher should be employed as head teacher of a Junior School.

N.B.—(ii) When Junior Schools are established as envisaged by Mr. Hammond in his memorandum B.G.E. 4, the head teachers of any class might be appointed at the appropriate point in the long grade set out in paragraph 7 (f).

Regulation 30 (3) should be reworded if above scales are adopted.

3. A certificated teacher appointed to take charge of a branch school should receive a responsibility allowance of \$10 p.m.

4. An assistant teacher appointed to act as a head teacher shall receive a responsibility allowance of \$15 p.m. during the absence of the head teacher. This amount shall be in addition to the salary and responsibility allowance already paid.

5. A certificated teacher appointed to act when the post of head teacher is vacant shall be appointed as Temporary Head Teacher and shall enjoy the minimum salary in long grade according to his qualifications, and shall also be entitled to any increment which may fall due during such temporary employment.

Abolish Regulation 32 of the Code and substitute therefor:

“An uncertificated teacher appointed to take charge of a school shall be given a provisional certificate and shall be paid at the prescribed rate for an uncertificated teacher together with a responsibility allowance of \$15 a month.

N.B.—No provisional certificate shall be valid for more than 5 years.

Head Teacher of Handicraft or

Domestic Science Centre—

3rd Class with salary \$60—\$5—\$100

2nd Class trained with salary \$90—\$5—\$120

1st Class trained with salary \$110—\$5—\$140

N.B.—(i) Teachers of special subjects in Senior Schools or Senior Departments of Schools, Agriculture, Handicraft or Domestic Science, shall be paid in the scale \$80—\$5—\$120 with bar at \$100. Only first class trained teachers will be considered for such appointments.

N.B.—(ii) Where a certificated teacher is not available to take charge of a Handicraft or Domestic Science Centre an uncertificated teacher may be appointed at the prescribed rate for an uncertificated teacher together with a responsibility allowance of \$15 a month.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting) communicated the following Messages to the Council:—

#### MESSAGE NO. 4.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Since the appointment of the Commissioner of Local Government as Social Welfare Officer in 1943, and the establishment of the Advisory Social Welfare Committee, the Council has from time to time approved the appointment of personnel for the formation of the Social Welfare organization which is taking shape with grant-aid under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940. A request has now been put forward by the



Social Welfare Officer for the local provision of a sum of \$1,000 on this year's estimates from which assistance might be given to organisations engaged in welfare activities, assistance of such modest proportions that it could not properly be made the subject of an application to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare. In placing this request before the Council, I am taking the opportunity to review the whole position regarding Social Welfare, and to acquaint Honourable Members with the functions it is expected the new organisation will perform.

2. The following posts attached to the Department of Local Government have been created and filled already:—

- (a) Assistant Social Welfare Officer,
- (b) Junior
- (c) Youth Organiser,
- (d) Class I Clerk (revised scale),
- (e) Typist,

while attached to the Office of the Poor Law Commissioners is the

- (f) Woman Child Welfare Officer.

An application has been made and has received approval from the Secretary of State, for the appointment of a

- (g) Chief Probation Officer,

and a candidate with the necessary qualifications is being sought on our behalf in the United Kingdom. Further applications for both office and field staff have been made as follows:—

- (h) Woman Social Welfare Officer,
- (i) Record Clerk,
- (j) Co-operative Organiser,
- (k) Handicraft Organiser,
- (l) 6 Male District Officers,
- (m) 3 Women District Officers.

Six officers (five men and one woman) are already in Jamaica undergoing instruction to fit them for the posts at (l) and (m). Training has also been arranged for two officers in the work of promoting and organising 4-H Clubs, and an application will shortly go forward for a

- (n) Male 4-H Club Organiser, and
- (o) Woman 4-H Club Organiser.

3. The headquarters staff enumerated above will be occupied with administrative and other duties arising out of the activities of the District Officers, and

from the recommendations of the Comptroller's Social Welfare Advisor for the improvement of the colony's social services. In addition, the Assistant Social Welfare Officer, Youth Organiser, and Woman Social Welfare Officer will be required to visit and inspect regularly the work of the District Officers; the Junior Social Welfare Officer who will specialise in delinquency, should accompany Boards of Visitors on their inspections of all reformative institutions in the Colony. The Organisers of Co-operatives, Handicrafts, and 4-H Clubs will naturally spend most of their time travelling the country. The duties of the Child Welfare Officer and the Probation Officer call for no explanation here, but it would be as well to describe the work that District Officers are intended to perform under the direction and supervision of the headquarters staff.

4. It is proposed that they should devote their time to rural reconstruction. The importance of wholesome recreation must not be forgotten—as a means of rendering the individual more fitted, physically and mentally, for the task of earning a satisfactory livelihood, but purely social activities will not be encouraged beyond a scale which each district is willing to support for itself, and can, in fact, support. The decision to work upon a severely practical basis is inevitable, since the community cannot bear the cost of adequate social services until the economic situation has been improved, and it is undesirable from many points of view that services should be established on the assumption of continued assistance from the Imperial Treasury for an indefinite period.

5. The chief concern of District Officers for the present will therefore be the creation of group activities aimed at greater self-sufficiency within the district, and united action over common problems affecting the living conditions and earning capacity of the people. It will be necessary for them to devise ways in which rural populations can employ themselves profitably between crops—with cottage or village industries and handicrafts. The promotion of thrift clubs, buying clubs, marketing co-operatives and co-operative housing groups will provide activity knowing both material advantages and an educational value. It should also be possible to establish on a voluntary basis some modest social services, such as a simple creche for the benefit of working

mothers, and adult education classes, particularly for illiterates. In catering for youth, the recreational aspect must necessarily play a greater part, but handicrafts will be vigorously pursued nevertheless.

6. The groups formed in districts where the social welfare staff are working should provide media through which Government may more effectively disseminate information on, for instance, new agricultural methods, nutrition and public health matters. The closest contact will have to be maintained between other departments and the Social Welfare Organisation to achieve this end.

7. The estimated expenditure in 1945 on salaries for the above personnel will amount to \$29,600 in round figures, while travelling and other allowances have been provided at \$9,000 per annum, bringing the total expenditure to \$38,600. Salaries and allowances for the Handicraft Organiser and one of the District Officers have been excluded from these figures, since the appointments are not likely to be made for some time to come. The assistance granted, or applied for, under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940, covers expenditure for a period of five years, i.e., up to the year 1948 in some cases and 1949 in others.

8. As far as the delinquency services are concerned, it seems clear that the most effective line to follow for the reduction of crime is that of preventing first offenders, and particularly those of tender age, from launching upon a life-long struggle against the law. With this object in view it is proposed to establish a more adequate probation system when the services of the Probation Officer already mentioned become available. At the same time, plans are being considered for providing prison accommodation and a Young Offender's Detention Institution which will make possible the segregation of recidivists from prisoners as yet unhardened to a life of crime. The difficult problem of after-care is also receiving attention.

9. At the Essequibo Boys' School more up-to-date methods are contemplated for re-adjusting the neglected boy to the demands of society. A long-felt need for the means of giving similar training to neglected girls is being filled by a Belfield Girls' School, a three-year experiment conducted by the Salvation

Army with funds granted under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. In 1946, the experience gained at Belfield will be examined, the Comptroller for Development and Welfare having promised to consider then whether he will recommend assistance for a further five years; the question of a more suitable site will have to be decided at the same time. The cost of maintaining this School will be in the vicinity of \$4,300 in 1945, but will increase somewhat as greater use is made of the accommodation available.

10. With regard to the relief of destitution, payment of Old Age Pensions under the new Ordinance will commence from January next year, and the necessary administrative machinery is being set up meanwhile. A proposal to decentralise the Alms House, and hand over the institution to the Medical Department as additional accommodation for pauper patients, has had to be reserved for future consideration owing to the impossibility of securing the requisite medical staff. Investigations carried out by the Child Welfare Officer mentioned above have already had some results in better attention to children on Poor Relief, and much valuable data are being made available concerning the situation of such children.

11. I would now invite the consideration by Honourable Members of the proposal to place the sum of \$1,000 on the estimates, to be at the disposal of the Social Welfare Officer. Requests are frequently received by him for the grant of small sums which, in many cases would enable an immediate start to be made with a desirable project, or might encourage a young and struggling voluntary organisation to carry on, and to become in its maturity an extremely useful adjunct to the Social Welfare programme. Provision of the sum named will enable him to meet such calls where it appears desirable to do so.

GORDON LETHEM,  
Governor.

11th July, 1944.

ESTATE OF JOHN DE FREITAS, DECD.

MESSAGE No. 11.

Honourable Members of the Legislative  
Council,

1 have the honour to inform Honourable Members of Council that the Public Trustee, acting in accordance with section 13 of the Public Trustee Ordinance, Chapter 245, paid over to the Colonial Treasurer on completion of administration of the estate of John de Freitas, who died intestate in November, 1935, a sum of \$294.39 being an unclaimed balance remaining at credit of his estate:

2. Mary Agnes de Freitas, a niece of the deceased, claimed the balance at credit of the estate and enquiries were made to ascertain whether there were any other relatives of the deceased who might also have a claim to the estate.

3. His Majesty's Consul at Funchal, Madeira, has informed this Government that there are five nephews of the deceased living in that island and has forwarded documents in support of this.

4. The Public Trustee has accordingly recommended that the balance at credit of the estate of John de Freitas, deceased, should be divided as follows:—

- (a) to Mary Agnes de Freitas, \$73.60.
- (b) to the five nephews \$220.79, to be divided equally among them, less the expense of \$12.46 which was incurred in tracing their whereabouts.

5. The matter has been considered by the Executive Council who advise that the recommendation of the Public Trustee should be approved.

6. Under the proviso to section 13 (3) of the Public Trustee Ordinance, Chapter 245, the Legislative Council may authorise the payment of any sum of money paid over to the Colonial Treasurer by the Public Trustee to anyone whom they may consider to have an equitable claim thereto, notwithstanding that all claims to payment of the money may be barred in law, and I have the honour to invite Honourable Members to authorise the payment of the balance at credit of the estate of John de Freitas, deceased, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Trustee.

W. L. HEAPE,

Officer Administering the Government.  
16th September, 1944.

EX-LANCE CORPL. FONTANELLE'S  
PENSION.

The COLONIAL TREASURER communicated the following Messages to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 5.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

Council is invited to approve of the entire service of Ex-Lance Corporal of Police No. 4094 Isaac A. Fontanelle being counted for pension in the following circumstances:—

Mr. Fontanelle joined the British Guiana Police Force on the 8th of January, 1913. In 1915 he volunteered for service with His Majesty's Forces, enlisted in the British West India Regiment and left British Guiana with the first contingent from this Colony on the 21st of August, 1915. He saw active service in Egypt and was wounded.

Mr. Fontanelle returned to British Guiana on the 17th of June, 1919, but did not then gain re-admission to the Police Force on account of the injuries received while on active service. He obtained employment, however, for three years (from November, 1919 to November, 1922) in the Artillery Company of the British Guiana Militia as a District Gunner.

There was a break in his service with Government of three and a quarter years from November, 1922 to 3rd February, 1926, when he was re-admitted into the Police Force. Mr. Fontanelle finally retired on the 30th of September, 1943.

The Constabulary Ordinance, Cap. 50, which is applicable in this case, makes no provision for cases in which service is not continuous, but had Mr. Fontanelle enlisted in the Police Force subsequent to the 1st of June, 1938, he would have benefited in this respect by the Pensions Ordinance, 1933.

In view of the fact that Mr. Fontanelle failed on discharge from His Majesty's Forces to gain re-admission to the Police Force on account of injuries received on active service, it is proposed that his gratuity and pension should be based on his entire actual service, the period during which he was employed as a District Gunner (which was non-pensionable and paid from an open vote) being reduced to two-thirds.

The revised pension and gratuity would be—

	Present	Revised
Pension	\$114 86	\$169 30
Gratuity	\$557 60	\$820 00

W. L. HEAPE,

Officer Administering the Government.

2nd August, 1944.

ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR DRAINAGE  
AND IRRIGATION SCHEMES.

MESSAGE No. 6.

Honourable Members of the Legislative  
Council,

I have the honour to refer to Governor's Message No. 7 dated the 16th of March, 1942, and to Resolution No. XVI passed by the Council on the 18th of March, 1942, approving of advances from surplus balances towards the cost of certain drainage and irrigation works designed to make available additional land for rice cultivation and of experimental cultivation of rice by mechanical means together with expansion of milling facilities. Honourable Members will recall that these schemes were initiated at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies specifically as measures to increase the production of rice in British Guiana in the endeavour to provide for the requirements of the British West Indian Colonies.

2. A progress report on the schemes was presented to Council on the 27th August, 1943, as Council Paper No. 9 of 1943. The works so far undertaken are now approaching completion, and the experimental cultivation by mechanical means has been started.

3. The Governor has addressed a series of despatches to the Secretary of State forwarding applications for free grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940, to meet the cost of those schemes for which firm estimates and plans were then available. The following are the schemes in respect of which applications have been made:—

Crabwood Creek.....	\$170.000	
Lots 63 to 74		
Corentyne Coast	73.600	
Weldaad, West Coast		
Berbice .....	42.600	
Mahaicony-Abary.....	275.000	
Perth Canal.....	18.000	
Mahaicony Rice		
Mill .....	20.000	
Anna Regina Rice		
Mill .....	32.000	
	\$632,000	£131,667

Further applications are to follow in respect of the remainder of the schemes in progress.

4. As the Governor has already intimated in Finance Committee, the applications relative to the schemes set out above have now been approved in respect of a total of £131,730, being a slight increase on the total of the applications to cover minor contingencies. The Secretary of State has notified the Governor that approval is subject to acceptance of the conditions that (a) the areas involved should be created declared drainage areas under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, 1940, (b) annual maintenance rates should be levied on an agreed basis and (c) any private lands improved should contribute annual acreage rates towards the capital cost of such improvement. The Secretary of State has further intimated that the funds will be provided as a loan without interest in the first instance, but that consideration will be given to the conversion of a loan into a free grant when action has been taken to implement the conditions laid down. It will be noted that conditions at (b) and (c) above are analogous to those prescribed with respect to the Boerasirie-Bonasika drainage and irrigation scheme (as set out in paragraph 2 of Governor's Message No. 3 of 12th December, 1942) and approved by Council by Resolution No. VII of 17th December, 1942. In this connection, as Members are aware, the Committee appointed to investigate the question of maintenance rates in declared drainage areas and of the imposition of a tax on the increase in land values directly attributable to the carrying out of schemes met from public funds has submitted a Report (Council Paper No. 15 of 22nd November, 1943) which is now under consideration.

5. I now invite the Council to approve by formal resolution of the acceptance of funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940, to meet the cost of the above-mentioned schemes on the terms and conditions herein set out.

