

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.*Thursday, 20th December, 1934.*

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

PRESENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

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

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

The Hon. J. L. Wills (Demerara River).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 19th December, 1934, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENT.**CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. P. W. King): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 8.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the insertion in the Estimates of Expenditure of the following sums:—

(a) \$528 per annum for a period of three years towards the maintenance of the work of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux and of the Imperial Economic and Shipping Committee, and

(b) \$192 as one payment in respect of the period 1st October, 1933, to 31st March, 1935, towards the work of the Farnham House Parasite Laboratory, the Biological Field Station (Stored Products Research) Slough, and the low Temperature Research Stations at Cambridge, East Malling and Aberdeen.

As regards (a) Members are aware of the formation of the Imperial Committee on

Economic Consultation and Co-operation, which issued its report in 1933. The Committee owed its origin to a resolution of the Imperial Economic Conference held at Ottawa in 1932. The terms of reference were:—

“to consider the means of facilitating economic consultation and co-operation between the several Governments of the Commonwealth, including a survey of the functions, organisation, and financial bases of the agencies specified in the annexed report, and an examination of what alterations or modifications, if any, in the existing machinery for such co-operation within the Commonwealth are desirable.”

3. At paragraph 358 of the Report, a copy of which will be laid to-day on the table, are the main recommendations of the Committee summarized. There is *inter alia* the recommendation that as from 1st October, 1933, the cost of the work of the Imperial Economic Committee and of the Imperial Shipping Committee which had previously been provided for *in toto* from the Imperial Exchequer, should be met from a fund to which the several Governments of the Empire should contribute in the first instance for a period of three years on a specified scale and that the cost of certain additional activities to be entrusted to the Executive Council of the eight Imperial Agricultural Bureaux should also be met from this fund.

The work of the Imperial Economic Committee is well known throughout the Empire, and the value of its activities has been widely appreciated. The statistical publications issued frequently and periodically are valuable to all exporting Colonies.

As regards the Imperial Shipping Committee, a copy of a Report on the work of the Committee will also be laid on the table to-day. It will be noted that the work of the Committee is of considerable importance and during the period under review, 1920-1932, the Committee has considered and reported upon matters affecting individually a large number of countries within the Colonial Empire.

4. The work of the Imperial Bureaux is also well known to this Government and Members will doubtlessly recollect the passing of Resolution No. XV. of the 6th of December, 1929, approving of the contribution by this Colony of \$480 per annum for a period of 5 years towards the work of the Bureaux. This contribution was, however, discontinued after 1933.

5. The Secretary of State has now invited this Government with the approval of the Imperial Treasury, to contribute a sum of \$1,008 per annum towards the services mentioned at (a) of the first paragraph above, but with the advice of my Executive Council I do not consider that the Colony is yet in a position to make a full contribution, and have intimated to the Secretary of State that I propose to invite this Council to contribute only \$528. The Secretary of State has agreed to this Colony's contribution being limited to this sum for the Imperial financial year 1934-1935.

6. As regards (b) of the first paragraph above, these research services were in the past financed by the Empire Marketing Board, but as funds are no longer available from this source the Committee on Economic Consulta-

tion and Co-operation recommended that the Executive Council of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux should review those services and consider which of them could be regarded as suitable for continuance on an Inter-Imperial co-operative basis, and it has been agreed that the three services mentioned are worthy of support. The share provided from the Colonial Empire towards the maintenance of the above-mentioned services has been fixed at \$3,600 per annum and the proportion which has been allocated to this Colony is \$192 in respect of the period mentioned.

7. I am satisfied that the services referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this Message are deserving of support by this Colony, and I consider that having regard to the generous assistance which the Colony has received from the Imperial Government in various ways during the past four years of depression, every effort should be made to show that even if we are unable to bear a full measure of the financial expenses allocated to this Colony we are endeavouring to pay as much as can be afforded. My Executive Council have given careful consideration to this question and with their advice I recommend to Council that the payments set out in the first paragraph of this Message be approved.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Officer Administering the Government.

20th December, 1934.

PAPERS LAID.

The following documents were laid on the table:—

The Report of the Imperial Committee on Economic Consultation and Co-operation, 1933.—
The Report on the work of the Imperial Shipping Committee, December, 1932. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL INSTITUTIONS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 8 of the 20th of December, 1934, this Council approves of the insertion in the Estimates of Expenditure of contributions to the undermentioned Imperial Institutions:—

(a) \$528 per annum as from the current year towards the maintenance of the work of Imperial Agricultural Bureaux and of the Imperial Economic and Shipping Committee; and

(b) \$192 as one payment in respect of the period 1st October, 1933, to 31st March, 1935, towards the work of the Farnham House Parasite Laboratory, the Biological Field Station (Stored Products Research) Slough, and the Low Temperature Research Stations at Cambridge, East Malling and Aberdeen.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE.

Mr. WOOLFORD gave notice of the following motion :—

WHEREAS Philip Gladstone Barrow was awarded the grant of a Scholarship for the year 1926 and entered the University of Edinburgh as a medical student in the winter of that year ;

AND WHEREAS the said Philip Gladstone Barrow was unable through circumstances beyond his control from making satisfactory progress in his studies at the said University during the years 1928—1929, and 1929—1930, as the result of which the said amount payable to him in respect of the said scholarship was discontinued in 1931 ;

AND WHEREAS the said Philip Gladstone Barrow by the assistance of his father was enabled to continue with his said studies at the said University and finally graduated there in 1934 :

Be it Resolved.—That this Council recommends that, having regard to all the circumstances affecting his career, the said Philip Gladstone Barrow should be given a compassionate allowance of a sum of £180 (\$364)—that sum being equivalent to the amount of the grant withheld from the said Philip Gladstone Barrow.

PENSIONS REGULATIONS.

Mr. ELEAZAR gave notice of the following motion :—

THAT Government be requested to prepare forthwith, for the consideration of this Council, a Bill to amend Regulation 17 of the Pensions Regulations, 1933, under Ordinance 20 of 1933, with respect to the allowances to officers who have served fifteen years in a non-pensionable office.

DISPENSERS' EMOLUMENTS.

Mr. CANNON, on behalf of Mr. BRASSINGTON, gave notice of the following questions :—

1. How many Dispensers have been drawing their maximum salaries for the past 5 years ?

(a) Give in each case their class and number of years of service.

(b) If in the 1st class how many years will it take in each case to rise to the position of Steward ?

(c) If 2nd class Dispensers' promotion is dependent on vacancies in the 1st class, how many years will it take in the ordinary course of events for 2nd class Dispensers of 10 years' service and over to become 1st class as from January, 1935 ?

(d) Will Government consider the advisability of placing 2nd class Dispensers on the 1st class list with service of 7 years and over from 1935 ?

2. When travelling on duty will Government consider the advisability on account of the hardship and inconvenience suffered when travelling 2nd class in steamers, to grant Government Dispensers and their families 1st class passages as was done prior to 1930 ?

3. What amount is allowed to Dispensers as

subsistence allowance and does Government consider this amount adequate ?

4. Will Government consider granting \$2 per day as subsistence allowance to all Dispensers when travelling on duty as was done prior 1930 ?

5. What are the leave facilities granted to Dispensers of the 1st and 2nd classes under the following heads—Vacation, Casual and Sick ?

(a) Is it a fact that the 2nd class Dispensers' leave is similar to that enjoyed by porters of the various Medical Institutions and less than that enjoyed by Government Office Messengers, if so, will Government consider giving all classes of Dispensers the same facilities ?

6. Has the Surgeon-General received any complaints from the Dispensers with reference to their salaries and general status, if so, what has Government done to remedy the complaints ?

7. Did Dr. P. J. Kelly, late Surgeon-General of British Guiana, make any recommendation in 1928 in respect to the improvement of the status of Dispensers during his term of office, if so, what is the nature of the recommendation ?

ORDER OF THE DAY.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

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

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Item 23—16 Second Class Dispensers (\$360 to \$480 by \$24), \$7,385.

Mr. ELEAZAR (resuming) : When the Committee adjourned yesterday afternoon I had just begun to gather up energy in order to ask Government to compute the figures I see here—\$360 to \$480 by \$24. I wonder how many years it would take before a dispenser reaches \$480. It would take him five years I am told. At what age do these men commence to work ? When will they ever become First Class Dispensers, and how is it possible for them to get any consideration in the meantime ? After all, what is a Second Class Dispenser ? A dispenser is a dispenser. If he is a junior he gets a certain wage. Is he, to wait until another man dies before he gets promotion ? Can Government not see that this classification is only with a view to keeping these men on this starvation wage all the time ? A certain period of service should entitle a dispenser to be placed on the list of his

seniors. A man cannot be a junior until somebody dies. In other Departments an officer is promoted from the 5th Class to the 1st Class.

