

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 23rd November, 1939.

The Council met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Acting Governor, SIR JOHN WADDINGTON, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., 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. J. S. Dash, Director of Agriculture.

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. 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. W. A. Macnie, Commissioner of Labour and Local Government, (Acting).

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINUTE.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, the 22nd November, 1939, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

ESTIMATES, 1940.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1940.

EDUCATION.—EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Mr. ELEAZAR: When the Council rose yesterday afternoon I was at the point where I said that I wished to state once and for all that the question of illiteracy in this community generally, and especially among the East Indian section, cannot by any stretch of the imagination be laid at the door of Government or the Education Department. I have a distinct recollection—and it should be the recollection of most people in this country—that the leaders of the East Indian community at that time—1911-12—agitated and approached Sir Alexander Swettenham with a request that the compulsory clause of the Education Ordinance should not be made applicable to East Indian girls. They contended that they had conscientious objections to their girls being sent to school. The Governor, in deference to

their clamour—and a very violent one it was—issued that now famous Swettenham Circular. As a result East Indians do not send their girls to school at all, and they are reaping to-day what they have sown. Those girls who were denied education which Government wanted to give to all and sundry, were never sent to school. They are the mothers, and in some cases the grandmothers of the children of to-day.

Although at present there are Attendance Officers in the districts chasing children to school, those people who have never had the blessings of education—they are still in blissful ignorance; they have not had any education and they do not think their children should have any—are until now resisting the law and keeping their children at home. Government cannot be asked to place an Attendance Officer at the door of everybody who does not want to send his children to school. Those are parents who have no interest in the education of their children. Therefore, when the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) persists in these statements, as he generally does in his usual style, it is well for him to understand that what is required in my opinion is some sort of propaganda work by the same Association amongst its people, pointing out the mistake they made in those days. That would be a means of bringing the children to school, and would have a better effect than any Attendance Officer chasing children to school. I have asked East Indian girls in Berbice why they do not go to school, and it was a great joke to them. They said "Go to school, sir? Me married." Whose fault is that? In most cases they were influenced by their own leaders who had their own motive in depriving their people of the blessings of education. It is not fair to lay the responsibility at the door of Government. We knew it was only a ramp, but the Governor gave them what they wanted, and when they got what they wanted they found they did not want it at all.

I agree with the hon. Member that a teacher cannot get the best out of children if there are 80 or 90 in a class. The schools are understaffed because there is no money. We have got a little more and we are coming back for more later on. I do not like Government or anybody being blamed for depriving those unfortu-

nate children of the blessings of education while in truth and in fact their leaders and their parents were primarily to blame.

Mr. JACOB: I have listened with considerable interest to the remarks of my hon. friend, and I must confess that I do not quite understand what he has stated. He began by stating that he had a recollection that in 1911-12 certain people went to Sir Alexander Swettenham and asked him to issue what has been called the Swettenham Circular, making it not compulsory for East Indian girls to attend school. That is all that Government did. I maintain that it was illegal. I maintain too that those people who approached the Governor were wrong. We maintain that the provisions of the Compulsory Education Ordinance should have been enforced long ago. I will concede that it is being enforced to a certain extent now, but it is not being enforced as it should be. I think the Director of Education will admit that it is not being enforced as other Ordinances are enforced. If that statement is challenged I will be able to reply to it later on. The East Indian Association has maintained during the last 20 years that that policy should be changed completely. We admit that it has been modified to a certain extent. There are about 42 per cent. of East Indian children, boys and girls, but girls to a larger extent, of school-going age who are not in school. That is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

My hon. friend has always adopted the attitude that we should not single out any particular race. I agree in principle, but when you have the statistics for a particular race showing an unsatisfactory position I think it is only reasonable and fair that they should be used to make out a case. I am not pleading only for East Indian education but for education generally, but I hope I have made out a case for other people as well. I would advise my hon. friend not to rely too much on his recollection. Let him take statements that are true and have been confirmed, and once and for all realize that while certain people have been misleading Government we are endeavouring to co-operate with Government and point out the true state of affairs. We are only too willing to meet Government and decide what is right. It is not right that we should continue

having conflicting views. The time has arrived when both viewpoints should be considered and put in a way that we should understand each other. We are willing to discuss the matter further. I merely raised it here in order to call attention to it, so that there might be some record of it. Later on we will go into it more carefully and, I hope, arrive at some satisfactory solution.

Mr. JACKSON: I too have listened with a great deal of interest to the debate on Education, and I must say that I am positive that so far as primary education is concerned the Council is not divided. Everyone desires that the best education should be provided for the children attending our primary schools, and I think the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) should be complimented on the attitude he has taken up in connection with the education of the people of this Colony. I am quite sure that everyone would be glad to see every child of school age attending school. It would be a very good thing, and if we have no illiteracy in the Colony in the next few years, due to the attitude of Government in connection with primary education, that would be a feather in the cap of Government and a distinct asset to the Colony. But I want to say that it is always not the best thing, if there is anything that can be improved, to try to fix the blame upon any particular person or upon any particular organization for the matter of that. The time spent in fixing the blame could be better spent in an endeavour to improve the conditions.

The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) gave, as I understood it, the history of the cause of differentiation between one particular race in the Colony so far as the compulsory system is concerned, but I thought he might have gone a little further. Anyone who has lived long in this country and has observed the trend of affairs in relation to East Indian education, so far as the primary school is concerned, could not have failed to observe that there was certainly a distinct inclination on the part of the East Indians to prevent their girls from attending school. Reference has already been made to the Swettenham Circular. To a certain extent that was issued in order to meet the views of the majority of East Indians. Rome was not built in a day, and inborn preju-

dices do not disappear overnight. I am quite sure that no one will deny that considerable improvement has been made in later years in connection with the education of children generally. The attendance at school has been considerably improved, and so has the average attendance of the pupils, and I believe that if we would exercise a little more patience in this matter and continue working, the time will come when the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) will have no complaint to make at all.

There is a good deal in the saying that there is not sufficient accommodation in the primary schools for all the children, and that in certain cases the schools are understaffed. There is no doubt about it that efforts are being made from time to time by Government, through the Education Department, to increase the staffing of the schools. Government is perhaps handicapped by lack of funds to do all that might be done for primary education with respect to the staffing of the schools and the accommodation, but no one can say that serious attempts have not been made to meet those difficulties. I am perfectly satisfied that if improvements continue as they are at the present time, before long there will be no cause for complaint.

Speaking generally on the head, I think there are no two opinions on the necessity of passing the education vote as printed, and I do not at all anticipate any difficulty in getting through the vote. The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) has stated that Government quite recently yielded to the desires of the Committee on Education and increased the salaries of teachers. It is true that their salaries have not been increased to the extent desired, but no one should be ungrateful for small mercies received, and I think the teachers as a whole recognize that Government has made a very good attempt to alleviate their condition.

I should like to make some reference to the school gardens, because I think that if properly conducted they are bound to play an important part in the lives of the children of our schools. Although we may not have sufficient funds to carry on those gardens in the best way possible to obtain the best results, yet the efforts that are made in that direction should certainly be

supported. As a war measure it has become necessary to reduce the number of persons employed in connection with the school gardens. Perhaps I may be a little more explicit. It is known that where a school garden exists an interim teacher is attached to the school in addition to the ordinary staff, so that while the agricultural teacher is engaged in out-door work the school work is carried on by the interim teacher. It has become necessary, I understand, to dispense with the services of those interim teachers, but it is hoped that some of them might be absorbed in the general staffing. I am prepared to say that in view of the fact that Government has been assisting them financially, and in view of the need in the present circumstances for everyone to bear his fair share, the teachers are prepared to join together and do the work which was done by the interim teachers, and I have no doubt that when things become better the need for increasing the work at the school gardens will be acted upon.

Reference was made by the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) to secondary schools. I know there are some who are of the opinion that if a parent wishes to give his child secondary education he should pay for it, but I think those who are of that opinion are few. Government has recognized the need for supporting secondary education by providing Queen's College for boys, and although there is no secondary school of the type of Queen's College for girls, Government's latest effort to improve the conditions at the high school for girls existing in Georgetown is an indication that Government accepts the principle of providing secondary education for those who desire to have it.

It has been stressed that there are certain secondary schools in this City which are doing very good work, and that possibly it might be well to give them some subsidy. I think as a matter of fact that it might be a very good thing for Government to appoint a small Committee to go into the question of secondary education in private schools and to see how far those schools warrant any help from Government. Personally I am of the opinion that if Government cannot subsidize those worthy secondary schools to a very great extent, the principle adopted by Government in paying bonuses to children attending any

of those schools who pass the Junior Cambridge examination within a certain age, and who pass the Senior Cambridge examination within a certain age might be extended a little further, and bonuses might be given to the schools for pupils passing those examinations. It is a matter which deserves careful consideration, and I therefore suggest to Government to consider whether it would not be a very good thing to appoint a small Committee to go into the matter of the work done by the needy secondary schools in the Colony. That is my opinion, and I throw it out as a suggestion.

With regard to the vote as a whole I think the suggestion made by the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) that it should be considered *en bloc* is a very good one. There might be possible amendments, but I do not think we need spend much more time over considering the vote as a whole, because I think the question of slight increases has already been touched upon. I venture to think that if we bear that in mind we should be able to get through the Education vote rapidly and satisfactorily.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I do not propose to carry out the suggestion that this vote be passed *en bloc*. There is only one thing I would like to add, and it is that I consider that a little more consideration might be given the teaching staff upon whom falls the burden of educating the people. A contented staff is likely to be more conducive to the education of the children. I support the suggestion that more consideration be given to the teachers, especially those in the outlying districts. I think after all it is the teachers who are responsible for the education of the community. I would like to ask the Director if he is satisfied that the salaries paid to the teaching staff are adequate or not. There are instances in which some of them are receiving miserable pittance.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: It is seldom, in fact I think this will be the first time in this Council that I have spoken in any measure against any part of the Education vote, but on this occasion I feel constrained to ask Government, if it can possibly be avoided, not to increase the vote. Your Excellency is no doubt aware, and I am very painfully aware—I get letters and

petitions every day from the people of Eastern Demerara who are dying from thirst—that the people who live in the stretch of country between the Mahaica bridge and De Kinderen have no drinking water whatever. This morning I received a petition from the people in the Mahaicony creek where salt water has gone a considerable distance. Over the week-end I travelled from Georgetown to Abary where the conditions are pitiable. If we do not get rain in a very short time the plight of those people will be unimaginable. Your Excellency in your Speech said that Government had decided to curtail the pure water supply scheme.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: Is the hon. Member discussing artesian wells?