W. L. HEAPE,

Officer Administering the Government.

2nd August, 1944.

SECOND ONE MILLION DOLLAR LOAN  
TO U.K. GOVERNMENT.

MESSAGE No. 7.

Honourable Members of the Legislative  
Council,

I have the honour to refer to Sir Gordon Lethem's Message No. 5 of 31st. May, 1943, and the related Resolution No. X of 3rd June, 1943, by which Council approved of an interest free loan of \$1,000,000 to His Majesty's Government from surplus funds of this Colony on the conditions stated in paragraph 2 of the Message.

2. Honourable Members will recall that when this matter was discussed in Finance Committee it was suggested that the question of increasing the amount of the loan to \$2,000,000 might be considered. In view of the fact that the surplus balance at the end of 1943 amounted to nearly \$6,000,000 and that the existing cash resources are ample to cover the financial operations of the Government for the present and the immediate future it has been decided, with the advice of the Executive Council, to make a further loan of \$1,000,000 this year.

3. The Secretary of State has informed me that His Majesty's Government would gratefully accept the additional loan (if the Legislative Council approves) and has also requested that, in that event, he would wish me to convey to Council a formal expression of the appreciation of His Majesty's Government.

4. I accordingly invite the Council to approve of an additional interest free loan of \$1,000,000 being made to His Majesty's Government on the same conditions stated in Resolution No. X of 3rd June, 1943.

W. L. HEAPE,

Officer Administering the Government.  
24th August, 1944.

GRATUITY TO MR. J. SEAUBALAK

MESSAGE NO. 8.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

Council is invited to approve of the services of Mr. J. Seaubalak during the period 1911 to 1931 being treated as continuous with his present service commencing on 1st June, 1942, for the purpose of qualifying for a gratuity on retirement in the following circumstances:—

Mr. Seaubalak was appointed to his present post, namely, Captain and Motorman of the Lands and Mines launch "Karani" on 1st June, 1942. Prior to 1942 Mr. Seaubalak served Government from

1st January, 1911 to 31st December, 1931 as motorman on the launch "Swift". On the inauguration of the District Administration scheme Mr. Seaubalak's post became redundant and he was retrenched. At the time of his retrenchment there existed no authority under which he could have been granted a gratuity in respect of his services up to that date.

2. In view of the fact that Mr. Seaubalak's service between 1911 and 1931 was entirely satisfactory, and that his appointment was terminated through no fault of his own, Council is invited to approve of that period of service, namely 1st January, 1911, to 31st December, 1931, being regarded as continuous with his present service for the purpose of qualifying on retirement for a gratuity under the provisions of Legislative Council Resolution No. XXXV of the 21st of August, 1940.

W. L. HEAPE,

Officer Administering the Govt

25th August 1944.

GUARANTEED PRICES FOR FARMERS  
MESSAGE NO. 9

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

Honourable Members will recall that from time to time in the past the Governor has submitted to the Council minutes on the subject of prices for farm producers and that in one of these minutes as far back as the 12th of June, 1942, he indicated that the policy of Government should be to fix reasonably good prices to the producers. I have now to inform Honourable Members that the ad hoc Government Produce and Marketing Scheme Committee, with the full support of the Legislative Council Food Production Committee, have recommended that prices in keeping with those now being paid for good quality produce delivered to the Government Produce Depot should be maintained for the next twelve months; this, it is anticipated, will entail a financial loss on the working of the Depot which may amount to \$50,000. The Committee also recommend that the existing Government guaranteed minimum prices, to ensure the farmers against loss in case of glut, should be continued for the next three years. These proposals have received the entire approval of the

Executive Council, and I now invite Honourable Members to record their concurrence therewith in principle.

2. The two groups of prices recommended by the *ad hoc* Committee are

shown in the Schedule hereto.

W. L. HEAPE,  
Officer Administering the Government

30th August, 1944.

#### SCHEDULE.

##### BUYING PRICES FIXED FOR ONE YEAR.

Plantains	2 c. per lb.
Tannias	3 c. " "
Eddoes	1½c. " "
Yams (Buck & Bell)	4½c. " "
Sweet Cassava	1½c. " "
Sweet Potatoes	2½c. " "
Black Eye Peas	8 c. " "
Pigeon Peas	" "

The Depot will pay not less than these prices until July, 1945, for produce that is good, clean and free of insects and mildew.

##### INCREASED PENSION TO MR. G. H. DEY.

#### MESSAGE No. 10.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. George Hugh Dey was appointed to the post of Engineer in the Customs Department on the 1st of April, 1910, at a salary of \$312 per annum. He received small increases of salary from time to time until the 1st of April, 1925, when his salary became \$600 per annum which he drew until his retirement on the 31st of May, 1944, reaching the age of 60 years.

2. Mr. Dey's duties were to keep the engines of the Customs Department launches in good working order and the reports on Mr. Dey's work throughout his 34 years' service has been consistently satisfactory.

3. On retirement Mr. Dey was awarded an annual allowance of \$277.77 which was the maximum amount for which he was eligible under the provisions of Legislative Council Resolution No. XXV of the 21st of August, 1940.

4. The annual allowance granted to Mr. Dey has been under review in relation to the length and quality of his service, and it has been generally agreed

##### GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICES FOR THREE YEARS.

Plantains	1 c. per lb.
Tannias	2½c. " "
Eddoes	1½c. " "
Yams (Buck & Bell)	3 c. " "
Cassava—Bitter	¼ c. " "
—Sweet	½ c. " "
Sweet Potatoes	2 c. " "
Black Eye Peas	5 c. " "
Pigeon Peas	6 c. " "
Corn—Dried	2 c. " "

that his case is most deserving of special consideration. The Comptroller of Customs reports that he is satisfied that considerable savings in expenditure were effected as a result of Mr. Dey's very good work, and that Mr. Dey undertook at all times work not connected with Customs launches without extra remuneration.

5. The circumstances have been submitted to Executive Council for consideration of the payment of a pension to Mr. Dey instead of the annual allowance already granted to him, and that Council has advised that the Legislative Council be invited to approve of the grant to Mr. Dey of an increased annual allowance of \$400 with effect from the 1st of June, 1944.

6. Council is accordingly invited to approve this recommendation of Executive Council.

W. L. HEAPE,  
Officer Administering the Government  
6th September, 1944.

#### PAPERS LAID.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting) laid on the table the following reports and documents;—

Statement of Supplementary expenditure which has occurred during the year 1943, and which has not been included in any previous schedule for the year 1943, and is to be admitted as a charge to public funds under Colonial Regulation 265 (2).

Schedule of Additional Provision for the quarter 1st April to 30th June, 1944, required to meet expenditure in excess of the provision made in the estimates for the year 1944.

Report of the Forest Department for the year 1943.

Report of the Committee of the Trotman Trust Fund for the year 1943.

Annual Report by the Director of the Imperial Institute for the year 1943.

The Imperial Forestry Institute University of Oxford — Eighteenth Annual Report 1941-42 and Nineteenth Annual Report 1942-43.

Report of the Mitchell Fund Trustees for the year 1943.

Resolutions adopted at the Seventh Congress of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce.

The West Indies Schooner Pool—Report of Pool Authority and statement of accounts on the half year ending 31st December, 1943.

Report of the Post Office Savings Bank for the year 1943.

Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the year 1943.

Report of the Department of Labour for the year 1943.

Report of the Superintendent of Prisons for the year 1943.

Social and Economic Aspects of Drainage and Irrigation Schemes, No. 1 Corentyne Coastlands, by Mr. H. D. Huggins.

Report of the Anomalies Committee.

Note by the Colonial Treasurer on the present and prospective financial position (1944).

Defence (Georgetown Rent Control) (Amendment) Regulations 1944.

Defence (Georgetown Premises Recovery Control) Regulations 1944.

List of articles not ordinarily exempt from duty which have been specially exempted by the Governor in Council under item 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Customs Duties Ordinance, during 1943.

Schedule of applications for gratuities from dependents of deceased teachers during the period August, 1940 to August, 1943.

The Post Office (Undelivered Postal Packets) (Amendment) Regulations, 1944—No. 18 of 1944.

Report of the Teachers' Salaries Committee.

Report of the Income Tax Commissioners for the year 1943.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

##### PERSONAL ALLOWANCE TO SIR JOHN VERITY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 14 of the 28th September, this Council approves of a personal allowance at the rate of £200 per annum being paid to His Honour Sir John Verity, the Chief Justice of the Colony, with effect from the first day of January, 1944.

##### ANOMALIES COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The COLONIAL TREASURER gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 13 of the 25th September, 1944, this Council approves of the Anomalies Committee Report (Legislative Council Paper No. 19/1944) with the modifications indicated in the Message, being adopted with effect from 1st January, 1944, inclusive, and undertakes to vote the funds necessary to give effect to the proposals.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 15 of the 2nd October, 1944, this Council approves of the revised salary scales as set out in the Schedule to the Message being adopted with effect from the 1st January, 1944, and to undertake to vote the necessary funds to give effect to the proposals.

##### GRANTS TO SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting) gave notice of the following motions:—

THAT, with reference to the Governor's Message No. 4 of the 11th of July, 1944, this Council approves of a sum of \$1,000 being provided on supplementary estimates for the current year and placed at the disposal of the Social Welfare Officer for the purpose of making grants of small sums, where it appears desirable to do so, to voluntary Social Welfare Organisations so as to enable an immediate start to be made with a

desirable project, or to encourage a young and struggling voluntary organisation.

#### ESTATE OF JOHN DE FREITAS DEC'D.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 11 of the 16th of September, 1944, this Council in accordance with the proviso to section 13(3) of the Public Trustee Ordinance, Chapter 245, authorizes the payment of the balance at credit of the estate of John de Freitas, deceased, to the relatives of the said deceased as recommended by the Public Trustee, to be divided as follows:—

(a) to Mary Agnes de Freitas..... \$ 73.60  
 (b) to the five nephews ..... \$220.79  
 to be divided equally among them less the expense of \$12.46 — which was incurred in tracing their whereabouts.

#### PENSION FOR EX-LCE. CORPORAL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER gave notice of the following motions: —

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 5 of the 2nd August, 1944, this Council approves of the entire service of Ex-Lance-Corporal of Police No. 4094 Isaac A. Fontanelle being counted for pension and that he receive a revised pension and gratuity of \$169.30 and \$820, respectively.

#### FUNDS FOR RICE EXPANSION SCHEMES.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 5 of the second of August, 1944, this Council approves of the acceptance of funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940, to meet the cost of the following rice expansion schemes:—

Crabwood Creek .....	\$170,000
Lots 63-74, Corentyne Coast .....	73,600
Weldaad, West Coast, Berbice .....	42,600
Mahaicony-Abary .....	275,000
Perth Canal .....	18,000
Mahaicony Rice Mill .....	20,000
Anna Regina Rice Mill .....	32,000
	\$632,000—£131,667

#### SECOND MILLION DOLLAR LOAN TO U.K.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 7 of the 24th of August, 1944, this Council approves of an additional interest-free loan of \$1,000,000 being made to His Majesty's Government on the same conditions stated in Legisla-

tive Council Resolution No. X of 3rd June, 1943.

#### GRATUITY TO MR. J. SEAUBALAK.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 8 of the 25th of August, 1944, this Council approves of the service of Mr. J. Seaubalak during the period 1911 to 1931 being treated as continuous with his present service commencing on 1st June, 1942, for the purpose of qualifying for a gratuity on retirement under the provisions of Legislative Council Resolution No. XXXV of the 21st of August 1940.

#### GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICES FOR FARMERS.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 9 of the 30th August, 1944, this Council concurs in principle with the recommendations made by the *ad hoc* Government Produce and Marketing Scheme Committee with the full support of the Legislative Council Food Production Committee that prices in keeping with those now being paid for good quality produce delivered to the Government Produce Depot should be maintained for the next twelve months and that the existing Government guaranteed minimum prices to ensure the farmer against loss in case of glut, should be continued for the next three years, as set out in the Schedule to the Message.

#### INCREASED PENSION FOR MR. G. H. DEY.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 10 of the 6th of September, 1944, this Council approves of the grant to Mr. G. H. Dey, retired Engineer, Customs Department, of an increased annual allowance of \$400 with effect from the 1st of June, 1944.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1943.

THAT, this Council approves the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure which has occurred during the year 1943, and which has not been included in any previous schedule for the year 1943 and is to be admitted as a charge to public funds under Colonial Regulation 265 (2), which has been laid on the table.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE APRIL-JUNE, 1944.

THAT, this Council approves the Schedule of Additional Provision for the quarter 1st April to 30th June, 1944, required to meet expenditure in



excess of the provision made in the estimates for the year 1944, which has been laid on the table.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:—

*The Supplementary Appropriation (1943) Bill, 1944.*

CULTIVATED SECTIONS.	1941.		1942.		1943.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure	Revenue.	Expenditure	Revenue.	Expenditure
	\$ C	\$ C	\$ C	\$ C	\$ C	\$ C
Windsor Forest ...	3,362 87	14,249 53	4,072 86	7,907 16	4,521 26	7,380 10
La Jalousie ...	5,870 17	5,021 16	4,931 94	6,391 97	6,481 82	12,368 67
Hague ...	5,553 96	2,604 38	4,152 56	10,773 03	4,964 28	9,394 37
	14,787 00	21,875 07	13,157 36	24,972 16	15,967 36	29,143 14

Expenditure exceeded revenue by a considerable amount during the three years as a large sum was spent in overtaking arrears of maintenance.

Under normal conditions expenditure should not exceed the revenue.

HOUSE LOT SECTIONS.	1941.		1942.		1943.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure	Revenue	Expenditure	Revenue.	Expenditure
	\$ C	\$ C	\$ C	\$ C	\$ C	\$ C
Windsor Forest ..	207 60	507 25	161 43	665 73	222 61	776 77
La Jalousie ...	110 76	287 58	65 71	441 53	117 64	441 78
Hague ...	118 35	342 62	129 20	500 36	195 56	625 84
	436 71	1,137 45	356 34	1,607 62	535 81	1,844 39

#### ORDER OF THE DAY.

##### COVE & JOHN AND VERGENOEGEN.

Mr. JACOB asked and the COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting) laid over replies to the following questions:—

Q. (1)—Will Government explain why Plantations Cove and John and Vergenoegen in Demerara

#### WORKING OF GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

Mr. EDUN asked and the COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting) laid over replies to the following questions:—

Q. 1.—What are the comparative figures of revenue and expenditure of the Government estates of Windsor Forest, La Jalousie and Hague during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943 regarding the cultivated sections of the aforesaid estates?

A—The figures are as follows:—

Q. 2.—What are the comparative figures of revenue and expenditure of the house lot sections of the Government estates of Windsor Forest, La Jalousie and Hague during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943?