These things cause grave dissatisfaction. These dispensers have been given a definite and distinct promise. The reason for the re-classification seems to be that Government finding that the pension list was growing, endeavoured to reduce it by putting certain officers in this class, which indicated at once that their pensions were to be calculated on a different basis. These dispensers have been left in the cold in respect of Government's promise to reclassify them. Your Excellency is the best person to see that something is done, otherwise you will leave an excuse for the new Governor to say that he knows nothing about it. The gravamen of the complaint is that the Second Class Dispensers will have to wait until the First Class Dispensers die before they get promotion. Government ought to give these men some assurance that when they reach the maximum of their class, and long before that, their future would be more assured.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member has put up very strong argument for the consideration of the case of these dispensers which, as he knows, is receiving the attention of the Surgeon-General. I have no doubt that something may possibly be done for them later.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I spoke at length yesterday with regard to these dispensers and pointed out that for several years other Members of the Council and I have tried to the best of our ability to place before Government the great hardship under which they are labouring. With all respect to you, sir, and your sense of fairplay, I must say that I cannot be satisfied with the reply from Government that it will enquire into the matter. Government has had facts and figures placed before it. It has had a very strong speech from the Surgeon-General who has gone into the whole question very minutely and, although a Government official, made a strong appeal to Government on behalf of those dispensers. I have taken the trouble to look up the Hansard reports of some of the debates that have taken place here in regard to these dispensers, and, as I said

yesterday, the present Surgeon-General has done everything he could by pointing out what I may term, if not the gross injustice, certainly a want of consideration for those very capable and hardworking section of the Service. I can see quite clearly that nothing is going to be done. These men are either capable and deserving of better treatment or they are not. If they are not capable then they should be replaced by doctors in the districts from which Government has removed the Government Medical Officers for reasons of economy, thereby throwing great responsibility on the dispensers. I am sure from the remarks made by the Surgeon-General that no such charge could or would be laid against those deserving servants of Government.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I should like to say something from an entirely different point of view. The dispensers at the few hospitals I know of are very largely patronised by alleged pauper patients who go there with the necessary certificate and get free medicines dispensed at a shilling per bottle. In a case which I had last Monday at Vreed-en-Hoop the complainant produced a certificate from a medical practitioner in Georgetown, for which he swore he had paid \$5, and also stated that having been medically examined he proceeded to the Public Hospital where he procured a bottle of medicine for a shilling. He tendered in Court in support of his case the certificates of the doctor and the dispenser and, to add insult to injury, he appeared in Court defended by a lawyer. It seems to me, sir, that those hard-worked dispensers should not be put to the necessity of dispensing medicines for alleged paupers. There is a lack of control of the system which prevails which, so far as I can see, the Resident Surgeon cannot avoid.

It would appear, and the evidence is before the Medical Committee, that a very undesirable state of things is being practised. The general taxpayers of the Colony are being imposed upon by people like those who go, pretend to be paupers and receive medical treatment. That is a scandal, and it seems to me that we should not wait for the report of the Committee to remedy it. I do not see why that cannot be remedied at once. It seems to me that anyone can go to a clergyman, get a certificate and go to the Hospital for

treatment. I think I am right in saying that the members of the Committee are in favour of the dispensing of medicines at these Hospitals being strictly controlled, and that only genuine paupers should be given treatment. Why should we have to wait for a year to give effect to that? It is perfectly clear that the dispensers have a tremendous lot of work to do for which they are ill paid. If they had to exercise their discretion they would not give medicines to such people. They know the circumstances of the people far better than the persons who give them the certificates. It is a scandal which should be very closely examined, and I cannot see what difficulty there would be on the part of the Surgeon-General and his staff to put a stop to it.

Dr. HENDERSON (Surgeon-General): With regard to the particular point raised by the hon. Member who has just spoken, this matter has exercised the mind of the Medical Department for some considerable time. As Surgeon-General I have to be careful to be fair on the one hand to poor persons who cannot afford to pay any more than a certain sum, and on the other hand to safeguard the interests of the general practitioner. I think the best way of dealing with the matter would be to place it on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, have it discussed and an early decision arrived at. I would then receive instructions to carry out that decision.

Mr. ELFAZAR: The hon. Member has referred to a single instance. I suppose he thinks that a great hardship on that individual, but I wonder if he knows that if he had gone to the Hospital in the first instance he would have had to pay the same \$5 if he wanted a certificate, and might have had to borrow that money. If the Police take a man to the Hospital he gets a certificate, but if he attempts to get a lawyer to prosecute his case the Police withhold the certificate and he is told to bring \$5, which does not go to the Government. I think the remedy for that is that the Hospital be made to give the certificate, and if a person has to pay let the money go to the Government. A patient has to be examined before he is treated, and if a certificate is necessary afterwards all the doctor has to do is to look at the chart and copy it. He

charges \$5 which he puts into his pocket. No matter how much you pay a doctor to attend to you, if you ask him for a certificate the next morning you have to pay him \$5. There are cases where an action cannot be brought simply because the person cannot find \$5 to pay a doctor for a certificate. The abuse of pauper certificates will continue until something is done by the Department to tighten up the system. This Department is a nursery for millionaires, and it is still adding to the millions by squeezing \$5 from people. Sometimes a person is given a certificate—"slight injury"—which gets his case dismissed. The Medical Committee has a plenty to investigate. Ask the man how he paid the \$5 and you would get the truth. Perhaps he had to borrow it. The case mentioned by my hon. friend is no criterion at all.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I can only conclude that the hon. Member did not hear what I said. What I rose to illustrate was that it was possible under the system for a man, who had previously paid to a medical practitioner the sum of \$5 for a certificate, to go to the Public Hospital on the doctor's recommendation and receive a bottle of medicine on payment of one shilling, only based upon the certificate from the medical practitioner that he was a pauper. In other words, the man from whom he had received \$5 became a pauper immediately afterwards. That is all I have said, and both of the documents are in the custody of the Magistrate whom I asked to keep them for further investigation.

Mr. LUCKHOO: There is a great deal of truth in the statement made by the hon. Member for Berbice River regarding the excessive charges by doctors for certificates. The standard fee is \$5 irrespective of the nature of the injury. I have seen that done over and over in the course of my practice. With respect to the other point as to the charge of one shilling for medicine at the Hospital, I think the medical officers in the institution should exercise a certain amount of discretion in these matters. There are Regulations governing the issue of pauper certificates, and I do hope Government will not make any hard and fast rule that because no such certificate is forthcoming a person would be denied the necessary help in time of trouble. The persons who have the right to issue such certificates are minis-

ters of religion, the Immigration Agent General and the District Commissioners. I take it that those persons would go into the position of a pauper before issuing a pauper certificate. I daresay there have been abuses, but to make a hard and fast rule would lead to great hardship. It only needs proper inquiry by those who have to give those certificates. I suppose that in the case referred to by the hon. Member for New Amsterdam, having paid \$5 for the certificate the man tried to get his medicine as cheaply as he could.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If the hon. Member wants an investigation Government should inquire into this profit by Government Medical Officers who are being paid for their services, and should tell them that they must treat pauper patients for a shilling and give them certificates when required.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suppose it is also possible for a man who pays for legal advice to obtain a certificate.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I have no doubt that this case is illustrative of what is a general scandal. The man I referred to is employed on an estate. The point I am making is that he should not have been assisted to be considered a pauper by the medical practitioner who sent him to the Hospital to be given medicine for one shilling, because he was not a pauper. I am not contending that a pauper should not receive treatment. I am not asking Government to make a hard and fast rule, but a hard and fast rule against impositions of that kind. Those hard-worked dispensers who are underpaid had to attend to that man. He added to their labours and made their duties more arduous. He went away with the benefit of the treatment, retained a lawyer and appeared in Court. It should be possible to prevent that. Clergymen as a rule are about the worst people to be entrusted with the giving of these certificates. They are naturally sympathetic and cannot refuse people. As long as the Poor Law vote is controlled entirely by clergymen it will be maintained at this figure. They are so easily imposed upon. I hope I am wrong.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If every person who came to me for advice paid a shilling I would not mind sitting here. Nobody pays for advice. (Laughter).

Item passed.

Mr. WOOLFORD: May I be allowed to mention a matter? At the Public Hospital in New Amsterdam it was quite evident to the Committee that a sterilizer is urgently required. Operations are being conducted there under conditions that can only be regarded as being extremely unsafe. That is going to be one of the recommendations of the Committee, and I am glad to think that the Hospital vote will bear the cost of the necessary apparatus. Can't I get an undertaking that that is an item that will have Government's immediate attention?

Dr. HENDERSON: It will be supplied early in the new year.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think steps have already been taken.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: May I ask if the Suddie Hospital is provided with one of those sterilizers?

Dr. HENDERSON: Speaking from memory I think it is.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I am afraid that the one at Suddie is very inadequate and of very little use. Before the close of the session I would like to hear from the Surgeon-General something definite as to how the sterilizer at the Suddie Hospital compares with the new one to be installed at the New Amsterdam Hospital.

Mr. WOOLFORD: May I ask, in the absence of the representative of Essequibo River, that the requirements of the Bartica Hospital be attended to?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Is there a sterilizer at the Morawhanna Hospital?

