

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Thursday, 22nd August, 1940.*

The Council met at 11 a.m., pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, SIR WILFRID JACKSON, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. G. O. Case, Director of Public Works and Sea Defences.

The Hon. L. G. Crease, Director of Education.

The Hon. B. R. Wood, Conservator of Forests.

The Hon. L. D. Cleare, Director of Agriculture (Acting).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 21st of August, 1940, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

## LIVESTOCK EXPERIMENT STATION.

Mr. CLEARE (Director of Agriculture, Acting) communicated the following Message:—

## MESSAGE No. 23.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

The Government has recently had under consideration proposals for improving and developing the Colony's livestock industry. This matter has, for some time past, been the object of special attention on the part of the Department of Agriculture, and some degree of progress has been achieved, particularly as regards increased numbers of breeding stock in recent years. Economic conditions produced by the war, and the possibility of increased trade opportunities in the Caribbean beef markets now supplied chiefly from Venezuela or other foreign sources, indicate that the time is opportune, for extending the range of efforts to develop the raising of livestock.

2. The associated problems of pasturage and feeding are among the chief difficulties to be solved. Other considerations apart, the need for augmented rice production has led to increasing restriction of grazing facilities on coastal areas which are already overstocked. In order to provide new grazing lands and so relieve congestion on the coast it is proposed to examine about 2,000 square miles of intermediate savannahs along the Berbice River, some 40 miles from the coast, with a view to the economic stocking of these areas with cattle. As a preliminary, means must be found

to offset mineral deficiency of the soil and grasses therein, and experiments are necessary to determine the effects, supplementary mineral feeding on the condition, reproduction and growth of animals, etc. A site for an experiment station has been selected at Ebini Downs, Berbice River, 75 miles above New Amsterdam, and a scheme drawn up for the conduct of experiments over a period of 5 years. It is contemplated that these experiments should be financed from the Development Trust Fund established under Ordinance No. 7 of 1937.

3. The Scheme has been considered and approved by the Executive Council and the Advisory Committee for the Fund in pursuance of section 10 of Ordinance No. 7 of 1937, and it is proposed to make a grant from the Trust Fund of \$14,000 for the first year of the scheme, and \$4,000 per annum for four consecutive years thereafter, or a total of \$30,000. Other ancillary objectives of the project are the improvement of the quality of cattle in the Rupununi District and coastal areas, the study of diseases of horses in the District and of problems arising out of land utilization of soil types in this area.

4. The sanction of the Secretary of State for this expenditure from the Trust Fund is being sought as required by section 11 of the Ordinance already quoted. Meanwhile the Council is invited to approve of the financial assistance proposed.

W. E. JACKSON,  
Governor.

21st August, 1940.

#### SLUICES FOR E. D. WATER CONSERVANCY

Mr. CASE (Director of Public Works and Sea Defences) communicated the following Message :—

##### MESSAGE NO. 24.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

The attention of Honourable Members is invited to Mr. G. O. Case's Report on the East Demerara Conservancy and the flooding of the Mahaica River Area (Council Paper No. 3 of 1940) and in particular to that section of the Report dealing with the "Reliefs which will be necessary when the new Conservancy Dam is completed in order to avoid making cuts in the dams."

2. The Report in question refers to a proposal to use the existing Friendship canal and sluice for relieving surplus water from the Conservancy, and indicates that the canal is considered to be unsuitable for this purpose, though it could be employed as a low-level canal for draining backlands in the wet season and irrigating an appreciable portion of the frontlands in dry weather. In order to relieve excess water from the Conservancy, it is proposed instead that two 16-foot sluices should be built by the Public Works Department, and maintained by the Conservancy Commissioners. The cost of one sluice will be borne by the Commis-

sioners, and it is contemplated that a free grant of \$15,000 from the Development Trust Fund should be made for the erection of the other.

3. The proposals regarding the second sluice have been considered and approved by the Executive Council and the Advisory Committee for the Fund in terms of section 10 of Ordinance No. 7 of 1937. The formal sanction of the Secretary of State for this expenditure is being sought. Meanwhile, the Council is invited to approve of the grant from the Trust Fund for the purpose stated.

W. E. JACKSON,  
Governor.

21st August, 1940.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

##### LIVESTOCK EXPERIMENT STATION.

Mr. CLEARE gave notice of the following motion :

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 23 of 21st August, 1940, this Council approves of a free grant of \$14,000 for the first year and \$4,000 per annum for four consecutive years thereafter from the Development Trust Fund for the purpose of financing the establishment and operation of a livestock experiment station at Ebini Downs, Berbice River.

##### SLUICES FOR E. D. WATER CONSERVANCY.

Mr. CASE gave notice of the following motion :—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 24 of 21st August, 1940, this Council approves of a free grant of \$15,000 from the Development Trust Fund to meet the cost of constructing one of two 16-foot sluices for relieving surplus water from the East Demerara Water Conservancy.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY.

##### BANNISTER PENSION BILL,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. G. D. Owen) moved that the following Bill be read a third time and passed :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make special provision in regard to the pensionable service of Adrian Allan Bannister.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

**THE CUNHA (VALIDATION OF ACTS AS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE) BILL.**

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. E. O. Pretheroe) moved that the following Bill be read a third time and passed :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to validate all acts performed by Abel Augustus Cunha as a Justice of the Peace during the period January, 1925, to the 30th April, 1940.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) seconded.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

**SPIRITS (AMENDMENT) BILL.**

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the following Bill be read a third time and passed :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Spirits Ordinance, Chapter, 110, by increasing the penalty for the unlawful possession of distilling apparatus.

Mr. McDAVID seconded.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

**PATENTS, DESIGNS, COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARKS (EMERGENCY) BILL.**

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the following Bill be read a third time and passed :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make such special provision with respect to patents, registered designs, copyright and trade marks as is expedient to meet any emergency which may arise as a result of war.

Mr. McDAVID seconded.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

**CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.**

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) moved that the following Bill be read a third time and passed :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935, with respect to the Duties payable on sweet potatoes and the exemption of certain articles from the payment of duty.

Mr. LAING (Commissioner of Labour and Local Government) seconded.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

**TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.**

Mr. D'ANDRADE moved that the following Bill be read a third time and passed :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance, 1939, in respect of the duty payable on overproof perfumed Spirits other than Bay Rum and Lime Rum.

Mr. LAING seconded.

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

Bill read a third and passed.

**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE SUGGESTED.**

The next item on the Order Paper was the following motion by Mr. JACOB :—

WHEREAS The British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council 1928, together with the amendment by an Order of the King in Council, dated 13th August, 1935, are not working satisfactorily;

AND WHEREAS the qualifications of voters for the election of Members of the Legislative Council are unnecessarily high;

AND WHEREAS the qualifications for membership of the Legislative Council are unnecessarily high;

AND WHEREAS the West India Royal Commission has made certain specific recommendations in regard to a change in the personnel of the constitution of the Legislative Council of this Colony:

*Be it Resolved.*—That a competent and representative Committee of all interests in the Colony be appointed forthwith to make recommendations for an early amendment of the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council in terms of the recommendation of the West India Royal Commission.

THE PRESIDENT: Before the hon. Member proceeds with his motion perhaps it would clarify the position if I said a few words in advance on what must be the position of the Government on a motion of

this kind at this time. The motion recommends that effect be given to a recommendation made by the West India Royal Commission.

Mr. JACOB: I am at a little disadvantage, sir, in not having heard what you have said.

THE PRESIDENT: I am not finished yet. (laughter). I will repeat what I have said. The motion recommends that effect be given to a recommendation by the West India Royal Commission. The position with regard to the recommendations of the Royal Commission is that they are merely recommendations of the Royal Commission. They have been laid before His Majesty and before Parliament, but H.M. Government have not yet formulated a policy on those recommendations generally. They have accepted in principle some of those recommendations, and in part some of them, but with regard to the political recommendations to which this motion refers the Government have not yet formulated their policy or made any pronouncement. They have invited the views of all the West Indian Governments, and in due course a statement of policy by H.M. Government on the recommendations of the Royal Commission will be made. Until that statement of policy is made Government is not in a position to accept a motion to give immediate effect to those recommendations. It is merely a question of time.

It does not in the least mean that Government is opposed to the terms of this motion. So far no pronouncement has been made on political or constitutional questions by H.M. Government as such. They have only brought forward the recommendations of the Royal Commission. It is very probable that those recommendations will be accepted to a very large extent, and it is very probable that we shall be able to proceed on lines similar to those suggested in this motion, but we cannot do so until H.M. Government have formulated their policy and made a pronouncement of policy on the recommendations of the Royal Commission. For that reason it is not possible for Government to accept at present a motion which asks for the appointment of a Committee forthwith. We will have to await a statement of policy by the Home Government before we can take steps to put those recommenda-

tions into effect. In any case this Government and other West Indian Governments are bound by the directions of H.M. Government in the United Kingdom in regard to the recommendations of the Royal Commission which are now before the Home Government.

Mr. JACOB: I am grateful to Your Excellency for that statement, but I think if it is necessary to amend the resolution in the motion I am willing to do that. What I have in mind is that a Committee of this Council should be appointed. As a matter of fact I go a little further and say that the recommendations of the Royal Commission were wide and applied to all the West Indian Islands. British Guiana has its own peculiar problems, and I think a Committee of the Council, or some competent Committee, should be appointed forthwith to make recommendations for the early amendment of the Constitution in terms of the recommendations of the Royal Commission. If the words "in terms of the recommendations of the Royal Commission" are going to cause any embarrassment they might be deleted. I am most anxious that a Committee should be appointed, because I think the matter will take a few years. What I have in mind is that a Committee should go into the whole matter and make recommendations to Government after consulting the various West Indian islands so as to have uniformity. I take it that we are all looking forward to the day when there will be federation, and preliminary to that we should be prepared.

THE PRESIDENT: I have explained the position with regard to the recommendations of the Royal Commission as clearly as I could.

