

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.***Tuesday, 2nd July, 1935.*

The Council met, His Excellency the Governor, SIR GEOFFRY A. S. NORTHCOTE, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

**PRESENT.**

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Major W. Bain Gray, C.B.E.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. Hector Josephs, K.C.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. G. J. De Freitas, K.C. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. J. Mullin, O.B.E. Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

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

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

The Hon. R. V. Evan Wong (Essequibo River).

**MINUTES.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 7th<sup>th</sup> May, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

**MEMBERS SWORN.**

The following Members took and subscribed to the oath :—

Mr. G. I. Goring, General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department (Acting).

Mr. M. B. Laing, District Commissioner, East Coast, Demerara.

Dr. Q. B. DeFreitas, Surgeon-General (Acting).

Mr. F. J. Seaford, (Georgetown North).

Mr. H. C. Humphrys (Eastern Demerara).

Mr. W. S. Jones (Nominated Unofficial Member).

**PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.**

The PRESIDENT addressed the Council as follows :—

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS.**

The last meeting of this Council was held for the sole purpose of voting an Address of loyal congratulations to His Majesty the King on the completion of the twenty-fifth year of his reign. That Address was sent forward in due course and more recently still the Colony has sent a congratulatory message to His Majesty on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

Since that meeting the sad and sudden death of Mr. Thomas Millard has plunged the whole Colony into profound grief. Mr.

Millard had served British Guiana for some six years, normally as Treasurer, on occasions as Colonial Secretary. During that relatively short period his uprightness, his firmness of purpose, his high sense of public duty, his sincerity and courage, his power of sympathy and his eminent ability had won for him here a prestige and an affection such as few men are so fortunate as to obtain. Nowhere will the shock of his death have been felt more severely or will his absence be deplored more deeply than in this Council, where those qualities which I have mentioned have served the Colony so often and so well and where his appointment as Colonial Secretary had been so recently welcomed. For myself no heavier blow could have fallen on me than the loss of a colleague so gifted and so trusted. The wholehearted sympathy of every class of this community is with Mrs. Millard and her two sons in their sorrow and bereavement while it honours her husband's memory. British Guiana will not forget the great debt which she owes to Mrs. Millard for many services freely and graciously given.

On March 28th, the late Colonial Secretary, Sir Crawford Douglas-Jones, left British Guiana on retirement on pension. He served this Colony well and faithfully for nearly nine years during about one half of which he administered the Government and British Guiana has good reason to be grateful to him. The deep interest in and wide knowledge of British Guiana's affairs which he acquired during that time are clearly evident to me and must be much better known to you. Lady Douglas-Jones will long be remembered with gratitude for her strenuous social work. I feel sure that I voice the feelings of one and all of you in wishing them health and happiness in their retirement.

Two appointments of importance have been made in the Colony since the Council met last. Mr. E. F. McDavid, M.B.E., has been appointed Colonial Treasurer and Mr. E. J. Waddington, C.M.G., O.B.E., Colonial Secretary of Bermuda, as Colonial Secretary of this Colony. The latter officer is expected to arrive late in September.

#### FINANCES OF 1934.

The report of the Colonial Treasurer for

the year 1934 will be laid on the table to-day. It contains a full analysis of the revenue and expenditure of Government for 1934 and of the financial position at the close of the year; I will, therefore, only indicate briefly the principal features of the situation at the close of last year and the prospects of the current year.

Excluding the figures relating to the schemes and works financed from the Colonial Development Fund and to direct Imperial grants and loans-in-aid, the approved estimates for 1934 provided for a deficiency of \$389,802 which was fully covered by appropriating the proceeds of realisations of various reserve and other funds. As matters turned out, however, the revenue without those abnormal receipts fell short of the expenditure by a sum of only \$18,922, and this deficit would, indeed, have been a surplus of \$23,266 but for the necessity of including in the year's expenditure a deferred charge for 1933 amounting to \$42,188, representing annuities and interest in respect of the railway purchase capital. This satisfactory result was due to revenue collections under all of the main sub-divisions exceeding not only the approved estimates but also with two exceptions the relative receipts in the previous year. Revenue was also helped by extraordinary receipts of some \$90,000 in the form of profits accruing from appreciation in the value of investments held on behalf of the Post Office Savings Bank.

This small and fortuitous deficit on the normal working of the year reduced the surplus carried forward from 1933 to \$68,116 but, as I have already stated, the financial arrangements for 1934 included the transfer to revenue of the proceeds of the realization of all our available reserves: this operation brought in \$338,481, which with the aforesaid balance-in-hand of \$68,116 enabled the Colony to carry forward the sum of \$406,597 on 1st January this year. It is, perhaps, salutary to remember that this surplus would not exist but for the assistance received from the Imperial Government, which, exclusive of help given through the Colonial Development Fund, has come to our aid since 1931 with loan grants-in-aid amounting to \$1,699,200 and free grants totalling \$1,256,978. Nevertheless we have every right to be pleased with these results and the more so because of the misfortunes

with which the year 1934 opened. The floods of the earlier months and the subsequent inadequate rainfall had an unfortunate effect upon both revenue and expenditure; though a set-off to the latter accrued to the former by virtue of the increased employment of labour upon repairs and preventive measures, which also helped to ease the unemployment situation.

#### FINANCES FOR 1935.

Turning to the estimates for the current year, I have recently received a telegram from the Secretary of State approving the estimates as sent to him with certain alterations which I will proceed to intimate.

#### REVENUE ESTIMATES.

One alteration falls to be made on the revenue side, provided that this Council will pass legislation to that effect, and that is the abolition of export duty on forest products. This proposal, which was put forward by representatives of the local timber trade, will give assistance to a hard-pressed and very important industry, about which I have more to say later in this address. The estimated amount of revenue that would be forfeited this year is small—\$2,666. I commend this measure to Honourable Members for favourable consideration. If this duty is dropped and excluding Colonial Development Fund schemes and any Imperial loan-in-aid the Colony's revenue for the year will stand estimated at \$4,966,663.

#### EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES.

The expenditure estimates are generally approved, subject to certain alterations which I suggested to the Secretary of State in view of commitments which have revealed themselves in the draft estimates sent to the Colonial Office. These commitments are shewn in the schedule of further provision required for the current year amounting to \$65,444 which will be laid on the table. They will be fully explained when the schedule is before the Council in Committee. The chief items are:—

Additional amount required for purchase of new vessel for the Transport and Harbours Department \$ 5,000  
Additional maintenance funds for the Bartica-Potaro road and its

extensions	20,000
Best Quarantine Station	7,000
Expenditure due to Alastrim outbreak	6,000
Refund of revenue ...	18,235

The total of these items is ...	\$ 56,235
Minor items accounting for the balance	9,209

As a set off to this expenditure of	... \$ 65,444
Government proposes to abstain from expenditure on Head XLV., sub-heads 15, 16 and 17	36,000
and Head XLVI. sub-heads 52 and 53	12,800
making a saving of	... \$ 48,800

These sub-heads relate respectively to ferro-concrete strip-road experiments and to the re-conditioning Best and Old Crib groynes.

In order to avoid re-printing the estimates at this late date the Appropriation Bill will conform with the estimates as printed; but the General Warrant which will issue thereafter will exclude the five sub-heads just mentioned.

On the assumption of approval of these proposals the estimated expenditure and revenue for the current year, exclusive of Colonial Development Fund schemes, may be revised as follows:—

#### Expenditure—

Estimates as passed by Council	... \$5,527,751
Less by P.W.E. sub-heads	48,800
	<u>5,478,951</u>

Add Supplementary Expenditure	65,444	5,544,395
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#### Revenue—

Original estimate ...	4,969,329
Less by export duty ...	2,666
	<u>4,966,663</u>

Revised estimate of deficit	577,732
Carried forward January 1st, 1935..	406,597

Leaving to be found from loan-grant- in-aid	\$ 171,135
Improvement on draft estimates...	103,217
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As the loan-grant- in-aid was there put at	\$ 274,352

The amount by which the 1935 estimated expenditure exceeds the estimate of revenue is at first sight very formidable and compares badly *prima facie* with the estimated and actual deficits of the past year. In fact the figures as they stand are not truly comparable. In the first place, this year's estimates include provision exceeding by \$153,000 that in the 1934 budget for railway and steamer renewals and new capital expenditure, the principal increase being a new item of \$100,000 for the purchase of a new steamer; and, in the second works costing some \$120,000 which although necessary in themselves may be regarded as having been included in the estimates primarily to provide relief for unemployment, have been charged against the ordinary revenue and not, as in last year, against a specific loan grant-in-aid. If for comparative purposes these two sums are deducted from the estimated deficit there would remain a deficit of \$285,422 as against an estimate of \$389,802 for 1934. So regarded, the current year is seen to the advantage of that which is just past.

#### OUTLOOK FOR 1935.

As regards the outlook for the immediate future I am glad to be able to report that the revenue returns show no shrinkage and that except for certain special items, the receipts for the first quarter are slightly better than those of the same period in 1934. My information is that climatic conditions have been favourable to the production of a more than usually good sugar crop this year and there are other promising indications, among them being the prospect of a considerable increase in bauxite exports. It is not unreasonable, therefore, to assume that the receipts for the year will be larger than the amount in the revenue estimates, which were not prepared in the light of such expectations. On the other hand there appears to be no reason to anticipate that

expenditure will exceed the total amount approved.

#### PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt commitments of the Colony continue to be the most disturbing feature of our finances. As the latest Treasurer's report shows there was at the 31st December, 1934, a total debt liability of \$21,081,925. During the current year this amount will be reduced by \$933,600 by the redemption of that amount of Inscribed Stock (Ordinance 6 of 1886) leaving a liability of \$20,148,325. On the other hand, unfortunately, the true position in this respect is not revealed until four other large liabilities are taken into account. The first impends by reason of the work in progress or in sight on sea defences and flood prevention measures and amounts to some \$1,300,000. The second arises from loan-grants obtained and in prospect from the Colonial Development Advisory Committee, amounting to \$920,865: these are interest bearing after five years from the date of loan. The non-interest-bearing loan-grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government constitute the third liability and amount to a further \$1,699,200 exclusive of any grant-in-aid for the current year. These three bring our public debt figure to \$24,068,390. In addition to this very large sum there must be taken into account the fourth liability, that is that in respect of outstanding Permanent Annuities and Perpetual Stock entailing an annual charge of \$84,378 on the revenue for all time. The annual charges falling to be paid on the foregoing accounts constitute a very formidable impediment to the further development of the Colony's assets and resources; a serious consideration having regard to the fact that such development is the obvious and indeed the only way to financial recovery which lies within our reach.