Dr. HENDERSON: The sterilizer at Morawhanna was repaired quite recently. It is practically new.

Item 24—Superintendents and Divisional Sisters—1 Superintendent of Nurses, Public Hospital, Demerara, \$1,440; 1 Superintendent of Nurses, Public Hospital, Berbice, \$960; 4 Divisional Sisters, Public Hospital, Demerara (\$864), \$3,456 — \$5,856.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I move that this item be carried out at what it is this year. I cannot understand why it has been discovered so suddenly that another Nursing

Sister is required in Georgetown. At first there was only a Superintendent, then one, two and three Divisional Sisters. To-day we are asked to vote for four Divisional Sisters, and what is the fourth one to do? The note says: "... night duty and for relief purpose." If relief is required one must be sure that the person who is discharging the duty is over-worked. The duty of the three Divisional Sisters is to go in, look around and clear out. The one in charge of the Lady Thomson Ward has little to do. I am told that there are seldom 30 patients in that Ward, so that one of the Divisional Sisters is practically idling all the day. I have seen over and over the sort of visit that is paid in the evening. I have seen a Divisional Sister rush into the Hospital from a motor car any time between 7.30 and 8 o'clock at night, speak to the Matron, look around the Ward and go home. I know that in a Ward where there are seven nurses during the day there may be three at night. I understand that the three Divisional Sisters take night duty alternately. Very often the one on duty comes from a party or entertainment. That is the nature of their duty at night. They are paid \$72 per month with an allowance of three shillings per day for board and laundry. It is an imposition on the tax-payers. Why impose a fourth Divisional Sister while the Committee is investigating? The Committee might say that two are sufficient. The people who know about the institution have not gone before the Committee yet to give evidence. I wonder why the members of the Committee, when they went to Berbice, did not recommend that somebody there be cashiered or incarcerated in the same neighbourhood.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Committee has simply started by visiting the institution in order to get some idea of what is being done there. We have taken no evidence, and have made absolutely no recommendation yet to Government.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I have heard the Colonial Secretary say that before, and I have also heard the hon. Member on my left (Mr. Austin) say that the Committee sanctioned so and so. It is no good contradicting what is said on this side. I am not saying what they recommended in this

particular instance, but why they did not recommend. The Committee could not recommend anything so wicked. I know there are persons who feel that these positions might well be filled by persons qualified in English hospitals who are in the Colony. We have all grades and nationalities in this country, and I do not regard race, colour or creed in speaking on these matters. Some people are of the opinion that all positions in the Hospital should be open to local people, and that certain positions should not be confined to a certain class of people. If that is the case then this appointment should not be made. Let the Committee get all the information it can, and when it makes recommendations nobody can complain. I regret to say that I view this item with great suspicion. There is no increase in the staff of nurses at night. Why have an additional watch? The Committee should take cognizance of these things. I do not think Government is acting fairly by the community at all by increasing this estimate in this particular way. Government is bolstering up the Department while the Committee is investigating. When was the discovery made? I have known a Superintendent to leave this Colony and for two years her post was not filled. It shows that these positions are not necessary.

Mr. CANNON: What I cannot understand is that this very Committee we are hearing so much about was appointed by Your Excellency to investigate certain charges made in this House about the want of nursing and other things at the Hospital. Now that Government seeks to put another Nurse on—I am not concerned at the moment where she is to come from, the point as I see it is that if the Surgeon-General tells the Council that there is necessity for greater supervision of the nursing staff, and the appointment of an additional nurse, whether it is a Divisional Sister or Brother I am going to vote in favour of the item. Let us have efficiency, and when unfortunate people have to go to that institution they should have the care and attention they are entitled to. Let us have a little bit of confidence in the institution, which was the object of the Committee. We were told yesterday that the report of the Committee will not reach the Council for

many months. I do not think it will reach us for many years.

Mr. DIAS: If the hon. Member who moved the deletion of the item had based his argument on the ground that as the Committee was sitting no additional expenditure should be incurred I would not have risen to say anything at all on the subject, but I do enter a protest against the attack made on the Divisional Sisters that they have nothing to do at the Hospital. I have been a patient myself, on one occasion for about a month, and on another occasion for ten days, and quite recently, and I have had the opportunity on several occasions—I was not confined to my bed all the time, especially on the last occasion—to observe for myself much of the work that is done, and particularly because at that time there was so much noise in the air about maladministration of the Hospital. I took the opportunity to make myself acquainted with a good deal of what was going on. I make the statement from personal knowledge that these Divisional Sisters are very hard-working indeed and are very much concerned—

Mr. ELEAZAR: I say no work is the hardest work.

Mr. DIAS: My information is first-hand.

Mr. ELEAZAR: So is mine.

Mr. DIAS: I know there are lots of people who are dissatisfied individuals; you find them in every walk of life. It does not matter what is done for them, unless they get things done in their own way they are always finding fault. They resent discipline because they prefer to do things in their own way all the time. The regular operation days at the Hospital are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. They begin at one o'clock and end very often after five o'clock in the afternoon, and you can find those Sisters working in the hot theatre and devoting their attention to their work. They have a harder time than the doctors who take it in turn. The Sisters visit patients all hours in the night. Hon. Members will appreciate what it means to go through a Ward and see that patients are being well cared for and to listen to complaints. I agree with a good many things that have been said in connec-

tion with what the Hospital is short of, but if you remove the discipline that obtains to-day I am afraid those grievances would be very much intensified. I am not concerned for the moment with the obtaining of assistance to grant relief, although I cannot very well see why a Sister should work in the day and in the night if nurses cannot do it. I know of my own personal knowledge that they have a great deal to do it very efficiently.

Mr. WALCOTT: Like the last speaker I think it is only fair that I should mention that time and again I have had people in the country who have gone to the Hospital for treatment—and some very bad cases too—and come out and say that the attention at night is extremely bad, and were it not for the visits made by the Divisional Sisters they would very often go without a drink of water during the night. To put it in the words of one who recently complained: "If it were not for the white lady who comes around at night I would die of thirst." It is only fair that I should say that.

Mr. WILLS: I did not intend to take part in the discussion, but having heard the remarks made by the hon. Member who has just spoken it is but right that I should say something on the matter. I have heard it said on several occasions that the ways of Government, like the grace of God, passeth all understanding. The reasons advanced by the hon. Member for Berbice River are very cogent. There is a Committee actually investigating the working of the Medical Department. There are three Divisional Sisters and it is proposed to get another. Is it an attempt on the part of Government to influence the Committee? It may be that the Committee will recommend that Divisional Sisters are unnecessary. I think if there is an increase of the Divisional Sisters there should be a corresponding increase in the number of nurses. The additional Divisional Sister is to be engaged for night duty and relief purposes. I do not know whether it is the intention of Government to appoint a local person, but it is within my knowledge that two local girls who were trained at the Public Hospital are holding responsible posts in England. If this additional Divisional Sister is necessary I think some consideration should be given to the local nurses. I am sure Government will find among

them persons possessing qualifications perhaps far better than those of many of Divisional Sisters who are brought to the Colony. I am not here to defend the Divisional Sisters. I have not had the misfortune or pleasure of being in the Hospital, and I am not in a position to say whether they discharge their duties well or not. It is somewhat inconsistent when there is a Committee sitting that Government should make additions to the staff of the Hospital.

Mr. LUCKHOO: The best way out of the difficulty is to get a statement from the Surgeon-General on the matter. Committee or no Committee if there is need for such an appointment the sick and poor should be looked after. The Committee may not send in its report for the next couple of years. If there is necessity for such an appointment let the Surgeon-General advance grounds, giving the number of patients, the number of hours the Sisters work, and the necessity for night nurses. Whether the appointment should be made locally I am not in a position to express an opinion. If we have local talent, and sufficient to carry on and maintain discipline at the institution that point should be considered. If the Surgeon-General thinks that the appointment should be given to someone who has been specially trained it is for him to decide. The members of the Committee paid a flying visit to New Amsterdam, returning in the afternoon, and I had not the chance to see them. I think the officer who is responsible for the administration of the Department should be in a position to convince this Council if there is need for such an appointment.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot understand why some people will get up when certain persons are mentioned, and say that a Member has attacked those persons. I attacked nobody. What I said was that in the first instance Government got a single Superintendent to train the nurses, but for all these years not one has been trained yet to become a Divisional Sister. I say there is no necessity for a fourth Sister at all because the three who are there have not got more work than they can do. I wonder if the Hon. Mr. Dias thinks that when he is in Hospital anybody is going to linger and allow him to discover that they have nothing to do.

If you bring people into the country who need work and you have no work for them to do, is it their fault? To say that is not attacking those persons at all. I say that two of those Sisters can be done without. I say that the kind of supervision they give at night does not require any special person because it is only a matter of going into the Hospital after some concert or constitutional walk, looking around and going home. Occasionally there may be an emergency operation at night, and the Divisional Sister may be called out. Are we getting an additional Sister for an occasional accidental case that might occur? Surely that would not justify the appointment of another Sister. It is not my intention to attack anybody, and I deprecate Members getting up here and saying that I have attacked somebody.