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is in order.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I am sorry the hon. Member cannot appreciate what I am saying. If Government is constrained to curtail so necessary a service as pure water supply, and if the conditions are as I have stated them to be, and as I think Government will admit them to be, is it rational and reasonable that we should spend one penny more on education if it is impossible to continue the pure water supply scheme? If it is a question of money only, surely the increase of the Education vote could stand down for a year or so until we have a pure water supply scheme. I will not use the favourite phrase of "sounding a note of warning to Government," but I am blowing a blast on a trumpet. There is going to be a very serious condition of affairs on the Eastern Demerara before the end of this year if we do not get rain, and the fact that nothing whatever is being done by Government to alleviate the sufferings of the people in respect of a pure water supply is going to cause a great deal of agitation. I have done my best to tell them that Government is doing all it can, and that as soon as possible a pure water supply would be provided, but is it reasonable to expect those people to be satisfied when they are told that Government is not continuing the scheme but is increasing the Education vote by \$30,000? I know that some of that money must be voted, such as provision for normal increments, but in addition to that no

money should be spent which is not absolutely necessary. I know that primary education is necessary, but I am appealing to Government not to make increases in the vote when there are so many other pressing and necessary services which have to be provided, and which ought to take precedence over a matter which can remain over for a year or two. Will it kill any of the children if the education vote is not increased next year? Will it hurt anyone seriously if \$4,000 is not voted for the Bishop's High School? I am surprised at the hon. Mr. Jackson suggesting at a time like this that Government should appoint a Committee to give subsidies to secondary schools. I am surprised that he has not asked that two or three universities should be established here. This pure water supply scheme should have been completed years ago, and would have been completed but for this heavy Education vote. Cattle are dying for want of water. If people understand that they must suffer in silence because there is no money then they would suffer in silence, but not when they see money being spent on other things which are not urgent.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I have never heard a more miserable swan song than that sung by the hon. Member. When the hon. Member was speaking and it was suggested that he was out of order Your Excellency very kindly ruled that he was in order. It was a deliberate attempt on the part of the hon. Member to take cover under Education to hit at primary education and plead with Government to supply water to the Mahaica district of which the hon. Member is the representative in this Council. Not a word he has said is applicable to education at all. Does he mean that Government must not pay to hard-working people money they have earned because another section of the community will die if rain does not fall? Not a single mortal in the Mahaica district will die if rain does not fall. The rainy season is not very far off, and if Government does not hurry up some of its works the rains will overtake them. It is better for a few people to die for the want of water than for children to grow up in ignorance. Government is not staffing the schools because it cannot afford to do more, but it is a shame to stand here and say that money earned by teachers should not be paid to them.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I never said anything of the sort. If the hon. Member would listen to what is being said he would not make such mistakes. I said that a good deal of the money is to provide for increments which must be paid.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The money is not to provide increments but to pay teachers what they have earned. They are being short paid. If the hon. Member does not know what he is talking about he should not speak. I do not believe he understands half of what he said. I say no more.

Mr. WOOLFORD: Unlike the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Humphrys), who complains that he has never spoken under this head, I am somewhat ashamed to confess that I have always done so. When I entered public life the vote under this head was \$166,000. It is now over half a million dollars. I claim to have made myself especially familiar with the subject of education, although I do not claim to be an educated man, but I would wish that as soon as it becomes possible for Government to do so, that the very valuable report on elementary education, which I know is in print, will be published in order that the community might have the benefit of seeing how far the Committee has rendered any service whatever.

For years I have listened to the same criticisms here and to the same answers, but there are one or two features which have been introduced, with which I claim to have some acquaintance, and for the purpose of record I propose to state what I know about them. I am as interested in the East Indian community as the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob). I derive a considerable portion of my income from that community. I have a large interest in their welfare and I happen to know that when Sir Alexander Swettenham caused that Circular to be issued he did so for two reasons. The first reason was that it was impressed upon him that East Indian parents did not approve of their girls attending a mixed school such as the elementary schools were then. They objected to their East Indian girls going to any school where there were boys. The second reason was that the parents of those

children preferred that they should earn wages in the "creole gang" rather than be taught at school. That, of course, was the result of ignorance, and I appreciate the efforts of the hon. Member, seeing as he must do the effect it has had on the East Indian community as a whole. I appreciate his anxiety to impress upon Government the necessity for enforcing compulsory education and seeing that the Education Authorities insist upon East Indian girls going to school. I am of the fixed opinion that some of those riotous disturbances that have occurred on sugar estates would have been minimised, or avoided altogether, if the East Indian community had had the benefit of primary education such as the black people have had. That is my considered opinion, and I say it to the credit of the black population, that in all the disturbances which have occurred on the sugar estates it has been a noticeable feature that the black element have not taken part in them to the same extent as the East Indian. The ordinary restraint which they have been able to exercise on their passions is the result of primary education which is thought by a good many people in this Colony to have had no useful result.

I can recall that every secondary school that I have known—and I have known them all for over 50 years—has never been able to live at all. I attended a school when I was five years of age in Brickdam, kept by Mr. Cockett. It was the only school one could go to. The next secondary school was kept by a Dutchman, Mr. Ten Broeke. All those schools failed to thrive. We all know what happened to Mr. Thorne's school. A capable educationist, he came here and established the Middle School, but had to give it up for lack of public support. Any school which attempts to impart secondary education in a community like this without public assistance is going to fail. I know that the school for which Government assistance has been suggested by certain hon. Members is the Central High School. That school is undoubtedly doing very well, and whilst I do not care to predict that it may be closed for lack of support. I am of the opinion that it is going to find that in the course of time it will not be able to pay its way. What I think the community ought to recognize is that it would be far more self-respecting

if instead of permitting Government to charge the small fees they pay, for instance for education at Queen's College, they encouraged Government to raise those fees, because it is exceedingly difficult for anyone to understand why parents should take advantage of the opportunity to give their children the education they receive at Queen's College and make the rest of the community contribute so large a sum towards doing so. It is all very well to criticize Government for not providing greater facilities for secondary education, but it should be a matter for careful enquiry by everyone as to whether parents should not be made to pay more for the education their children receive at Queen's College. It is a very fine educational centre, and I who have had the benefit of receiving some form of secondary education in Europe know what it cost my parents to do so. Secondary education for boys in this Colony is as cheap as anywhere else in the world.

With regard to secondary education for girls, I do not know to what institution the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) referred, but I know that if he means the Ursuline Convent I would point out that there is no contribution made by Government to the Convent as a school. There is a vote to the Ursuline Convent in respect of the orphanage, and I do hope the hon. Member does not mean that an enquiry of any kind is necessary into the administration of that institution. My own view is that the vote is very inadequate and that it ought to be increased, and I cannot believe that is what the hon. Member referred to.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I mentioned one school, the Bishop's High School for Girls.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I think hon. Members know that in the case of the Bishop's High School and other schools where secondary education is provided from public funds, Government proposes and will take the necessary steps to have a Government representative on the governing bodies. I warn the community that if the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Humphrys) means—and he has practically said so—that Government is not to be encouraged to grant increased votes to institutions like the Bishop's High School,

that the electors in his constituency who are now languishing from thirst as he claims, will not respect his memory if he fails to provide for them an institution at which their girls can receive secondary education when they grow up. I cannot help feeling that he means that. Whilst I agree with him that there is great need for expenditure along the lines he has suggested to Government, I hope he will not allow his intellect to be so clouded by the fact that there is a drought facing his constituency as to discourage Government to recognize the necessity for an increased subvention to the Bishop's High School or any other school at which the native population receive the benefits of secondary education.

I would like to call attention in the same spirit in which the hon. Member has spoken, to one item on the estimates. Provision is made on page 16, item 16, for Children's Breakfast Centres, \$900. That is a vote I should like to see doubled. It is within my personal knowledge that children attending more than one school that I know of either arrive at the school in a famishing condition or faint shortly after admission. This is a positive fact, and whilst I am in agreement that compulsory education is a necessity I hope it is also recognized that the absences from school in a good many cases in the country districts are due to poverty, the physical inability of some children to go to school, and a false but natural pride on the part of parents in not allowing their children to go to school because they are not shod. That is one of the prejudices that has to be broken down in this community—the reproach with which some children are met who have to go to school either in “dogs” or no “dogs” at all.

In this connection we have to be very careful. I hope nothing will be done to prevent the importation, even at a higher cost than we have seen recently, of what are known as yachting shoes, the ordinary white canvas rubber-soled shoes which the poorer classes of the community use largely. It is desirable that children should not go to school barefeet, especially in wet weather. All those are factors examined by the Committee, and although the compulsory attendance figures may not appear to be enticing to some members, we have to consider the economic position of

the children's parents. In the first place they have not the wherewithal to provide them with decent clothing, shoes, umbrellas and mackintoshes. Yet you say "Drive them to school." One of the evils of this community is that whilst members, or some of us here are better acquainted with educational conditions than people outside, a good many people do not realize that if every child of school-going age were made to go to school, if the Churches do not extend their building accommodation, and if Government does not build new buildings, where are the children to be taught? It seems to me that we either have to face the position and take great care that the denominations—some of which have not got the means to provide clergymen for their churches—are provided with the necessary funds to extend their buildings, or Government will have to provide them. There are many problems, and I hope the report of the Education Committee will be published shortly, and will be widely read.

I would like to make just one remark with regard to Queen's College, although the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) is the President of the Board of Governors. It is not true to say that pupils attend other secondary schools, such as the Central High School in Georgetown, because they cannot gain admission to Queen's College. There is no secondary school which tries to maintain a high standard that does not prescribe an entrance examination as a pre-requisite. That is what Queen's College has done. It is true that it is a Government school, but in order to maintain its reputation as a secondary school of value to the community it is essential that an entrance examination should form one of the conditions for entry. When I was a young fellow at Queen's College, although there was not a prescribed examination there was a *viva voce* examination conducted by the Principal before a scholar was enrolled. I am now one of the governors of the institution. There is a standard required, because if you admit all and sundry into the school you will have the greatest dislocation and the greatest burden placed on the Masters to impart the necessary tuition. Government has permitted the Queen's College authorities to provide a Preparatory School to which I strongly advise parents to send their children instead of sending them indiscriminately to any school which

puts up a signboard calling itself the Progressive High School, the Central High School or some other school I see in Regent street. I know that the Masters of those schools are very able men, but I think they are not advancing the cause of secondary education in this Colony.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) referred to Queen's College and the standard of the tuition there. I quite agree with him that you get as good tuition there as you can get practically anywhere in the world. What Queen's College suffers from is the fact that it is a day school, and there is no doubt that your education cannot be the same at a day school as at a boarding school.