#### TRADE—EXPORTS.

The export trade of the Colony, which, despite low prices had within recent years maintained a high level, suffered a severe set back during 1934 as a result of the severe floods and the subsequent drought in that year. The total value of the exports of domestic produce in that year was \$8,882,000 or \$807,000 less than that of 1933. The largest decrease was in respect of rice, the exports of which were slightly more than one-half of the quantity

and value exported in the preceding year. Though 9,700 tons less sugar were produced in 1934 than in 1933, the quantity shipped in the latter year was greater by 2,830 tons. The value was, however, lower by \$176,700. Molasses, balata and coffee also showed decreases.

A comparison of the exports during the first four months of 1935 with the corresponding period in 1934 shows increases in bauxite, copra, gold and diamonds. The total quantity of sugar exported to 30th April, 1935, was about the same as for the corresponding period last year. On the other hand rice exports during the same period were 4,500 tons for 1935 and 8,400 tons for 1934. This very large decrease is attributable to there being small demands for Demerara rice in the principal West Indian markets, consequent on large contracts having been entered into for the supply of Indian rice to as late as next November.

#### IMPORTS.

The quota restrictions upon imports of foreign artificial silk and cotton textile piece goods which were imposed on 7th May, 1934, have had the desired result of diverting to the mother country trade in the cheaper grades of these textiles which had been largely lost to foreign countries, mainly Japan, within recent years. The figures will be found in the Trade Report for 1934. A noteworthy feature is the very considerable increase in the consumption of locally manufactured cigarettes during 1934 and a corresponding decrease in that of imported cigarettes and manufactured tobacco. Fortunately, as the result of the readjustment on 1st May, 1934, of duty-rates on manufactured tobacco (other than cigarettes and cigars) and on leaf tobacco, the revenue collected in 1934 was less than that received in 1933 by only \$3,800. More revenue under this head to the extent of \$15,872 has been collected during the first four months of the year than during the corresponding period in 1934; a very welcome piece of news.

#### FLOOD-RELIEF AND FLOOD-PREVENTION MEASURES.

Full particulars of the expenditure incurred in 1934 on unemployment and flood relief works are contained in a statement which will also be laid before you to-day.

This expenditure reached the large total of \$343,876 of which \$34,619 was received as a free grant and the remaining \$309,257 as a loan-in-aid from the Imperial Government.

As Honourable Members are aware, the expenditure on these works covered a very wide field. It included many grants to local authorities under the Local Government Board to assist in the repair of village roads and in the improvement of drainage facilities, while in rural areas not under the Local Government Board similar works were carried out by Government. The villages and country areas have benefited greatly from this expenditure and I trust sincerely that the authorities concerned will do their utmost to ensure that the improvements they have secured as an outcome of the floods are kept in a proper state of maintenance and repair.

I desire to place on record the thanks of the Government to all those persons who worked on the Committees which were set up in Georgetown, New Amsterdam and elsewhere to deal with the relief of distress that arose as a result of the floods. The final report of the Flood Relief Finance Committee will be laid on the table at this meeting: it contains the complete record of the sums collected in public subscriptions and of their disposal.

I am glad to be able to inform Honourable Members that the Secretary of State has now approved of proposals being laid before Council to provide for the expenditure of \$318,646 on the following works which were recommended by the Floods Investigation Committee:—

East Demerara and Lamaha Water Conservancies ...\$	10,140
Additional Relief Canal; back-dam of La Bonne Mere between Clonbrook and Bee Hive	112,000
Mahaica District; Communal Grazing Area ...	14,698
Improvement of Drainage, Canals Polder Area	181,808
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	\$ 318,646

The second of these schemes has been reconsidered in the light of a project to

enlarge the area of these conservancies, which is likely to materialise in the near future. The intention now is to provide reliefs for these water-impounding areas by means of drainage canals and sluices emptying into the Demerara River. The new scheme and its advantages will be more fully described when the legislation necessary for its fulfilment comes before the Legislative Council. That step, however, will not be possible during the life of this Council. No request, therefore, for funds for the second item will be made at this meeting of Council; and the same is true of the communal grazing area for the Mahaica district, as the work to be undertaken in connection with that scheme depends upon the decision taken in respect of the relief scheme for the East Demerara and Lamaha Water Conservancies.

#### CANALS POLDER AREA.

The scheme for the improvement of the drainage of the Canals Polder Area calls for the comment that the silting up of the two drainage canals in that area is due to three causes. These are, firstly, that heavily silt-laden water has been introduced into these canals from time to time as an aid to navigation. This practice, which is directly destructive of the proper use of these canals, viz., drainage, will not be permitted in future. The second cause is the failure on the part of certain property owners to maintain the subsidiary drainage on their boundaries; such neglect is highly anti-social, as not only is the good farmer who maintains his drains injured thereby but also the general cost to the community is increased. Steps will be taken in future to compel such maintenance. Thirdly, the Authority has for one reason or another not found itself able to keep the canals at an adequate depth. Latterly this has been due to lack of funds owing to the arrears into which rate collection has fallen. Obviously a remedy must be found for this state of affairs and this matter has the attention of my advisers and myself.

#### SEA DEFENCES.

During 1934 nearly \$500,000 was expended on the reconstruction of the permanent sea defences. There will be laid before you to-day Mr. Case's latest report on the sea defences and the recommendation of the Sea Defence Board to Government on the basis of that report. These

are considered under Message No. 19 of 13th June which has been addressed to you. Honourable Members will observe that the estimated cost of the works recommended is \$851,610, an amount smaller by \$131,060 than the estimate prepared by the Board and communicated to this Council before Mr. Case reported. On the other hand, the measures required to be taken at Nog Eens are proving to be more extensive than was expected at first. The bulk of the work recommended by Mr. Case in his report has been carried out, the work remaining to be done being the construction of the koker channels, concrete groynes and a section of sea wall at Hope. The erosion, however, is continuing eastwards and westwards of this section, and, on the report of the Director of Public Works and the recommendation of the Sea Defence Board, I have sanctioned the extension of the wall eastwards from Vigilance in order to avert the possibility of a breach in the earthen dam which is all the sea defence that there is at this point. The cost of this work will be charged against item (17) of the report referred to, the work under (17) being deferred until next year. The total will be increased by \$1,000 and the Secretary of State's approval has been requested.

#### FINANCING SEA DEFENCES ANTI-FLOOD MEASURES.

Council is already aware that it is proposed to raise the necessary funds by the issue of a loan which will also include the cost of the special drainage and irrigation works recommended by the Floods Investigation Committee.

#### ROADS.

I take this opportunity of informing Council of the situation regarding the Tiboku Fall road, which, as Honourable Members are aware, was planned to assist diamond and gold mining. The provision voted by this Council and lent from the Colonial Development Fund for this road was \$175,000. It was found to be quite insufficient for its purpose and had been over-spent by \$24,000 by the time that the road had reached mile 38½, further loans to that amount being obtained from the same source. The principal reason was that the route lies across a series of ridges and swampy valleys, thus necessitating much cutting and bridging. An alternative line was

sought and found, debouching at Issano on the Mazaruni river above the main series of rapids through some way below the Tiboku Fall, and a round sum estimate put the cost of completing the road by that route at \$96,000. Further application accordingly was made for assistance from the Colonial Development Fund for a loan of this sum, to which the Secretary of State replied that he was prepared to agree in principle, but before approving finally he wished to be assured that the new estimate was adequate to complete the work. This was the situation when I arrived in the Colony and after discussion with the late Mr. Millard and the Director of Public Works I issued instructions for an engineer's location survey to be made of the new route and for the suspension of all construction work other than the completion of the road up to mile 38½.

An estimate based on that survey is now to hand and is as follows:—

Road construction	...\$	102,000	
Terminal facilities at Bartica (Quarters for Transport Officer and additional garage accommodation)		6,000	
Terminal facilities at Issano (Bond, garage, resthouse, stabling)		4,500	
Total	...\$	112,500	

Against this there is the contingent promise of a loan from the Colonial Development Advisory Committee of ...\$ 96,000  
Of which there has been spent on survey 1,500 94,500

Necessitating further provision of ...\$ 18,000  
To this sum must be added, for new vehicles for the service from Bartica to Issano 15,000

Making a total requirement of...\$ 33,000 for the institution of this new service.

I have reported accordingly to the Secretary of State and a Message and Motion more fully explanatory will be placed before Members at this meeting.

#### DEVELOPMENT—GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

As I have already stated on more than

one occasion, it is evident that the main remedy which this Colony can apply to its financial ills is the further development of its assets. Generally speaking, taxes and town rates are high while the public services have been cut to the bone, or nearly so. In so far as the revenue is suffering because of the lowness of world prices we are hopeless; where we can help ourselves is by turning to good account land and water values which at the present time are in abeyance.

It is, of course, to be taken as axiomatic in such considerations as this that no scheme will be undertaken unless after careful calculation it can be shown to have ultimately remunerative prospects. That is not to say that the whole cost would necessarily have to be borne by the inhabitants of the benefited area, though obviously they should eventually bear the larger share; but it does imply that the sum of the annual charges on account of capital, administration and maintenance arising from the scheme must not exceed the sum of the profits, direct and indirect, accruing to the farmers and to the Government from the scheme's operation; otherwise such a project would result in an uneconomic burden being laid on the shoulders of the general taxpayer, who in the final analysis has to foot the Colony's bill.