Dr. SINGH: I have been a Government Medical Officer for six years, four of which were spent at the Public Hospital, Georgetown, and during the time I was there we had a Superintendent and two Divisional Nurses. I am sure there was not enough work for the two Divisional Nurses during the time I was there. The number of beds in the Hospital must have increased to warrant a further appointment.

Dr. HENDERSON: Much has been said in regard to the need of adding to the number of Divisional Sisters by one. The hon Member for Demerara-Essequibo has referred to the number in the Hospital when he was there as a Government Medical Officer, and infers that one of the reasons for the increase must be an increase in the number of patients. That is one of the most important reasons. The bed strength of the Hospital is going up every year, so also has the number of outpatients in these days of economic depression. Hon. Members have referred to the possibility of increasing the staff of nurses at the Hospital, and have wondered if that is going to take place next year also. It is so. I have allowed for that under item 30. The number of nurses has been increasing from year to year, and that means that the assistants to nurses must be increased and also the supervision. I would like again to stress what I stressed some months ago in this House, that supervision includes assistance, and the Divisional Nurses come here for the

express purpose of assisting the nurses in Hospitals so that as soon as possible they themselves may be able to take the positions which they ought to in these institutions.

With an increase in the number of nurses there must be involved an increase in the training of those nurses—increased time and increased effort are required to bring this about—both as regards general nursing and as regards midwifery, not to mention any special branch of medicine or surgery. I think hon. Members realise how important nursing is in the whole matter of treatment. To mention only one disease which unfortunately is far too prevalent in this Colony—I speak of pneumonia and other diseases of the spinal system—I am sure my hon. friend and colleague will agree with me when I say that the nursing with this disease is even more important than the medical treatment. So that we do want the nurses in this Colony to attain the highest possible standard in carrying out their nursing duties, and also in the shortest space of time.

At a recent function at the Hospital we had the pleasure of the company of the hon. Member for New Amsterdam, and I remember very well that he touched very briefly upon the question of the training of nurses. As an alternative to Divisional Sisters coming out here he suggested that we should endeavour to have our nurses sent to England for training there. Well, sir, that would be a very good idea, and I think that something might be done also in that direction. But I am convinced that the quickest way to help forward the training of our nurses in the Hospitals is by obtaining Nursing Sisters who have had experience in their profession in large hospitals and who are good teachers. I repeat again that the whole point of having Divisional Sisters brought out here is not to act as night watches or day watches. It is to assist the nurses in all the details of their various duties, in the dressing of cases, in the administration of medicines and in general management. As hon. Members know, we have already a great many Matrons, who are people of this country, throughout the Hospital service.

I should like to say here that I am sat-

isfied that the nurses in this country are coming along satisfactorily in their training; and I would like here again to pay tribute to those who looked after me when I was a patient in the Lady Thomson Ward. I could not have wished for nicer nurses anywhere in the world, but I do want the training of our nurses to go forward as quickly as possible so that they may be able to take their places in the Hospital service in this country. It is a very far-reaching effect which is produced by this training. Not only does it make them good nurses but good wives and good mothers in many cases in years to come.

I think I have dealt with most of the points referred to by hon. Members. My hon. friend on my right reminds me that the hon. Member for Eastern Bербice requested information with regard to the working hours of the Divisional Sisters. I have not got the information with me but I know full well that they are on duty morning, afternoon, evening and night, and it is contrary to all procedure to have Divisional Sisters or any nurse doing duty at night as well as during the day. I think perhaps hon. Members forget that very important duties have got to be carried out at night. Many things have to be done four-hourly, maybe the giving of medicine or injection, or the changing of dressing, or anything of such important nature, which must all receive very careful attention. I feel sure that those of us who have required nursing service, or may require it, will realise the great difference between a properly trained nurse and an indifferent one in the manner in which she carries out her various duties.

Mr. GONSALVES: May I enquire what the note opposite the item really means? Is it intended that when the new Divisional Sister comes out she will be restricted to night duty only?

Dr. HENDERSON: Each Divisional Sister will do night duty for a period of three or four months at a time.

Item passed.

Item (32)—Nursing Sisters at Leprosy Hospital—Assistant Superintendent \$720, 8 Sisters at \$192 each, \$1,536, \$2,256.

Mr. WILLS: I was not a Member of

the Council when Nursing Sisters were introduced, but I take a lively interest in the welfare of the Colony and read a pronouncement made by Government some time ago that the Nursing Sisters would not in any way affect the cost of the institution, or would not be paid by Government at all. A number of female attendants at that institution were dismissed in order to give place to those Nursing Sisters. I observe that there were five Nursing Sisters on the Estimate for this year, and in the present Estimate there are eight. They get a salary of \$24 per month with an allowance of \$6 for rations, making \$30 per month. I remember that Government informed the Council that they would be no charge on the Colony as they had been sent out by a foreign body to do this work at great personal sacrifice.

Dr. HENDERSON: I do not think I can give full information on that point but I do remember looking up the matter some months ago, when the existing staff was absorbed into other institutions in the Colony and when a senior nurse or Matron was detailed for duty at the Suddie Hospital. So far as I remember there was never any question of these Nursing Sisters not being paid, but I shall look into it.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I have a recollection that when they were being brought into the country it was said they would be no charge on Government at all. It is true that the employees who were at the institution then have been absorbed into other institutions, but this is an increased number of Nursing Sisters and their pay is also increased. I do not think it is fair to bring these people, who are not British subjects, and pay them higher wages than were paid the other people who were there. Who has been doing the work all the time? If I had known then what I know now I would not have been a party to their coming at all. Government never keeps faith with people here.

Dr. HENDERSON: I think what the hon. Member is thinking of was an intimation in the Press some time ago that a Sister of this Order had come out to the Colony and was actually staying at the Leper Hospital giving voluntary assistance. She is not being paid or rationed at all.

Mr. SEAFORD: I think this House was told that they were working here without remuneration. I felt it was very wonderful on their part.

Mr. MULLIN (Commissioner of Lands and Mines): I think the hon. Member is confusing it with the Assyrians.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member likes to be facetious, but it is becoming boring.

Item passed.

Item 13—Miscellaneous, \$626.

Mr. AUSTIN: I rise to point out that Government has not carried out the promise made by Sir Edward Denham that all Government Medical Officers who live in the neighbourhood of telephones would have telephones installed in their quarters. The Government Medical Officer at Port Mourant refuses to have a telephone in his house, and says that neither the Governor nor the Surgeon-General could make him have it. I brought the matter up at a meeting of the Medical Committee and the Surgeon-General promised to look into it. I think a Government Medical Officer should not override an undertaking given by the Governor when he is serving in a district where people might have to call him at odd hours. I think he is a bit callous. He does not want a telephone because he may be called out at night. Albion, the neighbouring estate, is four miles away, and we have to send a messenger either on a mule or on foot to the doctor. In the case of a sick overseer the messenger sent by the doctor was "Send him over to the hospital, I will come in the morning." We pay the doctor \$60 a quarter. This is not the first time I have spoken on this matter, but I hope it will be the last. I really think every Government Medical Officer in an outlying district should be made to have a telephone whereby he could be got at by those people who contribute as taxpayers towards his salary, pension and lump sum.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I do not think Government desires to hear any other Member speak on that subject; it is scandalous and alarming. Perhaps he is the only doctor available for miles and refuses to have the convenience of a telephone.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The hon. Nominated

Member said that the doctor is callous. I do not think he meant it in that way. He spoke strongly because he feels strongly. I am surprised to hear that of Dr. Sharples, if he is there, because he is a Buxtonian who are very kindly disposed people. In the case of a doctor I do not think it is good enough reason for refusing a telephone because people worry him all hours at night. I think the Surgeon-General and Government ought to be in a position to tell medical officers and persons of that class that it is not what they would like but what Government would have them do for the stipends they receive.

Dr. HENDERSON: I do not know anything about this matter. I shall look into it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is the first time I have heard of it. I will discuss it with the Surgeon-General and the matter will be dealt with.

Item passed.

Item 16—Freight, \$5,040.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: This item has a distinct taste of the Crown Agents. (Laughter). Perhaps Your Excellency will allow me to refer to items 6 and 7 where there has been a corresponding reduction. This item has been increased by \$1,000. I do not know whether the Crown Agents have been able to buy goods cheaper and that accounts for a reduction of the votes. There is no explanatory note in respect of items 6 and 7.

Dr. HENDERSON: That is so.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I thank the Surgeon-General, but it costs just as much in freight and commission, which probably accounts for the increase of \$1,000 on this item. In view of the motion I have before the Council, and the taste of the Crown Agents in the item, I suggest that it be carried out at the same figure as this year, \$4,040.