With regard to the Preparatory School I feel that Government made a mistake in respect of the disadvantage which pupils suffered at one time. Many parents would not send their children to the Preparatory School because they hoped that they would be able to obtain a scholarship from the primary school, which they could not get from the Preparatory School. I would like to advise parents that if they are aiming at the education of their boys they can do no better than send them to the Preparatory School.

Mr. CREASE (Director of Education): I have listened with considerable interest to the debate which has taken place on this vote, and I propose to be as brief as possible in my reply to the hon. Members who have spoken. The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) opened his remarks with the hope that this vote would be passed *en bloc*, and when the Council adjourned yesterday afternoon I had some hope of that being so, but this morning has somewhat dashed that hope to the ground. However, on the general trend of the debate I feel that the majority of Members of the Council are definitely in favour of the suggested increase of the vote for education.

The hon. Member for Berbice River first made reference to the grants which are being paid by Government to secondary schools in the Colony, and expressed the view that Government should have some control over public funds which are expended in those schools. I would like

to set his mind at rest on that particular point. The Department has recently written to all schools which receive grants from public funds, and is bringing them up to the scratch with regard to better control of the funds and better supervision of the work carried on in those schools. In other words the regulations governing grants to secondary schools are being more strictly enforced.

The hon. Member also stated that Government should take more interest in the secondary education provided by the private secondary schools which receive no grants from Government. As I have said before in this Council, there are definite regulations which govern the award of grants to secondary schools, and one of the regulations—the chief I should imagine—is that no school which is run for private profit can be in receipt of a grant from Government. I would welcome very much more control and a deeper interest taken in the private secondary schools of the Colony, and I have already submitted to Government in a memorandum some suggestions for its consideration. I feel that these private secondary schools should, as in many other parts of the world, be placed on a register, and for that purpose they would be required to attain a certain standard required by the Education Department and also the Medical Department. I only hope that those recommendations will be carefully considered, and before long some sort of system of control of those private secondary schools will be instituted. I may have to refer to this type of school later on.

I would like to thank the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) for the keen interest he is taking in the primary education of this Colony. I only hope and trust that the discussions which he suggested should take place between the Director of Education and himself and representatives of his Association will take place very shortly. He referred to the fact that a large number of children of school age are not attending school. That is well known to the Department. They are not only East Indian children but children of all races. That is due to the fact, I think, that we have not the requisite number of Attendance Officers in order to see that the Ordinance is put into force. I understand that not many

years ago there were nine such Attendance Officers, and that number—at any rate since 1931 when I arrived in the Colony—has been reduced to three. There are two in Demerara, one in Berbice and none in Essequibo. I have recommended that as soon as possible Government should consider the question of appointing at least three more Attendance Officers in order that two may be stationed in each County. It is very difficult for these officers to carry out their duties when two are stationed in Demerara, only one in Berbice and none in Essequibo. The actual number of children enrolled at present is in the vicinity of 53,000. That means that one Attendance Officer has charge of something like 17,500 children. It is almost an impossible task.

The hon. Member also stated, or as far as I can recollect he rather hinted that the East Indian community, as far as their children are concerned, are not receiving quite the same attention as the other members of the community. If I am wrong in that surmise I am open to correction. A great deal has been mentioned on the question of the education of East Indian children by other hon. Members during the debate. There is one point which I do not think has been brought out very clearly. Reference has been made to the introduction of the Swettenham Circular. That Circular was withdrawn after a good deal of discussion. I remember taking part in several conferences, and eventually it was withdrawn somewhere around 1933. Since then, if one studies the annual reports of the Director of Education, it will be seen that in the case of East Indian girls especially, the enrolment and average attendance figures have been steadily rising. When that Circular was withdrawn the Education Department expended money and time,—because from the point of view of technical officers it is not over-staffed by any means,—and carried out a very lengthy campaign, especially in Berbice and Essequibo, urging upon East Indian parents the necessity of sending their girls to school, and it is only through the shortage of staff in the Department that that campaign has fallen into abeyance. But wherever possible, when an inspection is carried out, that particular point, the encouragement of East Indian parents to send their girls to school, is

always impressed upon the head teacher and the staff of the school inspected.

The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee), who is absent to-day, made the comment that if the accommodation is insufficient it would be false economy to send children to school. To a very large extent I agree with that remark. I do not propose to place before hon. Members to-day the extent to which the accommodation in the schools of this Colony is short at present. It is rather an alarming figure, but I would say this: that the actual accommodation which was available in 1931—I refer to that date because it was the year I came to the Colony, and therefore I can speak more or less with accuracy—has not been increased at all. In fact it has in many instances been reduced. Although the enrolment in 1931 was approximately 43,000 the average attendance was approximately 27,000, whereas to-day the enrolment is just over 53,000 and the average attendance well over 39,000. I cannot imagine anyone trying to overcrowd schools far beyond their normal capacity. To my mind there is only one solution to the problem, and that is to extend the accommodation either by erecting new buildings or by extending the existing buildings. I am glad to say that in this respect suggestions were put up to Government and forwarded to the Secretary of State as a result of the recommendations of the Primary Education Committee that a special vote should be put on the estimate for the purpose of meeting the very urgent cases where extensions or new buildings are required. Although the sum I suggested is not forthcoming yet a small beginning has been made, and we hope before the end of the year to provide at least half a dozen schools with some of the money they will require. The amount involved is far more than the vote, but the schools concerned will add the remainder, and I hope that in those schools which are at present in very great need of extension the work will be carried out before the end of the year or during the early part of next year.

With regard to the question raised by the hon. Member in connection with schools in outlying districts and the salaries paid to the teachers, I have always endeavoured,

and always will do so, to give every support and encouragement to those schools. The head teachers should definitely consider that the question of the staffing of their schools is one of their primary responsibilities. There are many instances I know as a result of inspection, where with some slight encouragement pupils would remain at a school and enter for the Pupil Teachers' Appointment Examination and later sit an examination which would enable them eventually to become assistant teachers in those schools. I am afraid that in a large number of schools in outlying districts the cause of the shortage of staff can only be placed at the door of the head teachers. While on the subject I may refer to the necessity and urgent need for the appointment of additional officers on the technical staff as Inspectors. We find that the increase in enrolment and average attendance is mounting by leaps and bounds, and it is impossible to carry out the minimum number of inspections and the minimum number of visits to the schools. If, for instance, we had a permanent divisional officer in Essequibo and Berbice I feel sure that a good deal of these difficulties we have to face would be overcome in a very short time.

The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Jackson, in a very able speech, the most part of which I do not propose to touch upon, beyond the fact of thanking him for the views he has expressed, referred to the school gardens as playing a very important part in the education of the children of this Colony. It is regrettable that it has been found necessary to dispense with—for the time being at any rate—the interim teachers who were employed in schools where gardens have been established. I hope that this temporary measure will in no way reduce the value of those school gardens from the agricultural point of view. It only means a slight alteration of the scheme which was drawn up and carried out throughout the school day. The practical work will continue, but when the children return to their classes they will revert to the ordinary time-table and not follow the special time table.

The hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) asked whether I considered the salaries paid to teachers

satisfactory. I think on the whole I can say "Yes." The salaries at present paid to teachers are the salaries which were recommended by the Primary Education Committee, and I think that since those salaries have been revised I have not received one serious complaint from any grade of teacher that the scale is unsatisfactory. After all it is the teachers themselves who are in a position to express an opinion.

I was very surprised, almost amazed to hear the remarks of the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Humphrys). He is a great friend of mine and we discuss education from time to time. I may say we do not as a rule agree, but I would like him to consider the question which he raised under this head, and possibly rather than reduce this vote, which is so essential to the well being and future of this country, I would suggest that that item should be brought up under the appropriate head, because as long as we have compulsory education we must go forward. So long as we have increased enrolment and average attendance we must provide, as far as we possibly can, proper accommodation and proper teaching staff.

The hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) made reference to secondary schools in Georgetown and the Colony as a whole, and I agree with all he has said, but there was one point I would like to mention which I feel plays a very important part in the failure of some of those schools to maintain themselves. I have had some experience of it and I think one of the chief reasons why a large number of these secondary schools are unable to carry on after a certain time is the difficulty to collect fees. A secondary school opens and there is an influx of candidates filling up the register very quickly. Fees are paid perhaps for the first three or four months, and then they fall into arrears. It has been my experience in one particular school, that as soon as pressure has been brought upon the parents to pay the fees regularly and to pay up the arrears, the children are removed and sent to some other private secondary school.

I also agree with the hon. Member's remarks in connection with Queen's College as far as the admission of pupils is concerned. I think it will be agreed that

there are a number of people who are very anxious and very keen to give their children a secondary education, but I often wonder whether they consider the very vital and important question: is the particular boy or girl fitted for secondary education? That is where I feel that every secondary school should definitely have a prescribed entrance examination. The principal of a secondary school should be able to advise a parent whether a particular child is likely to benefit by secondary education. That is another way in which I feel that the private secondary schools in this Colony, especially in Georgetown, would be a tremendous help to the people of this Colony if they had a definite entrance examination so as to advise parents as to whether their children would benefit by secondary education. I think I have covered all the points raised by hon. Members.

Mr. JACOB: I think we have had a very useful debate under this head yesterday and this morning. One regrettable feature was the unfortunate remarks that have fallen from the lips of the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Humphrys). I am sorry to think that an hon. Member of this Council, who ought to be well acquainted with conditions throughout the Colony, is so busy that he takes very little interest in matters of this kind. I have always had occasion to express views contrary to those of other hon. Members from time to time, and I think I expressed views contrary to those of the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara last year when he made somewhat similar remarks with regard to the Education vote.

The hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford), who is a member of the Executive Committee, made an excellent speech this morning, and was able to put his finger on the weak spot. If it had not been for the neglect—I would not say deliberate neglect—of education in this Colony during the last 20 or 30 years the position would have been very much better, and if for no other reason I am suggesting to the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara to see that point. People must be educated in order to appreciate the difference between right and wrong. There are lots of people who are like dumb driven cattle; they have to be driven by those in authority to educate them-

selves and their children. Government should take a very strong attitude in this matter, and that is why I propose that the Education Ordinance should be enforced. It can only be enforced by the Inspectors of Schools, by the teachers and by the Attendance Officers.