Furthermore, in considering ways and means for the development of our assets it will be necessary to keep in mind two well-known facts, the first being that owing to our excessive burden of debt the capital that we can afford for development is strictly limited and must, accordingly, be carefully husbanded; the second is that our population is disproportionately small for the size of the Colony. And there is the third point that care must be taken to see that the measures devised for industrial expansion do not prejudice or injure established industries such as sugar and rice.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The wealth of British Guiana lies principally in her agricultural soils, her minerals and her forests. Of these, agriculture offers the widest scope for development and may, therefore, be considered first. There are, generally speaking, two lines of policy along which the agricul-

tural activities of a country may be made to expand: one is what may be termed the extensive method, that is to say the method of planting sub-colonies in relatively far-afeld areas which are capable of supporting a farming population; the other is the intensive method of improving lands already under occupation or the areas adjoining such lands. So far as I am aware, with the possible exception of the North-West District, no considerable area suitable for the extensive method is known at the present time, though that is not to say that such places do not exist. On the other hand it is, I think, indisputable that the most profitable lands in the Colony are those lying along the coast. There should, therefore, be little difficulty in arriving at agreement on the policy that agricultural development should first be pursued in and about the already proved areas.

In the course of a tour during May eastwards along the Coast I received a large number of addresses from villages and country districts between Georgetown and Crabwood Creek on the Courantyne River. An almost universal feature of those addresses was a request that Government should put in effect a "comprehensive scheme of drainage and irrigation." Many specific projects, of course, were also put forward. Now, I do not wish to be regarded as shutting the door on the consideration of a scheme on the ground that it is comprehensive—far from it; indeed, I am fully of opinion that where smaller works are taken in hand first they should be planned, as far as is possible, with a comprehensive scheme in mind, into which they would fit should the larger scheme materialise. Nevertheless, it appears to me, from such study as I have been able to give to this difficult and important question during my three months residence, that the more logical and economic line of progress is to tackle some of the smaller problems first. (At this point I wish to make it clear that I am speaking now of the Colony eastward of the Essequibo River. I have not yet been able to study the Essequibo Commission's report and have postponed forming conclusions regarding the Essequibo Coast until I can do so). To tackle the smaller problems first may be criticisable as "patchwork policy": but it must be borne in mind that, aback of nearly all the coast lands between the

Essequibo and Mahaica Rivers and of those lying between the Canje River and the sea, there are already very big irrigation schemes served more or less efficiently by drainage systems, so that in those areas at least relatively minor works, complementary to existing development, alone are possible. As regards the coast lands east of the Essequibo which have no large irrigation systems aback, the question of the nature and extent of agricultural development work, if any, to be carried out there resolves itself into one of ability to pay.

My own belief, which has the support of my advisers, is that, taking into consideration the low numbers and the general poverty of the local population, the size of the total area concerned and the great initial cost of large scale schemes, the right policy for agricultural development of the village lands east of the Essequibo is to select in the first instance the less spectacular but more remunerative projects and to put them through. As the wealth of the areas thus benefited grows under that process more ambitious schemes can be considered.

Actuated by these convictions on my return to Georgetown in May I sent instructions to the District Commissioners of the districts east of the Essequibo River to compile lists of such of the drainage and irrigation schemes, which have from time to time been suggested for their districts, as seemed reasonably feasible to them. These lists will be put before my technical advisers, who, subsequently, will be required to furnish ecological reports and estimates of cost in respect of such schemes as they may consider most worthy of being carried into effect. Eventually I hope to be able to lay before this Council considered proposals for agricultural development and to raise such funds as are necessary for them.

#### MINING.

As Honourable Members are aware, the endeavour of Government to develop the Colony's mineral assets has taken two principal forms, one being the provision of a geological survey, the other the facilitation of access to the gold and diamond producing areas in the interior by means of road-construction. Both these measures have proved their value.



At the end of this year the grant from the Colonial Development Fund, by means of which the geological survey is being financed, will be exhausted. Shortly after my arrival I asked Dr. Grantham, who is in charge of the survey, whether there would then remain a considerable extent of the Colony which his party would not be able to investigate fully and which called for closer exploration. His answer was in the affirmative and I therefore asked him to let me have a memorandum setting out the case for further survey. This I have just received and will take action upon it as soon as possible. Honourable Members will have seen certain reports issued by Dr. Grantham and will, I trust, concur with my expressed intention as regards assistance.

I need not enlarge here on the roads made by Government in order to assist and stimulate the mining of gold and diamonds. The policy has proved its worth and I intend to follow it as and when I can.

#### TIMBER.

The third great asset which the Colony must develop is its timber. 86 per cent. of its whole area is under forest and, though much of the timber therein is not merchantable owing to transportation and other difficulties, there is plenty of scope for profitable exploitation, if the local industry will organise itself so as to meet its competitors on level terms and if assistance, where necessary, is given by Government. I cannot as yet state what measures would have to be taken by the industry and by Government in order to effect the right organisation but the first journey which I made in this country was to the Forestry headquarters at Mazaruni in order to discuss with the Conservator of Forests the prospects of developing our timber trade. What I saw there and heard from the Conservator confirmed my belief that, given certain conditions, that trade could be expanded to a material extent. I therefore requested him to draw up a memorandum, stating the impediments from which the trade is suffering at present and suggesting remedies for them. I understand that that memorandum will shortly be in my hands.

#### AGRICULTURE.

I have spoken at some length upon the

policy of development which, in my view, British Guiana should pursue in agriculture, mining and forestry. I will touch as briefly as I can upon the condition and immediate outlook of those local industries.

#### SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Our chief agricultural industry, sugar, given a continuance of favourable weather, ought, I am informed, to produce a record crop this year. This, I understand, is due to a combination of causes among which are more extensive flood-fallowing, the use of better varieties, and improvements in machinery and husbandry. The research activities of the Agricultural Department have continued to prove their value, particularly in connection with soil fertilization and flood-fallowing. A noteworthy and praiseworthy feature of the sugar industry is the extension of cane-farming. This is a development which merits all the assistance which the big sugar-estates can give. It is a matter for regret that sugar prices remain very low.

#### RICE INDUSTRY.

The same, I regret to say, has to be said of the price of rice, owing principally to the overwhelming competition of Indian and Burmese rice in our markets. A good deal of the padi 'shied' this spring failed to survive a long dry spell after the first rains and, owing to last year's partial crop failure, there was a shortage of seed-padi in some areas. In these areas seed-padi was offered by Government for sale on cash terms at about two-thirds of the landed cost and farmers availed themselves fairly readily of this assistance. The Council will be asked to approve an expenditure of about \$650 on this seed distribution: the receipts are put at \$375. Apart from prices the outlook of the industry is good owing to favourable weather.

#### RICE MARKETING.

On May 28th representatives of the bodies and firms principally interested in the rice industry met me and some of my official advisers to discuss the rice marketing scheme, known as the "Single Seller" scheme. This proposal came up some while ago from the Rice Marketing Board, though a minority of that Board did not support it. It had been before the Chamber of Commerce of Georgetown

and the Rice Association, both of whom had rejected it, but as it appeared to me to merit further consideration I called the aforesaid meeting. On that occasion the representatives of the Rice Association stated that their Association was unanimously opposed to its adoption and those of the firms who handle the bulk of our rice export crop were also hostile to it. In these circumstances I formed the opinion that to endeavour to force the scheme upon the rice industry, the second most important agricultural industry in the Colony, would be to take a quite unjustifiable risk and I reported accordingly to the Executive Council, who were in full concurrence with that view. Subsequently the Rice Marketing Board were informed of this decision and requested to consult further with the Chamber of Commerce and the Rice Association and to endeavour to frame agreed proposals. I am glad to be able to say that it is within my knowledge that these discussions are now well advanced and that there is good reason to hope that amending legislation will be put before the Council before it rises finally which will counteract effectively the insidious evil of rebating while also preventing sale on consignment.

#### COPRA PRODUCTS.

An endeavour is being made to find a way out of the *impasse* at which the administration of the Copra Products Ordinance has found itself. I regret that it will not be possible to bring in amending legislation before this Council's life expires.

#### FRUIT.

There has been an increase in the area planted with citrus. Investigation and study of the possibility of developing a banana export industry have been proceeding systematically and a trial shipment of dwarf bananas by the Harrison line is to be made next month. The Agricultural Department is also planning a trial shipment of mangoes at an early date.

#### LIVESTOCK—CATTLE.

Much public discussion has taken place recently in regard to the livestock industry in general and the beef industry in particular. Government's activities hitherto have been confined mainly to milk production, pigs and poultry. I am

informed that considerable improvement is now noticeable among dairy animals in the vicinity of Georgetown, the principal market for milk, where full use is being made of the Government stud animals. This stock improvement method is gradually being extended to other areas where dairy bulls are in demand. For instance, in the island of Leguan the Agricultural Department is experimenting with a live-stock centre with satisfactory results hitherto.

The need for improvement of the Colony's beef animals, if an inter-colonial export trade is to be built up and satisfactorily maintained in the face of severe competition, is recognised. Much, however, depends on the co-operation of stock owners and ranchers in the development of improved types.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has approved the provision of a sum of \$7,200 from the Colonial Development Fund repayable in five years, for a revolving fund for the purchase of pure-bred stock for eventual distribution in the Colony. I regret to learn that up to date stock owners have shown little enthusiasm in availing themselves of this offer.

#### BEE-KEEPING.

The progress of the bee-keeping industry has been maintained and the 1934 honey production was, I understand, the biggest in the history of the Colony. Investigations have been made by the Agricultural Department into marketing prospects and methods on behalf of the British Guiana Beekeepers' Association, whose energy and initiative in promoting this useful adjunct to a farmer's income are praiseworthy.

#### AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The advance and expansion of the Colony's agricultural, including pastoral, industries was clearly to be observed at the successful agricultural exhibition held on April 28th and 29th in connection with this year's Jubilee. Some 5,000 visitors attended to examine and admire the 4,000 exhibits which were received. Honourable Members will, I believe, agree with me when I say that the exhibition provided visible proof of the good results attendant upon the hard and farsighted labours of the Agricultural Department in the office, in the laboratory and in the field.

**MINING INDUSTRY—GOLD.**

Turning to the mineral industries, gold-mining prospects are distinctly promising. The production by local enterprise for the first quarter of 1935 has exceeded that for the same period last year by 2,131 ounces and the indications are that a further increase may be expected. The investigations which have been undertaken by outside capital enterprise—British and Canadian—are now approaching fruition and considerable expansion is anticipated in dredging and other forms of alluvial mining in the near future. Already one Canadian Company has been formed and registered in the Colony with a capital of \$2,000,000 of which \$1,000,000 has been fully taken up. In addition to the examination of important alluvial deposits in the upper Demerara river, the exploration work done by this Company has revealed extensive dredging ground in the Oko river basin in the Cuyuni district and a road is now under construction for conveying the necessary machinery to the site to enable dredging work to be commenced without delay. A combination of English interests has also done considerable exploration work in the Potaro district with encouraging results and it is expected that these interests will proceed to active dredging operations in the near future. Interest has also been evinced in the Kaburi, Issano, Kuribrong, Karanang and North West districts and exploration work is in progress with a view to development on organised lines.