Mr. WALCOTT: I support what has been said by the last speaker. The item of Drugs and Medical Appliances has been carried out at \$500 less than this year, but Freight has been increased by \$1,000. If the argument of the Government is logical and applied to those figures then,

so far as I can see, the drugs are costing \$500 more. As a matter of fact the two firms that tendered for Government medical supplies this year were very responsible concerns, and I was surprised to learn at the Chamber of Commerce, in a letter received from Government, that Government said that the drugs were no good. It is a very serious statement to make regarding responsible firms like Messrs. Brodie & Rainer and Booker Bros. I certainly think that in view of that adverse criticism of the *bona fides* of those firms this item should be held over until such time as the matter has been fully investigated. It is not nice to think that two leading chemists and druggists in this Colony should be branded by Government as supplying drugs that are unsatisfactory. That is what it amounts to. I think we should hold up this item until a full and satisfactory explanation of those remarks is obtained from Government.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If the reason assigned by the hon. Member for not giving the contract to those firms is correct, Government should not permit the item to go through until an investigation is made, because the whole of the community regards Booker Bros. as A1 as regards the supply of drugs in the Colony. Is Government going to give the Crown Agents all this freight because Government knows that Bookers are supplying drugs that are not good, or is it only an excuse for giving it to the Crown Agents? It is a most astounding statement. I cannot conceive of anybody charging Bookers with keeping spurious articles.

Mr. SMELLIE: I am in favour of the item being held up until there is a full discussion on the subject of the Crown Agents. I will have something to say when it comes up. I am of the opinion that this item is very excessive for freight.

Dr. HENDERSON: In regard to this item it is necessarily only an approximate figure. The Medical Department has followed the policy of Government by obtaining drugs, dressings and hospital clothing through the Crown Agents, and from what I have seen, after working out costs, insurance and freight, it is cheaper, and therefore money is saved and the taxpayer pays less for these articles. With regard to the point raised by the hon. Member for

Central Demerara in regard to the quality of drugs, since I have come here there has been no question whatever of the quality of drugs of any firm that we have secured not being up to standard.

In regard to dressings there is a point I should make, and that is that price for price, such articles as cotton wool and certain kinds of bandages are not so good in quality as what are obtained from the Crown Agents. I understand it was entirely a matter of cost, and so far as drugs and dressings are concerned the Crown Agents handle the indents of different parts of the Empire, and those items were naturally secured at a very low price. I would like it to be very clear that since coming to this Colony the policy has been to secure drugs and dressings from England, but once or twice the Department has had occasion to secure drugs from Messrs. Booker Bros. and Brodie & Rainer, and there was no question whatever as to their quality.

I should say that shortly before Sir Edward Denham left the Colony he had a meeting at Government House, at which Mr. Mackey, Mr. Jones and I were present, in connection with this very question of securing drugs from the Crown Agents, and the Governor said that when next the Department called for tenders opportunity should be given to local firms to submit quotations. Those instructions were carried out a short time ago. I received tenders from Bookers and Brodie & Rainer, and quite a number of their quotations were accepted by the Department on behalf of Government.

MR. DE AGUIAR: In view of the fact that my motion on the subject of the Crown Agents will be debated shortly, I think it is only fair to warn the Surgeon-General that the question of the calculation of cost is a fairly scientific matter, and in the course of the debate I hope to prove to the satisfaction not only of the Surgeon-General but also of the Council, that Government's method of calculating costs is entirely different to that of those who know how to calculate costs. Perhaps the Surgeon-General might tell us that approximately £400 worth of rubber goods imported through the Crown Agents for the Hospital had to be thrown away. He should tell us whether that was in-

cluded in the cost of those that were left behind. I would like him to be prepared. He might furnish Government's spokesman with the facts for his reply. As regards Government's complaint about drugs, there is a letter on record from Government stating definitely that the drugs supplied by the local druggists were not up to standard. As a matter of fact they were suspected of diluting some of the drugs, but that is not my concern. I ask that the item be allowed to stand over.

MR. SEAFORD: The Surgeon-General said that a considerable amount of drugs were being obtained locally. Am I not correct in saying that the amount is in the neighbourhood of £200?

DR. HENDERSON: I shall procure the figures.

MR. WALCOTT: That was made public at the same meeting of the Chamber at which the question was discussed. I am not at all satisfied with the Surgeon-General's explanation. I am sorry for the Surgeon-General in this instance because it is obvious from what he has said that—

The Committee adjourned for the luncheon recess.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will hold the item over. With regard to the remarks made by the hon. Nominated Member about drugs obtained locally being said to be no good, the Colonial Secretary will read what was written on the subject.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I understood the hon. Member to say that Government had accused Messrs. Booker Bros. and Brodie & Rainer of supplying bad drugs. Government's letter to the Chamber of Commerce states:—

"As regards drugs, I am to state that reports from the Medical Board indicate that the quality of both drugs and dressing obtained through the Crown Agents is superior to those obtained locally in the past, and the cost is less."

I cannot see how that is an attack on the reputations of those two firms. I might prefer to get my drugs from abroad. The letter merely states that in the opinion of the Medical Authorities the drugs imported were of a superior quality and cost less.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I agree with the Colonial Secretary. Government was only trying to bolster up a bad case when it said that the drugs obtained through the Crown Agents were superior to those supplied locally.

Mr. SEAFORD: I understand that the drugs obtained through the Crown Agents are from exactly the same makers from whom one of the firms mentioned imports its drugs.

Mr. WALCOTT: I have always understood that Bookers make the point that they supply the best. If their drugs are the best I do not know how those supplied through the Crown Agents can be better. I buy drugs from Bookers and I want to know that I am getting good stuff. Government's letter certainly raises a doubt in my mind whether I am getting the best. I think the average man in the Colony who reads that letter will come to the conclusion that Government was not getting goods of the standard and quality necessary for the use of the Medical Department. Government is bolstering up a bad case. If Government is desirous of withdrawing its statement and to say that Bookers' and Brodie & Rainer's drugs are as good as any it has got through the Crown Agents I can understand it and I will say no more. We have fought this matter out both here and elsewhere, and Government actually gave an undertaking that, all conditions being equal, it would buy its supplies from local traders. I presume that the last paragraph of the letter is only an evasion. Government not having kept its promise to the local traders is trying to get out of it by making that statement. That statement can only mean that the drugs obtained locally were not satisfactory, or not good enough for the Medical Department. If it was not meant in that way Government should make the fullest apology to the firms in question and make it clear to the general public that it had no intention whatever to impugn the purity or standard of the drugs supplied by those two firms who tendered. As regards the very vexed question of supplies through the Crown Agents, it is hardly fair for the Government to compare the first cost from the Crown Agents with the ultimate price at which the goods are obtained locally. For instance, I am sure that Government has not taken into con-

sideration the question of commission to the Crown Agents.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member will realise that I am giving him a good deal of latitude because we are going to have all this over again in the debate on the motion by the hon. Member for Central Demerara. I have already said I will hold over the item.

Mr. WALCOTT: I beg your pardon, sir.

Mr. ELEAZAR: That being the case, may I suggest that you consider the question of cost. Perhaps Government imports through the Crown Agents free of duty.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I would like to have a comparative statement of costs.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think hon. Members will get all the information Government can give them on the matter. If they can produce better figures they are at liberty to do so.

Item held over.

Item 20—Passages, \$1,536.

Mr. CANNON: How is this amount arrived at?

Dr. HENDERSON: The Nurse Superintendent of the New Amsterdam Hospital left recently, and her successor will come out. The Nursing Sister threatens to leave some time, and her successor will come out. The Superintendent of Nurses at the Georgetown Hospital will be leaving on account of marriage early in the Spring, and her successor will come out later on. A Divisional Sister from the Georgetown Hospital will also be going Home not to return. We will have to provide her return passage and the passage of her successor. Another Divisional Sister will also be in the same position, going Home not to return, and her successor will be coming out, making a total of eight passages to be provided.

Mr. CANNON: Does it mean that they are leaving us?

Dr. HENDERSON: It does look like that.

Mr. CANNON: It may be that they are dissatisfied with the undue criticisms of this Council.

Dr. HENDERSON: I would not say that, but there is no doubt that they have been over-worked, and they feel they may have a less arduous time in another part of the Empire. I beg to move the insertion of an item to be numbered:—

Item 34—New Motor Lorry for Leprosy Hospital, \$1,000.

The Council will remember that some time ago a second-hand lorry was obtained for the institution. It is quite broken down now and the Director of Public Works says it is useless to repair it.

Mr. SEAFORD: I suggest that we make it \$400. I am sure that several of the lorries which are now taking stone up the East Coast will be put on the market very soon and will be sold very cheap.

THE CHAIRMAN: If a good second-hand lorry could be purchased it would be. We have tried so often to makeshift with second-hand lorries but found it did not pay.

Mr. SEAFORD: The lorries I refer to have only been working for about eight weeks.