Mr. JACOB: Would it be possible for me to delete certain parts of the motion so that it might be accepted by Government?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot see that it can be accepted as it stands now. In fact it would be quite impossible for Government to agree to set up a Committee now to go into the recommendations of the Royal Commission and then find that the whole of the work of that Committee is rendered futile by a pronouncement of policy by His Majesty Government, perhaps in a few weeks or months' time. It seems to me that the obvious thing is to await that pronouncement.



Mr. JACOB: Then I think it would be best to allow the motion to remain as it is until such time as recommendations arrive.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no objection to the motion remaining on the Order Paper.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION SUGGESTED.

Mr. JACOB: I beg to move:—

WHEREAS there has been an alarming increase in the expenditure of the Colony;

AND WHEREAS there are serious complaints by the general public in regard to the general incapability of Civil Servants;

AND WHEREAS the salary scales of certain Heads of Departments, Deputies and Senior Officers are too burdensome to the taxpayers of the Colony;

*Be it Resolved:*—That a representative Commission be appointed to enquire into the entire Civil Service of the Colony with a view to effecting economy coupled with efficiency.

I wish to make it clear at the outset that any remarks I may make which might appear personal should not be considered personal because I propose to deal with principles rather than personalities. It is necessary in dealing with a motion of this kind to refer to officers, but such reference must not be taken to be personal reflections on the officers concerned. As a matter of fact what I have in mind is that officers at present employed under the Civil List Ordinance, and under certain specified conditions, are here under contract, and nothing can be done to upset those conditions. What I have in mind are future appointments of officers of this Government, and I hope if this motion is accepted and a Commission is appointed the recommendations of that Commission will not affect any of the present officers of the Civil Service.

I have been comparing the expenditure in this Colony during the last 20 years, and I have used the annual estimates of expenditure for that purpose. In 1920 the actual expenditure, as shown in the Comparative Statement of Expenditure for 10 years, was \$4,833,828. In 1930 the expenditure rose to \$5,425,149, and in 1940 the estimated expenditure is \$5,958,512. From 1920 to 1940 the increase in expenditure is over a million dollars. It can be seen from this that although expenditure has gone up tremendously, when we look at the other side we find that the Colony has been

unable to balance its budget, and has had to receive loans, grants in aid and various other aids in order to balance its budget. I am not saying that it is an easy matter and can be overcome very quickly, but I do urge that if the scales of salaries are gone into very carefully, bearing in mind that the Colony cannot afford to maintain those scales, I think after five years we would get nearer the mark.

I propose to deal with the expenditure under each head. Under the head Governor the expenditure in 1920 was \$24,934; in 1939 it rose to \$40,218, and in 1940 the estimated expenditure is \$30,022. Therefore, from 1920 to 1940 the expenditure under this head rose by over £1,000, apart from 1939 when, owing to exceptional circumstances, it was increased by £2,000. I maintain that this Colony cannot afford to pay the present scale of salary to the Head of the Administration. I remember well that the scale of salary was increased with the object of having an officer of proved constructive ability in order that the Colony might be developed. I do not think this Colony has made any progress, except in one or two instances, during the last 20 years, and I cannot imagine this state of affairs being allowed to continue except it is the intention of the Imperial Government to begin to develop the Colony. When the Constitution was changed in 1928 it was stated then that there would be improvement. Government wanted power to govern and received it, but what do we find? Hardly any improvement at all.

It is unnecessary to go into details except to refer to the sugar industry, which has improved to a very large extent due to the enterprise of those concerned. I do not think Government can lay any specific claim to having helped that industry. All the other agricultural industries have declined, definitely declined, and I maintain that this Colony being an agricultural one we must develop our agricultural resources, and there must be officers of proved ability who would help to develop those industries. I maintain that unless and until the Imperial Government is prepared to advance money to develop the country this Colony cannot afford to pay £5,000 to the Head of the Administration while we have to borrow or beg for money to meet that expenditure. If we compare the salary of

our Administrator with that of the Administrator of Barbados (some of my friends do not like such comparisons) we will find that there is very great disparity. I wish to make the comparison that while the responsibilities of the Head of the Administration in Barbados are not so great, his total salary is £3,000 as compared with £5,000 in British Guiana. If it is going to be argued that because there is greater work here £5,000 should be paid to the Head of the Administration, I should like to compare the salary of the Governor here with that of the Prime Minister of Great Britain who receives only £5,000. I think I am correct in saying that.

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is not correct, but it is probably sufficiently correct for the purpose of the hon. Member's argument. (Laughter).

Mr. JACOB: The point I was making was that we cannot afford to pay this salary. There is another comparison I can make with regard to the expenditure of \$40,000 last year under the head Governor, with that of nearly \$25,000 in 1920. There is something seriously wrong there. Owing to exceptional circumstances it was necessary to ask the Governor of Barbados to come here and act as Governor, but while that was necessary at that stage, I submit that if better arrangements had been made in the past it would not have been necessary to incur that extra expenditure of nearly \$10,000 for an acting Governor.

I come now to the head Agriculture. In 1920 Agricultural and Analyst were combined, and the joint expenditure was \$90,453. It is safe to deduct \$10,000 from that total because that is the approximate expenditure on the Analyst Department, leaving \$80,000 for Agriculture in 1920 for the purpose of comparison with subsequent years. In 1930 the expenditure was \$116,552, and in 1940 the estimated expenditure went up to \$144,683. During the last 20 years the expenditure of the Department has risen from \$80,000 to \$124,000, and I maintain and submit with all confidence that that expenditure is out of all proportion to what should be spent on that Department, and the taxpayers are not receiving sufficient benefit from that expenditure. I think it is an undisputed fact that the Colony is not receiving benefit from that expenditure. We have to

make comparison with Barbados again. Some of my friends do not care to, but I am compelled to do so because Barbados boasts of being able to meet its liabilities, and has been able to give £100,000 to the war effort and a loan of another £100,000 free of interest. That is because Barbados adopts proper business methods, paying for services it receives and not for services it hopes to receive. In this Colony we pay for services we hope to receive, and that hope has never materialized. The Head of the Agricultural Department in Barbados receives £1,000 while the Head of the Department of Agriculture in this Colony receives £1,200. I cannot imagine that a reduction cannot be made here to £1,000. Granting that it is necessary to have a Deputy Director of Agriculture here and the various subordinates who receive such huge salaries, it is my opinion that they do not earn those salaries. It may be unfortunate that circumstances over which they have no control are responsible for it, but it is the duty of the Administration to see that conditions are made suitable before persons are employed. If Government does not choose to do so then it is the duty of the taxpayers to grumble and ask for improvement in those directions. I maintain that the Colony is not receiving adequate reward for the expenditure on the Department of Agriculture.

It is unnecessary to go into all the heads. If I mention half a dozen of them I think I will have done sufficient to prove my case and get the Council to accept my motion for the appointment of a Commission. Let us take next the Colonial Secretary's Office. In 1920 the expenditure of this Department was \$29,714. In 1930 it actually went down a little bit to \$28,921, and in 1940 the estimated expenditure is \$47,547. Here again I say, with all due respect to the officers concerned, that I am not at all satisfied that the Colonial Secretary's Office is being carried on efficiently at the present time. I have had occasion to write letters to the office which should be answered within a few days, and letters which need not have been answered because an explanation would have sufficed, but they had to go through the ordinary routine and red tape from one officer to another. We are paying money but we are not getting service. There has been correspondence between myself and the

Colonial Secretary Office going on for weeks, and when it reached a certain stage I suggested that what was required should have been collected within a few hours. Instead there were several letters exchanged on the subject, which in my opinion was a waste of time. I speak with an intimate knowledge as a member of the public and as a Member of this Council, and I do not think it can be disputed that I have devoted considerable time and taken a great deal of trouble to find out how certain things are done and how they can be improved. I have been associated with a former Member of this Council for over 30 years, and I bring with me his knowledge of conditions in the Colony and administrative conditions as well. I am absolutely certain that if a different attitude were adopted, especially in the Colonial Secretary's Office, Government could save a good deal of money, and the Administration would be more efficient.

I come now to the Customs Department. In 1920 the expenditure was \$86,671. In 1930 it was \$86,292, but in 1940 the estimated expenditure is \$130,989. There is a slight variation in the figures, because I have taken off a certain amount for extraordinary expenditure. If the figures for 1940 are disputed I will take those for 1939—\$129,684. It is not possible for me to criticize this Department effectively and constructively. In fact whenever I endeavour to get certain information it is not supplied. I am positive that all Customs duties which should be collected have not been collected and are not being collected. If Government challenges that statement and I am put in the position to be able to satisfy Government on that I think I can, but I make the bold statement with a certain amount of reserve, because I have not got an insight into certain things. I, however, urge that the expenditure on the Customs Department from 1920 to 1940 is far beyond what we can afford to pay.

Mr. McDAVID: Is the hon. Member aware that in the expenditure of the Customs Department for 1939 there was something like \$36,000 representing refunds of duties, which were not included in the expenditure of 1920?

Mr. JACOB: Let us take the 1938 figures. I speak subject to correction about those figures. I am sorry to say that I have not gone into them very care-

fully, but they are statements issued by the Government, and while the increases may not be as high as are shown here there is an alarming increase.

Mr. SEAFORD: The 1938 figures show an increase of \$24,000, but the actual amount is less than it was previously.

Mr. JACOB: If we take the 1937 figures (laughter) we will find that there was an increase on the 1920 expenditure. I am using Government's figures for the purpose of comparison. I should like to hear a statement in reply that the expenditure on the Customs Department has not increased between 1920 and 1940. If that is going to be the reply, probably those concerned will be able to explain why the Comparative Statement prepared by Government is all wrong. If my figures are wrong they are quoted from Government statistics. If the figures for 1939 are wrong and those for 1937 and 1938 are wrong, then I submit that the 1920 and 1930 figures are also wrong.

THE PRESIDENT: No one has suggested that the figures are wrong for any of those years. What has been suggested is that the conclusions the hon. Member has drawn from those figures are wrong.