I was hoping to hear the Director suggest that there should be more Inspectors, and that more Attendance Officers should be appointed. It was a retrograde step to reduce the number of Attendance Officers from nine to three. I cannot understand Government adopting such an attitude and continuing it. What is the reason? I have my own opinion about it, but I leave it there for Government to supply the answer. The reason is obvious to those who consider the progress of the Colony. The population has been steadily increasing. Are we to get people and not educate them? I think it is the policy of the Colonial Office to look after education, nutrition and labour matters very carefully. I think the increase under the head Labour and Local Government should be removed and placed under Education. You cannot control people who are illiterate. Government has always done things in the wrong way. I am appealing to hon. Members to oppose all increases under Labour and Local Government, and suggest that that money be used for education or pure water supply. I think such a recommendation should be sent to the Secretary of State as the unanimous wish of this Council. When we come to that head I shall have something more to say, but I throw out the suggestion now that hon. Members may consider it.

We are told that there is no use employing additional Attendance Officers when there is no accommodation in the schools. I still believe that there is accommodation in many schools, although there is lack of accommodation in some schools. I think a sum of \$5,000 or \$6,000 could be utilized to great advantage in adding wings to certain schools, and when new schools are built they should be built in such a way as to be able to accommodate a large number of children. They should not be boarded up. In my time the school was not large enough, and in dry weather we enjoyed being outside. In appealing to Government to increase the Inspectorate and the number of Attendance Officers we

should urge on the Department to see that those officers do their work. I have been told that some of those officers do not do their work. The Director must impress upon his Inspectors that they must visit the schools and see that things are carried on in the proper way. There is no system of examination now and advancement by results, and in most schools the head teachers simply look out for the Inspector, and when he is gone they relax with the assurance that he is not returning for another year. I have been told this by teachers who are keenly interested in their work and work hard. I think a better system of supervision should be organized.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I regret that I must take up a little more of the time of the Council in dealing with those items to which the hon. Member has referred. I observed that he has not dealt with them as items but in a general speech on the head as a whole. If he took as much interest in this Council as I do, and if he took half as much interest in the people of the Colony as I do, and if he thought a little less of himself he would make a better member and a better citizen than he is.

Item "i"—Personal allowance to Mr. W. O. Fraser, Senior Clerk, \$504.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: Pursuing the suggestion I made yesterday, here is a case which should be considered by Government. This officer is drawing an aggregate sum of \$3,024, while in the case of items "b" and "c," which we have just passed, his superior officers are drawing less. I take it that Government is quite satisfied with this officer's work and that he deserves \$252 per month. Surely there is some other Department into which this officer can be drafted. There are other instances to which I will refer under another head.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): The history of this case should be well known to members of the Council. The gentleman in question, Mr. W. O. Fraser, held the post of Chief Clerk and Secretary to the Harbour Board before the amalgamation of the Transport and Harbours Department. On that amalgamation his post was abolished and he was given various posts, once in the Treasury and later in the Education Department, but he was

allowed to retain the same salary which he received before the abolition of his post. That is why the personal allowance is fixed at \$50+, to bring the salary of the post he now holds up to precisely the same figure he received in the post which he held under the Harbour Board. One of the conditions under which he has been allowed to receive that allowance is that upon the occurrence of a suitable vacancy in a higher grade he would be given promotion, and the personal allowance would, of course, cease. I agree with the hon. Member that the officer in question has great ability, and there is no doubt that at some time in the near future such a post, senior to the one he now holds, will be available to him.

Item agreed to.

SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Item 9 (2)—New school to be established in 1940, \$1,750.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to be informed when this school will be established, and if possible the site.

THE CHAIRMAN: On the right hand side of the page the hon. Member will see a note which says that the school will be established at Mackenzie City, Demerara River.

Mr. JACOB: I have seen it but I have not had sufficient time to go into the details of the estimate. I was looking here and I looked in vain for reference to the agricultural bias scheme. I do not know if it has been omitted from the estimate. I would like to know what is the present position; whether we are still training pupils and teachers, and what are the results from the expenditure during the last two years?

Mr. CREASE: With regard to the hon. Member's questions regarding the agricultural bias scheme it is not proposed next year to train a further number of teachers for the scheme, but the scheme is still functioning. There are at present 24 schools, and as I pointed out in my remarks while replying to the debate, the scheme will not function quite in the same way as it has done hitherto. The practical work will continue, but the interim

teachers employed up to the end of the year will be discontinued as a temporary measure, and the children who are engaged in this particular scheme will carry on their practical work, but will revert to the ordinary time-table when they return to school. As regards the present position of the scheme, the reports received from the Director of Agriculture still show satisfactory progress, and I may add that a member of the Department is shortly paying a visit to all those schools where these gardens have been established. Furthermore, at the schools where gardens have been established, the head teachers have been asked by the Department to co-operate in every possible way and utilize the services of the pupils in the campaign which has been launched under the ægis of the Director of Agriculture to grow more food.

Mr. JACOB: I will not say that I am disappointed in the reply. I was a strong supporter of the scheme when it was started by Sir Geoffrey Northcote, and I endeavoured to criticize it constructively and offer suggestions. I am not disappointed to hear that the whole scheme is going to be a wash out; it has happened already. One consolation is that the money has remained in the Colony and certain benefits have been derived. The scheme itself has failed and will be of no practical benefit. What amazes me is that we have Administrators coming here with good intentions and trying to do certain things, and immediately they have gone they go wrong. Sir Cecil Rodwell was very keen on peanuts and had experiments carried out at Cecelia, but when he went away the peanuts went too. Sir Geoffrey Northcote came and the agricultural bias scheme was started, but that is going too. I think something should be done to let us have real progress and continuity of purpose and policy. As things are I do not hope to see any real progress and continuity of purpose and policy except we make a change.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: Item 9 is one of the items which make up the increased expenditure under this vote, and I thought in speaking on this head I had made myself perfectly clear, but certain hon. Members have endeavoured to attribute to me an effort to reduce the Education vote. It was nothing of the sort. I asked

Government if certain other necessary services, such as the pure water supply scheme, could not be carried out by utilizing the amount by which it is proposed to increase the Education vote. Here we have an increase of \$7,200 for the employment of 20 additional Class III teachers and 20 pupil teachers as a result of the increase in average attendance of the schools. Can't we cut down something that is not so vital in order to get money to carry on vital services? I would ask Government whether it considers it more necessary to expend \$7,000 under this head and \$4,000 in respect of the Bishop's High School than to continue the pure water supply scheme in districts where it is essential. If Government and hon. Members consider that these are more essential services at a time like this than the boring of wells in districts where water is badly required then I have nothing more to say. I want to say that it is seldom that hon. Members say anything against the Education vote, and why? Let each hon. Member ask himself why. I am not going to stultify my conscience. I am moving that this vote be reduced by \$7,200 even if I stand alone, unless Government gives me some assurance that the pure water supply scheme will be carried on.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to say one word to the hon. Member. He made a personal reference to me when he sat down on the last occasion. In my constituency I do not think there is more than one teacher, and when I plead for the Education Department it is not because I am looking forward to the General Elections. No doubt the other hon. Members are able to defend themselves. It is not because I feel that I should court my constituency from my place here, but because I genuinely feel that education must be supported in the right way.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am appealing to the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Humphrys) not to press his amendment, and I throw out the suggestion to him that when we reach the estimates under Public Works Extraordinary he might then ask Government to insert a sum for the pure water supply scheme. I personally intend to press Government for all I am worth. I think it is a great pity that one of the chief assets of public health should be dis-

pensed with. If we do not get the money then the hon. Member could ask Government to recommit this item, and I am sure he would get support.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I can assure the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara that I intend to go into the Public Works vote very carefully, especially as regards the difficulties which are being experienced in connection with the supply of water in other parts of the Colony.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I accept the suggestion of the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford). If Your Excellency will allow this item to be re-committed—

THE CHAIRMAN: I can give no assurance with regard to expenditure.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: Will Your Excellency permit this item to be re-committed?

THE CHAIRMAN: Naturally, it would be debated.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I would like to point out to the hon. Member that the salaries of teachers are payable under the Code. You may delete the vote but in my opinion the teachers can claim the amount from Government. You would have to alter the law.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: The explanatory note states that there are 40 new teachers to be employed. That was what I moved the reduction of, but I am not pressing it now. I withdraw it for the moment.

Item agreed to.

Item 26—Grant to the Berbice High School for Boys, \$3,000.

Mr. JACOB: The Director of Education in his reply made reference to the secondary schools being placed on a register for increased support from Government. I think that suggestion was also mentioned by the Hon. Mr. Jackson. In view of the present state of school buildings in the Colony I think it would be a step in the right direction to grant aid not only to the three secondary schools mentioned in the estimate. I am in favour of giving the secondary schools some grant to relieve the congestion in the primary schools and educate the younger children in a more satisfactory manner.

The Committee adjourned for the luncheon recess until 2 p.m.

2 p.m.—

The Committee resumed.

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequebo River) attended.

Item 29—Grant to the Bishop's High School for Girls, \$4,000.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I was hoping to hear some pronouncement from Government on this item. It would be remembered that a debate took place not very long ago on this matter when it was stated, that the increased amount was based upon an estimate submitted by the authorities of this school and further that later on Government would receive a complete statement of the account and presumably further estimates in respect of this grant year by year. I do hope to hear that Government has received a statement in respect of last year, because the debate took place in respect of the school year October, 1938, to September, 1939, which has passed. I also hope to hear that everything in that statement was found to be in order, in which case I would have nothing more to say.

It would be remembered that one of the main reasons I had for challenging the item was, that it was my opinion the sum asked for was not only in excess of the school's requirement but this Government should not be asked to contribute to the school. I had hoped that the arguments I adduced then were sufficient to convince Government on that score, but having failed to do so I am still of the opinion that taking all the circumstances into account the grant is too much. I shall, however, await the opportunity to see the complete statement before making further remarks on it.

While I am on my feet, I may be permitted to make reference to the question of secondary education generally. It was referred to by certain hon. Members this morning while speaking on this head. I desire mainly to point out what I had done before, that it would be a positive danger for this Government to contribute public funds by way of assistance to private secondary schools in the Colony. I was of that opinion for a long time and still am. I do not share the views of hon. Members that this school is run at a loss.

I am more inclined to the view, and there are facts to support it, that it is run at a profit. That being so, I would never at any time support any proposal of that kind.

I would also like to remind hon. Members when speaking of granting assistance here and there for this purpose, that Government had under consideration for some time a proposal to enlarge Queen's College, but had not been able to do anything in the matter, and we know why. If we were to go on increasing the grants to various private schools in the Colony, when the time comes that Queen's College is put on a footing to be able to provide sufficient accommodation to take care of all the secondary education required, it would be found extremely difficult at that stage to say to these private schools: "We have no more use for you now, and the assistance given over the past few years will be discontinued." While I agree that Government should assist as far as it can in the way of secondary education, yet it is something that should be proceeded with very carefully indeed.