Mr. CANNON: I would not advocate the buying of a second-hand lorry. After transporting stone and making such huge profit on the sea defence work a second-hand lorry will be of no value. I do not agree, however, that the owners of those lorries have been making fortunes.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Do I understand that the lorry has been purchased already?

Dr. HENDERSON: The lorry has not yet been purchased. There is no lorry at present.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item inserted.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I ask permission to revert to item 20—Passages, \$1,536. I understood the Surgeon-General to say that one of the Divisional Sisters is going Home to get married.

Dr. HENDERSON: In one case that is so.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If that lady has not completed her term must we pay her passage Home? At least we should not pay the whole of it.

Mr. CANNON: I am sure my friend is not serious. I am sure he would welcome the young lady finding a husband. (Laughter.)

GOVERNMENT PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Item 1b—2 Assistant Government Medical Officers of Health (1 at \$3,120 to \$3,840 by \$120 and 1 at \$3,000 to \$3,360), \$6,946.

Mr. SEAFORD: I move that this item be reduced by \$3,000. I would like to get an expression of opinion from the Surgeon-General whether he considers it is absolutely necessary to have three Medical Officers of Health in the Colony before I say anything.

Dr. HENDERSON: I have no hesitation in saying that it is absolutely necessary to have three Medical Officers of Health in this country. I think what is at the back of the hon. Member's mind is rather exceptional in so far as relief duties are concerned. I think he referred earlier in the session to an Assistant Government Medical Officer of Health doing the duties of Government Bacteriologist. That is an event that took place this year, the Government Bacteriologist proceeding on leave. That only happens every three or four years, and public health includes in a large measure Bacteriology. Therefore the appointment of the Health Officer for Demerara and Essequibo to act for the Government Bacteriologist during the period of his leave was quite appropriate. I should mention that he carried out both duties at the same time.

I think the hon. Nominated Member also has in his mind the necessity for detailing a Health Officer to proceed to the Rupununi district about the middle of October. Here again, in my opinion, that was absolutely necessary. It might not have been necessary had there been a sufficient number of Health Officers in the Colony before this time to have known health conditions in the interior, and to

have been able to supply the Authorities with a health report on the conditions there. But no such report existed, and therefore in my opinion it was necessary to detail an officer, and it had to be an officer of special experience to investigate local health conditions in so far as it can be done. It may be argued that this Colony should have waited until a medical officer came out to determine those points for himself but I think that could not be entertained. In any case, had a medical officer come with General Browne he would have expected some information from Government, and particularly the Health Department, in regard to health conditions in the Rupununi. After all such diseases as beri-beri exist in the interior, and it is important to do what we can in connection with prevention.

I think hon. Members know that when any officer has to relieve another the duties must be undertaken as best as possible. I think no one expects the work to reach the standard attained during the time when the full establishment exists. For example, in Berbice the work of Honorary Health Officer of the town of New Amsterdam has been carried on by Dr. Pottinger, and during the time he was there he frequently attended the statutory meetings of the Council. I should have stated at the outset that it is usual when an officer is away on long leave that the other duties of the Health Officers are shared by the Government Medical Officers in the districts. I think the hon. Member in dealing with the Colonial Secretary's Budget Speech referred to the fact that no Health Officer has visited Essequibo this year.

Mr. SEAFORD: I did not say visit. I said he was brought to the Colony for Essequibo but he had never been stationed there. I did not mean that he had never visited there.

Dr. HENDERSON: I should like to say that the Government Medical Officer who is normally stationed in Georgetown in addition to Dr. Wase-Bailey has charge of the Counties of Demerara and Essequibo. He inspected in Essequibo about the end of January. He went up as soon as possible after the floods and made a very thorough inspection of the whole area from Supenaam to Charity. In

regard to other parts of that County I would like to say that when visiting and inspecting there about the middle of August I myself visited the whole of Morawhanna and Mabaruma along with Mr. Long, the Commissioner, and I think a special report was submitted to you, sir, recommending certain improvements in sanitation, and also sanitation in connection with some eight or nine grants in the area. When in the Potaro recently I not only visited the Hospital but also went into the sanitation of the mining camps with Mr. Humphrey, and into the general sanitation of Garraway Stream and Tumatumari. I say without hesitation there is great need to have the present number of Assistant Government Medical Officers of Health in this country.

I think that in his speech following upon the Colonial Secretary's Budget Speech the Hon. Mr. Seaford recommended that there should be a programme setting out certain items which should be thoroughly investigated in order to improve the Colony as far as possible. I suggest that on that programme there be placed the reduction of the Colony's death-rate which still stands too high at 22.4 per thousand.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am glad to get an assurance that three Assistant Medical Officers are required. At the same time I cannot see why, if three are necessary, we should have been carrying on with only one for the major portion of the year. For a short time there was none as far as I can gather because one Medical Officer of Health was spending most of his time doing bacteriological work.

Dr. HENDERSON: That is not so. He did both bacteriological work and public health work.

Mr. SEAFORD: I admit he did both, but when he was brought to the Colony it was not to do bacteriological work but public health work. For the rest of the time we have had one gentleman away, and as soon as he comes back to spend all his time on health work a second is sent to the Rupununi. Which is more important, the health of the coastlands where everybody lives, or health conditions in the Rupununi? Why has he gone up there? Is the local Government paying for his

services up there? Is Government paying for this work or is the Imperial Government? My point is that there is apparently not sufficient work for three Medical Officers of Health because, for the major portion of the year, there has been only one doing the work. I must admit that the Surgeon-General has put in a great deal of work in the Department itself, but that should not be. He is supposed to be the Head of the whole Department and should not be called on to do any other work. I consider it is quite wrong that men who are brought out for special work should be taken off that work and given other things to do which do not concern them and are really not of very great benefit to the Colony. In view of our only having one Medical Officer of Health at the present moment, and the health of the Colony being so much better this year, I move that the item be reduced by \$3,000.

Mr. LUCKHOO: Since the introduction of the Public Health Ordinance additional work has been cast upon the Medical Officers of Health. The Ordinance came into operation about two months ago, and I believe if it is to be carried out in its entirety it would need the presence of the Medical Officer of Health in each County. One officer was appointed to the County of Berbice. I am quite well aware that his services, in an honorary capacity, were given to the New Amsterdam Municipality, for which we are grateful, but at the same time, in view of his continued absence from the district, the work of the County has suffered somewhat. I am well aware that there have been periodical visits paid by other officers, but things are a bit unsatisfactory, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector is doing his very best indeed in order to carry out the requirements of the Ordinance. The fact however remains that we have been without that officer's presence there for a few months. I am not against the retention of the item, but I think better use might be made of the officers of the Department.

We had in Georgetown a few weeks ago a Health Week campaign. It must be said to the credit of the Georgetown Municipality, and the Medical Officer of Health attached to that Department, that they have carried out a very fine progressive programme. I repeat that if we are to get any benefit from the Public Health

Department, the Medical Officer of Health and his staff should visit the country districts regularly with a view of giving lectures to the people. (Hear, hear). It should be made a definite part of those officers' duties that they should go around the villages in co-operation with the Government Medical Officers and give lectures on various topics which would be of great interest and benefit to the people in the districts. Such lectures have been very few and far between. If I am to vote for this item Government must give an undertaking that it will make it a part of the duties of Government Medical Officers and the Assistant Government Medical Officers of Health to go about the country districts and give lantern lectures to assist the people to carry out the requirements of the Public Health Ordinance. Mere legislation will prove abortive unless it is supported by an intelligent public opinion. Apart from annual shows nothing is done to educate the people in the country districts in sanitary and health matters. I should like to see the Medical Officers of Health paying more frequent visits to the country districts, and Government should provide them with the means of giving illustrated lectures.

With respect to the absence of the Medical Officer of Health from New Amsterdam, Government has in a way compensated us by giving us the services of Dr. Carto, the Government Medical Officer of the district. At the same time efforts might be made in other directions to get the country folk interested in the work of the Public Health Department. Visits should be paid to the schools and instructions given to the pupils in regard to sanitary measures.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The question is whether we need three Medical Officers of Health in the Colony. I say emphatically "No," and I defy the Surgeon-General to show me that he has need for them. I am credibly informed that when Dr. Pottinger went to New Amsterdam he said "I have nothing to do," and he was right. We have no port in New Amsterdam but we are forced to keep what is called a Port Health Officer. There are five Sanitary Inspectors and a Chief Sanitary Inspector in New Amsterdam, and a Medical Officer of Health is over the Chief

Sanitary Inspector. The Government Medical Officer of the district lives there and sees conditions every day of his life, but the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health never consult him. The thing is an absurdity. What is the result of their presence in the district? So far as I am aware—and I defy anybody to say to the contrary—the result is nil. New Amsterdam is exactly as it was when I went there 25 years ago. The Surgeon-General says that Dr. Pottinger attends the Town Council meetings. When he does he has nothing to tell us, and we have nothing to ask him.