Mr. JACOB: My conclusions are that we are spending more on the Customs Department, and I submit with all confidence that if it is gone into more carefully it will be seen that more is being spent now than 20 years ago. I have no objection to Government paying as much as it is doing, provided we can afford it and providing we get value for what we pay. Only last Friday at the Chamber of Commerce the statement was made by a responsible merchant that there is such a lot of red tape that merchants are hindered instead of being assisted. If a merchant has ten entries to be passed and he puts them all on one entry form in order to save time and labour both to himself and to Government objections are raised to that. It is time that officers of the Government realize that they are not employed simply to draw their salaries and to employ as many clerks as possible to draw salaries. They are employed with the object, I take it, of giving service and for the improvement of this Colony and the Service. I maintain that there is too much red tape



and unnecessary work being carried on. Certain officers are afraid to be responsible for anything. That is my personal experience in the majority of cases, and I wish to impress on the Council that I do not wish to overdraw or over emphasize the picture. I see there is going to be some justification for the increase in Customs expenditure. When I get the replies to my questions I shall be able to say something about that. What I want to urge is that greater care should be exercised in that Department. There should be greater vigilance in the collection of Customs and Excise duties, and probably the expenditure would be justified, but at the present time I am perfectly certain that the expenditure is not justified and is too burdensome on the Colony.

As regards the Medical Department I do not propose to say too much because I realize there has been improvement in the health of the Colony, but I still think some saving could be effected, and what is more, that better service could be given to the taxpayers of the Colony. I have just written the Director of Medical Services a series of complaints. I like to make reference to these things because the public sees them and the officers of the public will realize that they have a duty to the taxpayers who pay their salaries, leave allowances, lump sum bonuses and pensions. It must be realized by officers of the Government, especially those in charge of providing medical and other facilities, that apart from their humane duty to their fellow creatures they are receiving salaries and should give proper service. Something should be done, and it must be understood by officers that they are to give whole-time and proper service. I do not suggest that skilled University men should not be adequately paid, because they may be able to give good service in the future. We cannot hope to get immediate results from the services of such officers. I maintain that the Colony cannot afford to pay for all these services, and those concerned should realize that they are properly paid and should give proper service.

I come now to the Police Department. The expenditure on that Department in 1920 was \$311,594. In 1930 it went up to \$516,388, and for 1940 the estimated expenditure is \$446,640. For the purpose of my argument I will compare 1920 with

1940—an increase of expenditure from \$311,000 to \$446,000. I think it will be realized, if not admitted, that I am strongly in favour of the preservation of law and order, but I think that this Colony is not receiving benefit for all this expenditure. I have raised this point before and I raise it again—that I cannot see why local men should not fill certain offices in this branch of the Service. Certain imported people come here with no knowledge of the country and are not temperamentally suited to the work here. I do urge with all the force I can command that the system with regard to filling certain posts in the Police Force be changed. It would lead to efficiency coupled with economy. Only this morning I was pleased to read the statement made by the Prime Minister of Great Britain suggesting that “*officialese*” and other things should be cut out.

It is time that this Colony employ its own people who are better qualified, and in some cases more competent to fill certain posts. I want to make it perfectly clear at this stage that our present Constitution does not permit this to be done. I consider it demoralising to give certain people certain posts. They are not subject to public criticism as, for instance in the House of Commons, but when the Constitution is changed and officers are subject to criticism then I think we will get better service. We have the people to carry on the government of this Colony very efficiently and satisfactorily, but it is the nature of the Constitution that is responsible for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. If the Constitution is changed I think the administrative posts should be held by local people. I cannot see why certain posts in the Police Force which require no special skill should not be filled by local people. In Barbados (I must refer to Barbados) most of the posts are filled by Barbadians. Their Constitution is somewhat different from ours, and while everything is not very well with them they are in a far better position than we are. Although Barbados may be small and British Guiana big—big in the minds of certain people but very small in my opinion—we are always dependent upon help from outside, yet we talk about our greatness. The inefficiency of the Police Force is well known, due to the type of men employed and the system in vogue. When the system is changed and the type of men is improved not only



will the expenditure decrease but there will be greater efficiency.

I now come to Poor. What has startled me is that the expenditure under this head remains almost stationary, and I wonder whether it is realized that there is a greater number of poor people in this Colony now than 10 or 20 years ago. It has not been found necessary or expedient to assist those poor, helpless and decrepit people in the way they should be helped. There is not that human feeling here to assist those who need help, but to assist those who can assist themselves, to give to those who have a little bit more. I am sorry to have to make those strong remarks, but that policy has been carried on in this Colony and unfortunately is supported by a number of Elected Members who take money out of the Colony instead of helping those who are here. The Colony has been drained and is being drained continuously. The whole system is rotten, rotten to the core. I move about the country very freely and frequently, and I am grieved to think of the poor helpless people who cannot even get a meal sometimes. They go to the Poor Law Commissioners for relief and are given 36 cents per week, and those responsible consider that very adequate. If one of those poor persons does anything to supplement that pittance it is promptly withdrawn. It has been found necessary to increase administrative expenditure under this head from \$4,383 in 1920 to \$5,958 in 1940, but it has not been found expedient to increase the Poor vote. No greater indictment could be placed against the Government.

Mr. DIAS: If the hon. Member would look at the expenditure for 1940 he would see that there has been a substantial increase, from \$114,000 in 1938 to \$126,000 for 1940.

Mr. JACOB: I am not surprised to hear that hon. Member defending the Government because he was a party to it.

Mr. DIAS: To a point of order! The hon. Member cannot accuse a Member of the Council of being a party to an injustice to the people.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the hon. Member is entitled to associate the hon. Nominated Member with the decisions of Government.

Mr. JACOB: The hon. Nominated Member is one of the advisers of the Government, and if he is unhappy to advise on matters of this kind it is not for me to say: It is for that Member to enquire for himself why is he a party to this? Am I to understand that all the members of the Governor in Council do not know what is going on? I want a free and frank discussion in this Council, and if that had been going on all these years the position would have been different. In 1920 the expenditure under Poor was \$126,212, and in 1930 it went down to \$114,584, a greater indictment still. The estimated expenditure for 1940 is \$126,589, as compared with \$126,212 in 1920, an increase of roughly \$300. That is what my hon. friend says is a substantial increase. I leave him to his conscience. I consider it my duty to criticize and criticize constructively. I consider this to be most constructive criticism, and while it may not be admitted here I know there are hundreds and thousands of people who will agree with me. I am positive of that fact. I should certainly like to see the Poor vote double itself.

I will now deal with Public Debt Charges. I know it is going to be said that this expenditure cannot be controlled. I shall not accept that statement. Those sums of money have been practically wasted resulting in this burdensome expenditure now. The Public Debt Charges were \$316,864 in 1920. In 1930 they went up to \$1,136,828 and in 1940 the estimated expenditure is \$1,157,005. I do hope that that some relief will come, and we will all express our grateful thanks when relief has come from the Imperial Government. There is correspondence to the effect that whenever I criticize the wasteful expenditure on certain works I am told it is Imperial Government money. While that is so to some extent, a line has not been properly drawn between what is Imperial Government money and what is taxpayers' money, and what are loans to be repaid. The result is that we are paying \$1,157,000 out of a total expenditure of \$5,900,000 for Public Debt Charges, interest and sinking fund. That is something out of all proportion. This Colony cannot afford to pay such a large sum. Instead of spending those sums of money on development works of a constructive nature money has been wasted.

I can refer to several schemes on which money was wasted. I refer to the scheme now in progress on the East Bank, and I think it will be admitted that the money has not been properly spent. I maintain that if there was better supervision and better administrative ability exercised this Colony would have been in a far better position. I do urge that whenever public money is being spent, not only taxpayers' money but Imperial Government money, there should be better supervision. It is well known that the sewerage scheme should not have cost anything like the sum it cost the taxpayers, and I need hardly mention the sea defence scheme. It is well known how a good deal of that money has gone.

I think I have said sufficient here, but while there is not unanimous agreement I should be sorry to think there is not a general agreement on the point that we cannot afford to pay all the salaries we are paying Government officers. I think I have said sufficient to convince the Council. All I am asking for is that a representative Commission be appointed to enquire into the entire Civil Service of the Colony with a view to effecting economy coupled with efficiency. If it is going to be said here that the Civil Service is competent and that the expenditure on the Service is not burdensome then I take it that a Commission should not be appointed, but I am confident that every Member of this Council, including Your Excellency, will agree that there are several incapable people in the Service. I do not wish to call names—I can call them. It will be admitted that the expenditure on the Service is too burdensome, and the appointment of a Commission would not cost too much. I think a Commission should be appointed to go into the whole Service and make recommendations. I am not anticipating that Government is afraid of such an enquiry. A Commission has not enquired into the Service for a long time, and I think such an enquiry is necessary in view of the several complaints. The Colonial Secretary knows of those complaints. Every probe I make I find incapability and irregularity. The correspondence is there, and I am carrying on that correspondence with Government with an object in view. I do not write letters for the sake of writing them; it takes up a lot of my time. All of my

information may not be correct but it is substantially correct.

Three or four Departments have come under my notice and I have written about them, and I urge that even if expenditure is not reduced as a result of an enquiry there would be greater efficiency because officers would realize that the affairs of the public were being looked into. As a matter of fact there is a feeling now that Government servants are the bosses of the public. In most cases that is the feeling. Certain people are courteously treated but other people have bitter complaints to make. I think that is within the knowledge of Government at the present time. I think it is essential that public opinion should be created in this Colony and that it should be respected. I have been spoken to by people who I never thought would have spoken to me on a matter of this kind. It is the opinion of a large number of influential people that a probe is necessary, and that expenditure should be reduced. Although I anticipate certain comments from the other side I cannot think that Government will not accept my motion, and while the Elected Members of the Council may not agree with all I have said I feel confident that they will agree with the principles I have stated here. I know that perhaps I speak too carpingly sometimes; perhaps my criticisms are too severe, but there are only two ways of doing things—doing or not doing at all. When I criticize I criticize strongly or not at all, and when I offer praise I do so sincerely.

I should like to have recorded in Hansard certain figures which have appeared in the Press, and which will tend to show a comparison between the salaries of Government officers in this Colony and those of another Colony, so that the debate itself might be self-contained. I do not know whether Your Excellency will permit me to lay over a comparative statement of the salaries paid to certain Government officers in British Guiana and those paid to similar officers in Barbados, or whether I should read them.