**DIAMONDS.**

Notwithstanding the continued low level of market prices, the diamond output has shown an increase of 1,131 carats for the first quarter of the year over the output for the corresponding period last year. No large increase can be looked for, however, until either the improved access to the Mazaruni diamond fields by road now under construction is available or a considerable increase in market prices makes diamond seeking more attractive.

**BAUXITE.**

The outlook in regard to the bauxite industry is decidedly promising. It is anticipated that shipments this year will amount to about 100,000 tons—a welcome increase on the amount exported last year which totalled only 50,605 tons and there

is room for hope that before long a greater expansion will occur. As Honourable Members doubtless are aware, British Guiana bauxite is regarded as one of the best ores of its kind in the world.

**FOREST DEPARTMENT.**

A local feature of the world depression is the extent to which exports of the Colony's timbers have held up in the face of the great fall which has taken place in timber exports throughout the rest of the world. Our average export of timber and lumber during the lean five years 1929-1933 fell quantitatively only by 4 per cent. and in value only by 8 per cent. below the average for the boom years 1924-1928. Greenheart exports actually rose during the bad period. The fact is that the reduced consumption of timber in Europe has been offset by new markets in the Islands and United States of America. With a return to prosperity, or if the present unnecessarily high cost to the consumer can be reduced and deliveries expedited, there is, therefore, scope for a substantial increase in our exports. I am glad to be able to report that there is a marked tendency to use local varieties in place of imported wood. The large scale experiments in the seasoning of local lumber by the Forestry Department have reached the stage where it has been proved that fully seasoned local wood of equal working quality and far greater durability can be produced at prices to compete with the imported article, and so have removed the chief objection to the use of local boards. The only handicap to complete success is the high humidity of the atmosphere which renders the full drying out of boards uncertain at the wetter seasons of the year; a handicap which could be overcome by a simple method of kiln-drying in the last stages of the seasoning process. This is a matter which has Mr. Wood's and my attention.

**TRANSPORT SERVICES.**

The report of the Transport and Harbours Department for 1934 shows that the gross receipts exceeded those of 1933 by \$38,126, notwithstanding the serious disasters which befell agriculture in the second year. The revenue earned on the Bartica-Potaro road during 1934 amounted to \$48,788, showing an excess over working expenditure of \$8,000. I would add that in the first four months of this year

the revenue earned by this road was slightly higher than \$20,300.

The condition of the steamer fleet is causing some concern to the Board of Commissioners and myself. One new vessel has been ordered as a replacement and this will be driven by high speed Diesel engines: but there are indications that the replacement programme may have to be expedited. An independent report on the present condition of the fleet is being obtained.

The dredge "Sir Crawford" arrived in the Colony on April 23rd and started work on May 13th. She loads and discharges daily 500 tons of mud.

#### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

Judging by the statements made in many of addresses which I received in the course of my tour between Georgetown and the Courantyne river, the District Administration scheme is working excellently: several requests that it should now be put into fuller operation were put forward. This, though in no way surprising, is highly gratifying and I shall do what I can to meet that desire. Very recently a Bill making more suitable provision for election to Village Councils has been published and I hope that it will be found possible to pass it before the Council dissolves. It is desirable that it should be operative in time for the next Village Councils elections which take place in November.

#### EDUCATION.

With regard to education, it has not been possible, during the short time at my disposal, to make even a general survey of the problems involved. I have visited, however, several of the more important institutions in Georgetown and I hope in the near future to be able to visit the others there and in New Amsterdam as well as some estate and village schools.

A very difficult problem which has to be solved locally is the way in which agriculture should be taught to the youth of the Colony. The population of British Guiana is to a very large extent engaged in agricultural pursuits, among which two planting industries, sugar (including cane farming) and rice, are outstanding. Behind these there is a background of use

ful minor industries and ground-provision farming. Stock-raising, happily, is also on the increase. It is, therefore, obviously necessary that the rising generations should absorb as much elementary agricultural knowledge as is possible.

There are two main aspects of the general problem. One relates to the diffusion of the elementary instruction in agricultural knowledge which every child in the Colony who reaches a suitable standard of education should receive: the other belongs to the specialised and advanced instruction of the relatively few who are able to study agricultural science more deeply. Both aspects are of great importance and will have the consideration of my advisers and myself.

#### HEALTH.

Generally, the health of the Colony has been excellent, the only exception being an outbreak of alastrim in the North West District. This ordinarily mild ailment is on the list of notifiable diseases and the necessary steps were taken accordingly. The North West District was placed in quarantine, the medical staff there was strengthened, and a vaccination campaign was carried out vigorously there and elsewhere in the Colony. The known casualties of the outbreak were 57 cases with one death. Quarantine restrictions were removed last month but, unfortunately, the characteristic of this disease being to smoulder, information of its reappearance in the Waini district has just come to hand. A portion of the North West District has, therefore, again been placed in quarantine but this does not disallow clean Bills of Health to be issued to ships leaving the Colony.

Thanks to the energy of the Medical Department and to good luck the disease has not occurred, so far as is known, within 80 miles of Georgetown as the crow flies. An outbreak of any notifiable infectious illness, however mild, at this port would, of course, have a very serious effect upon trade, especially tourist traffic, and we may be grateful to those who averted that form of trouble.

#### BEST QUARANTINE STATION.

The chance of such an occurrence, however, invited attention to the partial failure of this Government hitherto to

implement the West Indian Inter-colonial Sanitary Convention. The risk to the Colony's trade entailed by that fact is quite incommensurate with the expenditure which would abolish it and I have, therefore, obtained the approval of the Secretary of State to expend \$7,000 in putting the Best Quarantine Station in proper order. Honourable Members will be invited to approve that expenditure during these meetings of Council.

#### PURE WATER SUPPLY.

A very important feature of the Colony's general endeavour to improve its health conditions is the Pure Water Supply scheme. The latest report in this connection reveals that 26 wells have been re-conditioned and that some 37 miles of distribution lines have been laid in and between the districts of West Coast, Demerara, and West Coast, Berbice; this has resulted in bringing a pure water supply within easy reach of approximately 18,000 villagers.

#### NEW BUILDINGS.

Erection of the venereal diseases clinic in Georgetown, funds for which have been granted from the Colonial Development Fund, has begun.

The site for the tuberculosis hospital, another gift from the Fund, is still under discussion.

#### LEPROSY.

A report by Dr. Robert Cochrane, Medical Secretary to the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, has very recently reached me. Its contents go to show that considerable additional expenditure is required at Mahaica, where Dr. Rose's highly admirable work is gravely hampered by shortage of staff and deficiencies in respect of buildings, drainage and so forth. The matter has my close attention.

#### PROPOSED ASSYRIAN SETTLEMENT.

On September 21st last this Council adopted a resolution approving in principle the settlement of a large number of refugee Assyrians in the southern part of this Colony. Thereafter a commission was sent by the League of Nations to examine the practicability of the proposal with the result, as Honourable Members are aware, that it has been abandoned.

For their further information I have ordered to be laid on the table of the Council a copy of a despatch dated 18th May, 1935, from the Secretary of State, the enclosure to which discloses the reasons why the project of settling the Assyrians in the Rupununi district was dropped.

#### BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

The British Guiana, Dutch Guiana and Brazil Boundary Commission will re-start work in October. The British survey party will consist principally of officers seconded from the Corps of Royal Engineers under the command of Major J. F. Phipps.

#### GEORGETOWN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

##### FUNDING OF ARREARS.

I am glad to be able to state that the Secretary of State has approved of the proposals of the Georgetown Town Council for the funding of all arrears of rates and taxes outstanding at the 31st of December, 1934, over a period of 25 years. You will be asked to pass legislation to authorise the raising of a loan for the purpose. This arrangement will provide property owners with a reasonable opportunity of meeting their obligations.

##### STATUTORY OVERDRAFT.

The Secretary of State has also undertaken to approve legislation which will extend the statutory limit of the Council's power to borrow and a Bill to amend the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance, Chapter 86, will be put before you at this meeting with that purpose in view.

##### ORDINANCES Nos. 3 AND 4 OF 1935.

Representations were made recently to Government urging the postponement till later in the year of certain of the final dates for payment of town rates and taxes prescribed in the Ordinances amending the Georgetown Town Council and Sewerage and Water Ordinances, 1935. These requests were fully considered but I could discover no good reason for granting them. To have done so would have defeated the object of that legislation, namely, to provide for duly prompt collection of its revenue by the Municipality, thus enabling the Council to meet its obligations without recourse to heavy borrowing.

#### FINANCIAL RELATIONS—GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPALITY.

The question of increasing Government's annual subvention to the Town Council in view of the increased cost of road-maintenance has also been raised recently. I intend to appoint a Committee to investigate the existing financial relations between Government and the Georgetown Town Council in respect to road construction and maintenance and to the duties on certain licences and to make recommendations as to the rectifying measures which should be adopted when an improvement in the financial condition of the Colony permits such action. It has been made clear to the Town Council, firstly, that the appointment of such a Committee at this time is not to be regarded as implying in any way that Government will act immediately upon such recommendations of the Committee as it may approve in principle. On the other hand there appears to be nothing to be gained by postponing inquiry until financial circumstances allow adjustment of the relations. It will be of advantage when that time comes, if it finds that the problem has been explored and the right solutions found. I anticipate that a similar step will require to be taken at New Amsterdam.

Secondly, the point was stressed that no increase in the subvention would be made unless and until the collection of rates had been brought up to date and was being so maintained.

#### REASSESSMENT.

Government awaits a report from the Georgetown Town Council on the subject of a reassessment of rateable values. A Committee of that Council is in course of considering this subject at the present time and I trust that the Town Council's recommendations will be received before long.