Another point I did not hear any hon. Member touch upon is whether any further applications were received by Government for assistance. I do not know whose case they were championing, but I know of no application for assistance coming from a secondary school run by a private individual in Georgetown. If the remarks were made with the view of suggesting that later on those persons may send in applications, then it seems to me that we are approaching the subject from the wrong end. I would like to hear something in reply to the remarks I have made on this item.

Mr. JACOB: I do not intend to say very much. Before the adjournment I supported the idea, as stated by the hon. Director of Education and my hon. friend on my left (Mr. Jackson), that it would be a good thing for Government to increase the grants to secondary schools which have reached a certain standard. I think my friend, the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar), has been a little illogical in his contention. It will be seen from the Estimates that the Berbice High Schools for Boys and Girls are receiving grants, and also the Bishop's

High School for Girls. I think there are other secondary schools in the Colony which are almost up to the standard of any of those schools which have been named, and there are even some in Georgetown at the present time which are above the standard of those schools. I say that without fear of valid contradiction. If results are to be taken into account, then my statement is absolutely correct. My hon. friend, the Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar), seems to believe that I am wrong.

Mr. ELEAZAR (sotto voce): I know you are wrong.

Mr. JACOB: If the hon. Member follow the reports of the results of secondary education examinations he would see that several schools in Georgetown produce better results in some cases than Queen's College. I am, however, not saying that to show that Queen's College is not doing well, but to show that there are other secondary schools which are also doing very good work and should be helped. Government has neglected primary education for many years and still cannot find enough to spend on it. Apart from assisting secondary schools I would like to go further and say that adult education in some form should be encouraged in this Colony. The British Guiana East Indian Association has been recommending some scheme for adult education for the last five years, and Government knows of it.

The CHAIRMAN: I have allowed the hon. Member a little latitude on the matter. He must get back to the item.

Mr. JACOB: I think I am in order in speaking on secondary education.

THE CHAIRMAN: Not adult education.

Mr. JACOB: I do think that secondary education should be encouraged. We have not had all the facts and, probably, the hon. Director of Education would tell us something more about it. In addition I seriously recommend that some scheme for adult education be also introduced.

Mr. CREASE: In replying to the questions raised by the hon. Member for Central Demerara in respect of the finan-

cial statement referred to in connection with the Bishop's High School for Girls, I thought I had made it quite clear that the statement, which was put before this Council when the increased grant was applied for, was only an estimate and any financial statement for the year under review—that is 1939—cannot be forthcoming until the year is completed. I may add for the information of the hon. Member, that the Board of Governors, when they were informed that this increased grant had been approved, were instructed to submit to Government a financial statement which must be audited by a recognised auditor. With regard to the grant which he referred to, I was under the impression that the increase had been already passed by this Council. I do not propose to make any further comment on that.

With respect to the remarks made by the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob), I am afraid that like my predecessor in this Council I am rather in a state of confusion on the question of grants for private secondary schools. There has been so much mentioned to-day in this Council, that all I can say in reply to that is this: Any secondary school here which desires to apply to Government for a grant can do so. There is no reason why it cannot. Some schools have done so. If they can fulfil all the requirements in connection with grants to secondary schools their applications should be forwarded to Government for consideration.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I would like to add one word to that. I would like to remind the hon. Director of Education that what was passed in this Council was the vote in respect of the year 1939. We are now considering the Estimates for 1940, and it is competent for any hon. Member not only to raise the question but to move the deletion or reduction of an item if that Member receives support. I mention that because I would not like the hon. Director of Education to leave this Chamber to-day feeling that the grant to the Bishop's High School or any school will remain perpetually at the figure in the Estimates of any year. The hon. Director would know, that as the result of a debate some time ago the grant to one school was deleted. I merely mention that to show

that it is the right of a Member to raise the question.

With regard to the question of accounts, I must confess a certain amount of disappointment in the reply. I can hardly conceive a school of that kind being run for all these years without some form of books of accounts being kept. As a matter of fact I have been privately informed that there are books kept in connection with this school. If that is so, why would not the authorities of this school lay their books open for the inspection of Government?

Mr. ELEAZAR (sotto voce): Government has no business with it.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I say Government has every right, for the reason that this Government is called upon to contribute public money to it. If no public money was involved, I would have nothing to say about it. So long as public money is involved I claim the right and privilege to challenge any item which, in my opinion, does not fall within the category of proper expenditure of public money. I am satisfied that the increase of the grant to this school is not necessary. On the last occasion I challenged several items on the estimate that was submitted, but Government apparently took the opposite view. What I wanted to know, was whether in truth and fact that money is being spent, and whether the several items are going to appear in respect of 1940. I have examined those accounts, and, apart from the question of fees charged which I would not raise to-day as that is a matter for the Board of Governors and Government, I was not satisfied that the amount of fees put down as received was correct, no more than that some of the items put down as expenditure were of a recurrent nature. That statement formed the basis of the application for the increased contribution, and that is the principle I am trying to protect. If they had put up a case which, in my opinion, warranted the increased grant I would not have opposed it at all. It is because they did not make out a case. The basis on which they presented the case to Government represented an increased grant of \$4,000, but in my opinion the amount should be at the outside \$3,000, and that is the view I am taking of the matter. I am going to sug-

gest in all sincerity, that if Government is not now in possession of the account and if there is no possible chance of obtaining it to-day, this particular item may be deferred until a later date. I do want to impress upon Government the necessity of being careful in making this contribution or grant and of being satisfied that the money is being spent in the direction for which it is required.

Mr. JACOB: I make no apology for rising again to speak on this very important subject. I agree in principle with the remarks of the hon. Member for Central Demerara that so long as public funds are given to any institution, the accounts should be open to inspection by the public or Members of the Legislature. That goes without saying. We have the right to enquire and see that the money given is properly spent. While I do not want to say anything about the Bishop's High School, I do consider the fees charged there are exorbitant. They are far higher than the fees at Queen's College where in addition to reduced fees the public get more benefit. Apart from that, I am sorry I cannot follow the remarks of the hon. Member for Central Demerara. Queen's College as a school for boys is being run by Government and, I think, is costing Government quite a huge sum of money after taking into account the revenue received from the College. If you were to make a comparison with the education provided for girls, it would be found that Government is not paying half what it would have to pay if an independent school was not being carried on for the education of girls. Likewise I submit that if the pupils at Queen's College are increased three or four times the present number, it would cost the taxpayers a lot more money to run Queen's College. I think it is very economical on the part of Government to give to ordinary private enterprise—schools which have reached a certain standard—grants for aiding in the secondary education of this Colony, far more than to have Queen's College with two or three times more pupils if this school is closed. These private secondary schools do very great service. I am not pleading for any particular school but, I think, if hon. Members go into the question a little more carefully some of the opposition raised here would not be in the future.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member for Central Demerara is perfectly correct in saying that this item can be reduced or deleted. I think what the hon. Director of Education meant is that so recently, not a question of months but only a few days ago, the Council had this question of increasing the grant to the Bishop's High School before it, and certainly Government is not in possession of any more facts now than at that time. I thought it was made perfectly clear then, that the vote was not only required for 1939 but certainly for 1940 too. There is no further information to be laid before the Council. I am surprised to hear from hon. Members that there are books in existence from which figures can be obtained which would be of assistance, because when the matter first came to Government I had a conversation with the Chairman of the Board, who assured me that everything was placed before Government that possibly could be placed. I would be very grateful to the hon. Member to refer me to the person who told him about the books, so that we can get the books and collect the information desired. This matter was debated only a few days ago, and I would suggest that the hon. Member move either the deletion or the reduction of the vote and let it be put to the Council.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I do not propose to move the deletion of the vote at all. My concern is that I think the amount is too much. I was hoping that Government would have accepted the suggestion that the item should stand down for the purpose of making enquiry in the light of the information I have just given. It is no good my moving the reduction or deletion of the item, because the matter on which my argument is based is not before the Council. If I had the accounts in front of me I would be able to proceed with the argument and convince those logical Members that the facts I have stated are correct, that the assistance required from Government by the school is not \$4,000 but \$3,000. I was hoping to prove the case by the production of the accounts. I know that the school has account books, but I do not propose to proceed further.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I beg to move that the question be now put.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item passed.

Item 31—British Guiana Scholarship, \$5,174.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: May I ask Government, if it is proposed to allow successful candidates the chance of proceeding to England for studies when it seems more congenial to them to pursue such studies?

Mr. ELEAZAR: The hon. Member has asked whether a candidate who has won the Scholarship can defer leaving the country during the present state of war. In such an eventuality I should think that if a candidate applies to Government the Governor-in-Council would not object. I do not see that the matter comes under this head, but I suppose he wants to give an inkling that the winner of the Scholarship may want to save his skin.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: It is not a matter of saving one's skin. There is the possibility of a candidate getting over there and desiring to join up, which he is likely to do.

Item 32—Scholarships to Secondary Schools, \$6,782.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the item be carried out at \$7,198. I do so because instead of 66 Government Scholarships there should be 78 in 1940, as that would give effect to a motion moved by the hon. Member for Central Demerara a short time ago and passed by this Council. If the item is passed the vote for the head would be \$544,491.

Mr. JACOB: I am sorry the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) is not present. He had tabled a motion which came before the Council on July 26 and was withdrawn. I think he was given some undertaking—I am speaking subject to correction—that the number of Government Junior Scholarships would be increased. That motion read:—

Whereas the withdrawal of the Mitchell Scholarship from competition has left a want for children who develop later in their years;

And whereas it would materially assist in keener competition for an intermediate scholarship before the British Guiana Scholarship is competed for;

And whereas there is only one Government Junior Scholarship awarded for competition among Secondary schools:

Be it Resolved,—That this Council approves of provision being made for implementing the number of junior scholarships on the results of the Junior Cambridge Local Examination:—

- (a) Two scholarships, one for a boy and one for a girl on the same conditions as the present Government Junior Scholarship;
- (b) Four other scholarships, two for boys and two for girls who are next in order of merit to be granted free tuition in any secondary school recognised by Government for a period of four years, and that provision be made by the Government to give effect to this resolution.

I understood from my hon. friend that the number of Government Junior Scholarships would have been increased at least to six. I do not know whether I have been informed correctly, and I shall be glad to hear the true state of affairs.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That resolution was not proceeded with. The hon. Member had spoken to me on the subject, and I understood that he did not wish it to be put on the Order Paper.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to say that no assurance was given to the hon. Member. His attention was drawn to the other motion with regard to the Primary Scholarships and, I understand, as the result of that he withdrew his motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item passed.

FIRE PROTECTION.