**THE PRESIDENT:** If they form part of the hon. Member's speech he should read them.

**Mr. JACOB:** The Governor of Bar-

badon receives a salary of £3,000, the Governor of British Guiana draws £5,000. The Private Secretary and A.D.C. to the Governor of Barbados draws £250; in British Guiana the salary is £400. The Colonial Secretary of Barbados gets £1,000, in British Guiana the Colonial Secretary's salary is £1,635. The Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, Barbados, gets £400, in British Guiana the salary is £850. The Colonial Treasurer, Barbados gets, £600, in British Guiana the salary is £750. The Attorney-General of Barbados gets £750, and I think he is allowed private practice. The Attorney-General of British Guiana gets £1,400. The Director of Agriculture in Barbados draws £1,000, in British Guiana the salary is £1,200. The Chief Medical Officer in Barbados gets £1,000, in British Guiana the salary of the Director of Medical Services is £1,200. The Commissioner of Police in Barbados gets £600, in British Guiana the salary is £1,000. The Colonial Auditor in Barbados gets £500, in British Guiana the salary is £900. The Chief Clerk of the Audit Department in Barbados gets £400, in British Guiana the salary is £675. The Comptroller of Customs in Barbados gets £600, in British Guiana the salary is £900. The Chief Clerk of the Customs Department in Barbados gets £400, in British Guiana the salary is £725. The Registrar of Barbados gets £550 in British Guiana the salary of the Registrar is £725.

It may not be advisable, and I do not say that we should get down to the Barbados standard here; far from that. If we could afford to pay the salaries we are paying here and did not need loans or loans in aid it might be desirable to pay these high salaries, but we have never been able to maintain our essential services such as roads, sanitary and other services. Yet we are paying huge salaries to people who hardly ever live here, except in a few instances, but send all their money out of the Colony. When they retire they leave the country with their pensions and lump sum bonuses. That is one of the chief reasons why British Guiana is in its present state. In Barbados the majority of the people live there and expect to die there. In British Guiana it is almost entirely different. Our Constitution is responsible for the present state of affairs. I maintain that there are men of ability

here who could administer the affairs of the Colony in the way they should be administered. I will concede that the Governor should be appointed by the Imperial Government, but every other office should be filled by local people, and filled with great efficiency in view of their knowledge of local conditions and local people.

It is a public right to criticize and criticize constructively. Certain officers of the Government on the Civil List simply laugh at criticism; it does not worry them at all. They are anchored in the Civil Service, and that applies not only here but to the entire Civil Service in the Colonial Empire. I have had the privilege of listening to debates in the House of Commons in which ordinary Members criticized, in my opinion very harshly, the Prime Minister of the Crown. Such criticisms are not regarded as implying any rancour but as constructive criticism, and the moment they leave the House they are all friends again. I do hope that my criticisms here will not be construed as being other than friendly and constructive. I am concerned with the progress of the country, and when it is properly developed and we are able to meet our obligations I shall not criticize in the way I have. It affords me no pleasure to criticize, but until things improve I shall continue to criticize. I hope the motion will be accepted. I cannot imagine that it will not be, and I trust my criticisms will be taken in the spirit in which they have been made.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I made a promise to my friend that I would second his motion, and I rise to do so now, but although I may arrive at the same conclusion I disagree with a good deal of the arguments which he adduced. Nobody disputes that the cost of administration in this Colony is abnormally high, but I think it is to be conceded that it is very doubtful whether by paying the Heads of Departments smaller salaries we will be any better off. In my opinion the workman is worthy of his hire, and if we have responsible people at the head of our several Departments and we want qualified and competent men we must pay them for their services. If it is our misfortune to have a country nearly ten times as large as Barbados to administer we can hardly conceive of paying the same scale of salaries as in Barbados. A Barbados policeman who gets



\$15 per month lives like a prince, but nobody will welcome a reduction of the pay of policemen in this Colony. In fact I have frequently asked Government to deal fairly with those men and abolish the 4th class which was recently established. For some reason or other the cost of living in this Colony is very high, and when people are employed they must be paid salaries commensurate with the cost of living in the country. Nobody wants to see the standard of living here reduced; we want to see conditions improve. You cannot improve the conditions of the people of the Colony generally by clamouring for a reduction of their emoluments.

What we want is a Commission to enquire into the economic conditions of the Colony so as to recommend to Government what steps should be taken to improve those conditions. There is no doubt that we are not getting value for the money we are spending, and that seemed to me to be the burden of my friend's argument. That being the case my friend suggests that the stipends of Government officers should be reduced. Perhaps he does not know that not long ago we had two gentlemen sent out here as Financial Commissioners, but they made the Colony's position worse. Imagine those two old gentlemen suggesting that we should abolish the Militia Band. I thought they were qualifying for the institution near the Canje bridge and I told them so. (Laughter). We were told to part with a good many things near and dear to us in order to reduce the cost of administration to what they thought was commensurate with our financial position. Nobody praised them for what they did. That does not mean, however, that we are getting value for our money, or that Government officers are incompetent. I do not wish to criticize any particular Department but there is one Department with which I am always quarrelling every year because its expenditure has gone up by leaps and bounds and we are not getting anything out of it. Whenever I criticize that Department the gentleman concerned makes a flowery speech and goes out. I do not agree that we should reduce the salary of the Head of any Department and then engage a local man. I have always protested and will ever protest against the policy that because we are engaging a local man, a qualified man, we

must reduce the salary of the post. That has happened in a few instances, and when we protested Government introduced a Bill to make all the wrongs right. The result is that those local men, able men, are getting reduced salaries.

There is something inherently wrong with the economic conditions of the Colony, and Government should find out how those conditions could be improved, and what measures should be taken to improve them. No one can blind his eye to the fact that we are paying a great deal of money, but it must be borne in mind that Government has 90,000 square miles of country to administer. I went to Barbados some years ago and had the pleasure of travelling on the railway. I thought I would not have reached my destination and I prophesied that it was sure to collapse. I subsequently learnt that the Government had closed it down. Would any hon. Member of this Council suggest that because we cannot make our railway pay we should close it down? It is a public utility service, and because we have such a tremendous area to administer it costs such a very large amount. That does not detract from my friend's criticisms of the way in which Government administers the affairs of the Colony. If the hon. Member would accept such an amendment I would suggest that his motion be amended to suggest the appointment of a Commissioner to enquire into the economic conditions of the Colony and to recommend what steps should be taken to effect an improvement.

THE PRESIDENT: A single Commissioner?

Mr. ELEAZAR: There may be one, two, or more. We want an economic Commission.

THE PRESIDENT: We have just had a large economic Commission, a Royal Commission. Now you want a small Commission.

Mr. ELEAZAR: We want a small economic Commission to enquire into the economic conditions in British Guiana and recommend what might be done by Government to improve those conditions. We are saying that we cannot see how we can control our expenditure. We want to be told what can be done so that we might

get value for the money we spend. It has only recently been discovered that we want a school of economics, and Great Britain has gone to the extent of awarding degrees in economics. We cannot pretend to be good political economists, therefore we are asking for an expert. I do not always welcome experts; in fact we would like to export some of them when we get them here, but so long as conditions exist as they are at present so long will our backward state continue. I do not agree with the hon. Member that we should reduce salaries all round.

Mr. JACOB: I think my hon. friend has misunderstood me. I have not suggested an all-round reduction of salaries. I referred to certain specific cases.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I hope the hon. Member will excuse me if I say anything that does not arise from what he said. I agree with him that the cost of administration is ridiculously high, but I do not agree that we should reduce the salaries of Government officers. I am suggesting another way in which we might achieve a reduction of expenditure, the improvement of economic conditions to warrant that expenditure. I do not mind spending \$400,000 on education every year, but I do mind spending such a large sum when a young fellow comes into my office and has to make several attempts before he can sign his name. If we got an economic Commission I think we would be on the right track. I do not think I will be here this afternoon, otherwise I would have requested my friend to amend his motion. I have seconded his motion for the sake of discussion. I do not agree with him in all of his meanderings, but I agree that something ought to be done, and that is by means of an economic Commission.

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

2 p.m.—

Messrs. King and Humphrys present.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am supporting the principle underlying this motion, but like the hon. Member for Berbice River I have not arrived at this decision by the process of reasoning advanced this morning by the

hon. mover of this motion. I desire at this stage to state that I am not in entire agreement with the wording of the motion as it stands, and I propose at a later stage to suggest an amendment which might take the form of the deletion of some of the wording of the motion. I think, however, it must be generally agreed that the motion is a timely one, when it is remembered that we are now left to our own resources, and it is desirable for us to try as best we can to make ends meet, or better phraseology—to balance our budget. I think that a Committee of this kind when appointed would have the opportunity of investigating any overlapping of services wherever they occur and might be able to put forward some valuable suggestions to this Government with the view of effecting economy coupled with efficiency, as the hon. Member has mentioned in his motion. I think all of that is desirable, as we can no longer hope to receive any assistance from the Imperial Government and we must make every effort to carry ourselves for some time to come at any rate. I think, it will not be sufficient for Government to say that the services have increased or improved and it must necessarily follow that the expenditure will increase. It is absolutely essential that we should endeavour to improve our services and to increase these services at the least possible expense and with the best efficiency that we can find.

The hon. mover of the motion stated this morning among the various reasons he gave, that he would like to see the vote for the Poor doubled instead. I have selected that item at random to state that I am not actually in agreement with him. Personally I would like to see it reduced if not disappear entirely. If that were possible, even although it is said we always have the Poor with us and the vote be reduced or it should disappear entirely, that would show signs of the prosperous times ahead which we all hope and look forward to see at some time or other. We can best do that by putting our best foot forward and giving Government the best assistance we can. That is where the Committee will be useful, not only to formulate schemes but to point out to Government where savings can be made and more efficiency can be effected in order to improve the Civil Service of this Colony.