The hon. Nominated Member struck the nail on the head when he suggested that there is no need for three Medical Officers of Health in the Colony. While there are three there is none in Essequibo. We want a few more Sanitary Inspectors, but I challenge the Surgeon-General to show that there is need for three Medical Officers of Health. Their appointment is due to the fact that we have had so many "African" Governors here who imagined that they were seeing the people of West Africa. An increase in the number of Sanitary Inspectors would have my support and that of other Members of the Council. In years gone by the Government Medical Officer was personally responsible for the health of his district, but to-day the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors pass by without giving him a glance. He complains about it.

MR. DE AGUIAR: I am supporting the amendment of the hon. Nominated Member for a reduction of this item. I am quite satisfied that the necessity does not exist for two Assistant Government Medical Officers of Health. I go one step further. Government knows that the services of two Assistants are not required. One of the officers was not requisitioned by the Government; he was "axed" from somewhere in West Africa and sent to this Colony. We did not send for him. That to my mind is convincing proof that we have no need for two Assistant Medical Officers of Health. Since the officer I refer to has been here he has been running around the country with nothing to do. One remained at Bush Lot looking over health conditions there for a long time. It is said he went to Essequibo, but it

would be true to say that the major portion of his time in Essequibo was spent at Bush Lot. The other Assistant Government Medical Officer of Health is in the Rupununi, and I suppose later on there will be a little bit of accounting between the Imperial Government and this Government. I take it that the Council will be told that the salary of this officer and that of another officer there will be refunded to the local Treasury. We do not know how long those officers will be there, but we have been definitely told that all expenses in connection with the bringing of the Assyrians here will be borne by the Imperial Government. At present there are two highly paid officers in the Rupununi, and I hope later on there will be a little balancing of accounts, unless it is intended to reduce the dole we are to receive. I do not know how we are going to get rid of one of the Assistant Government Medical Officers of Health because he is on the Fixed Establishment.

The Committee divided on the question that the item be passed and voted:—

Ayes—Mr. Cannon, Dr. Henderson, Messrs. Wood, Mullin, D'Andrade, McDavid, Major Craig, Mr. Luckhoo, Professor Dash, Major Bain Gray, Messrs. Dias, Smellie, The Attorney-General and The Colonial Secretary—14.

Noes—Messrs. Peer Bacchus, Seaford, Austin, De Aguiar, Gonsalves, Eleazar, Wight, Brassington—8.

Did not vote—Mr. Walcott—1.

Item passed.

Item 1*h*—20 Sanitary Inspectors (Class III.) (\$624 to \$744 by \$24, \$14,825.)

MR. ELEAZAR: It is disgraceful to allow Essequibo, which has two islands, to have only one Sanitary Inspector.

DR. HENDERSON: I will take the matter up and do the best I can.

Item 6—Approved Sanitary Works, \$1,000.

MR. LUCKHOO: I take it that this amount includes the usual provision for sanitary improvements in New Amsterdam.

Dr. HENDERSON: There is the usual sum provided for New Amsterdam and other parts of the Colony under item 7, and New Amsterdam will get its fair share.

Mr. LUCKHOO: Whenever the question comes up the New Amsterdam Town Council has always had to refer to the Medical Officer of Health. It is a very wise precaution, but I would like something definite on the point. There has been some correspondence on the subject.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I think in previous years we were told where these improvements were to take place.

Dr. HENDERSON: All I know is that this vote of \$1,000 represents the remnants of what used to be \$2,000 for abattoirs and markets, and where necessary it is used for bushing Government compounds or the construction of modern latrines in schools and water receptacles. I have not yet any programme arranged for the expenditure of this money, but I can assure the hon. Member that the various towns and villages will receive their fair share of the sum.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I protest against it; it is highly unsatisfactory. Surely Government should give us some idea of how the money is going to be spent. The last time I was in Essequibo the sanitary conditions around the Bush Lot or Anna Regina Settlement, where there is a dispensary, were horrible. I ask that the Council be given some idea as to where and how the money is to be spent.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I would like to see \$500, or whatever sum we are going to get, ear-marked for New Amsterdam. If it is put down as sanitary improvements in New Amsterdam it will go to New Amsterdam as an original vote.

Dr. HENDERSON: I do not think it is possible to say definitely that so much is to be given to this or that part of the Colony. The new system under which the money is spent is that it is left to the Department to do the best in this direction.

Mr. ELEAZAR: That is what we are complaining about. It was so until the Department tried to wangle New Amsterdam out of it. Eventually we will be told

that New Amsterdam cannot get any of the money.

Dr. HENDERSON: If the New Amsterdam Municipality would submit its programme to the Public Health Department it would be considered. When we hear of the needs of each district the money will be apportioned.

Item passed.

Item 7—Government Lands and Compounds in Georgetown and New Amsterdam—Sanitary Improvements, \$2,000.

Mr. SEAFORD: Does this include the Government Lands at Kitty? I have never seen such a waste of money in my life. I see men standing there all day doing nothing. I am told it is unemployment relief work and it does not matter whether the people work or not. It is a disgrace to see how the work is being carried on. Further on there is an item for Queen's College. I think that work can very well be done out of this sum. I do not think this money is being spent to good advantage.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I am sorry I have to disagree with the remarks of the hon. Nominated Member. The work comes under my observation daily. I am an observant man and I claim that the result of the work has been very beneficial.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am not saying anything about the result. I say that the work could have been done at about one-tenth of the cost.

Mr. WOOLFORD: What the hon. Member said was that it was a waste of money. What he intended to say was that a larger area might have been covered, but I disagree that it has been a waste of money. I can say that there has been a great reduction not only in the number of mosquitoes but in the incidence of malaria in that district, and I hope Government will not be discouraged in the good work.

Mr. SEAFORD: I took the objection and I maintain that it is an absolute waste of money. If work can be done for \$100 and you spend \$1,000 it is a waste of money. I am correct in my statement.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I have on several occasions drawn the attention of the

last three Governors to the horrible condition of the land east of the Wireless Station. I cannot say whether the expenditure has been excessive or not, but I know that the work has done a great deal of good in lessening the mosquito menace in Georgetown, and I hope Government will continue the work.

Mr. GONSALVES: Anyone who has seen the work must admit that it has very much improved health conditions, but I think the Hon. Mr. Seaford's point has been misunderstood. His complaint was not that the work was not satisfactory but as regards the amount spent. That is a different matter altogether, and one for those in control.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member thinks that \$2,000 is being spent. I do not think more than \$600 is being spent.

Mr. SEAFORD: It was not the actual amount I was complaining about, but that very little work is being done. I usually see the men leaning or standing idle.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is a question of cost, and I have no doubt that the Surgeon-General would be glad to enter into a contract with the hon. Member if he would take it on.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am not a contractor, and I thought Government knew that by this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you would suggest someone.

Mr. SEAFORD: I will not.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Is Government unable to tell us that \$500 will be given to New Amsterdam?

Dr. HENDERSON: I can say that \$500 will be spent. That is the sum we gave last year. The Hon. Mr. Seaford raised the point last year and the matter was taken up very vigorously. We had meetings with Your Excellency to discuss ways and means of saving money and to endeavour to eliminate the defects to which the hon. Nominated Member has drawn attention. The Director of Public Works, who is intimately concerned, also gave us an estimate and advice as to how

best the work could be done, and I also know that Your Excellency has visited the site very frequently and that you have first-hand knowledge as to what is taking place in this area. I am very glad that hon. Members realise that useful sanitary work has been done in that part of the City. If, as suggested, there are cheaper ways of doing the work I should be very glad if we could be told what those are. I would press for the retention of the whole sum on the Estimate. The increase of the item is necessary because it is proposed to cut down the courida bush opposite the Bel Air Hotel. We want to keep that area under control and that is the reason for the extra sum.

Mr. CANNON: If you are going to use a portion of it in cutting down courida I am going to vote against it. It would be a most retrograde step. We will very soon have Bel Air Park floating into the Atlantic.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I understand that the Surgeon-General has given a definite undertaking that \$500 will be given to New Amsterdam. Conditions at the Mental Hospital are shocking. There is a large growth of courida bush which is interfering with the good work the Municipality has done. I would ask the Surgeon-General to give some attention to the matter.

Mr. SEAFORD: The Surgeon-General mentioned just now the cutting down of courida bush. The Sea Defence Board considered the matter and decided that a small bit should be done as a preliminary, and that the trees should be topped. The work has not been carried out as was recommended by the Board. Very much more was cut down than they gave permission to be cut down, trees being cut right down to the ground instead of being topped. I have taken the question up twice with the acting Chairman who said he would take it up with the Public Health Department. Whether that has been done I do not know. I promise the Surgeon-General he will hear very much more about it in the future.

Mr. ELEAZAR: There is an area of about 25 rods of foreshore in the vicinity of the Abattoir in New Amsterdam which is overgrown with courida. The Muni-

pality has done its portion and Government promised to do its part of the work, but nothing has been done. The Town Council has spent \$3,000 in clearing and bonifying its portion, but for the sake of spending \$50 Government is negating our work. I ask that the work be done.