Item 25—Improvements to Fire Fighting Equipment, \$16,400.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move the insertion of a new item—“25—Improvements to Fire Fighting Equipment, \$16,400.” During the year a vote of \$8,000 was passed on a supplementary estimate. That was a portion of a sum of \$24,400 recommended by a Committee to be spent on improving the fire equipment of the Georgetown Fire Brigade. The amount of \$16,400 which is now being moved and the previous vote of \$8,000 make a total of \$24,400. There will be received in revenue the sum of \$8,134 from the Town Council and the sum of \$7,500 from the two Fire Insurance

companies. Government's share of the expenditure will therefore be only \$8,766.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item passed.

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: Would Government give us any information in regard to the progress or otherwise of the wood-pulp scheme which had been put up by Mr. Evan Wong?

Mr. JACOB: I have an idea that this Department was endeavouring to cure certain kinds of lumber for the local market with the view of creating an export trade. Perhaps that may be explained. I would like it to be placed on record that during the present year Great Britain thought it necessary to enter into a trade pact with Russia, which was signed in September, for the supply of timber, and our ships are to go to Russia to remove that timber. There may be some explanation about that, but I do think this Colony should be of greater assistance, in fact more assistance, to the Mother Country than Russia. We have been talking here and have had all kinds of surveys made. It has been well established that we can supply very many kinds of timber, but it is only a question of capital to put up the necessary mills and curing plants so that we can do that. I do urge that the matter be taken up with the view of being a help to the Mother Country and other British Possessions.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests): In regard to the wood-pulp scheme, I think hon. Members would appreciate that from the financing point of view of interesting capital in the scheme and also from the point of view of the great deal of chemical research required, it is and has been in private hands and, although I have followed the results obtained in very close collaboration with Mr. Evan Wong, I am not prepared to discuss that particular aspect of the scheme except in a general way. But I am glad to take this opportunity of discussing this wood-pulp scheme from the point of view of the forest end of it and the point of view of the effect which I and everybody hope it would have on the Colony if it is successful. It is not a new scheme. When the Forest Department came out here originally, one of the

first functions it had to perform was to find out what the forest consisted of. It undertook fundamental work in finding out what could be done by private enterprise if put in the way of doing it. Almost the first thing apparent was the necessary condition in regard to the supply of raw material, the cheapness of raw material, the extractability of that supply in certain parts of the Colony in regard to wood-pulp. The question then was whether the timbers which occurred in that quantity were suitable for making wood-pulp, and as fundamental routine work we set to work to have general tests made on those timbers which occurred in sufficient quantities as to be of some importance from the point of view of a scheme like that. Wallaba was the obvious one. It has a very great advantage over the pulp-wood obtained in other parts of the world. I have no figures in front of me, but I can give you a close approximation out of my mind.

You can actually buy a supply of wallaba wood in Georgetown at a cost per cord a little more than half the actual cost of wood delivered to paper-mills in Canada. We therefore start off with a big initial advantage which is somewhat unpopular in other parts of the world. Wallaba tests made gave reasonable promise, nothing so exciting as to get anybody greatly interested but sufficient promise as to encourage one to carry on. By our routine test wallaba contains eight per cent. of a gum which contains a red dye. To eliminate that dye from the pulp you have to bleach it and the cost of bleaching is almost prohibitive. From that point independent tests have to be made by private interests, and the question was taken up privately. We could not do that as we would have had to start off by spending £250,000 for a plant and a team of experts. Private enterprise took it up and employed research chemists to work on it. The cost of bleaching was very great until the experts devised a means of eliminating that dye, when at once the cost came down with a rush. The question of cost arises favourably in some quarters and unfavourably in others. I can say no more about that side of the question, except that the research chemists in England can now produce a definitely high grade paper from wallaba, and the cost which has been worked out with great

care is said to be very favourable. Independent research has been also carried out in the United States of America, which has produced under the same process a better paper they claim, but is certainly a cross check on the work done in England. It is just a little dangerous to take the advice of experts who are also in the business, so I cannot say anything more about that.

The Forest Department did the fundamental work and drew attention to the possibility of this thing, and it was taken up by private enterprise to carry on. All the Forest Department did since then was to keep in close collaboration. It can give definite authoritative facts which are necessary. When the seller goes into the market the buyer does not always believe what he says about his goods. We are in a position, if he says an area has so many million tons, to check that up. There is a valuation map, there are field books. Trees are counted and entered. There can be no question as to whether a thing is correct or not. We also help by obtaining authentic samples. There is always the possibility of someone wanting to sell timber for pulp. People who are going to invest or risk very large sums of money check up on these things, and from the information obtained by the Department an independent check can be made. The matter is otherwise in private hands and I can hardly discuss the results obtained with private money.

One other phase where the Department comes in is that we do not want, if an industry like that is started, to have all the wallaba swept down and none grown back. While the industry is continuing, the wallaba is being replaced. It is not something like a goldmine where after you have worked it out you leave a hole. The Forest Department works on the method of allowing people to get the wallaba in a way economical but also in a way of replacing the supply. We have been working on that for the last three years. There is also the alternative of exchanging wallaba for bamboo later on. That question was challenged in England when the possibility was mooted by me, and if we are challenged any more we would be in a position to take anybody to Mazaruni on typical soil and show bamboo plants whose growth is more than in India. In other

words all we can do now is to back up private enterprise, particularly in furnishing them with facts.

There is one little point I may mention without giving away any secret, because I think it will interest the Council. This matter came prominently before the public eye when Mr. Evan Wong brought it up before the Royal Commission. They wished to hear him on it, and he very naturally asked that he be heard *in camera*. There were views as regards cost, organisation etc. to be put, which could obviously only be done *in camera*. I went through his evidence with him, and before he gave it he asked me to turn up and sit by him at the Commission so that questions asked, which were perhaps easier for me to give the answer than for him to say out of his head, I would answer. Also at his request I remained for the *in camera* session. I do not propose to discuss what took place, but it turned out that a member of the Royal Commission had big paper interests. The Royal Commission had read, I forget how many memoranda up to that day and I forget how many schemes, but there was a general air of politely bored interest about the whole proceedings. The first question asked *in camera* was: "Have you made any paper?" Mr. Evan Wong replied "Yes," and he was next asked: "Have you any samples?" He said: "Yes, this and this." The Paper Expert crossed to the Economist in a bored way, took up one of the samples and exclaimed: "This is thundering good paper!" An electrical change came over the proceedings, and after that the examination became extremely rigid and Mr. Evan Wong came through with flying colours. I do believe that if capital is obtained and this scheme is got working it would mean a big thing for the Colony. It would use a tremendous amount of split wallaba wood and has to be kept supplied all the while thereby making an outlet for labour. The wage paid in that industry is a living one, and that would make a big difference in the labour situation in the Colony. The position at the moment is the difficulty of raising capital, and that difficulty may definitely continue. If you go to a paper industry that has been established for a great many years and produce a proposition by which on carefully worked out costs you can produce paper and make a profit below the cost of that industry, that indus-

try would not always be anxious to help you to get on the job and there would continue to be difficulties in raising the capital. I do believe, however, that the proposition, as it is called in commercial jargon, is a very good one.

The hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) raised the question of timber curing and the question of Russian timber. I will not be long over the Russian timber story. The Russo-British timber agreement was rushed through not so much to supply timber to Great Britain throughout the War but in order that enormous accumulated stocks in the White Sea ports could be got out before the White Sea became frozen. That is the reason why the agreement went through so quickly. What I must point out is that all that timber is known in trade as softwood, an entirely different branch of trade, and is put to an entirely different use in Europe than the hardwood as produced in the Tropics. Our woods out here are not a substitute for that in temperate countries. Our woods are more suitable for furniture, joinery and heavy construction works. All the Northern timbers—those of Russia, Sweden, Finland—put on the Eastern ports of England are sold in big lots at prices which are less than the freight from here to England, and I do not look for any outlet in England for ordinary cheap building timbers from this Colony, but what I do look for is a great expansion of our timber trade with the West Indian Islands. At the moment the sawmill industry out here is behind a great tariff wall which is absolutely unclimbable. It is also in the position of being able at a profit to undersell pitch pine in the Islands. Out here we import boards from the United States and Canada but frame our buildings with greenheart, while in the Islands they not only use boards from the States but frame their houses with pitch pine. Carpenters in the Islands are not going to like to frame with greenheart, but that cannot be said about pitch pine. Our greenheart should be put on the market in the Islands and could undersell pitch pine at the present time at a profit.

When war broke out and it was quite obvious that there was going to be difficulty in obtaining timber from Canada and the United States, this Government addressed the Administrators of the differ-

ent Islands pointing out the position and suggesting that they should endeavour to obtain timber from us rather than from the United States. As a result two orders have already come in from the Northern Islands and an enquiry from Trinidad. I hope to see more orders coming in.

As regards curing timber for local purposes, the hon. Member who raised the question has only just returned from holiday abroad. \$30,000 has been voted for that purpose in order to keep the Public Works Department supplied with local timber so that they would have no need to import. The position in regard to that is that we are ready to start. We have called for tenders, and we have 197,000 board feet of timber which the Forest Department would season and which would be used by the Public Works Department who would pay the actual cost, and with that money more wood would be bought. The Public Works Department will next year be entirely independent of any form of imported boards. Leaving Determa out, we have 150,000 board feet of Crabwood and to my surprise the cost work out at the figure of 6.675 cents per board foot, and it is not going to cost more than a half cent to season. We hope to get real good quality and seasoned boards at a final cost of just over seven cents. Our estimate for seasoning compares very closely with estimates given us that the sawmills offer to do it for us under our supervision.

Mr. JACOB: I am grateful for the speech made by the hon. Conservator of Forests in reply to questions raised by the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) and myself. I hope I understood the hon. Conservator correctly. How is it that the selling price of timber from Russia, Sweden and Finland could be equal to the freight from British Guiana to the United Kingdom? I understand capital has been made all the time of this fact that the cost of labour in European countries is always higher than the cost of labour in countries like British Guiana. If, therefore, the freight rate alone is higher than that from Russia to Great Britain, then something is wrong somewhere. I would be glad if the hon. Conservator would consider that aspect of it. As a matter of fact we are exporters of other raw materials to Great Britain, and I cannot imagine that

the freight rate can be so exorbitant in regard to timber. As regards soft woods, I do not know whether Determa cannot be had in large quantities, but Crabwood can be had in large quantities and may be exported to Europe in large quantities. There is great scope for the industry in that direction. We are spending money year after year on it and we are getting data, but I do think that something more ought to be done especially in regard to trade with the United Kingdom where we have a regular steamship service.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: The hon. Member anticipated me in thanking the hon. Conservator for the valuable information he has given us. My interest in the wood-pulp question is merely for the purpose of creating employment, and I am extremely grateful to hear from the hon. Conservator of Forests that the scheme will be of considerable import to the employment question, which is so pressing at the present moment in this Colony.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot say that I have not heard a learned dissertation on paper-pulp and paper-making. I am not a paper expert and do not want to be one, but what I do know is that the day for making paper here has not yet arrived. These things do not recur in a life-time. I had the pleasure not of reading nor being informed, but of seeing paper made in this country. There was a mill at Bel Air and another at Nonpareil, but those mills were run by a German, Mr. Van de Gaza. It appears, looking back now, that they found it more profitable to use megass for fuel than to convert it into paper. That was a reason assigned for the industry going out of existence. We are not going to get it again, as Germany cannot afford to give us any of her scientific men, and we do not want them even if we can get them, and the Jews, who may give us the opportunity to do so, are not coming any more.