#### TOURIST TRADE.

The Tourist Committee has been at work for nearly a year and has established an attractive Bureau on a suitable site in this town. Honourable Members may be interested to learn that, according to information received from the Secretary, there has been during the first quarter of this year an increase by 73.3 per cent. in passenger bookings by Canadian National Steamships from Halifax and Boston to Georgetown as compared with those of the

corresponding period last year. Since January 1st seven parties have gone to Kaieteur by the overland route and eleven by air. Glowing accounts have been published in many cases by the returned travellers. The Committee estimates tourist expenditure in the Colony during the first 5 months of 1935 at over \$10,000 and are convinced that there are excellent prospects of a steady and large growth of tourist traffic in British Guiana. I trust that their hopes will be fulfilled.

#### RECENT COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES. SHOP REGULATION ORDINANCE.

The report of the Committee appointed to consider questions relating to shop hours was recently discussed by the Executive Council with representatives of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. The discussion was useful and constructive in nature. It is clear that the Ordinance needs very considerable amendment and I hope that it will be possible to pass legislation to that effect next year.

#### HOUSING COMMITTEE.

In October last a Committee appointed to consider and advise in regard to housing conditions in Georgetown presented a valuable and suggestive report. I have recently directed enquiries to be made in the first place into the financial aspects of their recommendations and on receiving the Colonial Treasurer's comments the report will be referred to the Executive Council. The Town Clerk, meantime, has informed Government that the Council are taking steps to give effect to the Committee's recommendation that the Building By-Laws should be revised and brought up to date.

#### FRANCHISE COMMISSION.

The Franchise Commission's report has been received since this Council last met for normal business. The changes regarding qualifications recommended by the Commission, after careful consideration of their subject, were of a minor order in the direction of widening the electorate. They were accepted by Government and have been forwarded to the Secretary of State.

#### ESSEQUIBO COMMISSION AND RE-ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE.

The reports of the Essequibo Commission and the Medical Re-organization Committee are not yet to hand.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—DISSOLUTION.

In view of the provisions of Article 69 of the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council of 1928 this series of meetings will be the last held before the Council is dissolved. If possible, I propose to dissolve on July 15th thus enabling the general elections to be held in August and the new Council to meet late in September. That will be the earliest by which the draft estimates can be prepared for the Council's consideration. Even so, it is unlikely that final approval will have been given to them by the beginning of the next financial year but it is my hope that in 1936 that desirable end will have been achieved.

## BUSINESS.

The business on the Agenda is not, I believe, in any way contentious. I need not occupy your time, therefore, reviewing it. The principal measure is the Local Government Bill relating to Village Councils to which I have already alluded.

## CONCLUSION.

I hope that this, my first survey in this Council of this Colony's affairs, will not be thought to err on the side of pessimism. If that is its impression, this address will not reflect my mind accurately. It is true that the difficulties which face British Guiana are stated bluntly therein and that no attempt has been made to exaggerate the resources by means of which the Colony can overcome those difficulties. Honourable Members, however, who are themselves aware of the facts, will not expect me to do other wise than face them squarely and to state them truthfully as I see them. No good could come of any less frank a course.

Personally I can see no reason for pessimism merely because there are grave problems before us, and the less so because those problems are solely financial in their nature; we are happily free from the bitter quarrels which rend many other wealthier but less fortunate communities. Another cheering point is that, were it not for the unique burden which the Colony carries on account of sea defences, British Guiana would be soundly solvent and with funds to spare for the expansion of social services. The term "unique" which I have applied to that burden is justified by the fact that no other Crown

Colony, so far as my knowledge extends, is called upon to bear not only the cost of her internal development but also that of preserving her very existence from destruction by external forces such as the sea.

Time will, we may hope, reduce that burden, which will be the more easily borne as the economic development of our assets promotes industrial prosperity and thereby the growth of the revenue. Our chief care in the meantime must be to make sure that there are sound, remunerative prospects for any and every developmental scheme that is undertaken. It is for that reason that I have laid such emphasis since I came to this Colony upon the necessity for close technical examination of every proposition entailing the expenditure of public money that may come before Government. Given such careful husbanding of our cash and of our credit and given also continuance of the public spirited co-operation with Government which I believe animates the public mind to-day and which I will do my best to foster, I can see no reason against our looking forward to the future with deliberate and conscious optimism.

Honourable Members,

I now commend the business of this Council to you under the guidance of Almighty God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL AND V.D.  
CLINIC.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Major W. Bain Gray): I am the bearer to the Council of the following Messages:—

## T.B. HOSPITAL AND V.D. CLINIC.

## MESSAGE NO. 11.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the acceptance of the following free grants from the Colonial Development Fund which have been secured for this Colony:—

(a) £15,330 (\$73,584) for the establishment of a Tuberculosis Hospital, and

(b) £3,125 (\$15,000) for a Venereal Diseases Clinic.

2. As regards (a) above, the erection of a Tuberculosis Hospital will be of twofold benefit to the community. In the first place it will facilitate the isolation of advanced cases which, if left unattended in their homes, would be a

source of danger and, secondly, it will be possible to ensure for the early cases of this disease that rest and continuity of treatment which will enable them to regain their health. Hitherto the disadvantages of insufficient and scattered hospital accommodation have been a severe handicap in coping with Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

3. As regards (b) above, the establishment of a Venereal Diseases Clinic of sufficient size and appropriate accommodation to deal with the needs of Georgetown and the surrounding districts is essential if the efforts made to combat these diseases are to be sustained. The lack of a proper building planned on modern lines has to no small extent retarded the work done in connexion with this all important aspect of preventive medicine.

4. Honourable Members will probably recollect the visit to the Colony made by Dr. P. J. Kelly, late Surgeon-General, in the early months of last year. The object of the visit was to examine and advise on the proposals which had then been formulated for assistance from the Colonial Development Fund for medical work. Dr. Kelly strongly supported the proposals put for forward and gave it as his opinion that a new Tuberculosis Hospital was of paramount importance and that next in importance was the need for a new well designed building for the treatment of Venereal Diseases.

5. This Government is fortunate in having been able to obtain approval of the grants mentioned in the first paragraph above, and I recommend to this Council that they be accepted. If approved it is anticipated that during 1935 about \$40,000 will be spent on the Tuberculosis Hospital and \$10,000 on the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

6th April, 1935.

#### ADDITION TO PENSIONABLE SERVICE.

##### MESSAGE No. 14.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I regret to inform you that it became necessary for Dr. J. Ewing Chow, Government Medical Officer, to retire from the Service on the grounds of ill-health as from the 1st of August, 1934, and that after a protracted illness Dr. Ewing Chow died on the 17th of April, 1935.

2. Dr. Ewing Chow was 43 years of age on the date of his retirement and had a record of 18 years meritorious service to his credit. The illness which compelled his retirement and later caused his death, is considered most probably to have been contracted in the course of his medical duties during 1930 and 1931.

3. The decision was made recently and prior to Dr. Ewing Chow's death that his case was one for consideration in relation to the provisions of section 25 of the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204. With the approval of the Secretary of State and with the concurrence of the Executive Council it was proposed to invite this Council to approve of the addition of six years to the number which Dr. Ewing Chow was already entitled for the final calculation of his pension.

4. I consider that, notwithstanding Dr. Ewing Chow's death, the addition of years proposed should be made to his service for the final calculation of his pension and I invite this Council to approve accordingly. The additional amount of pension which will accrue to the estate of Dr. Ewing Chow in respect of the period 1st August, 1934, to 17th April, 1935, as the result of the addition of years is \$179.90; and the lump sum will be increased by \$1,344.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

25th April, 1935.

#### KING'S JUBILEE SCHOLARSHIPS.

##### MESSAGE No. 16.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to inform the Council that it is proposed, in connexion with the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the Throne, to arrange for the award of two special Scholarships to be styled the "King's Jubilee Scholarships."

2. The Scholarships will be open to competition by both boys and girls. One of the two Scholarships will be open to candidates under 12 years of age not attending an approved Secondary School and the other to all candidates under 14 years of age irrespective of the school attended.

3. In the case of candidates under 12 years, the awards will be made on the results of the Government County Scholarship Examination in 1935 and in the case of candidates under 14 years of age on the results of the Government Junior Scholarship Examination in 1935. Each Scholarship will be tenable for a period of 5 years, and will be generally subject to the conditions governing the award of the Scholarship named in each case.

4. To enable effect to be given to the above proposals, an expenditure of \$50 in 1935 and \$300 per annum during the period 1936 to 1940 inclusive is necessary, and with the advice of my Executive Council and the sanction of the Secretary of State, I invite this Council to approve of provision being made in the Estimates accordingly.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

29th April, 1935.

#### REMISSION OF LICENCE DUTY.

##### MESSAGE No. 17.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to inform the Council that owing to the serious breach which occurred in the sea defences at Nog Eens, East Coast, Demerara, during 1934 and the necessity for immediate repairs, it became necessary for the Public Works Department to engage under contract the services of privately-owned lorries to assist in transporting stone and other materials as there was an insufficient number of Government lorries available in the emergency.

2. The majority of the contractors at the commencement of the work were in possession of lorry licences which confined their operations to the Georgetown District, and consequently



when they undertook the special work on the East Coast they were called upon to pay the higher licence for a country district (§750)—an increase of \$550 over the licence for Georgetown. It has been possible to dispense with their services during the first quarter of 1935.

3. Those who no longer desire to operate on the East Coast have petitioned Government praying that in the circumstances the higher licence duty be not exacted from them in respect of 1935. The petition has been considered by my Executive Council and I have been advised that some concession should be granted the lorry owners concerned in view of the fact that their engagement during 1935 was for so short a period.

4. Eight of the petitioners have deposited the sum of \$187.50 each (being one quarter's licence at the rate of \$750 payable under section 31, Item (22) (ii) of the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 37, as enacted by section 14 B, of Ordinance No. 29 of 1931) and I have the honour to invite Council to authorise the remission of the remaining nine months portion of the licence. The use of the lorries during the remainder of the year entails, of course, the taking out of licences appropriate to the districts in which they operate.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

29th May, 1935.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) I am the bearer to the Council of the following Message:—

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL INSTITUTIONS.