A—The figures are as follows:—

have not been acquired for land settlement purposes, as recommended by the Land Settlement Committee which was appointed in February, and which submitted an interim report in August, 1943?

—Government is not authorised in this case to purchase

without first presenting an estimate of the cost to the Legislature. The authority of Legislative Council by Resolutions numbers III and V of 1944 has now been obtained to negotiate with the proprietors and endeavour to arrange purchase of Plantations Ver-genoegen, *cum annexis*, East Bank, Essequibo River, and Cove and John, East Coast, Demerara, and action is proceeding.

Q (2)—Is Government still unconcerned about the welfare of hundreds of workers who are being victimised by certain landlords in Demerara and Berbice, and who have been and are being given notices to remove their houses, out-houses and cattle pens, or in the alternative, in some cases, pay an increase rent of over 300 per cent?

A. — Government has never been unconcerned about the welfare of the workers and has caused full investigations to be made in all cases which have been brought to notice. Investigations to date have not substantiated the allegations of victimisation.

Q. (3)—Will Government cause a census to be taken, to ascertain the number of persons and/or families who require house lots on which to build their houses and to lease cultivation and pasturage areas to the extent of from three to fifteen acres per person and/or family as recommended by the 1943 Land Settlement Committee, in the following districts, each district separately:—

- (a) West Coast of Demerara.
- (b) West Bank of Demerara.
- (c) East Bank of Demerara.
- (d) East Coast of Berbice.
- (e) West Coast of Berbice.
- (f) East Bank of Berbice.
- (g) The Canje District.
- (h) The Corentyne District.

A. — If and when the estates referred to in Resolutions III, IV and V of 1944 have been purchased by Government, settlers will be selected in accordance with the recom-

mendations of the Land Settlement Committee, the number of persons selected being limited by the area available. It is not considered that a census is required.

PERSONAL ALLOWANCE TO SIR  
JOHN VERITY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 14 of the 28th September, this Council approves of a personal allowance at the rate of £200 per annum being paid to His Honour Sir John Verity, the Chief Justice of the Colony, with effect from the first day of January, 1944.

The facts in support of this motion are clearly set out in Message No. 14 from Your Excellency, which has been laid on the table this morning, and copies of which are in the hands of all hon. Members. It is only necessary for me to underline certain facts which are stated in the Message. Hon. Members will recollect that at or about the time of the death of Sir Maurice Camacho, the then Chief Justice, one or two incidents occurred which were not calculated to improve the prestige of the Supreme Court. It was therefore obviously necessary that the high office of Chief Justice of this Colony should be filled as quickly as possible. It was even more important that the person selected to fill that vacancy should be a person who could bring his influence to bear upon the Court and cause its decisions to take effect. It so happened that Sir John Verity had been on the Bench of the Supreme Court of this Colony for a period exceeding three years and in fact he had acted with distinction as Chief Justice as recently as August, 1938. In the circumstances, therefore, he was the obvious choice to succeed the late Sir Maurice Camacho.

There were difficulties about that, however. At that time Sir John Verity was Chief Justice of Zanzibar, and it

so happens that Zanzibar is one of the best appreciated positions in the Colonial Legal Service. Conditions of service there are interesting, the salary is only very slightly less than that drawn by Sir Maurice Camacho, and the cost of living is very much less. In the ordinary course of events, therefore, Sir John Verity would never have thought twice about accepting an invitation to come to this Colony. In fact the Secretary of State would never have thought of offering the vacant post of Chief Justice of British Guiana to the Chief Justice of Zanzibar. In view of the difficulties we were experiencing at that time, however, the Secretary of State sent a long cable to Sir John Verity explaining the difficulties and specially asking him if he would consider coming to this Colony. We all know that Sir John Verity accepted that invitation and came to this Colony. I do not think I am overstating the case by saying that it was solely due to his sense of duty that he came here. He was perfectly well aware at the time that from his own personal standpoint, financial and otherwise, he would be worse off here. Hon. Members will be aware that if one is called upon to leave his home in one Colony to open one in another Colony it means a heavy charge on one's pocket. Apart from that, for years the cost of living in this Colony has been immeasurably higher than in Zanzibar, and the war has greatly increased that disparity. It is very much more so here now than at the time Sir John Verity accepted the invitation to come here.

Another peculiar circumstance about the matter is that Sir John Verity came here at a time when the submarine campaign was at its height, and shipping space was absolutely at a premium, probably at the tightest moment of the whole war. The result has been that Lady Verity has never been able to get transport from Africa to this Colony. The natural and

obvious result is that he has had the expense of keeping two homes, one in this Colony and one in South Africa where the cost of living is high. These things should not be borne by an officer who came here at special request to straighten things out. He may well have said "No, I have been there before. I know the conditions and I simply cannot afford to go there." However, Sir John Verity did not, and he came here to perform public service. In the circumstances the Secretary of State expressed his willingness to approve of the payment to him of a personal allowance at the rate of £200 per annum if such action was approved by this Council. I am quite sure that Members of the Council will appreciate the sense of duty that brought Sir John Verity here, and give the motion their sympathetic consideration and, I trust, their sympathetic support. With those words I formally move the motion.

Mr. WOOLFORD seconded.

Mr. LEE: I would like it to be recorded in Hansard that the principle underlying the appointment of Judges by the Secretary of State for the Colonies is that their salaries should not come under review by this Council at any time, the reason being that Judges should be free to administer justice to one and all. The effect of passing this resolution will be that to a certain extent the salary of the Chief Justice will be subject to review every year. I feel that that would be against the principle underlying the appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court. I do not say that Sir John Verity has not sacrificed his promotion to come to this Colony, for which the Colony is very grateful to him, but at the same time he was definitely told that the salary attached to the post was the highest this Colony could give, and he accepted the appointment on those terms. I admit that on account of the high cost of living and the fact that his family is away from him he has had double

expense, but if the Secretary of State deems it desirable that he should be paid a higher salary he should give instructions to amend the Civil List Ordinance with that object. The Civil List Ordinance was amended in this Council and higher salaries were passed for certain officers of the Government, and if the Secretary of State gave instructions that the salary of the Chief Justice should be increased I have no doubt that this Council would agree to it. It was said in Finance Committee that this Council could review the action of a Judge by promotion at any time. I agree, but I am of the opinion that a resolution of this kind is an infringement of the Imperial Government's policy in respect of the appointment of Judges. I do not say that the Chief Justice is not deserving of consideration, but the matter should be dealt with by amending the Civil List Ordinance.

Mr. EDUN: I think there is much in what the hon. Member has said. I did not attend the meeting of the Finance Committee in order to ascertain the need for this vote. I am not unwilling to vote any money for the Judiciary, provided there is ample justification for it. In this case I do not know how the amount to be voted would effect the Civil List. Perhaps later on we may find other Judges asking that their salaries be increased. That is a matter which I think we must guard against. I consider the Judiciary as the place where all Legislative Council acts are reviewed from time to time, and I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Judges for their patience and forbearance in the administration of justice in the Supreme Court. I say this much: that the public reposes confidence in the Judges of to-day. I will vote for the motion.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I quite agree with some of the remarks made. I am glad to hear hon. Members will support an increase of the Judges' salaries.

Some little time ago I dropped a hint which seemed to have gone unnoticed. It seemed to have no effect on the Council generally. During the discussion on the Civil List I indicated that there will be anomalies. It seems that there will have to be an anomaly committee in relation to the Judges' salaries. I submit that at some time or other we will have to consider the salaries of the Judges and no doubt increase them. We are increasing the salaries of other Officers who are in other respects comparable with the Judges and of certain Officers who are not comparable with the Judges. I think that will come. I am glad to see we will have the support of the two hon. Members who have spoken, if they are still Members of the Council at that time. I do not think there is anyone sitting around this table or in the Colony who has had association with the Chief Justice who would think that the amount of £200 given to him to make up the loss he has suffered is in the nature of a gift or gratuity. He is known not only in his judicial capacity but in other spheres of activity and commands the respect of the inhabitants and citizens of this Colony.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: There is just one point I would like to be clear on. The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) seems to imagine that this is an increase of the salary attached to the office of Chief Justice. I understand that is not so. It is a personal to the present holder of the office.

The PRESIDENT: Yes, that is so.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: If and when Sir John Verity is leaving us it may be that the Officer, who is then offered the office of Chief Justice, may or may not deserve it. I take it that if and when he leaves, the salary of Chief Justice will again be considered. I want to get that clear—the increase is not on the salary of the office but a personal to the present holder.

Mr. LEE: To a point of explanation! I do realize it is a personal allowance, but what I am saying is that it must come under review each year when the Budget is being considered, and I am against that in principle.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. Member is quite correct.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: The salaries of the Judges are fixed by Statute and have nothing to do with the Civil List. It seems that an amendment to increase the salary of the Chief Justice from £1,800 to £2,000 will not be a personal increase to Sir John Verity alone but for any future Chief Justice, and the idea of the motion before the Council is that this £200 is to be given to Sir John for the disadvantageous circumstances he is now suffering by reason of his acceptance of the office of Chief Justice of this Colony. The hon. the Attorney-General has put the case for Sir John, I think, in a very elegant manner and very forcibly, and I was somewhat disturbed in mind when I heard the first Member telling us that he was against the increase of £200 being paid to Sir John Verity. Not only did Sir John come here at personal inconvenience to himself but, I go further and say, risked his life at the very height of the submarine warfare in coming here. Apart from that fact which has shown him a very brave and courageous man, he left Zanzibar to come to these shores to help us in a difficulty which we were in so far as the Judiciary was concerned. I am sorry the discussion has been permeated by some remarks which are not pertinent to the matter.

Mr. E. A. LUCKHOO: In view of the exceptional circumstances of the case I am prepared to vote for the motion. I think the hon. the Attorney-General has given ample reasons for bringing forward this motion. It is not an addition to the salary of the office of Chief Justice; it is an additional sum to be voted by way of a

personal allowance to the present Chief Justice in view of the special disadvantages suffered by him in the acceptance of the office. That is how I take it to be. If the present Chief Justice resigns at any time and another is appointed to his place, that Officer will not get that personal allowance.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I just like to thank hon. Members for receiving and supporting this motion as they have done. I publicly agree with every word the hon. Member for Essequibo River said about the undesirability of the Judges' salaries coming before this Council for review every year or for any period. Their salaries should be outside the debates in this Council except an increase is to be actually fixed. Hon. Members will appreciate that this is a personal to Sir John Verity. If we amend the Ordinance it would be extremely difficult to make void any appearance of that personal without a further amendment of the Ordinance. From all points of view this method is preferable. This point of view is obvious to all: The fact that it appears in the Estimates every year gives an opportunity to everyone to raise a debate on the Chief Justice's salary. I feel sure that everyone present realizes it is a most deplorable thing to do. I trust when the Estimates come forward that all hon. Members will show good sense in saying nothing when this item comes for review, and it will be in keeping with the passing of this motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion passed.

#### ANOMALIES COMMITTEE REPORT.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: With the permission of the Council I wish to move the first motion of which I gave notice this morning. It reads:—

“That with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 13 of the 25th September,

- 1944, this Council approves of the Anomalies Committee Report (Legislative Council Paper No. 19/1944) with the modifications indicated in the Message being adopted with effect from 1st January, 1944, inclusive, and undertakes to vote the funds necessary to give effect to the proposals."

I would like very briefly to recall to hon. Members the history of the action which has been taken in dealing with the revision of the salaries of Government Employees. The first step was a resolution passed by this Council in March, 1943, which approved of the modification in certain respects of the salary scales of what is termed the Unclassified General Service. The intention, when that resolution was passed, was that all the Officers concerned should be regraded within those salary scales. The next step was, independent action was taken in connection with certain special departments, notably the Post Office (including the Telecommunications Branch), the Medical and the Police. Hon. Members will also remember that as the result of very protracted negotiations and reconsideration the revised salaries have been embodied in the current year's Estimates for the employees of those Departments. As the result of that action several anomalies crept in especially in regard to the employees in other Departments whose salaries had not yet been dealt with, and with the object of correcting those anomalies as far as possible Government appointed a Committee to investigate and make recommendations. That Committee's Report, No. 19 of 1944, was accepted by Government subject to certain reservations which have been set out in Message No. 13, which I communicated earlier in the day. The Report and reservations were very carefully discussed in Finance Committee in August last and having received general acceptance it was agreed that this Council be invited to accept the approval of the adoption of

the Report and modifications by motion. Hence the motion before the Council today.

When speaking in Finance Committee on this Report I explained that although the Committee's terms of reference dealt merely with the adjustment of anomalies, yet their most important recommendation, made at the instance of the Governor, was the introduction of two long grade salary scales for Junior Technical Employees of the Public Service. These scales are precisely the same as the salary scales now in force for Class II and Class I Officers of the General Clerical Service. In justification of that recommendation, I should like to say that the Officers of the General Clerical Service have had somewhat of an advantage over the employees in the Technical Service. Some of these Technical employees hold posts which require qualification, educational and technical, and training which are even higher than the qualification required for posts of a purely clerical nature and, I think, it is right that the degree of training and qualification now required of technical employees should be recompensed by an equitable increase of their salaries. But that increase has to be qualified by the limitation that complete and full certificate qualifications must be the deciding factor in introducing any of these Officers into the higher grade.

At this stage I would like to read for the purpose of record an extract from a letter which was addressed by the hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Civil Service Association on this matter, because it is of very great importance. The letter is dated 25th April, 1944, and this is the extract:

"It must be understood that this arrangement (the new scales) could only be for Officers who are required to obtain specific technical qualifications by examination or special certificates, in accordance in fact with the sense of the minutes of the interview with the Colonial Secretary on the

23rd August, 1943.....The establishment of such grades would necessitate the strictest adherence to the provisions of Chapter 8 and the General Orders relating to increments and efficiency bars, and no Officer would proceed to the senior grade unless he were of outstanding ability and fully and specifically qualified for the promotion.....It should be clearly understood that the final decision as to the establishment of these two grades must lie with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Legislative Council."

That letter to the Civil Service Association very clearly indicates the limitation and qualification for entry into these two grades. I would just refer to the reservation of Government on the Report of the Committee on that particular matter. The Committee recommended two grades, a lower grade and another, and they went further and recommended that an Officer in the lower grade should more or less automatically proceed from the lower to the upper grade after he had been at the maximum salary for three years. That has not been accepted by Government and, if hon. Members would read the first reservation in the Message, it would seem that Government's intention is that while Officers should not proceed automatically as recommended it is considered the number of posts in the senior grade should not necessarily remain fixed but might be increased from time to time having regard to administrative requirements, and so meet the case of any specially qualified Officer in the junior grade whose duties justify his being advanced to the senior grade.