It is with the Forest Department I am concerned. I want to know if we are getting value for the expenditure under this Head. I think, from the nature of the work done by that Department we are wasting the ability of an able Government Official. The hon. Conservator of Forests is one of the ablest Government Officers who have come to this Colony, but we can

very well save that \$30,000 for curing wood and utilize it in the sinking of artesian wells, or in doing something else. To encourage the private people who are curing wood now to continue under the supervision of the Department would cost us less than \$30,000. It is my intention to ask for the deletion of the Head except the first item, which I will have to put somewhere else and therefore there is no use doing that.

Item 1(c)—2 Assistant Conservators of Forests (\$2,160 to \$3,744 by \$120), \$5,734.

Mr. WOOD: While I welcome heartily the suggestion by the hon. Member for Berbice River, I must move an amendment to this item otherwise one of my officers would be deprived of \$4. One officer was recently transferred here and there was a mistake in the date of his increment by a few days, I would rather get that \$4 now than fight for it on a supplementary estimate next December. I move that the item be carried out at \$5,738.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item as amended passed.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

Item 1(f)—8 Officers, \$3,702.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I understand that Government is to increase the number of these officers at some stage, but, if Government is not so inclined at the present moment, I beg to call Government's attention to the fact that this staff is really a skeleton one and the working hours of the various officers concerned are of a lengthy duration. Their life is monotonous and, perhaps, not one which is applicable generally to the whole Civil Service. With regard to the travelling of these officers, I do not know whether they are entitled to free passes when travelling to Georgetown on matters of business, private or otherwise, as in the case of the officers of certain other institutions. A little facility like that may relieve the monotony of those engaged there.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: With regard to travelling, if an officer comes to Georgetown on duty he is paid his travelling expenses under Item 2 of the Head. As regards the number of officers, I think

the hon. Member said he understood Government intended to increase it. I am not aware of that. It is a fair number of officers, considering the number of boys at the school. I have not the latest figures with me, but I have a note here that on December 31, 1938, there were 52 boys at the school. Apart from the eight Junior Officers there are a Schoolmaster, an Assistant Schoolmaster and a Chief Officer.

Mr. JACOB: Am I to understand that \$17,379 is being paid for the supervision and control of 52 boys? Is that all?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The latest figures show that on December 31, 1938, there were 52 boys at the school.

Mr. JACOB: I wonder if my hon. friends think this expenditure should be increased. I think this Industrial School should be closed. I say that feelingly. I do not know whether the Colony gets value for the expenditure. At one time certain people said it turned out the best people in the Colony. My idea is that most of the boys from that school are no better off than when they went there; I think the Police records show that. When the school was being re-organised I had an idea that it would be done with the view of taking care of a large number of delinquents. I do not think, however, that \$17,000 should be spent for taking care of only 52 boys. I recommend that the matter be carefully gone into and better use made of the time of the officers. My hon. friend said their work is monotonous and they should be given free passages to Georgetown. I do not think this Colony can afford to employ people who cannot spend the whole of their time in the service of Government. Perhaps Government can reduce the number of officers at the school and find employment for them elsewhere. I know the institution is of use to Essequibo and to those employed there, but at a time like this money should be carefully watched and devoted to a better purpose.

Mr. JACKSON: I do not know whether the hon. Member for North Western District is suggesting that delinquents may be manufactured so as to have a large number of boys at the school at Underneeming. My own view of the matter is that very good

work is being done there. I have had the opportunity of visiting the school since the new headmaster has been appointed, and I am positive that the manner in which he has entered upon his duties and the care and attention that he is paying to the boys must have a corrective influence upon them and be effective in the long run. He seems to understand real industrial school work; while he exercises control over the boys, he makes them to understand that his duty is to do the best for them, and to reform them. I think under those conditions the money spent on the school is well spent. We cannot always look for results in dollars and cents, and I feel sure that under the able mastership of the present individual who fills that office the Onderneeming institution is receiving very good attention and the results, I am sure, will be phenomenal.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not wish to take up much time in discussing this matter, but the hon. Member for North Western District has not directed his attention to items 4 to 13, otherwise he would have observed that the idea is not to spend money for the love of the people there employed but to do everything that is possible to reclaim those delinquent boys before they become hardened criminals. The school is doing good work. They have a bakery producing bread which is used in the institution and the Suddie Hospital, and the boys become bakers while they are there. Others work on the farm and there learn to be useful men. It is a useful institution and has the possibility of doing good work. That is being done in every civilized community. I do not see anything extraordinary there that we can reduce and make a saving on. That being the case, this amount is the very minimum that can be spent and I do not think it is too much money for what we expect and hope to receive, provided those officers do their work in a satisfactory manner. I do not think the hon. Member is serious in raising the question.

Mr. JACOB: I hope I am not misunderstood. I am not saying that this institution is not doing good work, but I do urge that fourteen persons are employed there to look after 52 boys and therefore something can be done to reduce the number of employees. My remarks are based particularly on what fell from the

lips of the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight). He said the officers feel it very monotonous to be there. Perhaps, that is due to their services being not fully occupied. I merely ask for an investigation.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I think I may offer a little assistance on what is evidently operating in the mind of the hon. Member for North Western District. The fact of the matter is that this institution was for a considerable time under the care and management of an officer, who himself would admit, he was not a probation officer or one accustomed to undertake the job which is at present being done by a very able man. What has really happened is this: The personnel of the institution has remained at its present figure because any Magistrate, who has to deal with cases of potential candidates to this institution, often hesitates to send them there, though their lot is no better off if they remain in Georgetown and the Probation Officer exercises some supervision over them. I have been present in Court and have discussed the problem of boys who are recurring decimals with the Probation Officer and the Magistrate. In most cases they are either flogged or sent to the Onderneeming School. The Attorney-General's office has a large file dealing with the subject. I am quite sure the number can be increased and with benefit to the situation in Georgetown. It is a noticeable fact that you cannot walk about Georgetown unless you meet with a lot of juvenile offenders, who ought to be at the Onderneeming School if it is going to be as the Superintendent intends to make it. He is the only Government Officer within recent years who has approached Government and asked for something to do. He is an enthusiast, and for a little while he was beginning to lose heart because he had not the boys or equipment or personnel to do what he desired. Anyone who comes into contact with that officer will be very greatly impressed with his credentials and fitness for the job.

What I want to say is this: The Police Department should do their duty to the community in the sense that they should bring before the Magistrate the large number of wastrels, who ought to be sent to the Onderneeming School instead of being allowed to remain in Georgetown and become thieves

and wharfrats to the destruction of their morals and a loss to the community. All the mythical crimes of the Cinema are absorbed by them. How they find their way to the Cinema, I do not understand, but they get in there. Some are encouraged by some people in the community, others have no homes and sleep on the bridges of shops or under houses. If all these youths were collected together and sent to the Onderneeming School, I am sure, Georgetown would be well rid of a very persistent evil. They are a great danger to other young fellows who are growing up.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I am very surprised to hear the outcry from the hon. Member for North Western District, after his observations on the vote for Education and his suggestion for the institution of adult education. I may refer him for his own perusal to several of the books and writings by editors in relation to modern methods in dealing with juvenile crimes and he will there see that there is the necessity for such an institution like this. Lastly I would ask him if he has not already visited the institution to do so, as it might be of some interest and edification to him.

Item 11—Lime Factory, \$600.

Mr. LEE: Last year there was voted \$1,200, and this year the amount is to be only \$600. I would like to find out what is the revenue Government collects from citrus oil manufactured at this institution.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member thinks it is important to have the details, he may ask the hon. Colonial Secretary in his office and he will be only too glad to give the information.

Mr. LEE: A reduction from \$1,200 to \$600 will cause the citrus cultivation to get into a bad state. If the reduction is only for the purpose of making a saving, then it is false economy.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like to refer the hon. Member to the fact that the actual expenditure in 1938 was only \$537, and it is possible that in 1939 an over-estimate was submitted.

LABOUR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am going to ask

Government to consider the advisability of withdrawing at this time all these new appointments from the Estimates. I refer particularly to the posts of Industrial Adviser and Inspector of Labour. I am not conversant with the duties of an Industrial Adviser. I do not know whether it is the intention of Government to get another officer and create another post to deal with industries in general. We have been told over and over again that only two industries can thrive in this Colony and are worth thinking of. Those industries are Sugar and Rice. Sugar can well take care of itself, although this Department will try to take care of it. Rice was not built up by any Advisory Committee, or Department, or by anybody except the ordinary labouring man in the field. I do not say that man does not need some advice and assistance, but it should be given through the officers of the Agricultural Department. At a time like this Government is going to appoint a particular individual and call him an Industrial Adviser. I am fully aware of the fact that with the advent of the Royal Commission to this Colony certain members of that Commission, with the very best intention but forgetting that they were in a country in which the conditions were vastly different to those in the United Kingdom, propounded certain theories which the local man ought to know were not workable. If they had remained here for a little longer period they would have seen that those theories could not work. Is it fair for this Government, though knowing that conditions do not warrant those theories, to pander to the suggestion which those Commissioners have tried to adumbrate?