##### MESSAGE No. 18.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to refer to Message No. 8 of the 20th December, 1934, and to Resolution No. XI. of 1934, which was passed by this Council on the 9th of January, 1935, approving of the insertion in the Estimates of Expenditure of the following contributions to the undermentioned Imperial Institutions:—

(a) \$528 per annum as from the year 1934 towards the maintenance of the work of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux and of the Imperial Economic and Shipping Committees; and

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

2. In the Message mentioned above the value of the work being done by those Institutions was referred to. A further despatch dated 19th February, 1935, outlining the useful work which those Institutions are continuing to perform, has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and will be laid on the table for the information of Members.

3. The Secretary of State has expressed the hope that this Colony will contribute at the full

rate of \$1,008 per annum during the years 1935 and 1936 in respect of the Institutions referred to at (a) and in respect of the other Institutions referred to at (b) the sum of \$111 during the year 1935.

4. I recommend to Council that the payments referred to be approved.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

29th May, 1935.

Major CRAIG: (Director of Public Works): I am the bearer to the Council of the following Messages:—

#### PAYMENT FOR STONE.

##### MESSAGE No. 10.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the payment of \$600 to Mr. J. N. Hodge in full and final settlement of a claim against Government in respect of 120 tons of stone removed from land owned by him in Leguan between June and August, 1920.

2. The land was purchased by Mr. Hodge in 1912 and comprised a part of the foreshore on which lay deposited a considerable quantity of stone forming part of an abandoned sea defence. Acting under the provisions of the then operative Sea Defences Ordinance, No. 9 of 1913, Government removed 120 tons of stone from Mr. Hodge's property for use in the construction of defences against the inroads of the sea. No provision was made under the Ordinance cited for compensation for the removal of stone from any estate exceeding five acres in extent and for this reason it was not considered, at the time, that Mr. Hodge had any claim against Government.

3. There exists some doubt, however, that all the stone removed from Mr. Hodge's property was used solely for the purpose of sea defences, and in the absence of absolute proof to the contrary it is considered that some onus rests on Government to compensate Mr. Hodge for the loss of his stone which he claims considerably enhanced the value of his land.

4. Mr. Hodge has petitioned Government in this connexion, and an agreement has been reached whereby Mr. Hodge has accepted the proposal that he be paid the sum of \$600 in full and final settlement of his claim.

5. The Secretary of State has been communicated with in this matter and with his concurrence I invite this Council to approve of the payment of \$600 being made to Mr. Hodge accordingly.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

4th April, 1935.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT AND FLOOD RELIEF WORKS.

##### MESSAGE No. 15.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the attention of the Council to Sessional Paper No. 6/1935

containing a Statement showing the detailed allocations and related expenditure on Unemployment and Flood Relief works in 1934, met from an Imperial Loan-in-aid.

2. Appended to the Statement are reports by the District Commissioners and Heads of Departments concerned, on the works carried out, and on the improvement in the conditions in country districts which has resulted from this expenditure.

3. The position which arose as a result of the floods was reported to Council in Sir Edward Denham's Message No. 7 of the 24th of April, 1934, and by Resolution No. VIII. of the 26th of April, 1934, the Council approved of the increase in the provision for Relief Works from the original amount of \$130,000, appearing under Head LII. in the 1934 Annual Estimate, to \$307,200, the total loan-in-aid appropriation then available in order to meet the situation. As the Council has already been informed, later in the year the Secretary of State approved of a request by Government that an unappropriated balance of approximately \$21,400, remaining on deposit from loan-in-aid receipts from the Imperial Government to equate the Colony's budgets to the end of 1932, should also be made available for the purpose.

4. As stated in paragraph 7 of the Message cited, the detailed allocations in the revised estimate approved by the Council were not to be regarded as final, and were to be subject to variation and modification as required during the progress of the works. The final revised allocations are as shown in the Statement.

5. It will also be seen from the Statement that the total actual expenditure on these works during 1934 amounted to \$309,257, and that further expenditure amounting to \$17,117 is to be incurred in the current year on the completion of works still in progress at the close of 1934. This amount will be included in the Schedule of Additional Provision for the first quarter of 1935.

6. The amount by which the actual expenditure in 1934 on these works exceeds the original provision in the 1934 Estimate will be included in the final Schedule of Additional Provision for 1934, to be laid before Council for approval.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

4th June, 1935.

#### ADVANCES FOR SEA DEFENCES.

##### MESSAGE No. 19.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of loan advances amounting to \$199,210 being made to the Sea Defence Board in addition to the advance of \$652,400 authorised by Resolution No. XIII. of the 31st of January, 1935, making a total of \$851,610, to be expended on the permanent sea defences of the Colony: this request is in accordance with the recommendations of Mr. G. O. Case, Consulting Engineer, which have been accepted by the Sea Defence Board. These recommendations involve expenditure in the several Sea Defence Districts as follows:—

East Coast, Demerara		\$652,400
West Coast, Demerara	...\$125,645	
Essequebo Coast	45,565	
Leguan	11,000	
Wakenaam	5,000	
East and Corentyne Coasts, Berbice	12,000	199,210
		<u>\$851,610</u>

2. Mr. Case's reports have already been printed and circulated to Members of Council and a copy will to-day be formally laid on the table. Along with Mr. Case's reports is printed a minute by the Director of Public Works, the Chairman of the Sea Defence Board, reporting the opinion of the Board on Mr. Case's recommendations. It will be noted that, with the exception of expenditure recommended in respect of the islands of Leguan and Wakenaam, Mr. Case's recommendations have been unanimously approved by the Board. In this connexion I invite attention to Resolution No. XXI. of the 9th of October, 1924, passed in pursuance of Message No. 17 of the 6th of October, 1934, by which the Council was informed of the Sea Defence Board's estimate of expenditure on the sea defences of the Colony prior to Mr. Case's recent visit. For convenience of reference the following figures which show the expenditure then estimated against each District are reproduced from that Message:—

East Coast, Demerara	..\$838,970
West Coast, Demerara	62,800
Essequebo ...	52,900
Leguan	11,000
Wakenaam ...	5,000
Corentyne, Berbice	12,000
	<u>\$982,670</u>

Mr. Case's proposals accordingly indicate a net saving of \$131,060 on that estimate.

3. *East Coast, Demerara.*—The position with regard to the East Coast Demerara District was fully reported to Council in Sir Crawford Douglas-Jones's Message No. 9 of the 25th of January, 1935, with reference to which the resolution of the 31st of January was passed approving of advances to the Board on the basis of the reduced estimate of \$652,400 for the works in this district.

4. *West Coast, Demerara.*—It will be noted that while Mr. Case was able to report an improvement in the situation on the West Coast, Demerara, conditions on the West Coast, Demerara, are, on the other hand, worse, and in order to combat the probable results of the considerable changes in the sea bed of this section of the Coast, extensive construction work is imperative. To enable the necessary works to be undertaken an expenditure of \$125,645 or \$62,845 more than was estimated when Message No. 17 of the 6th of October, 1934, was communicated, has been recommended.

*Essequebo.*—Estimated expenditure has now been calculated at \$45,565 or \$7,335 less than was estimated in October, 1934, (Message No. 17 cited above). With the exception of 500 ft. of sea wall to replace the earth dam Zorg—Golden Fleece, estimated to cost about \$12,500, no expenditure on sea defences in Sea Defence

District No. 1, will be undertaken until the Essequibo Commission's report has been studied and decisions have been taken thereon.

6. *Leguan and Wakenaam*.—On the assumption that sea defences are to be maintained on these islands the Consulting Engineer recommended considerably increased expenditure in respect of Leguan and Wakenaam—\$96,905 in the case of Leguan and \$111,070 in the case of Wakenaam. The Sea Defence Board, while satisfied as to the necessity of the works recommended by Mr. Case from a protective and engineering standpoint, does not consider the expenditure justifiable from an economic point of view and has submitted the matter for an expression of Government's policy. The matter has not yet been fully considered and in the meantime the original estimate of the Sea Defence Board providing for an expenditure of \$16,000 in these Islands has been accepted and included in the total estimate of \$851,610 as set out in the opening paragraph of this Message.

7. *East and Corentyne Coasts, Berbice*.—The expenditure of \$12,000 recommended for the sea defences of the East and Corentyne Coasts, Berbice, is the same as estimated in October last year.

8. Against the amount to be advanced according to these proposals, viz., \$851,610, there is an unexpended balance of \$37,815 from the loan raised in 1933 under the authority of the Sea Defence (Loan) Ordinance, 1933, leaving a sum of \$813,795 to be provided.

The Council was informed in Sir Crawford Douglas-Jones's Message of the 28th of January that the advisability of raising one loan to meet all extraordinary expenditure on sea defences and such flood prevention and other public works, recommended by the Floods Investigation Committee, as may be approved had been suggested to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has now informed me that the proposal to raise one loan has been approved in principle and the method of raising the loan is under consideration. It will be necessary to finance the expenditure pending the raising of the loan, and I recommend that this Council approves of the necessary arrangements being made to obtain advances from the Crown Agents' Joint Colonial Fund.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor,

13th June, 1935.

"EX GRACIA" AWARD.

MESSAGE No. 20.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the payment of an "ex-gratia" award of \$600 to the children of Eden, a labourer in the employment of Government who died on the 27th February, 1935, as the result of injuries sustained on 3rd August, 1934, in an accident caused by the collapse of a beam which was supporting the section of the Government Stelling at Springlands on which he was working.

2. Prior to Edan's death the sanction of the Secretary of State had been sought to invite this Council to approve of the payment to him of the sum mentioned above in the special

circumstances of the case. For some time before his death Edan was afflicted with paralysis of both lower and upper limbs due to the accident.

3. The sum of \$600 has been arrived at by a calculation based on the provisions of section 5 (1) (b) (i) of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1934, (which will be in operation on 1st October, 1935), and is approximately the equivalent of the total of 42 months wages of the deceased less a sum of \$38.40 which he drew as half pay during his incapacity up to 31st December, 1934.

4. The Secretary of State has now sanctioned the award and I invite this Council to vote the sum of \$600 which it is proposed should be deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank in the names of the children of the deceased for disbursement from time to time in such amounts as the District Commissioner, Berbice, may consider necessary.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor

22nd June, 1935.

ECHO OF THE FLOODS.