I have dwelt at some length on this subject because it is the most important item in this Report and it is also the most expensive. I do not propose to refer in detail to the recommendations which are purely an adjustment of anomalies. We went through them with some care in Finance Committee and, I think, they are generally acceptable to hon. Members of Council. The

cost of the proposals is shown on page 8 of the Committee's Report. If they are introduced from the 1st January, 1944, as intended, the cost for 1944 would be \$35,410. That cost will progressively increase as Officers advance in their incremental scale. The Report gives a somewhat alarming figure as the maximum cost, stating that the cost may reach the figure, \$164,998. That is of course completely hypothetical; it is based on the assumption that at some time all the Officers to whom this applies will receive their maximum salary at one and the same time. That is almost impossible.

I want to draw attention more or less for the sake of record to the reservations which are printed in the Message. I have already dealt with the first reservation. The second is, the Committee included in their Report provision for certain new posts, and Government feels that it is not within the province of the Committee to create new posts. No new posts are being created as the result of this Committee's Report. The third reservation deals with the transfer of certain unclassified posts to the Classified Clerical Establishment, which the Committee intended should be done. These posts in the Public Works Department are held by persons who do not possess the qualification to enter the Classified Clerical Service, but the work done is of a clerical nature nevertheless. Government feels that their recommendation should not be adopted. It is felt that these clerks should remain in the Unclassified Service and be placed on a continuous salary scale rising from \$30 to \$100 per month and be placed at a certain point on the recommendation of the Head of their Department. The fourth reservation relates to the Militia Band. The Committee recommended certain salaries for the Band. It is felt that the appropriate salaries should be the equivalent of what are now paid to the Members of the Police Force having

regard to their respective ranks. The next reservation relates to the Apprentices in the Public Works Department workshop. It is felt that their salary scale should not be revised. The last reservation deals with additional increments. The Civil Service Association had urged that in many cases more than the normal accruing increments should be given to certain Officers concerned. Government feels that there may be very deserving cases where that may be appropriate, and sympathetic consideration may be given to individual cases on their merits but not as a general concession.

Since we met in Finance Committee two other modifications have been decided upon. The first deals with Messengers. The salary scale for Messengers is \$20 per month rising to \$30 per month, and the Committee considered that low and have remedied that by making the salary scale for the Senior grade Messengers rising from \$30 to \$40 per month. The first proposal was that after a Messenger had served for five years at the maximum of the scale he would proceed to the higher grade of a Senior Messenger. It is now proposed to reduce that period from five years to three years. It is also proposed that any Messenger who has been on the lower scale prior to the 1st January, 1944, and who has not yet reached the maximum should be given one additional increment. These modifications are given in order to give relief to a rather hard-worked and poorly paid set of employees. I hope hon. Members will accept them. It is really departmental action which will appear in due course, but I have only mentioned it because it is a future modification of the terms of the motion.

There is one other reservation and that refers to Telephone Operators. Through a misprint in the Report the increment was fixed at a wrong

figure. The increment was put as \$60 per annum whereas the comparable rate with other scales is \$30. The last modification is in regard to the recommendations for the salaries of Relief Telephone Operators. The Committee have recommended a fixed salary of \$24 a month for those ladies. These are generally Trainees who generally do not work throughout the month but only when called upon to do so. They hold themselves in readiness to serve but do not serve. It is proposed that instead of a fixed salary these Relief Operators should be paid a Retaining Fee and 50 cents per day for attendance. At the moment they are paid 50 cents per day as Probationers and it is more or less logically a training fee. In practice the result will be practically the same.

I am afraid I have not covered the whole field, but I do not think it is necessary to do so. If in the course of discussion any point is raised I would be glad to answer it as best as I can.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Mr. JACOB: Before I say what I really want to say this morning, I wish to say again that I am put to very great disadvantage as I did not know that this very important matter and other matters of greater importance were coming up for discussion to-day in this Council. I received yesterday the usual notice that this meeting was to be held but was given no details whatever. A few days ago I received a similar notice of the meeting being held on Thursday. I take an interest in the affairs of this Council and of the Colony in general, and when I come to this Council I want to have an opportunity beforehand to consult the papers I have and to follow them. I have not been able to do so. I was promised on a previous occasion that I would be given the agenda a few days before the meetings.



In literary societies and well organised businesses the members of the executive know a few days before a meeting what they have to discuss, but in this Council Members do not know, in some cases until their arrival here, what they have to discuss. My hon. friend on my right (Mr. Jackson) did not know what would be discussed to-day. I received a letter this morning. It was left at my house at 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon and put in the usual place for letters, but I did not see it until this morning. I am therefore at a great disadvantage.

I have said sufficient to convince Government that it is essential that Members, whether they want to look at papers or not, should be given an opportunity to peruse the various reports. If they choose to take no interest in the affairs of this Council that is a matter for them. So long as I am a Member I claim the right—it is not a favour—to be given every document in time so that when I come here I will be in a position to say what I wish to say.

The PRESIDENT: I entirely agree with the hon. Member. So far I have been unsuccessful in getting to Members in sufficient time the agenda and papers concerning meetings of the Council. I will do my best to devise means by which Members will be given more notice. I agree that Members should have ample opportunity to study the papers. Sometimes it is due to pressure of printing, and we do not get the proofs through in time, but sometimes it is due to lack of efficient organization. So far I have failed in my efforts to remedy that but I hope I will not fail in future.

Mr. JACOB: I am grateful for the explanation. I have another complaint to make if it can be called a complaint. Maybe it will be called abuse. At the meeting of the Finance

Committee I raised certain points and I was told that certain anomalies in the Committee's report would be rectified, or nearly all of them. I made some notes but I do not know whether any of those anomalies have been rectified at all. I was told too by the Colonial Treasurer that on page 5 of the report the incremental rate in respect of telephone operators was a misprint. The report was not then a printed document; it was a typewritten document if I remember rightly. I was told that the matter would be adjusted.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: At the time I do not know whether the report was a printed document or a typescript. What I said was that an error had occurred in the original draft of the Committee's report and the Chairman explained that it was a genuine error on the part of the Secretary. It was not a misprint but an error.

Mr. JACOB: At any rate a good time has elapsed that I thought the matter would have been rectified and other anomalies corrected. The Message before us does not afford us any opportunity to say whether they have been corrected or not. I have just received a copy of the report, but maybe I have one at my office.

The PRESIDENT: You have had that report for many days. It was circulated to Members of the Council many days ago.

Mr. JACOB: I am not a civil servant. I earn my living by routine employment. I employ myself and I have been able to rake up certain documents this morning but I could not get all the documents. That does not absolve Government from putting before Members in this Council the correct document. I say that this document is not correct. The Colonial

Treasurer very cleverly endeavoured to explain that it was an error. He knew of the error months ago but the printed document has not been corrected. I have my own opinion as to the reason for that. I was going to say that the scale of salary was fixed at \$480 x \$60—\$600 an increment of \$5. The mover of the motion stated just now that a comparable rate of increment is \$4 and not \$5. I have been trying to peruse this document since he made that statement and I can see nowhere the comparable rate of \$48 per annum.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The comparable rate is \$48, the rate with which I have been comparing it in the Clerical Service salary scale for typists which, of course, does not appear in this report at all.

Mr. JACOB: Very clever again, I say I am concerned with this report and I say that it is a distinctly incorrect statement to make. I go on to say that immediately above the Telephone Operators the report sets out the scale of salaries for Linesmen, and in respect of Grade II the salary scale is \$600 x \$30 to \$720. Here we have linesmen doing dangerous work at a salary of \$600 rising to \$720 by increments of \$30 per annum, while in respect of Grade I the scale is \$720 x \$60 to \$960. This report has definitely created another definite anomaly. It should have put everything in a uniform way. I was given the definite assurance that these things would be adjusted when they were raised by me in Finance Committee. I believe that no attempt has been made to adjust any of them.

The PRESIDENT: I recollect very well the discussion on the subject of the variation of the incremental rates. What I recollect is that Government promised to consider some form of

uniformity in the various scales so that there should be the same rates of increments, but I do not think it was said that they would be altered when this report was being discussed in Council. Government said it would bear your point in mind when the 1945 estimates were being considered. Am I right?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Yes, sir. In my reply I will deal with it.

Mr. JACOB: I consider it very unsatisfactory to continue this system. I am not at the moment certain what will be the effect of the adoption of the recommendations in this report, but Government must realize that it must consider all its officers, especially those engaged in hazardous occupations, who should be treated in a better way than those who are not so engaged.

On page 2 of the report the salary scale recommended for the Captain of a launch is \$480--\$30—\$600. It is a most hazardous occupation, and in most cases a captain has a wife and family. At one time there were submarines in this area. The Committee has failed miserably in putting forward its report, and I do not congratulate any of the members. In fact I think the report is a most one-sided document. I do not know whether the anomalies were properly considered. I do not know whether the members of the Committee had the time or the inclination to consider those things. I am sorry to have to make that remark because I know some of the Members of the Committee and consider them hard working in some respects. The case of the Captain of a launch should be considered immediately, and if any employee referred to in this report is deserving of an increment of \$4 or \$5 the Captain of a launch should get the same.

Under Customs the salary scale recommended for the Cooper is \$480—\$30—\$720, and the Customs Watchers, the protectors of the revenue of the Colony, are to get the same salary. If Government has good men they should be well paid and not given increments of \$30 per annum. The Overseer is in the same position. On page 4 of the report the same salary scale is recommended for full-time Bailiffs. I can go on enumerating other anomalies in the report of the Committee appointed to correct anomalies in the Service. For instance I take the case of Postmen which I think is comparable with that of the Telephone Operators. They work longer hours in rain and shine, but are to get increments of \$30 per annum as compared with \$48 per annum by the Telephone Operators. I think Government has failed miserably in this matter and the sooner it corrects these anomalies the better for all concerned.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I take it that the silence of Members of the Council other than the Member for North-Western District betokens acceptance of the motion, for which I am very grateful. As regards the remarks of the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) it always amuses me to hear what a very large story he can make out of a very small point. I admire him in that respect and wish I could do likewise. His entire remarks have been confined to the single criticism of the increments of the Telephone Operators which I myself pointed out. The increments of these salary scales are uniform. If Members will look at the scales they will find that wherever the salary is below \$40 per month the increment is \$2; where the salary is between \$40 and \$60 per month the incremental rate rises to \$2.50 per month, and where the salary is above \$720 the increment rises to \$5 per month.

Mr. JACOB: I rise to a point of correction, sir. The hon. Member is deliberately misleading this Council--deliberately I say.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think you can rise to a point of correction and make a statement of that nature. You say you do not agree with it. Let us hear what the Colonial Treasurer has to say.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: May I repeat what I said? In respect of the Unclassified salary scales, where the salary is below \$40 per month the rate of increment is \$2; between \$40 and \$60 per month the increment is \$2.50 per month, and above \$60 per month the increment is \$5 per month. That is in so far as the Unclassified salary scales are concerned.

Mr. JACOB: May I correct my friend?

The PRESIDENT: Let the Colonial Treasurer finish.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: In the case of the Classified staff the increments are slightly higher. In the two Long Grades which have been adopted for technical officers Members will find that in respect of salaries between \$40 and \$70 per month the increment is \$5. I said in my opening remarks that the same scales have been adopted for Junior Technical officers as in the case of the General Clerical Service. The other branch is women employees for whom two grades have been fixed and approved by the Council. They come under the unfortunate classifications of Grade A and Grade B, and there are Typists and Clerical Assistants. In the Typists grade the increment is \$4 per month.

In making its recommendations with regard to Telephone Operators

the Committee had intended to put them on the same salary scale as Typists and Clerical Assistants—\$40 to \$60 per month with increments of \$4, except that their maximum is \$50 per month instead of \$60 in the case of Typists and Clerical Assistants. I am not now trying to defend the argument as to whether a telephone operator or a typist should get a higher increment than a linesman or a captain of a launch. I am simply stating the facts as they are. Those grades are uniform. Members may have different opinions about the respective merits of various classes, but that is a matter of opinion. After the hon. Member spoke in Finance Committee I looked into the matter but I see no immediate way of adjusting all the rates to make them completely uniform. The only way to do that is to increase them all. If we are going to have a \$5 rate of increment for the Clerical Service and make them uniform we will have to bring them all up to that. I have not lost sight of the matter. If any very serious anomalies crop up, as I have no doubt they may, they will undoubtedly be corrected.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. Member may point out any errors he thinks have been stated. I am prepared to allow the hon. Member to say what he wants to say.

Mr. JACOB: I repeat my statement that the hon. Member's explanation is not correct. The hon. Member is probably referring to some other document not before the Council today. The document before the Council does not bear out the statement he made just now. There are various increases here but they do not conform to what the Colonial Treasurer says about \$2 and \$2.50 per month increments. I referred to Linesmen and Head Bailiffs and one or two others, but I will not bother to give details because I do not know whether they will be appreciated at all.

I endeavoured to give details of all these things but my friend said they were all due to one particular error. If that is the explanation the chief financial officer of this Government has to make on a matter of such grave importance affecting so many persons it is useless for me to say anything further.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### REVISED SALARY SCALES FOR TEACHERS.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I beg to move:

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 15 of the 2nd October, 1944, this Council approves of the revised salary scales as set out in the Schedule to the Message being adopted with effect from the 1st January, 1944, and undertakes to vote the necessary funds to give effect to the proposals.

In moving this motion I venture to express the hope, which I feel sure will be echoed by many hon. Members, that if it is passed it will serve to remove from the field of public discussion and controversy the long standing and vexed question of the remuneration of primary school teachers. It is a matter which I at least believe has served to obscure the much more important educational problems which we have to face. I do not pretend that acceptance of this motion is going to solve all the problems in regard to the employment of teachers. Certainly many grave problems as to staffing of the schools and the financial implications relating to that staffing will remain. Nevertheless, as I said, it would undoubtedly set at rest this very burning question of the adequacy of the remuneration of primary school teachers. For that reason I am rather glad it has fallen to me to introduce this motion, although the executive officer of the Government who is primarily concerned, the Director of Education, is available to speak on general policy or on the report.

The history of the matter is briefly set out in Message No. 15 which I communicated this morning. Briefly, the action which is being taken today originated with the memorandum published by the Educational Adviser to Sir Frank Stockdale in 1942. In the following year a Committee was appointed by the Governor. I notice in a Message it is termed an *ad hoc* Committee, but I prefer to call it a special Committee so as not to confuse it with the other *ad hoc* Committee of the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar). The Committee was appointed to consider and report on the salaries to be paid to Primary School Teachers. The report was received, I think, in March this year and was carefully considered. It was discussed in Finance Committee as recently as August, and there it found general acceptance, but I will admit that at that meeting the members of the Committee expressed very freely their views and fears as regards the financial implications and the burden which these increased salaries are going to impose on the public revenue, and speaking as Treasurer I myself cannot disguise the fact that I too feel somewhat alarmed. Nevertheless there is no doubt whatever that that is a position which this Council will have to face. After the discussion in Finance Committee the report was communicated to the Secretary of State who has approved of the recommendations, but in doing so he made one suggestion. It was more than a suggestion, it was in the nature of advice. His suggestion was that the rate of increment might be reduced in some respects so as to reduce the price at which the cost of these proposals will fall on the public revenue. That proposal has been accepted, and I will refer to what has been done later.