Item passed.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

MR. ELEAZAR: I wish to make some general remarks on the Department. I have said over and over again that the Primary Education of the country is being misdirected, and it would appear that that remark is misunderstood by the Director of Education. He wanted to know what I meant. I tried to explain to him that it seemed to me that his policy was calculated to retard the educational progress of the country. He replied "Nothing of the kind." The administration by the Head of the Department amounts to misdirection, and I am going to touch on the various items for the benefit of the Committee if it is ever formed. To begin with, since the Director took up his appointment in this Colony we have had a Teachers' Training Centre. He boasts of that innovation, but I am inclined to think it is not being run on the best lines. No attempt has been made to have the students housed in a proper place. They are kept in the heart of the City, and it is not conducive to the formation of character which is the principal thing in the training of a teacher. Then the Principal of that institution is a youngster himself whose character is hardly yet formed, but he is charged with the formation of the character of youths very little younger than himself. The result is not very encouraging at all. Some of the teachers of the old school are still with us, and we see their demeanour in public and otherwise is so different. The atmosphere in their schools is also different.

One is also tempted to feel that there is too much meddling with the work in the schools. It is not the business of the Department, I respectfully submit, to tell teachers what particular method they should adopt in teaching this and that subject. The method should be a matter for the teachers. We find the Director of Education going to the schools and

telling the teachers they must not have simultaneous oral reading. The children must do silent reading. Silent reading is no reading at all. It is absurd and can only come from a theorist, and not from anybody who has any practical knowledge of teaching.

A day or two ago the Director of Education showed me a letter he had in his possession. I read it and smiled, and he thought I smiled at its contents. That was ludicrous enough, and it was alarming that it should have come from a schoolmaster, but I presume it did. But that was not what I laughed at. It was because it was in script writing. If everybody wrote script how could we ever detect a writer? No schoolmaster at present makes any attempt to teach writing as it should be taught. He says that the Director says he must teach script writing and he is teaching the children to write in that way for them to unlearn it afterwards. To-day we look in vain for good writers. Nobody takes the trouble to show the children how to hold a pen and how to sit because officers of the Education Department go into the schools and attempt to teach the teachers method, an unnecessary interference which tends to hamper the progress of the children in that particular branch.

To-day the idea of the Department is to let every boy in school learn to be a carpenter. That is absurd. The children's time in school is mis-applied when the boys are expected to become proficient in shoe-making, tailoring and carpentry, and the girls in cooking, baking, washing and other domestic things which should be done at home. There is a wide difference between learning hand and eye and this kind of thing. The children's time, instead of being spent in intensive reading, writing and arithmetic so as to build a foundation, is being frittered away in a top-heavy curriculum. They get a smattering of everything and leave school without any foundation. What is the alternative? We have juvenile crimes increasing in the country. It is the result of the misdirection of education.

The Director made his first mistake when he came and heard the cry that there were too many small schools about the country, and instead of correcting it

he is going further into it. Although there were too many small schools there was not too much school space because everyone provided its own space for its own denomination. The Director closed down those small schools before he had built up any other, and the result is overcrowding in the schools that are left and understaffing. There were to have been two large schools at Buxton but we have not got one yet.

Schoolmasters are supposed to be working under the Code of 1919. If A is appointed to a school and the Director refuses to confirm it and suggests the appointment of B the Manager dares not refuse to appoint B or he is threatened that his school would be closed. In nine cases out of ten he appoints B, but he does it with a great deal of disgust and ultimately he does not take any interest in the school. I would like to know under what section of the Code the Director is acting when he refuses to confirm the appointment of a teacher. I have seen a letter from a Manager to a teacher enclosing a contract from the Director for the teacher to sign. In the letter the Manager stated that he did not want the contract and his denomination did not want it, but the Director said that if the teacher did not sign it he would be dismissed. When I asked the Director about the matter he said that all the Managers had agreed to it. Under what section of the Code has the Director the right to make a contract outside of the Code? What is more is that the contract states that the teacher must do all the Manager requires, educationally or otherwise. I sent the contract to the newspapers but they did not publish it. I should have brought it here and read it to the Council. I have known a teacher dismissed for refusing to sign the contract. It is an unnecessary interference with the work of the Managers. They resent it and take very little interest in the work of the schools. The Director does not know how unpopular his Department is with the general public.

Another direction in which the Education Department has failed is in respect of the teaching of English in the schools. I happen to know that teachers are being told not to teach the children grammar because some Committee or Commission

met some time ago in England and revised the grammar books, and some of the schools have adopted this new-fangled idea while others have not. But in British Guiana the teachers are compelled to do certain things, with the result that the children suffer. I happen to know—and the Director cannot contradict it—that he has actually threatened to dismiss an aspiring young teacher who was preparing to take the London Matriculation Examination. A man who stands in the way of education like that must be regarded as having some motive, and that motive cannot be the best. I am told that the Director does not want to hear about examinations, but Sir Edward Denham, who was a bit of an educationist, insisted on them. He was then told that the Department had not sufficient Inspectors and schoolmasters were made to examine each other's schools. Unless there are judicious examinations you cannot tell how the children are progressing. I know of no better way of ascertaining whether your teaching has been effective than by judicious and careful examination. Schoolmasters resent having to examine each other's schools. It should be done by the Department.

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education) We would want more Inspectors.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Make the Director an Inspector as he has nothing to direct.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the hon. Member would forgive me if I remind him that he has already spoken for half an hour.

Mr. ELEAZAR: We only have ten minutes more and I certainly have more than half an hour to go. (Laughter). I will try to see if I can say what I have to say in five minutes. I will therefore get down to the female Inspector. When the Director arrived in the Colony he spoke of this female Inspector in the very first year. I know of no country where there is a female Inspector. There is none in Barbados as far as I am aware, and I do not know that there is any in Trinidad either.

Major BAIN GRAY: Oh yes.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Perhaps since the Director has been trying to get this one.

A woman Inspector is a misnomer. Is she to examine small boys? The Director says she is required to teach the teachers. I know that some of our best women teachers have been trained in Barbados where there was no woman teacher to teach them. There happens to be the wife of one of the Professors of the College who is a good hand at drawing, and she teaches drawing. The Professors teach the boys and girls together. We do not want a woman Inspector to teach the girls here. We do not want such an experiment in this country. I wonder if it is the same person the Director would have engaged eight years ago.

I had the pleasure of leading a deputation of teachers to Sir Edward Denham and they made the point that the Director was recommending in the new Code he was making a revised scale of salaries. Sir Edward said that Government did not want anything taken away from the teachers but it did not want to pay any more. Several schools have no headmaster because the Director insists that they should come under the new scale. The two Commissioners said that the schoolmasters had been heavily hit and should not suffer any further reduction of salary. In spite of that the Director is still carrying out the terms of the Code he is making which has not yet seen the light of day. He is grasping power which the law does not give him. Yet he wants to know why I say he is misdirecting education and the public is complaining.

In deference to Your Excellency's wish I am going to stop at this stage. The money spent on education is not sufficient, but the results do not compensate for the expenditure. We could spend more if we could get better results. People have lost faith in the Department, and it does not matter what the Department does.

Item 1(4)—Assistant Inspector and Educational District Officer (\$1,560 to \$1,800 by \$72), \$1,800.

Major BAIN GRAY: There will be a change in the holder of the office from 1st January, and the salary will be reduced to \$1,560. I therefore move that the item be carried out at \$1,560.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am asking Your Excellency to delete this item or leave it over until to-morrow.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member has already spoken for quite a long time. Perhaps he will be content to vote against it.

Mr. ELEAZAR: That will not do. Please leave it over until to-morrow.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the hon. Member might go on now for five minutes.

Mr. SEAFORD: I ask that we be told something about it. It might save a lot of time.

Major BAIN GRAY: There is a note on the Estimate explaining the need for this appointment, but there are one or two larger considerations which perhaps ought to be mentioned. The position in regard to the staff of the Department is that in 1924 there were four members of the staff apart from the Commissioner, as he was then known, three Inspectors and an Educational District Officer. Just before I came to the Colony all of those appointments were merged, and the Assistant Inspector's post was merged with that of the Educational District Officer, thus reducing the staff available for inspection to $2\frac{1}{2}$ units. In 1928, when it was considered necessary to establish the Teachers' Training Centre, it was a mistake, I suppose, but I gave way under pressure to the suggestion that we should not create a separate post of Superintendent. It was so essential to get the system of training teachers established that I sacrificed the time of the Second Inspector of Schools. The result is that we have the Inspector of Schools and the Second Inspector of Schools, whose time is largely given up to the Training Centre, and the Assistant Inspector whose time is occupied on the attendance work. Then just about 1925 the Education Commission sat and reported definitely in favour of the employment of one woman on the inspecting staff. The hon. Member for Berbice River has suggested that Trinidad has not got one. Trinidad has had one for several years, and it would be interesting to know that the last Committee that sat in Trinidad strongly recommended the appointment of another.

The Council resumed and adjourned until the following day at 11 o'clock.