MESSAGE No. 21.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to refer to the Supplementary Report, by the Floods Investigation Committee, 1934, printed as Sessional Paper No. 13/34 and laid before Council on the 9th of October, 1934.

2. A copy of that report was communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and he has intimated that the Imperial Treasury has agreed that money for the major flood relief works should be raised in the same loan as that for sea defence works, the method of raising which is now under consideration. Meanwhile, the Crown Agents for the Colonies will advance money to give effect to certain of the recommendations in the Committee's report.

3. Among the measures approved is the payment to the East Demerara Water Supply Commissioners of the sum of \$10,140 expended by them in repairing dams in consequence of the floods, and I have the honour to invite Honourable Members of the Council to approve this payment.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

24th June, 1935.

DRAINAGE OF CANALS POLDER.

MESSAGE No. 22.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to refer to the Supplementary Report by the Floods Investigation Committee, 1934, printed as Sessional Paper No. 13/34 and laid before Council on the 9th of October, 1934.

2. A copy of that report was communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and he has intimated that the Imperial Treasury has agreed that money for the major flood relief works should be raised in the same loan as that for sea defence works, the method of raising which is now under consideration.

Meanwhile, the Crown Agents for the Colonies will advance money to give effect to certain of the recommendations in the Committee's report.

3. Included in the measures is the improvement of the drainage in the Canals Polder area. This subject has been discussed by Government and the Polder Authority with the result that a scheme has been prepared, the total cost of which is \$181,808. Government has not yet given final approval to the details of this scheme but an essential part of it is the provision of a dredging plant which it will be necessary to obtain from the United Kingdom. In order that this may be obtained as early as possible I have the honour to invite Honourable Members of Council to approve the scheme at the cost stated.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

24th June, 1935.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I am the bearer to the Council of the following Message:—

MARKET FOR NEW AMSTERDAM.

MESSAGE No. 12.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of a free grant of £3,000 (\$14,400) and a loan of £3,000 from the Colonial Development Fund to provide for the construction of a new market with latrines and a new fish market in New Amsterdam.

2. The New Amsterdam Municipality have submitted to Government proposals for certain improvement works in the Town which have been long outstanding. The condition of the Municipal Markets is far from satisfactory and the construction of new buildings will be a great improvement. It is proposed that the grant and the loan will be made to this Government and by this Government to the New Amsterdam Town Council on the same conditions as those accepted from the Colonial Development Fund.

3. As regards the loan each instalment will be free of interest and repayment for the first four years and will thereafter bear interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum, repayable within 20 years from the date of advance by the method of equated annuities covering principal and interest.

4. I consider that every assistance should be given to the Municipal Council of New Amsterdam in their efforts for the improvement of their Town in the directions indicated, and I recommend that this Council approve of the acceptance of the free grant and the loan on the terms mentioned.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

7th April, 1935.

Mr. MULLIN (Commissioner of Lands and Mines): I am the bearer to the Council of the following Message:—

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

MESSAGE No. 13.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the acceptance of a further loan of £7,000 (\$33,600) from the Colonial Development Fund to finance the continuance of the special geological survey which, as Honourable Members are aware, is now being undertaken.

2. The original loan of £9,998 which was secured from the Colonial Development Fund for a special geological survey of the Bartica-Tiboku Triangle would have been sufficient to enable the work to continue only up to January of this year. In view of the increased activity and interest which have been shown in the gold fields since these surveys were commenced it is considered that further geological exploration would be desirable and beneficial in stimulating the interest evinced and in providing reliable information for the guidance of those already engaged in the industry and for the attraction of capital from outside the Colony. The loan which this Council is now asked to accept will enable the valuable work which the survey is doing to be continued for a period of one year and to cover the salary, etc., of the officers of the Department during the periods of leave at the termination of the survey which will then be due to them. The terms of the loan, as in the previous case, are that each instalment will be free of interest for the first five years and thereafter with interest at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum repayable within twenty years by the method of equated annuities commencing in the sixth year.

3. I regard it of the utmost importance that the geological survey work should be continued at this important stage of the revival of the gold industry of this Colony and I am confident that this Council will agree with the wisdom of securing further funds for the purpose. I accordingly recommend to Council the acceptance of the loan on the terms stated.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor

7th April, 1935.

PAPERS LAID.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY laid the following documents on the table:—

Final Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1934.

Schedule of Additional Provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the Estimate for the year 1935; for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1934.

Report of the Registrar of Trades Unions for the year 1934.

Report of the Committee of the Georgetown Public Free Library, 1934.

Reports under the Food and Drugs Ordinance for the half year ended 30th June, 1934, and for the half year ended 31st December 1934.

Report on the Georgetown Fire Brigade for the year 1934.

Fifteenth Annual Report of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Report of the Principal of Queen's College for the year 1934.

Report on the Transport and Harbours Department for the year 1934.

Report of the Government Analyst for the year 1934.

Report of the Inspector of Prisons for the year 1934.

Report on the Government Industrial School, Onderneeming, for the year 1934.

Despatch from the Secretary of State dated 6th November, 1934, *re* contributions to the Colonial Agricultural Scholarship Scheme.

Despatch from the Secretary of State dated 9th March, 1935, with statement showing estimated total cost of Home Establishment of the Colonial Audit Department for the year 1935-1936.

Despatch from the Secretary of State dated 27th April, 1934, *re* free grant of £775 from the Colonial Development Fund to enable the continuance of the research into the moth borer pest of sugar cane for a further period of 9 months from 9th July, 1934.

Despatch from the Secretary of State dated 2nd April, 1935, confirming approval of free grant of £700 from the Colonial Development Fund to allow the continuance of the research into the biological control of the moth borer pest of sugar cane for a further period of one year from 9th July, 1935.

Despatch dated 19th February, 1935, from the Secretary of State *re* contributions to Imperial Agricultural Bureaux, etc.

Despatch from Secretary of State dated the 18th of May, 1935, regarding the abandonment of the scheme for settling Assyrians in British Guiana.

Regulations to amend the Post and Telegraph Regulations, 1928.

Regulations for the award of two British Guiana Scholarships in 1935.

Regulations further to amend the regulations for the guidance of the Tender Board made on the 8th May, 1914.

Regulations governing the Colonial Police and Fire Brigade Long Service Medal.

Regulations to amend the Police Regulations, 1929.

Regulations to amend the Post and Telegraph Regulations, 1928.

Regulations relating to the award of the Government Junior Scholarship.

Report of the Official Receiver for the year 1934.

Report of the Administrators of the Patoir Fund for the year 1934.

Report of the British Guiana Franchise Commission.

Report of the Co-operative Credit Banks Board and on the Co-operative Credit Banks established in the Colony for the year 1933.

Administration Report of the Director of Agriculture for the year 1933.

Report of the Director of Public Works for the year 1934.

Statement showing the expenditure on Unemployment and Flood Relief Works for the year 1934. Report on the works carried out.

Reports by Mr. G. O. Case on the Sea Defences of the Colony with a minute by Major J. C. Craig, Director of Public Works, and Chairman, Sea Defence Board.

Final Report of the Flood Relief Finance Committee.

Annual Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the year 1934.

Report of the Commissioners of Currency for the year 1934.

Report of the Commissioner of Income Tax for the year 1934.

Annual Report of the Comptroller of Customs on Customs Revenue Trade and Shipping of the Colony for the year 1934.

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motions:—

### DEATH OF MR. MILLARD.

THAT this Council records its deep regret at the death of the Honourable Thomas Millard, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer and acting Colonial Secretary, and expresses its sympathy with Mrs. Millard and her sons.

### T.B. HOSPITAL AND V.D. CLINIC.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 11 of the 6th of April, 1935, this Council approves of the acceptance of the following free grants from the Colonial Development Fund:—

- (a) £15,330 (\$73,584) for the establishment of a Tuberculosis Hospital, and
- (b) £3,125 (\$15,000) for a Venereal Disease Clinic.

### ADDITION TO PENSIONABLE SERVICE.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 14 of the 25th of April, 1935, this Council approves under the provisions of section twenty-five of the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204, of the addition of six years to the pensionable service of the late Dr. J. Ewing Chow, Government Medical Officer, for the final calculation of his pension.

### KING'S JUBILEE SCHOLARSHIPS.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 16 of the 29th of April, 1935, this Council approves of provision being made in the Estimates to cover expenditure to the extent of \$50 in 1935 and \$300 annually for the period 1936 to 1940 inclusive in connexion with the award of the King's Jubilee Scholarships.

### REMISSION OF LICENCE DUTY.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 17 of the 29th of May, 1935, this Council approves of the remission in respect of the period 1st April to 31st December, 1935, of licence duty payable under section 31 Item (22) (ii) of the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 37, as enacted by section 14 B of Ordinance No. 29 of 1931, by certain lorry owners employed during the first quarter of the year 1935, by the Public Works Department for the purpose of transporting stone and other materials in connexion with the breach of the sea defences at Nog Ecns, East Coast, Demerara.

### SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE.

THAT this Council approves expenditure in excess of the provision already made for the year 1934, as set forth in the Final Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1934, which has been laid upon the Table.

THAT this Council approves additional provision being made to meet expenditure in excess of the provision already made for the year 1935.

as set forth in the schedule for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1935, which has been laid upon the Table.

Professor DASH gave notice of the following motion :—

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL INSTITUTIONS.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 18 of the 29th of May, 1935, and Resolution No. XI. of the 9th of January, 1935, this Council approves of the insertion in the Estimates of Expenditure of contributions to the undermentioned Imperial Institutions :—

- (a) \$1,008 per annum during the years 1935 and 1936 towards the maintenance of the work of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux and of the Imperial Economic and Shipping Committees ; and
- (b) \$111 as one payment in respect of the period 1st April, 1935, to 31st March, 1936 towards the work of the Kambam House Parasite Laboratory, the Biological Field Station (Stored Products Research) Slough, and the Low Temperature Research Stations at Cambridge, East Malling and Aberdeen.

Major CRAIG gave notice of the following motions :

#### PAYMENT FOR STONE.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 10 of the 4th of April, 1935, this Council approves of the payment of \$600 to Mr. J. N. Hodge in full and final settlement of a claim against Government in respect of 120 tons of stone removed from land owned by him in Leguan between June and August, 1920.