Take the appointment of an Inspector of Labour. Your Excellency knows very well that there has been a wave of dissatisfaction passing through the West Indies during this year and also last year. Some people here took it into their heads to fan the flame and cause some trouble, which we hope not to see again. Appointing this officer now is, as it were, closing the stable door after the horse is out. It is legislating for something that does not exist and at a time when we cannot afford the money involved. There is no one, no matter where he comes from, who can do more in dealing with labour on the sugar estates than the sugar planters. If the Manager

of any estate cannot talk to a labourer and get him to reason, what will be the use of having a Labour Expert as his word is not going to be taken. It is going to be thought that he is in liege with the Authorities. Now and again we have had a labour flare up, one taking place at Pln. Lusignan and another at Pln. Rosehall, although we had at the time an Immigration Agent General. We have not a sufficient number of Elected Members present to oppose Government successfully, if I intend to press for the deletion of this post, and I am appealing, therefore, to Government that the appointment is new and unnecessary, especially when Government has found it necessary to curtail expenditure in the direction of Pure Water Supply and Roads Reconstruction, which are necessary establishments. I do not see any justification for the appointment. Who is the Industrial Adviser going to advise—Government? Who are the labourers he is going to protect? Capital and Labour will always wrangle, but cannot do without each other. There will always be differences of opinion between Capital and Labour, which differences have always been met in the past. This is an attempt to revive or reanimate the Crosby system. We do not want it. I suppose I will be given some reason in reply for the appointment of these officers, but I am going to move the deletion of these new appointments, and ask Government not to look upon it as an attempt on my part to be truculent. I wish to help Government.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I intend to make a suggestion to this Council. It is this: In view of all that has passed in the debate on the Estimates under the Heads where increases were proposed—the Medical Services, the Public Works and this Head—consideration of those items challenged be postponed to next week, so that we may be able to get ahead with the other items which have no increases.

Mr. SEAFORD: Whether consideration is postponed or not, I will never agree to the deletion of these items. I agree with a lot of what the hon Member for Berbice River has said, and I disagree also with a lot that he has said. He took us back many years to what happened in the time of Crosby, but one point he lost sight of, and that is, in the days of Crosby we had not in this

Colony the Labour Unions and Trade Unions which we have to-day. Those are institutions which have only just been born. In a country like this where we have Trade Unions, which we welcome, however, if run on proper lines, and where those at the head of those Unions do not understand the proper running of them, I think it is only right and proper that Government should employ an officer who knows how those institutions should be run. I think it would be to the advantage of the labourers themselves that those Trade Unions should be run on the very best possible lines and to the benefit of all concerned. I think it would be a retrograde step for Government not to make the greatest effort to help those Trade Unions to be run on the best lines. I am against the deletion of the items.

Mr. ELEAZAR: With your permission, as the result of the argument adduced by the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford), I withdraw my opposition.

Mr. LEE: If the hon. Member for Georgetown North is correct in his view, I heartily support it. Why, however, must this officer be placed above the line? Officers have come out under contract, and some have proved successful and some otherwise. I think that in the best interest of this Colony this officer should come out under contract for a number of years, and if during that period he proves himself worthy then he may be appointed permanently and placed above the line. Supposing this officer is appointed permanently from the outset and he proves a failure, what would Government do? Trade Unions are in their infancy in this Colony, and it will take a number of years to educate the people in the running of their Trade Unions on proper lines. An officer from abroad can not teach these people to change their ways and, therefore, why engage such an officer who is not going to make the project a success? It is a brilliant idea to have such an officer, and I would welcome the appointment if the Labour Party in England is going to make the choice. It was promised to the Trade Unions in this Colony that an officer would be selected and sent out here.

What I would like to draw Government's attention to, however, is this: The District Administration Rules and Regulations are

being changed, and in that we are making a step in the advancement of self-government, but I would like to ask that provision be made for the District Commissioner to attend a meeting of the proprietors of his district and let them elect from among their number those whom they would like to serve them on the Local Authority, thereby providing Government with a panel from which to appoint Councillors. It has been proved that the appointments made by Government to the Local Authorities through the recommendation of someone or other were not always in the best interest of the Local Authorities. Those Nominated Councillors have been found to be grinding their own axe in the administration of the Authority. As the scheme is to teach the people to govern themselves, I would ask Government to amend the regulations as suggested.

As regards the appointment of an Industrial Adviser, I do admit that it is necessary to have an expert in this Colony to look after the industries of this Colony, but where is the finance to develop those industries? It would be a waste of time to have an adviser if you have not the money to develop the industries along the lines as advised.

Mr. SEAFORD: Hon. Members of this Council must have heard what a wonderful success the Industrial Adviser has proved to be in Trinidad, where he has been over a year.

Mr. JACOB: I am glad to know that the opposition by the hon. Member for Berbice River is withdrawn. I was of the opinion that it was not necessary at this stage to have an Industrial Adviser, and that it should be left in the hands of Government to say whether he should be here early next year or later. I am opposed to increasing the personnel of Government but, I think, another officer may do well for the present.

I desire to support the recommendation of the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) as regards the appointment by Government of Nominated Councillors on Local Authorities. I recommend that the ratepayers be asked to select suitable candidates and a panel submitted to Government, so that those in whom the people have confidence will be

appointed by Government and thereby self-government in the villages be advanced. The principle of appointing any person who is recommended by a party not fully conversant with the affairs of the Country District does not work very well. The ratepayer should be given an opportunity to be consulted as to who should be appointed to serve him on the Local Authority.

I understand that Mr. Roth, a retired Civil Servant, has been sent to the North West District in some official capacity. I would be glad to be advised as to the capacity in which he has gone there. I desire also to ask whether retired Civil Servants earning an income are to be given Government jobs, while there are several other persons who are only too willing to serve Government and who may be able to serve more usefully.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: If the hon. Member refers to Local Authorities generally I am not entirely in agreement with him, but if he is referring to Country Authorities then I support the suggestion as a means whereby the members should be selected. The position otherwise is, while I appreciate the fact that the hon. Attorney-General has been and is snowed down with work, I hope he would, if possible, hasten forward the Labour Bill so that it would crystallize as soon as possible.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: With regard to the question asked by the hon. Member for North Western District, it is correct that Mr. Roth is acting as District Commissioner of the North West District. It is only a temporary appointment. The Department of Labour and Local Government has been extremely shorthanded since the War broke out. Four officers are on leave, and while two are expected back in the near future it is not possible for them to leave for this country on the date fixed for their departure. As hon. Members are aware, the acting Commissioner of Labour and Local Government has been very busy and continues to be busy in connection with War work. For the time being the Government Medical Officer of the North West District is performing the duties of District Commissioner in addition to his own. It has been found unsatisfactory to have

him performing those duties in conjunction with his substantive duties. The appointment is a temporary one and is the best the Government can do in the circumstances.

Mr. JACOB: I think, the view has been repeatedly expressed here that retired Civil Servants, who are earning a pension and have received a lump sum bonus, should remain in retirement and allow others to give service to this Government. If we had not a large number of unemployed, their re-employment would be all right. I urge on Government to consider that in future. The Government Medical Officer in the North West District is not able to carry out the duties of District Commissioner properly. The District Commissioner in the North West District has to be Magistrate, Police Inspector, Commissioner of Lands and Mines, etc. The position was made worse when the Government Medical Officer was made to take on those duties in addition to his own. I object, however, to one who has retired and has been generously treated by this Government increasing his pensionable service by nearly three years and who is getting a decent pension being allowed to undertake Government work which others, who are unemployed, are only too willing to go and do.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suppose, the unemployed referred to are not suitably qualified to take over the duties of District Commissioner.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like to assure the hon. Member that I would be the last person to recommend to His Excellency the re-employment of a pensioned officer. I am more in favour of avoiding that whenever it is possible. During the progress of the War, however, Government cannot give the undertaking not to re-employ pensioners.

Mr. JACOB: A lawyer may be willing to go to the North West District and act as District Commissioner.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Mr. Roth was in that district for a long time. He knows the district thoroughly having worked in a similar capacity there. He has administered justice there before and is eminently suited to act there as District Com-

missioner. If he is to act only for a short period, I think, it is the best thing Government could have done to appoint him. No lawyer, who may be willing to go there for a short period, can grasp all that is necessary to give satisfactory service. In the first place he does not know the district. I cannot subscribe to the view that only because a man is a pensioner, if there is a technical job which he can do, he should not be employed to do it.

Mr. LEE: I would like to say that the officer in question had applied to Government to increase his term of service for retirement and Government deemed it advisable to grant his request. Three years were added to his service so as to give him pension, and he was retired on the ground of ill-health. That was only about two years ago. He was then considered incapable of working in the country districts and was pensioned off; now he can go there to act and be given a salary. That principle is wrong. I feel certain that there are younger men in the District Administration Department who can give satisfactory service to Government in that position, if they are only given a chance.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: While I am against the appointment, it would seem from what the hon. Colonial Secretary has said that this is one of those cases where the exception, perhaps, proves the rule. It seems regrettable that this debate should have revolved itself around such a trifling issue. Perhaps, one may like to be a little philosophical and to be satisfied that silence is golden.

Mr. MACNIE (Commissioner of Labour and Local Government, Acting): I am grateful to the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) for having so quickly convinced my hon. friend on my right (Mr. Eleazar) as to the need for the appointment of an Industrial Adviser and an additional Inspector of Labour. If any further argument is needed to persuade those hon. Members who opposed those two new items, I would ask them to look at the report of Major Orde-Brown, who visited this Colony during the latter part of last year in order to report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on labour conditions in this part of the world. That report has been distributed and in para-

graphs 58 to 62 the reasons for these appointments are there set out. In view of the able and brief manner in which the hon. Member for Georgetown North has summarised the views of Major Orde-Browne, I do not think I need deal with the matter further.

The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) and the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) as well as the hon. Member for Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) have attacked the manner in which members of Country Authorities are appointed. There seems to be some confusion. Members of Village Councils are elected and those of Country Authorities are appointed. On Village Councils two-thirds of the members are elected and one-third appointed.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT (interrupting): To a point of order. I think the hon. Member for Western Essequibo particularly differentiated between Country Authorities and other Local Authorities.

Mr. MACNIE: I was not suggesting that the hon. Member for Western Essequibo was guilty of confusing them, but he did attack the manner in which the members of Country Authorities are appointed. One-third of the Village Councillors are appointed and in Country Authorities all the members are appointed by the Local Government Board. It is suggested that proprietors should be given the opportunity to elect those members who are to be appointed. My only answer to that is

this: In those Country Districts where the proprietors desire to elect their representatives on their Local Authorities, they should petition the Local Government Board and show reasons for the raising of their status to that of Village Districts. Any attempt to conduct an election in a Country District in the manner so easily suggested by the hon. Member for Essequibo River is doomed to failure. I can assure him from personal experience that any attempt to assemble the proprietors of a Country District and ask them to elect the members of their Authority cannot succeed. I do not think there is anything further I need add.

Mr. LEE: I would like to draw Government's attention to two districts in which, there can be no doubt, the people can govern themselves. I refer to Kitty and Vreeden-Hoop. They have both on several occasions petitioned the Government to be raised from Country Districts to Village Districts and their requests have been turned down.

Mr. JACOB: The idea, I have supported, is that the residents of Country Districts should be given an opportunity to submit a panel of names to the proper authorities for appointment to the Local Authorities.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand the hon. Member's suggestion.

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