With regard to the amendment I spoke of a short while ago, as I have no desire to prolong this discussion, I will now move it and I do hope that the hon. mover of the motion will accept the suggestion in the same spirit which has prompted me in putting it forward. The suggestion is to delete the second and third preambles of his motion. The motion will then read:—

WHEREAS there has been an alarming increase in the expenditure of the Colony,

*Be it Resolved* that a representative commission be appointed to enquire into the entire Civil Service of the Colony with a view to effecting economy coupled with efficiency.

I do not think that any hon. Member of this Council would have any serious objection to a motion of that kind, especially if it is admitted that there is—as I certainly do think there is—a certain amount of overlapping in the Service and that there is room for improvement in the Service. I hope that the hon. Member would accept that amendment, and with these few words I beg to move the amendment I have just suggested.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: In support of the plea which has just been made I am seconding the amendment moved by the hon. Member for Central Demerara. I would ask the hon. mover of the motion to accept the amendment in the terms as suggested by the hon. Member who has just taken his seat. It would seem that the reason for the amendment, I may suggest, has some grounds and some logic in it. The first criticism to be levied at the premise of the motion would be, I suggest, that whether one thinks that the Civil Service as a body is incapable or not it is very difficult to ask Government to accept a premise in the form that Government will itself be accepting the statement made therein viz: that there have been serious complaints by the general public in regard to the general incapability of the Civil Service. I feel sure that if the hon. Member studies that premise he would see that it is impossible to ask Government to say, that although Government may have been aware of the serious complaints by the general public in regard to the general incapability of the Civil Service Government has taken no action in the matter. By accepting that premise it would appear that Government is adopting the resolution. Government will be accepting as a fact that the Civil Service is incapable, and as most

of the Heads of Departments will be affected Government cannot accept the motion in that form. The second premise is that because a Head of Department, or a Deputy, or a Senior Officer is receiving a salary which may or may not be commensurate with his work and which may be burdensome to the taxpayers of the Colony that does not necessarily say that economy would be effected coupled with efficiency by reducing the salary as suggested. Thirdly, I think the hon. Member for North Western District was apparently anticipating a Federation of the West Indies and attempting to canvass a seat in Barbados, when he compared salaries paid here with those paid in Barbados, but in so doing he should also compare the general revenue, conditions, cost of living and other circumstances in connection therewith.

I would not like to prolong the debate, but I would say that the resolution has my support if it is worded as has been suggested by the hon. Member for Central Demerara, because some time previously I intimated to this Council, or rather suggested, a regrading of the Civil Service generally. There are several questions which can be considered by such a Commission, and I do not think certain hon. Members of this Council and certain members of the Civil Service themselves would doubt that there are some officers who are receiving perhaps a little more than they deserve for the work they are doing while at the same time there are others who are receiving considerably less than they should be getting. I do not wish to name any person, but there are one or two who do not receive adequate remuneration. I do not think, however, it can be accepted as a general principle that the present administration with but few additions can run this Colony, if this Colony is developed to its utmost. Perhaps one or two departments a little more fully staffed would be adequate to run it. I would ask the hon. Member to delete from his motion those two preambles. There are several other grounds on which I can urge him to do so and in which there would be a great deal of logic, but I think I have given him the major ones. Whatever you may feel or may be of the opinion as regards persons' incapability, do not ask them to accept the view that they are incapable by accepting the motion.



Mr. PETER BACCHUS: I am supporting the amendment moved by the hon. Member for Central Demerara. I think that in appointing a Committee there can be no harm, because the complaints made by the hon. Member for North Western District about the incapability and inefficiency of the Civil Service may be gone into fully, and if there is no such incapability and inefficiency in the Service the Committee's report would tend to restore confidence in the Civil Service of this Colony. Perhaps throughout the whole Empire one may not find an entirely capable Civil Service, but I feel certain that the Elected Members will admit that among the officials we have in this Colony there are some most capable and hard working officers.

The point has been made by the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) that an Economic Commission may be appointed to go into this question. I quite agree with the view that we should not think of reducing the administration if we could increase revenue so as to meet the cost of administration, but we need an economist to improve our condition at least for the present. We have not explored this Colony to the fullest extent and not to any appreciable extent at all. I may say that if protective measures were given to existing industries—protection from annual loss through either flood or drought—that alone would go a far way towards improving our financial condition. I therefore do not think we need any economist to advise us to explore these conditions, which call for remedy throughout the Colony. I think Government should seriously consider the question of improving the lot of those people who are engaged in those industries, and then we might be able to carry along the burden of the present administration forever and even to increase the administration cost. I happen to know that extensive surveys have been carried out. Schemes have been prepared and, I think, submitted to Government, and I hope that those schemes will be approved by Government. If that is done and they are put into effect, this Colony would be making a start along progressive lines. I support the amendment by the hon. Member for Central Demerara and hope that Government will accept it.

Mr. SEAFORD: The original motion as put before us starts off with a preamble which talks about "the alarming increase in the expenditure of the Colony." I propose to deal with that later on. The second preamble says: "There are serious complaints by the general public with regard to the general incapability of the Civil Service." That is a very wide and sweeping statement, and I am not prepared to accept the hon. Member's word that that is correct. I have had a good deal to do with the Civil Service of this Colony. I have had to do with Heads of Departments, Deputies and others further down the list, and I will say from my seat here to-day that that statement about "general incapability" is incorrect. The Civil Service of this Colony to my mind is just as good as any you can find anywhere. Naturally throughout the world you will get square pegs in round holes or get people who are not pulling their weight, but it seems to me that it is maligning a service which is a credit to this Colony to refer to "the general incapability of the Civil Service," and for that alone if for no other I cannot support this motion.

Dealing with the statement "alarming increase in the expenditure of the Colony," where does that alarming increase come in? There has been an increase; but can the hon. Member tell me where throughout the world to-day there has not been an increase of expenditure for Government concerns? If he or any Member of this Council studied the annual estimates which refer to these increases he would see that those increases are entirely due to social services having been improved during recent years. Is there any hon. Member of this Council who can say that those services have not been necessary here? I refer to services such as Medical, Public Health and Education. It has been admitted that the health of the Colony has improved. The birth rate has gone up and the death rate has been reduced. We have had increases in the Public Health Department certainly, but has not that resulted in better health conditions throughout the Colony? Another large increase, I think, is due to the Education Vote. No one can deny that the teachers who got increased wages deserved them. Would it be contended that it was wrong to increase the number of teachers in the Colony? I think the hon. Member who moved this

motion has stressed here that we should get more children in the schools and that we want more teachers. It is in respect of the social services that our expenditure has gone up more than in any other way.

Referring to the various Departments which the hon. Member spoke about, the peculiar thing about the majority of them is that there has been no increase in the personal emoluments of the staff. In fact in some of them the expenditure is smaller to-day than ten years ago. The hon. Member, sir, hopes that we get a change of government here and that we will become more like the House of Commons where Members can get up and criticize Civil Servants to their hearts' content, which hon. Members cannot do here.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Not Civil Servants. May I point out that it is an unwritten rule of the House of Commons that Civil Servants are never criticized.

**MR. SEAFORD:** I was coming to that. I have read a good many of the debates in the House of Commons and I have never seen any such criticism. The Ministers are criticized but not the Civil Servants. In this Colony I have heard Civil Servants criticized very often in our local parliament. The hon. Member referred to Governors of "constructive ability" and lack of progress. I happen to be in a position to know that within the last few years in this Colony there has been more progress made in the way of development than for a very long time previously. I think hon. Members do realize that it is no good trying to develop a colony unless you have surveys of that colony. It is only within the last few years within my knowledge that an attempt has been made to get surveys. Surveys of this Colony have been made, not only engineering surveys but also agricultural surveys, and you cannot expect to get results from those surveys within a year, or two, or three. It takes time. As the hon. Member for Western Berbice has just remarked, very extensive surveys have been made. I consider that the initial stage of development of the Colony.

Reference has been made to various Departments and how they have increased. A start was made with the Governor, and it was stated that the amount has jumped

up from \$30,000 to \$40,000. I think it is unfortunate that \$10,000 was referred to. That was only in one year, and that was an exceptional year. If one looks over the last ten years to the end of 1939, it would be found that really there has been no increase whatever in the personal emoluments. One of the Departments to which the hon. Member referred was the Agricultural Department, and in that Department there has been an increase in the personal emoluments, but if we are to expand and grow I feel that it is necessary that we should have such technical officers as an Agronomist, an Entomologist and such like, which we had not in the past. To-day I think the average farmer looks more to the Agricultural Department for help and advice. He is gradually beginning to realize the advantage of going to the Department for advice. He is a practical man and unless he finds there is advantage to be gained by that he is not going to do so. I may refer again to those agricultural surveys which have been going on in this Colony for some time. They are part of the development of this Colony. It is no good going in for irrigation or anything else unless you have agricultural surveys showing that the money spent on agriculture is going to give returns on it. For that reason I think it would be a great mistake if you attempt to cut down in this Department, and the emoluments which we have agreed to in this Council are necessary.

Another Department referred to by the hon. Member is the Colonial Secretary's Office, and here he quoted certain figures. I do not think the hon. Member had prepared his case very carefully, and in view of that the figures given, I consider, are misleading. I do not say that the hon. Member intended to be misleading, but his figures are definitely so. When he was giving those figures he did not point out that until about three years ago the Stationery Vote was not being charged against this Department, and that has swollen the expenditure on this Department by \$6,000. Surely that should have been mentioned too. Previously it was split up between the Departments and now it is all lumped under this Department. That Stationery Vote, we know, has been gradually going up. I think hon. Members may help to keep down the expenditure of this Department by asking fewer

unnecessary questions. I see sheets and sheets of paper in front of me with questions asked and replies given, which could have easily been got from the Blue Book or from the Heads of Departments. It strikes me so often that it is a case of "catching votes." Furthermore I do not think the hon. Member realizes the amount of work that is thrown on the officers of various Departments when they have to go back for years and years to find out information sought. I think hon. Members can help considerably in effecting economy if they be a little bit more careful, or perhaps a little more considerate, in the number of questions they ask.