#### ADVANCES FOR SEA DEFENCES.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 19 of the 13th of June, 1935, this Council approves of advances on loans to the Sea Defence Board amounting to \$199,210 (in addition to the advance of \$652,400 approved by Resolution XIII. of the 31st of January, 1935) in pursuance of section 17 (2) of the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933, to defray the cost of construction of sea defences of a permanent character in respect of the undermentioned Districts :—

East Coast Demerara	\$ 652,400	
West Coast Demerara	..\$ 125,645	
Essequebo Coast	45,565	
Leguan	11,000	
Wakenaam	5,000	
East & Corentyne Coasts, Berbice	12,000	199,210
		\$ 851,610

This Council further approves of the raising of a loan of \$813,795 (being the sum required as above, less the balance of \$37,815 available from the loan of \$120,000 raised under the Sea Defence (Loan) Ordinance, 1933) and of arrangements being made with the Crown Agents for the necessary advances to be made from the Joint Colonial Fund pending the raising of the loan.

#### "EX GRATIA" AWARD.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 20 of the 22nd of June, 1935, this Council approves of the payment of an *ex gratia* award of \$600 to the children of Edan, a labourer, who died

on the 27th of February, 1935, as the result of injuries sustained on 3rd August, 1934, in an accident caused by the collapse of a beam which was supporting the section of the Government Stelling at Springlands on which he was working.

#### ECHO OF THE FLOODS.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 21 of the 24th of June, 1935, this Council approves of the payment to the East Demerara Water Supply Commissioners of the sum of \$10,140 spent by them in repairing dams in consequence of the floods of 1934 to be met by loan ; and further approves of the necessary advances being obtained from the Crown Agents pending the raising of the loan.

#### DRAINAGE OF CANALS POLDER.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 22 of the 24th of June, 1935, this Council approves of expenditure of a sum of \$181,808 on a scheme for improving the drainage of the Canals Polder to be met by loan ; and further approves of the necessary advances being obtained from the Crown Agents pending the raising of the loan.

Mr. McDAVID gave notice of the following motion :—

#### MARKET FOR NEW AMSTERDAM.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 12 of the 7th of April, 1935, this Council approves of the acceptance of a free grant of £3,000 and a loan of £3,000 from the Colonial Development Fund to provide for the construction of a new market with latrines and a new fish market in New Amsterdam, the loan to be free of interest for the first four years and thereafter at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum repayable within 20 years after the date of advance by the method of equated annuities covering principal and interest.

Mr. MULLIN gave notice of the following motion :—

#### GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

THAT, with reference to Message No. 13 of the 7th of April, 1935, this Council approves of the acceptance of a further loan of £7,900 (\$33,600) from the Colonial Development Fund to finance the continuance of the geological survey for a further period of one year on the terms set out in the Message referred to.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

Notice was also given that at the next meeting of the Council the following Bill would be introduced and read a first time :—

A Bill to amend the Spirits Ordinance, Chapter 110, by making provision for a temporary cessation of distilling operations for a period not exceeding four weeks.

A Bill to amend the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance, Chapter 86, with respect to the borrowing powers of the Council. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill to amend the law relating to pensions by repealing the provision for the abatement of pensions of re-employed pensioners.

A Bill to amend the Civil List Ordinance, Chapter 52, with respect to the salaries which may be paid to officers.

A Bill to amend the Shops Regulation Ordinance, Chapter 77, to authorise the restriction of the sale of malt liquor and wine and the time of opening of hotels, retail spirit shops and taverns on any day appointed for the holding of the election of a member of the Legislative Council. (*The Attorney-General*).

A Bill to amend the Stamp Duties (Management) Ordinance, Chapter 43, by making provision with respect to the discontinuance of the use of dies and stamps.

A Bill to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended thirty-first day of December, 1934.

A Bill to appropriate the supplies granted in the last session of the Legislative Council.

A Bill further to amend the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, 1931, with respect to appropriation by the Board of the revenues of the Department.

A Bill to allow and confirm the expenditure incurred in the years 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932.

A Bill to amend the law relating to income tax with respect to shipping profits and the admission of claims for relief in cases of double taxation.

A Bill to empower the Georgetown Town Council to fund the total amount outstanding in respect of unpaid taxes and rates which have been levied during the years 1933 and 1934 under the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance (Chapter 86) and the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Ordinance, (Chapter 96) and the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Ordinance, 1930, and in respect of unpaid ratepayers' debts under the Georgetown Improvements Rates (Funding) Ordinance, 1932, together with interest thereon, and also to make provision for the payment of such taxes, rates and ratepayers' debts and interest. (*Mr. McDavid*).

A Bill to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, Chapter 34, with respect to the rates of duty on forest products. (*Mr. D'Andrade*).

A Bill to amend the Local Government Ordinance, Chapter 84, with respect to the constitution of village councils, the election of village councillors and matters connected therewith, and to make provision for regulating the proceedings at elections. (*Mr. D'Aling*)

#### UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

Mr. ELEAZAR gave notice of the following motion:—

##### DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION.

THAT Government be respectfully requested to forward to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies the petition of the inhabitants of the Colony to be laid on the table praying for effective drainage and irrigation schemes for the coastlands in terms of a motion accepted by Government at the Fifth Annual Session of this Council.

Mr. DE AGUIAR gave notice of the following questions:—

##### CULTIVATION AND EXPORT OF BANANAS.

1. What steps are being taken to encourage the cultivation of bananas for export?
2. Are the Government aware that the Gros

Michel type can be successfully cultivated in commercial quantities? P

3. How many trial shipments will be made during 1935 and to what markets?

(b) State the approximate number of stems of Gros Michel and Cavendish intended for each market.

4. What arrangements have been made with steamships agents for economical carriage of the fruit?

(a) to the United Kingdom.

(b) to Canada.

5. What arrangements have been made for the sale of the fruit in each of these markets?

6. Would Government consider the necessity of rendering early financial assistance for the proper establishment of the industry along the following lines:—

(a) for the experimental cultivation of selected plots,

(b) for assisting the formation of an Association of banana growers and exporters

(c) for advances to farmers through a marketing organisation?

##### WIRELESS LICENCES, &C.

1. How many wireless receiving licences have been issued in each of the years 1933 and 1934 and to June 30, 1935?

2. What steps are being taken to control radio interference in Georgetown and New Amsterdam thus ensuring reasonably good reception.

3. What precautionary measures are taken in the installation of receiving sets to eliminate fire risk?

##### SALARIES OF POSTMASTERS

1. What are the salaries attached to the offices of Postmaster of Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Suddie?

2. Has there been any change in the scale of salaries since the 1928 scheme came into operation?

3. What is the salary paid to the recently appointed Postmaster at Suddie?

4. If this officer is at present receiving a salary below the minimum under the 1928 Scheme, would Government make the necessary provision in the Estimates for the adjustment of his salary?

#### PETITIONS.

Mr. ELEAZAR laid on the table a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies from inhabitants in the Colony praying for effective drainage and irrigation schemes.

Mr. AUSTIN laid on the table a petition from Moses A. Jack praying for a pension in respect of his service in the Transport Department.

Mr. WILLS laid on the table a petition from Samuel Forbes praying for a compassionate allowance in respect of services as a labourer at Vreed-en-Hoop stelling.

## ORDER OF THE DAY.

## QUESTIONS.

Mr. GONSALVES asked the following questions of which notice had been previously given :—

## MOTOR TRAFFIC AND INSURANCE.

How soon will Government introduce into the Council, and have passed, the long promised Bill for the better regulation of motor traffic, especially in Georgetown, and making provision for third-party insurance with reference to motor buses ?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows :—

1.—The Secretary of State has intimated that a model Ordinance providing for these matters will be forwarded to this Government. This is awaited.

## BARTICA-TIBOKU ROAD.

1. How many men are at present employed on the Bartica-Tiboku Road ?

How many so employed are Natives of this Colony, and how many are Islanders ?

2. Is it true that a good number of Islanders are being given preference on this work to the detriment of unemployed Natives of this Colony ?

3. Are the men on this road-work employed in shifts? If not, why not ?

4. Will Government take steps to permit of as many as possible of unemployed men of this Colony being given employment on the said road-work and not restrict the work to a limited few ?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows :—

1 & 2.—299. 283 are Natives of the Colony and 16 are Islanders. No preference is given to Islanders.

3 & 4.—Employment is not restricted to a limited few, but considerations of cost of transportation to and from the scene of operations and progress of the work preclude frequent changes of employees being made.

Mr. DE AGUIAR asked the following questions of which previous notice had been given :—

## CROWN AGENTS' SUPPLIES.

1. What is the value of merchandise ordered through the Crown Agents on hand as at December, 31, 1934, or the last date of stock-taking in 1934 for the following Departments :—

- (a) Public Works Department.
- (b) Transport and Harbours Department.
- (c) Public Hospitals (including Mental and Leprosy Hospitals).
- (d) Police.

2. Give each Department separately.

3. Would Government lay on the table stock lists in connection with (1) showing quantities and respective values for the information of Members of the Council ?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows :—

1 & 2.—The Stores accounts of Government Departments are not required to be kept in a form which would differentiate between stocks on hand purchased locally and through the Crown Agents.

3.—See answer to Questions 1 & 2.

Mr. WONG asked the following questions standing in his name :—

## PURE WATER SUPPLY.

1. Is Government aware of the fact that in the populous island of Wakenaam, which is without any natural stream to furnish a supply of potable water, the two artesian wells have for several years ceased to flow ?

2. Will Government give an undertaking to recondition the aforesaid wells as soon as the drilling plant now at work at Parika is available ?

3. If the undertaking asked for in Question 2 cannot be given because the programme of expenditure for the current year has already been settled, will Government promise to carry out the work, or as much of it as possible, out of any savings that may be made on the estimated expenditure for Pure Water Supply for the current year ?

4. If no undertaking can be given in regard to this year, will Government make some effort next year to restore the potable water supply of the unfortunate inhabitants of Wakenaam ?

Major CRAIG replied as follows :—

1.—The answer is in the affirmative.

2, 3 & 4. Government is proceeding with as much work as can be carried out with the funds available. No undertaking can be given in this matter at present—the programme for 1935 having already been settled. Consideration will, however, be given to the needs of Wakenaam when the programme for 1936 is under preparation.

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