At the moment I will just briefly call hon. Members' attention to the salary scales which are proposed in

this motion. They are summarized in the Schedule to the Message. I think hon. Members will find it easier to refer to the Schedule to the Message rather than to the report itself. From that Schedule it will be seen that pupil teachers are to be granted salaries ranging from \$12 for the first year to \$25 for the end of the fourth year. Uncertificated teachers are to be granted salaries ranging from \$30 to \$35 per month. The next item in the schedule is Regulation 95 schools. In those schools a certificated head teacher will be granted a salary of \$40 rising to \$45 per month. Under the head Certificated Assistant Teachers the salary scale ranges from \$40 to \$80 per month. At this point I wish to draw the Council's attention to the fact that teachers who have had a period of training at a recognized training college and have obtained a second-class certificate will enter that scale at \$60 per month, and those who have obtained a first-class certificate will enter the scale at \$70 per month. The maximum salary of that grade is \$80 per month.

Under the head Head Teachers the main point is the removal of that objectionable system of payment of salaries in accordance with average attendance. I think everyone agrees that the time has come when that principle should be abandoned. Head Teachers will have a salary scale of \$60 to \$160. It is a very long scale. The salary scale is \$60 to \$160, but certain points within that grade vary in accordance with the Class certificate which is held by the teacher. The modification which has been made in this schedule as compared with the schedule in the Report is that the increment in the salary scales below \$60 has been fixed at \$2.50 per month instead of \$5.00. That is completely in conformity with the scales we have been discussing in the last motion before this Council. As I said, sir, that modification has been made on the basis of the advice of the Secretary of State. If hon. Members look at the Report they would see that the Report had originally an

increment of \$5.00 per month. There is a considerable saving in making such a modification, amounting to \$11,000 in the second year after the introduction of the scale, and that saving is progressive. The third year it will be \$22,000, the fourth year \$33,000, and so on. In other words, it reduces the total overall cost of the proposals by reducing the rate at which the maximum cost is attained.

As regards cost, in paragraph 5 of the Message the cost is set out. It means if this proposal is accepted, the total salary bill for 1944 plus the salaries to teachers will be \$800,000 odd and a supplementary provision for an additional \$239,000 will have to be provided for this year. In addition to that, there will be the consequential increase of Temporary War Bonus which will require another \$40,000. Therefore our total additional bill for this year will be \$280,000. The maximum total shown in the Report is another alarming amount --\$1,178,000. That is completely hypothetical as it assumes that all teachers will pass the Efficiency Bar and will arrive at the maximum and be paid that maximum at the same time and in the same year. That is very unlikely to happen. At the same time it is quite obvious that in process of time these proposals are going to impose a very heavy burden indeed. But, as I said, we have to face it. We cannot go on with the charge being levelled at us that the teachers' salaries are altogether inadequate. We cannot allow that issue above all issues to obscure our finding a solution to the many other problems that await us.

I would like to conclude by saying that on this occasion the Report which is the subject of this motion has some very honourable signatories. The Report on the previous motion is signed merely by a public officer but this Report is signed by the Hon. C. Vibart Wight as Chairman, the Hon. J. I. de Aguiar and a Teachers' Representative. I

trust the motion commends itself to the Council and, as I said, any point of detail will be dealt with by the Director of Education who is here. I beg to move the motion.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO seconded.

Mr. EDUN: I have listened carefully to the hon. the Colonial Treasurer outlining the financial implications these teachers' salaries will cause. He said: "We cannot go on with the charge being levelled at us that the teachers' salaries are inadequate." That statement is one that carries with it responsibility. But certainly we do expect returns from the salaries we give to the teachers. That should be reciprocal. I agree *in toto* that the teachers are receiving inadequate salaries, but at the same time viewing the situation as I do—travelling from one end of the country to another and seeing the product of the present-day education system in British Guiana—I am not satisfied as to the rate of improvement or progress this Colony is making in education. I make that statement unequivocally. Definitely I do not see how we can improve the education system by simply giving money to the teachers and not expecting certain regulations to exist to ensure that these teachers work for the salaries they receive. I think, I have stated that already in this Council and that teachers ought to be on their jobs the whole time and all the time. It is their duty to see that the children are educated. If the providing of \$800,000 in salaries for 1944 in addition to \$40,000 in Temporary War Bonus will give me the feeling that there will be improvement as a result, then I shall vote for this motion and endeavour to do my best to make the teachers a happy and contented people. On their work is based the moral, intellectual and spiritual values of the people of this country. They are the builders of the youth, and if money is involved certainly let us give them it, but at the same time let us get value for it. If I get an undertaking from the Director of Education that there shall be

improvement within three years, then certainly I shall be contented to say "Let us wait and see what will be the result."

Apart from the fact that I have outlined what was in my mind about education, I am thinking seriously of education on the sugar estates. I do not see any marked degree of penetration of the benefits of education on the sugar estates at all. And that is an important point. We have one section of the community in this Colony, the sugar workers, with a marked proportion of illiterates, and if we continue to allow that section to remain like that without any effort being made to uplift them educationally, then our education system as a whole will not be worthwhile at all. It is for that reason that I want to ask Government to take a serious view of the education provided on the sugar estates, especially as the Franchise Commission has so markedly pointed out to the world that illiteracy is a bar to their exercise of the common privilege of a vote. I view this matter with great anxiety. We cannot allow a section of the people of this country to be illiterate, as they will be simply dragging us down. I hear so much about social welfare schemes, but I would like to see tackled the question of adult education on the sugar estates. I have seen no such provision. Does it mean that we expect these illiterates to die out in the course of fifteen years, or does it mean we must tackle the problem of adult education with the same degree of gumption? What is Government's policy so far as education is concerned? I have heard so much about the Hammond Report that I expect to see everyone being made happy and literate not by mere chance or imagination. That is what the expert expects, and I want to see tangible results from his report. I plead with Government not to close its eyes to that section of the community to which I have referred and make us decry ourselves. I speak with emotion.

I think we should have a pronouncement from His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies on the franchise being given to certain people and not to others. I feel somewhat concerned about it. Because they are not educated, are they to be victimised and not to be allowed the privilege to exercise the common right of a common citizen of the Empire? I plead with the Chairman of the Education Committee to do his very best to see that something is done for the education of the adults on the sugar estates. As General President of the Man-Power Citizens' Association which looks after the interests of the workers on the sugar estates, I know how low is the degree of their intelligence. I am conscious of that fact and it pains me to think that is so, and I am much concerned as to how we can assist in making them become proper citizens. Sir Gordon himself told me—and I want to expose it here today—that he was hooted by some little boys at Pln. Albion. Fancy the Governor of a country being hooted by boys. Maybe that has influenced the Government in making the recommendation that these people on the sugar estates should not be allowed to exercise the vote because they are not educated. I think the time is ripe and has come when a definite step should be taken to do something for these illiterates and some organisation be established whereby in a period of years they can be educated too. Other countries have done that. It is all well to have money. That is good in itself, but surely we want value for the money we spend. Unless I see value being obtained from the money spent on education in the literacy of the people from Skeldon to Tuschen, perhaps one day I shall level a censure on this Government for lack of vision and neglect of its duties and also on this Legislative Council. I shall vote for the motion wholeheartedly without considering the amount of money involved, and if more money is required I shall vote again for it because I want the teachers to be happy and not

financially embarrassed so that they can mould the minds of the children and make them proper citizens.

Mr. LEE: With respect to this motion I would like to preface my remarks by saying that I agree that the teachers' salaries are inadequate, but I would like Government to consider that while you may have the best and most efficient teacher that teacher having to teach more than forty children cannot give of his or her best. That must be borne in mind when a charge is laid against the teachers in the future for a breach of faith following the increase of their salaries. It may be said that the teachers are being paid better salaries and yet there is inefficiency. There is also another question. Is Government aware that many of the children of school-going age in the country are not going to school? What steps are being taken towards that, so that when the question of illiteracy comes up ten years hence it will be found that provision has been made to reduce the number? Is Government taking steps to provide free books to the children, as many of them cannot afford to buy books and many of the Head Teachers have asked for such provision? The teachers can do nothing without proper equipment. I believe there is some vote to provide books; if that is not so and Government desires to get good results, it must take that into consideration and see that everything is being carried out in such a manner that if any blame is to be attached in the future for illiteracy it will not be against Government's policy.

I see according to this Report that the teachers will be paid increased salaries following an inspection of the schools for two years running and having regard as to whether their conduct is good or otherwise. It is my opinion that unless Government makes regulations for the proper supervision

of the schools in the various areas it will be a total failure. The teaching of the children must go hand in hand with the social welfare of the children, otherwise they must go backwards. If we are going to spend money, let us spend it in the right direction.

Mr. JACOB: I see there are very few Members of Council who wish to speak on the motion to-day. We were told just now that silence gives consent. Government has a free hand. I agree with this motion and that the required funds should be provided, but I am going to make a few comments which I consider to be constructive. I leave that, however, to Government to term them as it pleases. I am satisfied that there are not sufficient teachers in this Colony and not sufficient accommodation in the schools for the children. I think everyone who takes an interest in the affairs of this Colony thinks so also. I have taken a very keen interest in education. I might have been a teacher for the interest I have taken in matters of education. I am prepared to vote any sum of money, be it one or two million dollars, to put education on a good footing in this Colony. While we have spent a good deal on education there is still a large percentage of illiterates, because this Government wants that to be so. That is what we have been told outside this Council. Culpability rests wholly and solely on Government Educational Officers up to the present time. I am supposed to be one of the members of the Education Advisory Committee, and I want to say that I am not at all satisfied that Committee is working well. I am not satisfied with the administration of the Education Office, and Government is somewhat responsible for that state of affairs. But I am satisfied there are a good many teachers in the Colony who have not come up to expectation, and they are not wholly responsible for that.



I had said in Finance Committee what I wanted to say on this matter, and I want to put on record, whether they are received is another matter, that the proposed salary scales for Pupil Teachers should be as follows:—

“First year—\$12 per month should be .....	\$15
Second year—\$14 per month should be .....	\$18
Third year—\$16 per month should be .....	\$20
Fourth year—\$20 per month should be .....	\$24
End of fourth year—\$25 per month should be .....	\$27”

When I made the point in Finance Committee the hon. Member who made the Report suggested that the amendment would throw an added burden on the financial commitment involved. I want to say emphatically that this proposed amendment will encourage the better class of young men to do something for the Colony when they pass out of the schools. I therefore suggest the proposed amendment of the proposed salary scales of Pupil Teachers to the careful consideration of Government.

There are other matters I can speak on but I will not say too much. I am going to leave this matter to those who are responsible for the administration of the whole system of education, but I wish to make one or two points. I am not satisfied that education is properly administered. There is an Education Department, an Education Committee, and an Advisory Committee advising Government. I think there should either be one Committee or the Executive Government should deal with the matter. It is not proper to have an Education Committee, an Education Advisory Committee, the Department itself, and the Executive Council looking after education. I think an Education Advisory Committee, the Department itself, and if certain Members cannot find the time to do that work other Members who can find the time should be appointed to

the Committee. I am afraid it has been the habit but I hope it will not continue to be the habit of Government to select men because they are Mr. So-and-So and have served Government in the past. That has been the guiding principle, and the results have been very disastrous. My criticisms are based on personal knowledge and are made with the idea that they will help Government to take us out of the state of chaos we are in.

If Government wants to have satisfied teachers there must not be anomalies, and I am afraid that this report by the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight), the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar), and the Director of Education, while very good in many respects, does not go far enough into several matters of detail. For instance I understand the position to be like this: I am wholly in favour of trained teachers being adequately paid but after all academic training is not everything. A teacher from the Training College entering upon his duties is to be put on a par with one who has been getting say \$70 per month with 10 or 15 years' experience. A teacher with 10 years' experience does not feel that he has not been trained. The facilities of the Training College were not available in his time. I think the Department will agree that certain trained teachers are not as capable as certain teachers who have not been trained. I do not think there is any difference of opinion on that point at all. While training is a good thing certain people who have not had the benefit of specialized training are equally as good as those who have had that training. If a trained teacher is to get \$70 per month one who has given satisfactory service with 10 years' experience, and is getting \$70 per month, should be given something more. With several bodies advising Government the matter becomes very difficult. If Government appointed a set of people who are able to go into the matter in detail it could be satisfactorily adjusted, and there would be no discontent among the teacher ,

With all due deference to what the Secretary of State has said I think it is definitely wrong to reduce the increment to \$2.50 per month. Other employees drawing salaries between \$40 and \$60 per month are getting increments of \$5, but teachers are to receive increments of \$2.50. We are told that the Secretary of State says they must only get increments of \$2.50, and this Council agrees to that dictatorship. That is not good for democratic British Guiana or the Empire. We have too many people dictating. We have Mr. Hammond dictating and Sir Frank Stockdale saying "I agree" or "I do not agree." Then the matter goes to the Secretary of State who says "I do not agree." That is not good enough. I would like the matter to be sent back to him. The whole thing is monstrous. If I speak strongly it is because I feel strongly. I approve of the scheme but I disapprove of the attitude of the Secretary of State as regards the details of matters of this kind. I do not think the Council should go into these matters. They should be discussed and settled by Committees charged with responsibility, and by the Head of the Department, and if there is no uniform way of dealing with them Government should have some means of doing so. I think the Educational Advisory Committee is competent. If some people will not work they should be relieved of their appointments, and if others want to work they should be given an opportunity to do so. But, of course, Government prefers to carry on in the usual way and, to use a local term, fool around, but it cannot fool all the people all the time.

Mr. JACKSON: I rise to give my wholehearted support to the motion before the Council and I would like definitely to state at the outset that I consider the work done by the Committee charged with the duties of recommending improved salaries for teachers has been work thoroughly done. All the circumstances in connection with the teacher and his work have been taken into account, beginning from the lowest

grade up to the top, and I think the salaries now proposed for teachers are such as should keep them in a measure of ease and comfort, and relieve them of any embarrassment due to their not being able to balance their budgets. I think that the effort of Government to bring about a definite settlement of this question should be eulogized, and I have no doubt that the teachers themselves are exceedingly grateful for what has been done for them.