Perhaps, the most unfortunate reference made was to the Customs Department and how the expenditure there has gone up. As was pointed out when the hon. Member for North Western District was speaking and when he went back two or three years, certain items included now were not included before. If he refers to the personal emoluments for the last ten years, he will see that there has been no increase in that Department whatever. The salaries have not gone up in any way, although you will find for instance that the Customs Department is now a collector of revenue which it was not before. You have had such an officer as an Inspector of Distilleries attached to that Department, which was not there before. I think the entries in the Customs Department to-day are about double what they were ten years ago, which show that considerably more work is being done in that Department than there was ten years ago, and yet the personal emoluments of that Department have not gone up at all. I therefore say it is very unfortunate that reference should have been made to that Department.

Another reference made was to the Medical Department where instead of an increase in emoluments we have had a reduction. The total expenditure has gone up certainly because, as we know, at the present moment the cost of living has gone up and that affects that Department. The hospital is overcrowded and that affects the Department. The services that are being given to-day are better than they used to be previously. The salaries that are paid to the lower grades of that Department are better to-day than they used to be. Those things are bound to

put up the cost of running that Department. It is not that the people at the Head have got any more, and in fact they are getting less. The same thing applies to the Police Department. The total personal emoluments there are very much less to-day than they used to be ten years ago. It seems such a pity—

Mr. JACOB: May I correct the hon. Member. My comparison has been made with 20 years ago, but for the sake of convenience 1930 was brought in because I felt there was a change of Constitution between 1920 and 1930. The year 1920, however, should be the more appropriate year to take.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am taking the last ten years because immediately after the last Great War everything went up considerably, and it seems to be more appropriate to take the last ten years than the last 20 years. I was indeed amused to hear the comparison with Barbados. The one thing I regret is that the illustrious hon. Member for Buxton is not here, because I would have tried to get the salaries of Buxton to compare them with those the hon. Member has given for Barbados. Why he should compare the expenditure of this Colony with that of a small place like Barbados, and which is very densely populated, I cannot understand. It is very unreasonable to attempt to compare Barbados with a Colony like this where you have to keep Police Stations, roads and all kinds of social services from the North West District right along the coasts up to Springlands and into the interior. Surely the hon. Member was not serious when he compared the two places. I feel that the very fact of the comparison with Barbados shows the very weakness of his case. It would have been very much more appropriate if he had compared this Colony with Trinidad, because the cost of living here is somewhat the same comparatively as that in Trinidad. The cost of living in Barbados is considerably less than it is here. When you compare salaries you have got to bring into account the cost of living. Naturally the reason why the cost of living here is greater is because the cost of production is very much higher than in Barbados. Barbados does not have to contend with Drainage and Irrigation as we have to do in this Colony. I feel that the compari-



son shows the weakness of the hon. Member's case.

As regards the Public Debt, if the hon. Member takes his memory back over some years he would remember what happened to our foreshore and the amount of money, millions of dollars, necessarily spent on Sea Defence. That is not development work, but we have got to find money to meet that expenditure. If we have got to raise large loans to meet what I consider, and what I think every member of the community considers, essential work the Public Debt is bound to go up. Then again the hon. Member should remember there are other works which are considered of necessity. To-day the Government owns a railway and the debt on that has to be paid. If the hon. Member looks carefully he would find that the interest due on that is a considerable sum. That is a service which is considered by many to be essential that Government should maintain for the benefit of the people. It is not a paying service but it is essential that it should be maintained. I feel that Government cannot be entirely blamed for the increase of the Public Debt. It is one of those things which always will be with us.

But I think the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) was on the right track when he talked about the matter being an economic question. The whole thing to my mind is an economic question in this Colony. We will be making a very great mistake if we feel that we should cut down expenditure in order to make two ends meet, because that will lead to destruction. What I hope we will do is to increase production. If that is increased all these evils which we now fear so much, all these evils we are now up against and our not balancing our budget would disappear. Let the hon. Member think for one moment what it would mean if the sugar industry of this Colony could be doubled, think of the money that would be circulated in this Colony. There is no doubt that as a result of that amount of money Government would be in a flourishing condition, our imports would go up, our exports would go up, and all this talk about the alarming increase of expenditure of the Colony would disappear entirely. It is very difficult to get a solution of that, and I cannot agree that the appointment of an Economic Commissioner is

going to help. Quite recently we have had a Royal Commission which had on it an agricultural expert, a commercial expert, a business expert, a Trade Unions expert, a Civil Service expert and every kind of experts there is, and they came to the conclusion that our trouble here was purely economic. One can judge that from the recommendations they made.

What we require is a market for our products, a market where we can get a price that will pay us to grow our products. The misfortune has been that these markets do not exist and that the market price of our products is below the cost of production. When you consider it, we are not so badly off as some other parts of the world. This is definitely an agricultural Colony and, when we compare ourselves with other agricultural colonies outside the Empire I can say, we have been extremely fortunate. Think of our neighbours, the Dutch Colony of Suriname, think of what their condition is; think of the Dutch Colonies in the East, think of other places like Cuba and what their conditions are. When comparison is made with those places, those of us who live in this Colony think we have been fortunate. We have been unlucky to this extent that we may have been better off if our quota for the export of sugar was not curtailed. That is one of our misfortunes, but I feel that this is an economic question entirely. If we can get a market for our produce at remunerative prices, all our ills will disappear. I do feel we would be making a grave mistake if we come to the conclusion here at any time that the method to be adopted is to take a few thousand dollars off the various people in the Civil Service. That cannot affect the position in the slightest degree. It would be a retrograde step and would do more damage to the Colony than anything else we could do.

I do not say there are not one or two in the Civil Service, perhaps, who are not pulling their weight, but at the same time that is an internal matter and no Commission or Committee can say what a man in a Department is doing. The Head of Department, and he alone, can tell that. If a Commission is appointed at the present moment, it is going to cause untold trouble and throw much work on the various Departments which, owing to war

ns, are above their eyes in work. What to bring this motion forward, or to vote for this motion as it stands, or to have any Committee to enquire into the Civil Service will be a gross mistake.

Mr. DIAS: I am grateful to the hon. Member who has just taken his seat for having relieved me of some of the points I intended to touch on. I propose, however, to say that this motion has no merit in it whatever. On examination of it as it reads, it seems to me to be purely and simply an individual attack on the Civil Service of this Colony. It is not only an attack on the Heads of Departments but on the local men of the Service generally, although there is so much urge on Government from time to time to keep on employing local men. Here is a direct open attack on the very people who are so strongly recommended from time to time by hon. Members here and people outside.

Leaving out the first preamble for the moment, the hon. Member says in the second preamble but in other words: "Speaking generally all Civil Servants are incapable." I do not subscribe to that at all. I think that is a gross libel on the Civil Service of this Colony. To suggest generally that all members of the Civil Service are incapable is to make a charge which I cannot subscribe to, and I do not think any sane person of this Colony would subscribe to such a thing. It is a direct attack on people who are worthy of greater consideration at the hands of the Legislative Council than appears to be shown in this motion. The next preamble makes particular reference to three classes of Civil Servants, namely the Heads of Departments, their Deputies and the Senior Officers, as being people who get too much pay. This second preamble appears to be in a sense a contradiction of what has been said in the previous one, that all are incapable. Then the last one—

Mr. JACOB: May I correct the hon. Member? There is no such word as "all." He is importing the word "all" into the second preamble.

Mr. DIAS: I am drawing an inference from what is written in this motion as to what is meant. In the first preamble there is a direct charge of general incapability on the part of all Civil Servants.

If it is general it must be relating to all. There are exceptions of course. The next preamble seems to be an attempt to negative what is imported into the previous one. The last and operative part of the motion seems to repeat them all in asking for the appointment of a representative commission to enquire into the entire Civil Service of the Colony with a view to effecting economy coupled with efficiency. The entire Civil Service is comprised of people of this Colony to the extent of about 80 per cent., so that if they are generally inefficient I think the Legislative Council is responsible for having from time to time advocated the employment of local men, when in another breath you say they are inefficient. That is not making out a case for an enquiry into the Civil Service.

Supposing the Council were to adopt the amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Central Demerara, what would we have but a bare statement left—the first preamble "That there has been an alarming increase in the expenditure of the Colony." One would expect anyone moving a motion of that sort to show not only that there has been an alarming expenditure but that it was unjustifiable and unwarranted in all the circumstances. Nothing is more simple than to walk in here and make a statement that the expenditure of the Colony is alarming. But in order to prove the alarming nature of this expenditure reference was made to the Estimates of 1920. I have not had time to examine them carefully, but I find that the expenditure in connection with the contribution to this alarming expenditure did not arise by increased salaries to Heads of Departments and their Deputies and Senior Clerks but arose from different circumstances—an expansion of the Service. I have managed to put my hand on one instance in the 1920 Estimates. Take Primary Education: Look at the cost of it in those days, and look at what it is to-day. The cost of Primary Education is \$240,000 more to-day than in the year 1920 to which the hon. Member has made reference. In 1920 you had no Agricultural Department, no Forest Department, and many other Departments that you have to-day, so that it is not the salaries of Heads of Departments that brought about the alarming increase. It is the development of various services of the Colony,

social and otherwise. That seems to be forgotten.

Stress has been made throughout the debate on the salaries which were overburdening and crushing the Colony, whereas most of them were for services advocated by Members of this Council from time to time and at all times. In respect of some of them I am sure I have myself contributed to their establishment. One may mention several others that have been expanded, all to the knowledge of hon. Members in this Council to-day and of others who are absent. Take the expenditure on "Police"; that has gone up. Only quite recently, about a year or so ago I think, this Council authorized the employment of an extra one hundred men for the Force. The Head of that Department has nothing to do with that. All he has to say is that the service wants further strengthening and he recommends so and so. It is for this Council and this Council alone to give it, but we now come back and say that what we did was extravagance. Those are all things we did, and they were all done with the knowledge of the Council. You have made improvement even to prison conditions within recent times. That has been done because there has been such strong advocacy in the Colony and abroad that prisoners should have better treatment. That has been done at the expense of the Colony and has assisted in forcing up the cost of Government expenditure. We all know how these improvements came about. I think it was the hon. Member for Berbice River who made some reference to prisoners. They get all they want and are quite happy except for the cells, and all that cost money and must be reflected in the total figures. What about those increases of salaries Government had to make from time to time in the Transport and Harbours Department, the Post Office Department and other services of the Colony which have sent up the figures to what appears on paper to be abnormal? The amount is not necessarily abnormal if Government gets satisfaction from the Service. In addition to that, people who have never been entitled to pensions before are henceforth to receive pensions. That increases the pension liability of the Colony. I do not think anybody is justified in making a wholesale charge against the Civil Service of the Colony as if the Service is responsible for

this enormous increase from \$4 odd in 1920 to \$6,000,000 odd in 1939. These things must be taken into account, and when that is done they negate the suggestion that this Colony is burdened by expenditure which is not justifiable.