I did not really intend to make any remarks on the motion itself, but I cannot allow to go unchallenged some of the remarks made by some of the previous speakers. The hon. the Sixth Nominated Member (Mr. Edun) referred at the outset to what he considered a necessity that improvement should be shown for the salaries which the teachers are to receive. He has not thought of the fact that all along the teachers have been labouring under very difficult conditions and receiving unsuitable remuneration, and I say it to their credit that they have laboured under those conditions faithfully and well. I speak on behalf of the majority of teachers. In every Department there are slackers, but I make bold to say that the majority of teachers in this Colony do their work well. The conditions under which they laboured at the outset were very difficult indeed. Each child was regarded as a wage-earner, and the rotten system of payment by results was introduced from the outset. Through the constant agitation of the teachers themselves that system has been got rid of and a better system has succeeded it. Now that an effort has been made to make them comfortable by giving them salaries commensurate with the work in which they are engaged, I think no one should grudge them.

The hon. Member to whom I refer did not say in what direction he would like to see improvement. He spoke about giving teachers more money, but he must be sure that in three years' time there would be improvement—in what direction he did not say. It is

very well for some people to make wild statements without being able to amplify them. It is easy to say we want improvement, but it is far more difficult to say in what degree we want improvement, and the nature of that improvement. If I followed him correctly I think he ended up with the sugar estates and said he was not satisfied with the education given there, and he wanted to see adult education introduced. Well, we are dealing with the salaries of primary school teachers, and I would advise the hon. Member, who said he spoke with deep emotion, to table a motion for the advancement of those who are illiterate on the sugar estates. If he tabled a motion he would have time to display a little more of his emotion, and perhaps would be able to convince this Council. In my opinion it is nauseous to be continually hearing about people whose education was neglected because Government wanted to keep them illiterate. I have in this Council already given the reason for the illiteracy of large numbers of people to whom the hon. Member referred and I do not like to say it again, but may I repeat it once and for all? I will promise that if the hon. Member and my friend on my left (Mr. Jacob) should bring the matter up again I would take no notice of it.

The reason for that illiteracy is that money was placed before education; that no effort was made by parents to educate their children but rather to make them wealthy. Well, if those people are illiterate it is their fault and not Government's fault. I do not think those hon. Members are giving of their best in this Council when they hold on to that question and neglect to look upon the trend of events to-day in relation to the education of the very people to whose illiteracy they refer. Numbers of East Indian children are attending primary and secondary schools—and why shouldn't they? Their parents have realized that there is a great deal in giving them education, and they are doing so. Let us then think nothing of those who were left back in the race

but endeavour to do the best we can for those who are making towards what is lasting and what is of great benefit to the Colony, and what will make for potential assets if we have an educated population. We shall be able to do a great deal more than we are doing at the present time.

The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) spoke a good deal about the inadequacy of accommodation in the schools, and said there were large numbers of children out of school. Efforts have been made and are being made to improve the conditions of schools, and by a system which has already started certain schools are being re-organized, buildings enlarged, and new schools built in other places. We cannot get everything in a day, but so long as there is a process of improvement going on we must learn to wait for the progress we need.

My friend on my left (Mr. Jacob) referred to me as having started life with a small salary, and said that I had no sympathy with those teachers who are starting now—that because I started low I want them to start low also. If a General Election were on and my friend and I were contesting a seat I would forgive him for that statement because it would be quite permissible for him to do what he could to get votes, but when he speaks of my not having sympathy with the young members of the teaching profession he is using what somebody described as a terminological inexactitude. I think I have dealt with the hon. Member a little more gently than he was dealt with by the Colonial Treasurer. When we were considering the question of the improvement of teachers' salaries the suggestion of the then Director of Education was that a pupil teacher should be paid \$6 per month. I took the matter up very strongly and urged that it should be \$10. The Director asked for a compromise of \$8 but I stuck out for \$10, and after a good deal of discussion he agreed that

they should start at \$10. The increase proposed is a reasonable one and I am not going to follow any wild-headed politician and ask for more money when I am satisfied that the salary to start with is sufficient. I think we have done well in this matter, and I am quite satisfied that the Council will have the lasting gratitude not only of the teachers but of the community.

Something was said about trained teachers. Well, that is a question upon which the Director of Education knows I do not like to say much because, according to my way of thinking, when a teacher is trained according to the system of training obtaining in his day he is as much a trained teacher as one who has been to a Training College. It was unfortunate for me that just as I concluded my pupil teacher's course and was looking forward to taking an examination to enter the Training College the system was scrapped and I had to remain outside and work hard in school. There were no examinations for a number of years, but four or five years after examinations were started again and I took them. I defy the hon. Member or anyone else who talks about trained teachers to say that in my day I have not discharged my duties satisfactorily, and done as much as any trained teacher could have done. I suppose it will be said that I was able to do that because my head teachers were trained men. I thank them for the training they gave me, and it is known that I have trained many of the best teachers in the Colony. It is a very good thing that we have a Training College and I quite agree that good salaries should be paid to trained teachers.

There is, however, one point to which I would like to direct attention at this stage. It is perhaps a point which may be taken up in the Advisory Committee by the hon. Member

for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) who is a member of that Committee. It has been borne upon me that a trained teacher who is taking up an appointment as a Head Teacher will get a salary of say \$100 per month, and it is said that a teacher with 20 or 25 years' experience will also get \$100 per month, which is considered unreasonable. There is something said about accelerated promotion, but as to what those accelerated increments should be I think something definite should be undertaken so as to give a teacher who has rendered successful service for a long number of years a salary above one who is just starting out. If that can be looked into by the Advisory Committee then I say there is no flaw in the scheme.

I therefore will give my support wholeheartedly to this motion, and if opportunity is given me in the Advisory Committee along with my friend on my left (Mr. Jacob) I am sure we will be able to suggest the removal of that anomaly. I think the teachers at the bottom have been well treated, and if they are prepared to work systematically, carefully and well they will go up to the higher salaries after they have served some little time. I thank you, sir, and the Council for the patience with which you have listened to my remarks which I hope will have some effect upon those who ought to be affected by them. I trust also that at the conclusion we will have a unanimous vote, for which I express in advance the warmest congratulations and gratitude of a body of men and women who are living for others, living that others may lead proper lives and be responsible citizens in this Colony of ours. (applause).

Mr. E. A. LUCKHOO: I do not think I can usefully add anything to the contribution just made by the hon. Nominated Member. It is quite clear that he has studied this ques-

tion in all its phases and is in a position to offer very good advice for the solution of this very pressing question. It is indeed a very delicate question—the right type of education for the people of this Colony. As one who has had the honour to serve with him as a member of the Education Committee I wish to pay tribute to the zeal and earnestness with which the Director of Education performs his duties. It is sometimes discouraging to hear the remarks of Members attacking Heads of Departments who are doing their best. I feel sure I am speaking on behalf of the members of the Education Committee and the majority of the people of this Colony when I say that the work of the Director of Education has been greatly admired by all classes in this community.

On the general question of education the position of East Indians has been raised again. I would again remind hon. Members that education has been free and compulsory. Government has provided the machinery in order that children should attend school, but for some reason or another all of the East Indians have not availed themselves of the opportunity offered to them. A good many East Indian parents failed to send their children to school because they wanted them to work in order to supplement their meagre earnings. It cannot be contended that Government failed to provide schools. I agree that in many districts there is not sufficient school accommodation for children of school age, but that is entirely the fault of Government. The estate authorities have done their part. The proprietors of Pln. Albion, for instance, have been doing their very best, and quite recently they have erected another school. Surely such a generous act should be appreciated by the people of this Colony. The question of education is a very difficult one. All I say

is, we should give the children such an education as to fit them for the practical battle of life, intellectually, spiritually and morally. Let those be the elements of any education policy. The children are in the schools not merely for the education of their minds but the training of their character and in self-respect and all that goes to make good citizens worthy of the Empire which never had a greater need for such than in these dark and trying times. Let parents realise their responsibility to the little ones and give them an opportunity to be educated in the right way. Let them take advantage of the facilities afforded them by Government by sending their children to the Primary Schools. The door of education is not closed against East Indians. I do not wish that idea to go unchallenged.—

Mr. JACOB: The hon. Member referred to Pln. Albion. May I state that for a long number of years there has been a school for 25 children in a section of Albion and over 200 children of school-going age who wanted to go to school could not find accommodation there. The hon. Member is Representative for that Constituency and, so far as I know, has taken no interest in the matter.

Mr. E. A. LUCKHOO: I am not aware of any such complaint, and no such complaint has ever been brought to my notice. I am aware that there is at present at Pln. Albion a school. I hope the Director of Education will be given an opportunity to say something about it. Quite recently the management embarked on a plan of building a school for infants near the Police Station. I do not intend to say that everything is well with all East Indians on the sugar estates in this Colony, but I do wish to say that praise should be given to whom it is due and the proprietors themselves are trying to promote the intellectual

and moral side of the people on their estates. Therefore I do not wish any damaging statement to be made here against the planting fraternity without any foundation for such an unwarranted attack on that body of men.

Dr. SINGH: To a point of order! I do not think that any direct attack has been made by the East Indians in this question of education, and I do not see why the debate should continue on the question of East Indians. Why one particular race should be brought in?

The PRESIDENT: One or two hon. Members accused Government of wilfully withholding education from a certain section, and the remarks now are in answer to that accusation.

Dr. SINGH: The question never came up about East Indians, though it was implied. Why go into details about it?

Mr. E. A. LUCKHOO: My remarks are quite relevant to the remarks made and I desire from my seat in this Council to say that statement was made by one of the hon. Members here pointing out the inadequacy of school accommodation and that no attention was being paid to the children on the estates. Pln. Albion in particular was mentioned as being an estate where one particular Governor was hooted. Surely I am entitled, as any other Member, to express my views on this matter. I am here to give some protection to the Planters who are unable in this Council to reply to criticisms on this question. In the course of the practice of my profession I represent all races and I have not seen any discrimination made with East Indians in this country. Therefore I cannot allow any remarks which are unjustifiable to go out from this Council without contradicting them. I wish to state here that at the present time there are Inspectors of Schools stationed in every County of this Colony. There is one in New Amsterdam. The object of that is—I had urged that in this Council some years ago—that these

Inspectors should be vigilant in going around and checking up the attendances at the schools in order to see those of school-going age are in school and that prosecution can be brought against those responsible for the children who are not going to school. I am well aware of the fact that prosecutions have been brought by the Education Attendance Officers against defaulting parents for not sending their children to school and that those parents were reprimanded in the first instance and subsequently fined small amounts of 50 cents and \$1.00. I do not think it is a justifiable attack on Government to say that Government is keeping these people in ignorance. In the County of Berbice you have at the present time a High School established by the Rev. Mr. Scrimgeour, representative of the Canadian Missionary Body. That school was started during the governorship of Mr. Clementi (afterwards Sir Cecil Clementi, G.C.M.G.). I attended the first meeting. Since then there has been the establishment of a Girls' High School, the logical complement to the Boys' High School. Recently there has been established at Rosehall Village, Corentyne, a High School which is also very largely attended by East Indian boys and girls. The same educational facilities are afforded our children—East Indians and others. I do not wish it to go forward as the views of the body of East Indian people in this Colony that Government has actually deprived them of their legitimate right of going to school. There may be insufficient accommodation, and I know steps are being taken to improve the housing accommodation in the schools. The Planters are doing their duty in that regard, and I wish to pay them a compliment in the matter.

I wish to express my admiration of the manner in which the Committee carried out its duties on behalf of the schoolmasters of this Colony. As one hon. Member remarked, there may be slackers among the teachers, but you will find them in every department of life. On the whole the majority of

teachers are well-meaning men, and if they are paid a fair salary under the new scheme let us hope it will prove an added incentive to them to do their work.

Mr. EDUN: At no time during my speech I used the word "Indian" or the words "East Indians." I said "Sugar Workers." The workers are in a class by themselves. Those who want to draw the red herring of race are trying to do it in their own interest.

Mr. de AGUIAR: Speaking as a signatory to the Report I am very gratified at the favourable reception this Report has received from hon. Members who have spoken. On the other hand I am somewhat disappointed that opportunity has been taken to go around the subject rather than to deal with the subject itself. However, I must excuse those hon. Members who had grasped the opportunity afforded them to deal with the wide question of education. As a Member of this Council I would prefer to confine my remarks on this particular subject to the motion dealing with Your Excellency's Message on this subject and to enquire whether or not Members of this Council are prepared to accept the principles that have been enunciated in this Report and the financial implications that are involved. Perhaps I should interpret the remarks made by those Members who have spoken that they have accepted the principles as well as the financial implications that are involved. That may be their side of the picture, but I consider it my duty to draw attention to these two points, so that at some future time there will be no misunderstanding at all on the question.

The first thing on which I am sure there will be general agreement is the suggestion that was put forward that teachers should not be paid on the old system of average attendances. That was got over by the suggestion contained in the Report for the introduc-

tion of long grade salary scales with Efficiency Bars. Speaking for myself, sir, I would like to say that the matter is one which was considered from various angles, and it was felt that the old method of paying teachers on the average attendances was most abominable. But it was a view extremely difficult to get rid of, and it was felt that the suggested long grade would meet the case and, as I have said, it seems that Members are in agreement with that view. What concerns me as a Member of this Council are the financial implications involved. As shown in the Message, in 1944 the increased cost will be \$280,000. The increase this year may be due to the fact that the teachers in general were very poorly paid in the past, because if you were to place alongside of the figure required to pay teachers this year that increase of \$280,000 it would be found that the increase represents a very substantial rise in the total cost and, as intimated in the Report, that increase will continue until the maximum figure of something like over \$1,000,000 is reached.

So much is being said about educating the children. We are all in agreement with that view, but I am wondering whether the expense of these recommendations may not mean that in future years we may have to cut our suit in accordance with our cloth. There is a fairly large number of teachers on roll at the present time. There is a general clamour for that number to be increased. They are both very burning and necessitous requirements, but it seems to me that we have to make up our minds as to what will be the position in the future. I am fearing that unless our financial position remains more or less at what it is at present, it may mean that we will be faced with a situation in which our educational facilities may have to be curtailed. That is the warning I

would like to give at this time. If we agree that the salary scales at present, or as proposed, are reasonable, then it may mean that we will probably have to reduce the number of teachers at present on the roll. It is only an expression of thought at the moment, but I do hope a better solution may be found. I do not want it to go out that this Council has accepted the Report in its present form without any consideration having been given to the financial implications involved. For the present, sir, I say it is one of those things we have to face, and on that ground there should be no question about this Report receiving the support of this Council.

One hon. Member in the course of his remarks referred to the suggestion that was put up to reduce these incremental scales. I was somewhat disappointed about that. I think it was the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob), and the reason why he referred to that — to use his own expression—he wanted to have a go at the Secretary of State and so he took the opportunity of criticizing the suggestion put forward that these scales be reduced. What I want him to bear in mind and I thought he would have directed his attention to that, is the fact that the incremental scales control the ultimate cost of the proposals.