To prove the unjustification of the expenditure we have heard comparison made with Barbados. That is a charming island but it is only about 18 miles long and 14 miles wide, and you want to compare it with British Guiana. All the services there do not involve that Colony in as much expenditure as the City of Georgetown. We have here to build schools and Police stations and hospitals, and to provide doctors and sicknurses from Springlands on the Corentyne Coast right on to the North West District—hundreds of miles in extent—and yet it is said that the expenditure is too great compared with that of Barbados. They are a happy people over there, very happy indeed, and I think this answers the question. If they require only such a small salary as has been referred to by the hon. Member, it shows that the cost of living in Barbados is infinitesimal. It cannot be very great, if not the people cannot live on that salary. You have your Medical Service and Public Health Service. I think it was last November this Council voted extra money for strengthening the Department of Public Health. That has been done in this Council and I have not heard any hon. Member for the past five or six years make reference to or openly condemn these things. If the hon. Member had done that, I would have said that such has been his attitude all these years in this Council. This attack comes as a surprise to me, this staggering accusation against the Heads of Departments and against the majority of the Civil Servants who are local men. To enquire into his salary and cut it down if necessary is what this resolution says. We have heard from time to time and very frequently that local men are not sufficiently well rewarded for the services they give and yet we must take from those who we say are not sufficiently paid.

I submit that no case has been made out for a Commission of this kind. I cannot conceive of any enquiry by laymen which can assist Government by pointing out where the Public Service of the Colony can be reduced. You are asked to choose



hon. Members from this Council and to say to them "We appoint you to consider and report what is necessary to run the Law Department, or the Medical Department, or the Agricultural Department." Looking around here I do not see an agriculturist among the Unofficial Members. How are you going to make that wonderful selection for such a recommendation? I do not know; but if it is done, before they are half-finished they will get things into a state of chaos. I hope it will never come about and that Government will not yield to a request of this kind in such circumstances.

Mr. JACKSON: I have listened with a great deal of interest to the discussion on this motion, which I regard as alarming. I can hardly believe that a motion of this kind could have emanated from the mover after serious and careful consideration. I am afraid that the three preambles to the resolution defeat the resolution itself. To begin with, we are told about an alarming increase in expenditure. I think a good deal has been already advanced to show that the increases have been rather normal than alarming, and I do not intend to reiterate what has been already stated. If I am allowed, I would like to characterize the motion as inordinately scathing in character. In my opinion to denounce the entire Civil Service in the manner in which it has been denounced to-day is in itself an indication that proper consideration of the motion itself was not given by the mover before he proposed it. It is a motion, in my opinion, quite unworthy of acceptance by this Council.

To my mind the second preamble as well as the third defeats the resolution. It has been advanced, if we look carefully at the second and third preambles, that the reason for the increase in expenditure is primarily due to the incapability of the Civil Service. The whole complaint is against the incapability of the Civil Service as well as against the inordinate amount of money received by the Heads of Departments, Deputies and Senior Officers. If those are to be admitted as reasons for the increase, what need is there for a Commission to enquire into what has been stated on general lines to be the reason for this alarming increase as stated?

I am strongly of the opinion that the motion should not be accepted by this Council. There is no denying the fact that very frequently we may have very good ideas and very good motives underlying our expressions, but our manner of clothing those motives may defeat the very purpose which we have in mind. I do agree with the hon. Member who remarked that what really is needed is improvement in the economic condition of this Colony. As a matter of fact if attention is directed towards what improvements may be adopted in order that the Colony may be able to produce more so that our revenue may increase, then all the complaints that have been made by the hon. mover of the motion would disappear. I am certainly satisfied that this Council will not accept the motion, and as far as I am concerned I will not support it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I had intended to reserve my defence until I appeared on trial before the Committee which the hon. Member proposes to have appointed to enquire into the duties of Public Officers of this Colony, but I see the discussion has taken a different turn and it is suggested that an Economic Committee should be set up instead. There are one or two remarks I would like to make, although the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) has said a good deal of what I had intended to say. It is very unfortunate that the hon. mover should hit upon Barbados as the Colony to be compared with this large Colony. It is a very delightful island and I will not say one word against it, but in comparing the expenditure of the Government Services of the two Colonies one must take into account the cost of living. Having lived in Barbados for seven years, I think I have a fair idea of how the cost of living there compares with that here. Everything is on a cheaper scale in Barbados—food, wages, house rent and many other things including taxes of all sorts—and naturally the salaries of officials will be lower in that Colony. Also one must take into consideration the duties to be performed by those officials. I would like to refer to one or two as mentioned by the hon. mover of the motion.

The hon. Member referred to the salary drawn here by the Colonial Treasurer. In this Colony the Colonial Treasurer is Govern-

ment's financial adviser. In Barbados he is not the financial adviser of Government; he is a cashier and the Auditor is more of a financial adviser of Government. Every Government account is audited before payment, and the Auditor is the important man. Only after he passes a pay-sheet does it go to the Treasury to be cashed. In Barbados there is added to the Treasurer's salary an allowance for certain duties. One must be very careful in picking out figures and must be fair in making comparison. I think the hon. Member should have asked me for a copy of the Barbados Estimates.

Mr. JACOB: I have one!

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member has a copy, then he has not looked close enough to see that the Colonial Treasurer there gets extra emoluments for additional work. He referred to the salary of the Attorney-General of that Colony, which is £750 as he stated, but the Attorney-General gets £250 per annum extra for work done in the House of Assembly. The Colonial Secretary does not appear in the House of Assembly, and the Attorney-General conducts the work of Government in the House of Assembly for which he gets extra emoluments. Naturally the Colonial Secretary has less responsibility as he appears in the Legislative Council only. I would like to mention that the Colonial Secretary gets a salary of £1,000 per annum with quarters and furniture for which a deduction of only £62.10s. is made. That is only one of the items which are one-fourth or one-third of the cost here.

The hon. Member referred to the Chief Medical Officer of that Colony. I will give some idea of the duties of that officer. His staff comprises one Sanitation Officer and one Typist; he has nothing to do with the Hospital and does not sit on the Hospital Board. For two or three years after the post was created, no other Medical Officer would address the Colonial Secretary through him, each one regarding himself as the head of his own Department. The Port Health Officer and Government Bacteriologist communicated direct with the Colonial Secretary. The Chief Medical Officer there is an adviser and not an administrator, and if they do not want his advice he has nothing to do.

I am merely picking out the Heads to which the hon. Member referred. The Chief of Police gets a salary of £600 per annum there and a further £100 as head of the Fire Brigade. The salary of the Auditor-General is less. There are eleven auditors, one for each parish, and that saves him a lot of work. As I have said, I am sorry the hon. Member has chosen that small Island for his comparison. I do not know whether the hon. Member realizes that there are two islands in the Essequibo River equally as large as Barbados. I think that in Barbados they will be very glad to be compared with this large Colony.

The hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) is in favour of a Committee. He thinks there are one or two officers in the Service who are underpaid. I do not know that it is necessary to appoint a Committee to consider the salaries of just a few officers; that has been done already by Government. The hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peer Bacchus) supports the suggested amendment but admits that before long it may be necessary to have a larger Civil Service when the drainage and irrigation works are completed. I do not see the necessity for appointing an Economic Committee. Has not the Royal Commission covered the ground? Do you want another committee to cover the same ground? Everybody realizes that we need drainage and irrigation works here, and Government is doing all in its power to expedite the carrying out of those works. When I was last here, a Commission came out to enquire into the Civil Service and cuts were recommended all round, but most of the posts which it was then considered could be abolished and which were abolished have had to be set up again and in some instances more. It was found impossible to carry on the Police Force with a reduced strength and similarly in respect of several other Departments. As the hon. Member on my right (Mr. Dias) said, if the personal emoluments have gone up it is due to hon. Members from time to time asking that the personnel of various Departments be increased.

I cannot help feeling that the hon. mover of the motion had before him a copy of the recommendations of the Royal Commission when he was drafting his motion. In his first motion he actually refers to the

report of the Royal Commission. In the next one on the Order Paper he probably had in mind what appears on page 25 as Recommendation 28 (b), which refers to a Committee System. With regard to the Commission he had in front of him Recommendation 30 (b) on page 27 which states: "West Indian Governments, particularly those of the larger Colonies, should review the salaries of their senior officers." That infers not that they should be reduced but increased (laughter). I think the hon. Member misread that recommendation of the Royal Commission.

Mr. JACOB: I am going to suggest that only the Unofficial Members of this Council should vote on this motion, for the simple reason that the Official Members are interested parties and it will go with very much more grace if they do not vote. I am not going to take up too much time, as very much time has been already taken up by some of the Members who have spoken. With regard to the statement made by the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford), he thought like the hon. Colonial Secretary that Barbados should not have been brought in for comparison as it is so much smaller than this Colony. I think that is all the more reason why it should be brought in, because the number of officers there are so much less. Here, I think, we have too many officers, and the salary scales of some are too high. That is my main point. If it had been suggested that the number of officers in Barbados should be the number of officers here, then I would have agreed with their contention. It has been said that Barbados being a small place the administration is easier and the number of officers less. That is why Barbados is progressing. My contention is that while British Guiana is large we have too many officers to govern this place and we cannot afford to pay the salaries. Perhaps I may read the review of the Barbados Estimates by Sir John Waddington, as it appears in the West India Committee Circular of the 2nd May, 1940, on page 105:

The Treasury balance at the beginning of the financial year (1939-40) was £189,497, which with the revised estimate of revenue of £573,579 produced a total of £763,094. The revised expenditure estimate was £653,967, leaving an estimated surplus at the end of the year of £109,127.