Mr. JACOB: Exactly; that is what I do not want!

Mr. de AGUIAR: The ultimate cost of the proposals as stated in the Report will not give an additional teacher.

Mr. JACOB: (*sotto voce*): Once you are there.

Mr. de AGUIAR: So I do not follow the hon. Member's logic at all. If he had hoped that by spending \$1,178,000 we would get five more teachers, then

I could see the logic in his argument. But the reduction of the incremental scales is really to postpone the ultimate cost of the proposals which, I notice from the Message, will be found in practice to be considerably less. I am using the words of the Message. I do not know how much less it is going to be, and all I hope is that the finances of the Colony will be able to maintain the present scales for some time and that it will not be found necessary even to reduce the number of teachers in our schools.

Mr. JACOB (*sotto voce*): Reduce? That is what the hon. Member will do.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I would like to say that I hardly pay any attention to what the hon. Member says. The same hon. Member referred to the proposal he made in regard to the salary scales suggested for the Pupil Teachers. The answer that was given to him in Finance Committee is correct, and I am afraid it is the same answer he will receive from me. Apart from the adequacy or otherwise of the scales as suggested, there can be no doubt about it that any alteration of the proposed scales of salaries of Pupil Teachers will throw the whole set of proposals out of gear, because it undoubtedly must mean the automatic increase of those grades above the grade of Pupil Teachers resulting in very substantial increase in the immediate as well as ultimate cost of the proposals. The hon. Member in his usual style may have agreed with the Report in such a form as to represent an increase of the vote, because to him it may have looked that his object in attacking everyone in this Colony will be achieved. But on reflection he will find he is very wrong in arriving at such a conclusion, very wrong in believing that such an establishment can be maintained by this Colony even though we would like to see it carried out.



I am very glad the Report has received the reception it has so far, and I do hope any other Member speaking behind me on this motion will give some attention to the actual proposals as they are—the financial implications involved and the principles—so that we will be able to record a decision on this very important question, realising what we are committing ourselves to in regard to this question.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I do not propose to be very long on this subject. I will just make one or two remarks as I happen to be Chairman of the Committee whose report is being considered. I may say that the question of Teachers' Salaries has always been a matter of concern to me even in the days of my infancy. I would like to point out that during the first few months of my life I happened to have been brought up in my home by a nurse who was a former School Teacher, a worthy woman who has produced three of the most prominent citizens in the Colony today one of whom happens to be a teacher. I would also like to point out that subsequent to that, when I became a little older and perhaps matured, I had a servant working with me whose son was a teacher. No doubt these associations made me predisposed to the view that teachers' salaries in themselves were very small. We had some difficulty in the matter but we overcame them and went ahead, and today we have received a great measure of gratification in seeing our report so well received, as we now observe. There is no doubt that we all want more salary but, as the hon. Nominated Member has said, it is not just spending on education but it has to be done with a certain amount of reasonableness.

I appreciate what one hon. Member said with regard to a certain group in a certain industry—the sugar workers. They are on the average illiterate. But I would like to sound a note

of warning that, perhaps, it may be like a boomerang. Education, I take it, will lead these people, whether adult or juvenile, to foster, to care and to select their leaders. Leadership, no doubt, will help them considerably so to do, otherwise, as I visualize it, we will have failed. It is just what the hon. Nominated Member says: "Education has failed; it has not done enough." Unless the education for which we are now providing equips the youngsters and those same adults to whom reference has been made to be able to select those leaders who will lead them in the correct way and to eschew those who seek self-aggrandisement and self-praise, then it has failed, and I will attribute it to the teachers having failed to inculcate in the people the necessary ingredients of an enlightened and progressive community. Not only they will so far have failed but the leadership, which seems to go into the channel of vulgar and personal abuse of every Member of this Council who sits here endeavouring to do his best in the interest of the community because he happens to disagree with the views of a particular Member who represents a particular constituency. I hope that the education in this Colony, whether vocational or otherwise, will have as one of its objects to educate the people to choose those who are going to lead them in their own interest. Otherwise, I say, our education has failed.

The PRESIDENT: In my opinion the attendance of the Director of Education is desirable on this occasion and I have summoned him to the Council. With your permission I will give him an opportunity to intervene in the debate.

Mr. CREASE (Director of Education): Sir, in the first place I would like to say how pleased I am to be here this afternoon and to be given a chance to take part in the debate on the motion before the Council. I also wish to say how

gratified I am with the general reception of the motion. I think every Member who has spoken is in agreement in principle with the motion and its purpose—even the hon. Mr. Jacob. I am sorry I do not know his official designation because I have not been in this Council since it has been reconstituted.

Before making any comments on the remarks of hon. Members I would like to make a few observations on the Schedule to the motion. It will be seen that this long grade of salary scales contains efficiency bars which will not be passed by any teacher, head teacher or assistant teacher, unless he gives two years' satisfactory work and conduct at a particular bar. That, I feel sure, will have a very desirable effect on the teaching profession as a whole because a teacher will not progress unless he shows himself thoroughly efficient in the eyes of the Department.

The salary scales which have been recommended compare very favourably with those existing in other West Indian Colonies, and I think I can safely say that it is the first time a matter has been referred to the British Guiana Teachers' Association which has met with such a warm reception. The proposed scales were submitted to the Association for their views, and in a very short time the reply came back that they had been considered by the Committee who regarded them as fair and reasonable. I think we have done something to satisfy the teaching fraternity.

May I just for a moment turn to the remarks made by some hon. Members of this Council. The first hon. Member who spoke was the hon. Mr. Edun who said he expects some return for the salaries which it is now proposed to give to teachers. Well, like the hon. Mr. Jackson, I would like to know what improvement he expects. I do

not suggest that this afternoon he should give me all the directions in which he hopes the teachers will improve, but I do invite him to my office at any time, and if he has any complaint to make with regard to teachers' work, or can suggest any way in which their work can be improved I shall be only too delighted to listen to him and give him all the assistance possible.

With regard to education on the estates I think the hon. Member's exact words were that it had not penetrated on the sugar estates. I beg to differ from him on this point. Reference has already been made to Pln. Albion and the Canadian Mission School there. I should also like to invite attention to the work which is being done and has been done by the sugar estates of Blairmont, Bath and many other estates where the Canadian Mission has schools. Perhaps he does not know the state in which those schools were say 10 years ago, but if he would visit them I feel sure he would be more than satisfied that the estates have done very fine work in assisting the various Denominations to improve their school buildings and school accommodation. We all owe a very great debt of gratitude to those estates for what they have done.

The hon. Member also referred to adult education. I do not propose to go into that this afternoon, but just in passing I would like to inform the hon. member that the question of adult education is at present occupying our attention. Mr. Hammond in his memorandum did not touch on that subject at all, but during the past three weeks we have been in communication with other Departments of Education in the West Indies trying to glean some of their views on adult education. It is a very big question which wants careful working out, and I sincerely hope and trust that we shall, before very long, be able to put forward some pro-

posals for adult education. Naturally those proposals will cost money. What the amount will be I cannot say.

The next hon. Member who spoke was Mr. Lee who is not here at this moment. He raised many points in connection with the inadequate housing, the state of the school buildings and the accommodation. I am not quite sure but I think he mentioned something about the number of pupils a teacher should have in a class, and I think he said that no teacher should have more than 40 pupils under his control. I do not know whether he suggested that there are many teachers who have larger classes than that. At present you may find some, but I can assure hon. Members that the staffing of the schools now is infinitely better than it was three or four years ago. The aim is to have one teacher for every 40 pupils in average attendance, and as far as I know the latest figures the actual number of teachers employed is almost equal to the number required in accordance with the average attendance, but there may be some instances where this does not obtain. It is not always possible for schools to allocate evenly 40 pupils to each teacher, but I can say this staffing of schools at present is better than it has ever been.

The hon. Member also made reference to the supply of text books. The question of increased accommodation, better buildings, the supply of books and equipment—all these are matters which are now before the Secretary of State in connection with grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, except the supply of text books. The Committee which dealt with this has been delayed in its deliberations because we have been unable to get prices from London. As soon as they are available Government

will send forward an application for a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

The hon. Member also mentioned the question of the housing of teachers. I have great sympathy with a large number of teachers here. We all know very well that we cannot have all teachers in Georgetown; they have to be sent out to teach where they are required, and there are many instances in this Colony where teachers have found it impossible to find suitable housing accommodation. One of the recommendations by Mr. Hammond was that in those districts where houses were not available houses should be erected so that teachers should be able to live near their schools. In that connection an application has gone forward already for a grant for this specific purpose, and I am hoping that before long we shall get news that a grant has been approved. That will not mean that we will be able to erect the houses right away. There is a war on and there is difficulty in getting the necessary materials.

With regard to the remarks of the hon. Mr. Jacob I have already dealt with the point raised about the insufficiency of teachers and accommodation, and I was rather interested in one observation he made. He said that when he was a boy he might have been a teacher. Well, I wish he had been, because he has always professed to have a wide knowledge of the working of the Education Department, and if he had been a teacher he might have been on the staff and might have been of valuable help to us.

Another remark he made was that the funds of the Department were not properly administered. If those were not his words I withdraw them. If they are correct, and I maintain they are, I take strong exception to that remark and leave it at that.

The question of the payment of pupil teachers has already been dealt with by hon. Members and I do not propose to say anything more in that direction. On the question of the training of teachers the hon. Member had quite a lot to say, and I am not sure whether he is quite *au fait* with that particular branch of the Department. Recently we have decided that the training of teachers should take another form. Up to the present time candidates for the Teachers' Training College were confined to those between 18 and 25 years. Now the age-limit for 1945 is being removed. I would like to inform the hon. Member that quite a number of candidates—and it is becoming more and more so—are already teachers who have had 5 or 6 years' experience and are already in possession of second class certificates. With the new idea we hope to put into operation we shall be able to meet the requests of quite a number of the older teachers who possess first class certificates but who realize the benefits to be derived from a course of training, and they will be admitted to the Training College without further examination. This is a matter on which I disagree with the hon. Mr. Jackson. He has the idea that an untrained teacher is just as good, or did he say perhaps better than a trained teacher? I admit that we do find this is so in some isolated cases, but I would not go so far as to say that they derive no benefit, or very little benefit from the course of training. Teachers themselves who already possess certificates have seen the benefit of a course of training and are actually wanting to go into the College themselves.

I would like to thank the hon. Mr. Jackson very much indeed for the very fine way he spoke in support of the motion and on behalf of the teachers. I also wish to thank the hon. Mr. Luckhoo for his reference to the work I have endeavoured to do in

the Education Department. The other speakers I think have touched more or less on the financial side, and I do not propose to deal with that aspect as the hon. the Colonial Treasurer is far more capable than I am to deal with those points.

In conclusion I would like to repeat once more that I have been very pleased to have this opportunity to be here, and more so on account of the fact that as far as I can recollect in my connection with the Legislative Council in the old days, this motion has been more favourably received than any other I have been privileged to speak on.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: After the excellent, well balanced and tempered speech by the hon. Mr. Jackson and the speech by the Director of Education, there is nothing much I can say. I certainly do not want to provide an anticlimax to those excellent speeches. I do not pretend that this motion, if accepted, will solve any of those major difficulties of education but, as I have said, it will put an end to the very long-standing controversy in regard to the inadequacy of the remuneration to our teaching staff. Nevertheless, many speakers did touch on several major issues and did not confine their remarks to teachers' salaries, but those points, such as they were, have been answered by the two speakers to whom I have referred. The Chairman of the Committee has also spoken, and the hon. Member who was his colleague on the Committee. I observed that in his remarks the Chairman of the Committee said he was worried in his early infancy in regard to teachers' salaries. I cannot remember what worried me in my early days, but I do not think it had anything to do with teachers' salaries.

As regards the financial implications I pointed out that this revision of teachers' salaries will impose a very serious burden on our finances, but

that we had to face it. Those remarks have been repeated by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar), and I do not think I can add anything more to what I have said. Members fully realize that they have said much more on that point in Finance Committee than they have said to-day. I do not think I can add anything more.

The PRESIDENT: There is one point I would like to mention which was made by the hon. Member for Central Demerara. It is that the possibility of meeting the cost of the extension of education under these proposals is a matter which Government has under most careful examination. Hon. Members know, and have said so in Finance Committee, that the whole crux of this difficult matter is whether we can afford it. All I can say now is that Government is going most closely into it, and an announcement will be made at an early date.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### GRANTS TO SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to the Governor's Message No. 4 of the 11th of July, 1944, this Council approves of a sum of \$1,000 being provided on supplementary estimates for the current year and placed at the disposal of the Social Welfare Officer for the purpose of making grants of small sums, where it appears desirable to do so, to voluntary Social Welfare Organisations so as to enable an immediate start to be made with a desirable project, or to encourage a young and struggling voluntary organisation.

It may be asked why it has taken a Message of some 11 paragraphs to explain the subject matter of the motion I have read? The reason is that this was considered a suitable opportunity to place before the Members of this Council an outline of the action being

taken for the formation of the Social Welfare Organisation. The Message has been in the hands of Members for a month or more. It has also received comments from the local Press, and I think Members will have read it. I therefore do not propose to deal with the details that are set out in the Message, but to confine my remarks to the subject of the motion, which is that a sum of \$1,000 should be placed at the disposal of the Social Welfare Officer to assist struggling voluntary organisations.

Members are aware that applications have been made from time to time for grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to promote social welfare in this Colony, and to provide the salaries of the necessary staff. One of the objects of the Social Welfare Organisation is to promote or to assist in the promotion of boys' clubs and girls' clubs. These clubs, I may explain, are clubs for young persons who have been denied the opportunity of full development, sometimes referred to as the underprivileged. They are not clubs for those who can afford subscriptions to the better clubs in Georgetown and the country districts. The clubs provide for the improvement, mental, spiritual, and physical, of their members, and one of the activities for the physical development of the members, is, of course, out-door games. Several of these clubs have been organised in Georgetown, and it was brought to my attention that what was lacking was some playing field for those young persons. I was able to obtain a lease of an area of land for the purpose of providing playing fields for boys and girls of those clubs. The land, however, is covered with scrub and will take a good deal of physical labour to put it in condition. This was beyond the physical capacity of those boys and girls, although they were only too willing to assist as far as they were able to. What was required really was a tractor with a plough and harrow to plough and level

the land so that they may be able to employ themselves in making up their own playing field. Ploughs and tractors take money, and I find myself unable to provide funds. I therefore applied to Government for assistance.

That is only one instance where I had been asked by a struggling organisation for some small sum to assist them. I think it is very desirable on these occasions to be able to assist organisations, and I regret being unable on this occasion to meet their wishes, but I feel that this Council would wish to have some financial interest in the Social Welfare Organisation, the primary object of which is, of course, to try to raise the standard of living of the people. We have made frequent applications for grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, and I feel that this Council would not desire that we should go hat in hand begging for small sums such as this now before the Council. I therefore obtained permission to bring this motion to the Council and I am asking for its approval. The opportunity has been taken to review and outline the action being taken in the formation of the Social Welfare Organisation, and I feel now that Members who have found it convenient to read the Message are familiar with the details. I therefore have pleasure in asking this Council to support the motion.

Mr. EDUN seconded.

Mr. JACOB: This motion has my support but I should like to advise Government to take extreme care to see that not only certain sections of the community benefit by this motion. The hon. Member for Eastern Berbice (Mr. E. A. Luckhoo) brought in the racial issue while he was speaking on the previous motion. It has never been my policy here to speak on racial matters, but I think it is proper at times to do so. The British Guiana East Indian Association, which repre-

sents the bulk of the Indian population here, has very strong views on this matter. A resolution was passed at a conference held two Sundays ago, and with your permission, sir, I would like to read it. The resolution states:—

“Whereas the Indian youths, especially in the rural areas, are in dire need of proper social and cultural guidance;

“And whereas Government has appointed a Youth Council to co-ordinate and assist the entire Youth Movement of the Colony;

“And whereas Government appears to have deliberately left out Indians from the Youth Council in spite of there being in existence several Indian Youth Organisations;

“And whereas Indians regard this action as an unfair treatment of their youths, especially in the rural areas where little or no social amenities are available to them;

“Be it resolved: that this Conference respectfully requests Government to take immediate steps to appoint Indians on the Youth Council.”

That resolution was carried unanimously at the Conference. It is an excellent thing to train your youths and to see them go along the straight path. That has my wholehearted support, but is this Government still aware of the fact that there are thousands of children between the ages of six and twelve years, the compulsory school-age, who are not in school at all. I want to take this opportunity to make a very strong reference to that fact. While there are some Members who have been in this Council over 25 years and have advised Government on this question of education, they have never attempted to let Government realize its responsibility to see the children are in the schools for the elementary training as provided in the schools. Now that an attempt is to be made to train the youths there is a strong feeling that in a certain quarter a red herring is being drawn across the trail so that the real problem will go unsolved. As a Member of the Advisory Committee I feel very strongly that it should be

attempted to throw dust in the eyes of the public. I warn Government to proceed from the bottom and not from the top. This Government will not be allowed to make the people understand it is doing something for them, when in truth and in fact it is not doing anything. The Association which looks after the welfare of Indians has for many years passed resolutions at meetings accusing Government of deliberately refusing the people representation in a matter of this kind. Perhaps the hon. Member, who took such pains to defend Government and certain interests, will get up and say something on this matter and whether he himself is not responsible to a large extent for the state of affairs existing in the Colony, at the present time. I say Government's advisers—and they are many—and some Government Officials have deliberately kept this country down, and the time has come when there should be no more fooling around. As a Member of this Council I will never agree to that policy.

This resolution has my wholehearted support, and I hope the paltry \$1,000 asked for will be properly administered and distributed between the people who are in need of it and who are not in Georgetown where there is a lot of social amenities provided. If this \$1,000 is not spent in the rural areas on the people who cannot read and write, but where it is not much needed, the real problem will still remain and then we will be told as some hon. Members have said "Government is doing its best and we must take time." I am getting old. This Government has had ample opportunity during the last century to do and has failed miserably. I hope I will not have the opportunity to say in the next 25 years that this Government has failed as in the past.

Mr. JACKSON: I rise to support this motion but on different lines from what has been suggested by the

hon. Member on my left (Mr. Jacob). I am cognizant of the fact that the social organizations are doing good work, but I do not know whether the resolution read a while ago has been forwarded to the Welfare Officer or not, or simply finds lodgement in the "Indian Opinion" from which it was read. As I understand the motion, there are Social Organizations existing at the present time that require a little help, and I want to say it is a very good thing to give them the little help they need. I have no doubt that if the British Guiana East Indian Association start a Youth Movement and ask for a little help from this amount it would be given them. It is to my mind a serious lapse on the part of the hon. Member for North-Western District to be always butting in and making complaints when there are motions that have a very great object in view. I do not think his attitude takes him one foot further. I do say this motion deserves the support of the Council, and I do feel that any organization that requires assistance from this amount and satisfies the Authorities administering this amount will receive help. Why bluster and make a lot of noise about something not connected with the motion before the Council?

Mr. JACOB: I take strong objection to the remarks made by the hon. Nominated Member, on the ground that the hon. Member has gone out of his way to criticise if not to abuse his colleague in this Council.

The PRESIDENT: I think the hon. Member for North-Western District must take what he gets.

Mr. EDUN: The motion has my wholehearted support. I feel that if in the rural districts there are debating clubs where the members can go and examine the credentials and character of their Legislative Representatives they will be able to oust those Representatives out at a general election. Take the case of Essequibo: I

am sure that if there were debating clubs in that district the voters would have selected another Representative. Therefore I welcome these social welfare schemes. I have seconded this motion on principle. It will be found that I have been initiating discussion in this Council. I do not wait until Members speak and then pick holes in their speeches in order to elucidate principles. I am not a lawyer, but I can do just as much as a lawyer on any platform except in the Magistrates' Court or the Supreme Court. Let me tell you, sir, what will happen when you put \$1,000 in the hands of the Social Welfare Officer. There is a building at Den Amstel known as the Y.M.C.A. Hall, which was built by that great leader, Mr. James McFarlane Corry, one of the fathers of the rural districts of this Colony. It is in ruin. I hope that the Y.M.C.A. members there will approach the Social Welfare Officer for a grant to help them to rebuild it.

Mr. JACKSON: I rise to a point of order! There are no Y.M.C.A. members in Den Amstel. There is no Den Amstel Y.M.C.A. existing at the present time. That building is owned by an individual because those who were members of the Association deserted the Association and the building was allowed to go to ruin. Two of the Officers of the Den Amstel Y.M.C.A., the late Hon. A. B. Brown and Mr. J. Wood Davis, sold the building and lodged the money with the Georgetown Y.M.C.A. to be given out at any time after the organization has been resuscitated there. The hon. Member does not know what he is talking about. There is no Y.M.C.A. at Den Amstel and no building in ruin belonging to the Den Amstel Y.M.C.A.

Mr. EDUN: I invite any Member of this Council to take a walk with me and see that building marked thereon in big letters "Y.M.C.A.," standing there as a monument of past maladministration in that village. If we had a Social Welfare Organization like the kind that

is proposed, that Y.M.C.A. with some financial assistance might never have been deserted by those members. That is the kind of thing, I hope, that will be rectified in the future. Apart from that, it will be a crime to allow a recreation ground in any village of this Colony to deteriorate from an excellent cricket field to a cattle pasture when the Social Welfare Officer can give a grant to assist in its upkeep. If any Member of the Council dares to oppose that, he will pay for it. One Member has spoken about clubs on the sugar estates. There again someone gets up and says it is an Indian question. As a member of the Indian Publicity Committee—and somehow I happen to be the spirit behind that organisation—I can say that an Indian Youth Movement has been created just recently, and I am sure that as soon as this vote is passed the Secretary will apply to the Social Welfare Officer for some assistance. With that spirit in the air I feel the rural districts will benefit greatly—the sugar estates, the villages and the remote parts—where they need to have debating clubs. I for one will ask the Social Welfare Officer not to forget Windsor Forest, a centre with a large population, where a recreation ground is a necessity as well as a meeting place for the boys to have their talks in the evenings. I have lived in that district for some time, and the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh) can say whether I did social welfare work there, and if we had assistance like this that work might have been continued.

I had thought the amount would have been £1,000 instead of \$1,000, and even that would be too small in a matter of this kind to assist in providing debating clubs and recreation grounds. Instead of having the sugar estate workers loitering on the bridges at nights or roaming aimlessly about the road and using filthy language, you will have them in their clubs discussing questions of the moment and hoping to aspire to the better things in life. As soon as the motion was moved I thought it my duty to second it.



Mr. E. A. LUCKHOO: I think Government should be congratulated on bringing forward this motion because the principle underlined is very important—the social uplift of the people of the country districts in particular. I agree with those Members who have said that there is a great need for an organization of this sort in the country areas where the people will have a sort of rendezvous for discussing topics of the day and taking an intelligent interest in the affairs of the country, and probably thereby keeping them away from disorderly crowds and assisting in maintaining order in the districts. I know that people for want of a better place resort to a rumshop for their discussions, and many cases of disorderly behaviour have arisen from the meeting in such places where drinking is freely indulged in and they become a very lawless mob in the end. For the safety and protection of a peace-loving people an organization of this sort will be most valuable to the people not of any particular race but in general. The organization is for the general uplift of the people in the rural areas and, I think, they need it more than those in the towns. My only regret is that the amount to be placed at the disposal of the Social Welfare Officer is so very small to meet applications which may come in. This \$1,000, however, will be helpful to the community and to the Police Force, as I know of my own knowledge a good many of the cases which do arise. On that ground alone I am going to suggest that it is a very good idea to form clubs. From Rosehall to Skeldon on the Corentyne there are no public meeting-places for the people, no debating society among a certain class. I hope that there will be meeting-places for the people for the purpose of recreation and the uplift of their minds and that much good will accrue from them. I suggest that if it is possible a larger amount be placed at the disposal of the Social Welfare Officer in order that he may be able to meet applications of that sort.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I agree with the hon. Member who has just taken his

seat in what he has said, but I am afraid the Social Welfare Officer will have some difficulty in giving priority to the several demands which will be made on him by these several organizations. I also feel that there is good ground to have debating and literary societies where hon. Members' representation may be debated. I think the hon. Nominated Member must have taken a hand in forming the debating society when he visited the constituency of Essequibo quite recently. I think that these societies will give one a chance to further advance one's aims or supplement one's rather diminishing bank account. I understand the hon. Member needed \$300 to \$800 presumably to encourage a struggling organization. I know he was successful when he visited there but unfortunately when I go there I am unable to get \$1.00. I wish the hon. Member will tell me how it is done.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I intend to move an amendment—the amount to read £1,000 instead of \$1,000.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The motion speaks of \$1,000. That is required for the current year and we are now in October. As the hon. Mover explained, this is rather a simple motion introduced in this formal manner so as to give opportunity for testing the feeling of the Council in regard to Social Welfare generally and explaining the position. There is no reason why, now that Members have expressed their feelings, an added amount cannot be put on the Estimates for next year.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I will still move my amendment for £1,000. We may call it a token vote. There would be no harm if the amount lapses. I just want to relieve the Social Welfare Officer of any embarrassment. Reasons have been given for the necessity of helping these organizations, and I do not intend to pursue that argument any further. The fact is that Government has seen the necessity for presenting this motion to the Council today, and I

hope the Social Welfare Officer will be given a token vote of £1,000 or sufficient money to foster social organizations throughout the Colony. In 1945 we would be able to form a better idea as to what the amount should be.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: With regards to the remarks made by the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) it is indeed glad tidings to hear that at long last there is an Indian Youth Organization. I may say that the Youth Council is not a political organization to which members of races or members of every organization shall be appointed. It is an organization to which may be affiliated Youth Organizations that are actually operating under the usual conditions throughout this Colony. It was indeed a great disappointment to me as Social Welfare Officer in the formation of that Council to find that there existed at the time no Indian Youth Organization to whom we could have extended an invitation to come in and assist us.

Mr. JACOB: May I rise to a point of correction and say that statement is not correct! There are Indian Youth Organizations in the Eastern Berbice Constituency—at Rosehall Village, Pln. Rosehall and several other places on the East Coast of Berbice. If that is not known to Government it is not the people's fault.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is not a correction! When the Youth Council was formed there was not at that time an Indian Youth Organization. I learnt that not only from prominent Indians but I made enquiries. Those organizations have sprung up now and I am very glad to hear that. It is certainly my desire and that of Government that Indian youths should have representation on this Council. As a matter of fact many Indians are members of organizations which are at the present time represented on the Council, but there was not at the time of the formation of the Council an Indian organization qualified for mem-

bership of the Youth Council. I therefore welcome the news that these organizations do actually exist to-day.

The hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Edun) referring to the amount to be voted referred to the spirit in the air. I do not know if he was thinking of Christmas time or that Social Welfare Officer is another name for Father Christmas. "Social Welfare" is another term for "Self Help." Unless these organizations show the will and spirit to assist themselves they are very unlikely to receive any part of this money. This money is to support and help those who are actually assisting themselves, and I hope that will be borne in mind.

The hon. Member for North-Western District also asked whether he was wrong when he said this is a red herring drawn across the trail. I am very pleased to say he is wrong. It has nothing whatever to do with primary education or the education of children between the ages of six and twelve to whom he referred, although we take great interest in youth, adolescent and the adult in the social welfare organizations. It is not intended and will never be a red herring as the hon. Member for North-Western District suggests. I am grateful for the remarks of hon. Members made in support of the motion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: This motion merely will give the Governor power at once to authorize by warrant an expenditure of \$1,000 for the current year and the amount to be paid on supplementary estimate. Normally this is a formal procedure taken merely to get a debate on the subject in this Council, and next year the Social Welfare Officer will ask for whatever sum he considers will be necessary. Hon. Members will then have another opportunity of saying whether it is too big or too little. I do suggest that hon. Members do not press this amendment for an increase because it is not

necessary. Even if the amount of \$1,000 remains and the Social Welfare Officer requires more he can in the normal course ask for it.

Mr. JACOB: I accept that, but I would like to refer to the hon. Mover of the motion to Message No. 4 which provides for a Woman Child Welfare Officer. I do not know why, if you are not going to take into account children between the ages of six and twelve, there should be such an officer. I would like to know from what age youth begins.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like to explain that the Woman Child Welfare Officer is an officer actually in employment to-day attached to the Alms House, and her particular duties are to follow up cases of children who have had guardians appointed for them and are in receipt of relief from Poor Relief Funds. She sees they are properly looked after,—properly kept, properly housed and properly educated. Her duties are confined to that class of work.

I do not say we are not interested in youths of all ages; we are. I think the matter to which the hon. Member refers is the matter of primary education and as a Member of the Advisory Committee of that Department he will have an opportunity to speak on that there.

Mr. JACOB: If this Social Organization is to succeed it must take in the children who have no parents. I think the hon. the Colonial Secretary knows that there are hundreds of children who are not in school and have no one to look after them. This organization ought to be able to do so through this Officer. I am going to appeal to him not to put a corrupt construction on this Message.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

The PRESIDENT: I suggest that we now adjourn to Thursday at 12 noon.

The Council adjourned accordingly to Thursday, 12th October.