What we are concerned with here is the

financial position of this country. If we have got to maintain a Service, is it not necessary that we must get the expenditure from revenue or cut down expenditure? It is admitted on all sides that we cannot increase taxation, which is already higher than in any part of the British West Indies, and I maintain that as a business concern we have got to reduce expenditure so as to balance our budget or go into bankruptcy. In the future we cannot expect help from the Imperial Government. What then are we to do, continue to pay high salaries—unproductive expenditure—and reduce Social and Poor Services? I am afraid not. That is not the way I would like to look at it. One hon. Member referred to the fact that the Medical Services have been increased and rightly so. Like everything else here the Public Health Service has been increased by salaries and we are not getting proportionate benefit from that service at all. The amount on the Estimates was \$31,957 for the Government Public Health Department in 1920, as against \$42,000 in 1930 and \$124,000 in 1940. I purposely did not refer to that when I was speaking on the motion proper, but left it for my reply. The hon. Member for Georgetown North—

Mr. SEAFORD: To a point of correction! The hon. Member has said that we have got no results from the Public Health Service. I beg to dispute that.

Mr. JACOB: I maintain that we get practically no results from the Government Public Health Department. The laws are there to be put into execution, and they are causing great hardship with little practical result to those concerned. I do not want to generalise too much. While the Government Public Health Department looks well on paper it is a burden on the taxpayers of the Colony. I do not wish to detain the Council very much longer. I am certain that if a Commission is appointed it will be the means of reducing expenditure coupled with efficiency, and I accept the amendment as suggested by the hon. Member for Central Demerara, and supported by the hon. Member for Western Essequibo and the hon. Member for Western Berbice. The motion now reads:

WHEREAS there has been an alarming increase in the expenditure of the Colony:



*Be it Resolved*,—That a representative commission be appointed to enquire into the entire Civil Service of the Colony with a view to effecting economy coupled with efficiency.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. Member is withdrawing his motion?

Mr. JACOB: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: And supporting the amendment?

Mr. JACOB: Yes. It is a great pity that the Elected Members of this Council up to the present time cannot meet to discuss the questions to be debated here.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: To a point of order! I do not like to interrupt the hon. Member, but I do not see why the Elected Members of this Council cannot meet.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no reason whatever why. If there is, it exists entirely in the hon. Member's imagination.

Mr. JACOB: I am appealing to my brother Elected Members. The hon. Member and I have tried but for some reason or other we have not succeeded. While I will not quibble over words as it does not matter to me how the motion is worded, probably it is best as amended though I have my own views about that. I want general agreement on it, and so long as the objective is achieved I have nothing to grumble about. The intention of the motion is to pave the way for progress, to see that we are really progressing in this Colony. I think you will agree with me that it is best for those interested parties, the Official Members of Council, not to vote on this motion.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. Member has withdrawn his motion and therefore it falls to me to put the amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Central Demerara. As it is a question of putting the amendment, I would like to say a word or two by way of explanation as to why the Government side of the Council does not feel justified in accepting this motion at this time. It is not that anybody wants to balk an enquiry into the Civil Service of this Colony or that anyone claims that the Civil Service of this Colony is a perfect one, but I do not think it deserves some of the strictures passed on it this morning. It

has its faults like other Civil Services. I have been connected with about eight Civil Services, and I may say that this one compares quite favourably with any of them. At the present time this Civil Service which has come in for severe criticism has been particularly hardworked. Under war conditions all these Civil Servants, or nearly all of them, have got a great deal of extra work on their hands which they have to undertake in addition to the ordinary services of normal times—all those various precautions and regulations which are occasioned by war conditions. Hon. Members are aware of the great mass of regulations which are necessary to be put in force. It may not be realized that these involve a great deal of work thrown on members of the Civil Service of all grades.

Take the Treasury for example: In addition to the ordinary work of the Treasury it has to take under control the whole machinery of the financial exchange of the Colony, which involves a great deal of work. The Customs Department has an enormous amount of additional work involving the control of shipping under war conditions. Every ship that comes to the Colony now has to be examined from a totally different point of view than what was the case in ordinary times. In addition to the shipping control it has been necessary to take under control the whole machinery of supplies of the whole Colony. That involves a great deal of work. Every order has to be examined and it has to go through the permits and authorities, which involves a tremendous amount of work. We have another Department, the machinery of control of the rice industry. The Agricultural Department has had to exert itself to a great extent in trying to increase the output of the Colony. In a short time we shall place before the Council proposals for assistance in the marketing of products under war conditions. There is no Department I am aware of, apart from the Medical Department and I am not quite sure about that, which has not had a great increase in its work under the conditions prevailing now. It is within my certain knowledge that a great many of the officers of the various Departments are very hard worked.

I do think it is an appropriate moment to appoint a roving Commission

over the entire Civil Service to see where there can be a little saving here and adjustment there. That is the net result of any commission of that kind. To suppose that the general expenditure of the Colony is going to be affected to any appreciable degree in that way is merely a delusion. I do feel very reluctant to agree to the setting up of a Commission which, if it does its work properly, must involve a tremendous burden on the Departments in making a proper enquiry. If it does not do that, it will not be doing its work. To set up that Commission now when all the officers are very hard pressed with work and when the result of that Commission in the nature of things will be almost negligible, I do not think the time is appropriate for an enquiry of that kind. It is not that anybody wishes to balk the enquiry, and if there is any suggestion that can be made I will be only too glad to help. In one case we were not satisfied with conditions and a special enquiry was set up. A special enquiry into a specific matter may be justifiable, but a roving Commission over the entire Service can do nothing but hamper the work of the Departments for the next six months and achieve very little result. I really do not feel justified in agreeing with a burden of that kind being placed on the members of the Civil Service and Heads of Departments at a time like this, when I know that owing to the strain of war conditions many of them are very hard worked indeed.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: As the Member responsible for the amendment, I would like to say that I entirely agree with the views just expressed by Your Excellency as regards the work done by the Civil Servants of the Colony. Speaking for myself I have no desire to add to their work. There are, however, two alternatives open—one is, that the amended motion may be accepted and the question of appointing the Committee deferred until the proper time, and the other is to withdraw the amended motion. I have mentioned these two alternatives because, as I said, I have no desire to burden Government at this time. As far as I am concerned I am prepared to accept either of the two alternatives.

THE PRESIDENT: I am much obliged to the hon. Member. The acceptance of the motion, if it is not to be carried out for an indefinite time, is not very satis-

factory. It is always open to hon. Members to move a similar motion again at the reasonable time.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am trying to avoid our going over a debate like this all again when the proper time comes.

THE PRESIDENT: When the proper time comes there is no need to go over it again.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: With your permission I ask to withdraw the amended motion.

Amended motion withdrawn.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE FOR P.W.D.

The following motion by the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) as item IX on the Order Paper was billed next for consideration:—

WHEREAS there has been great laxity in the supervision of works carried out by the Public Works Department in all parts of the Colony; AND WHEREAS serious irregularities have been and are occurring in regard to the carrying out of works in accordance with approved plans, specifications and estimates;

*Be it Resolved*,—That a Standing Select Committee of this Council be appointed with full powers to inspect all plans, specifications, estimates, accounts, pay sheets and all books and documents from time to time so as to avoid wasteful expenditure and check possible irregularities.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is right to mention at this stage that a motion by Government relating to the Public Works Department will be placed before Council at the next meeting, and that there has been in effect a Committee of Enquiry into the working of that Department functioning for some months now—since about April. I do not know whether the hon. Member would like to have the results of that enquiry and the recommendations made as the result of it before moving his motion?

Mr. JACOB: I do not wish to inconvenience Government in any way.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no inconvenience to Government, but I think it will help the hon. Member.

Mr. JACOB: I think Government will admit that there is something wrong with

the Public Works Department and therefore, the suggestion I have made in this motion will meet the case. With your permission I would like it deferred.

**THE PRESIDENT:** You may defer it until you have seen the result of that enquiry and the recommendations made. As a consequence the motion will remain on the Order Paper.

Mr. JACOB: Very well, sir.

Consideration of motion deferred.

#### PROTECTION ON LOCAL PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES.

Consideration of the following motion by the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) next engaged attention:—

WHEREAS unemployment is prevalent and rife in the Colony of British Guiana;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that local products and industries should be encouraged and protected as much as possible;

*Be it Resolved,*—That this Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor the appointment of a committee to consider the inadvisability of revising and re-adjusting without loss to the revenue the tariff duties now collectable with a view to the protection of local products and industries.

**THE PRESIDENT:** If it would help the hon. Member I would ask the Council not to meet to-morrow if possible because there is very urgent work falling upon myself and other members of the Civil Service who are very hard worked. I am going to ask that the Council be good enough to meet next week. In any case it will be necessary for the Council to meet next week.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: With the permission of the Council I would just like to make a few remarks. I desire firstly to thank Your Excellency for having postponed discussion on this motion on the last occasion when I was not present. The motion was tabled before the outbreak of hostilities, and in view of the crisis it seems that we will have fuller scope without the necessity of the motion to achieve the objects of the motion. I say that because I see Government has a special committee working towards the same object which I had in view, and therefore I ask the permission of the Council to withdraw the motion as the moment seems inopportune to discuss certain aspects of the motion as put in its present form.

I would also like to express the hope that the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) has now disabused his mind of the scepticism which he had when I mentioned that there was a form of internal protection. With the permission of the Council I ask to be allowed to withdraw the motion.

Motion withdrawn.

#### FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1940.

With the consent of the Council consideration of the following motion in the name of the hon. Colonial Secretary was deferred:—

THAT, this Council approves the First Schedule of additional Provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the provision made in the estimates for the year 1940, which has been laid on the table.

The Council adjourned until Tuesday at 11 o'clock.