

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 18th December, 1934.

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

PRESENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

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

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Friday, 14th December, 1934, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

PAPER LAID.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests) laid on the table the following document :—

The Tenth Annual Report 1933-1934 and Prospectus of the Imperial Forestry Institute, University of Oxford.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would ask leave to introduce and have read the first time the following Bills :—

A Bill to authorise the making of Orders in Council for the purpose of effecting economies in expenditure with respect to the remuneration of persons in the Public Service.

A Bill to continue certain expiring laws.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would ask leave to introduce and have read the first time :—

A Bill to regulate the importation of textile goods from foreign countries.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

POLICE PENSIONS.

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

1. (a) How many non-commissioned officers and men of the Police Force have agreed to

come under the New Pensions Ordinance, 37 of 1928?

(b) Were they instructed by their officers on the advantages of the said Ordinance? (Vol. 2 p. 731).

2. (a) How many of these men have since died before completing 20 years' service?

(b) Have any of the dependents of the deceased received lump sum for the services of the deceased?

(c) If so, how many have received?

(d) If not all, why?

3. Is it true that a mistake was discovered in the New Pensions Ordinance after it came into force? If so, were the non-commissioned officers and men of the Police Force who had come under this Ordinance told of the mistake by their superior officers?

4. If there is a mistake subsequently discovered in Ordinance 37 of 1928, will the men who had agreed to come under that Ordinance be permitted to return to the old Ordinance under which they had joined the Police Force prior to 1928?

5. Can any provision be made under the New Pension Ordinance 37 of 1928 for any N.C.O. or man who has not completed 20 years' service in the Police Force?

6. How much sick leave on full pay is given to N.C.O's. and men of the Police Force detained through illness in a public hospital?

(b) If the illness lasts for 2 or 3 months and the individual is not the cause of his illness, what salary is paid to him?

7. Is it true that since Ordinance 37 of 1928 has been in force quite a number of policemen have been paid only half salary during illness in Hospital although they have not been responsible for their illness?

RICE PRODUCTION.

Mr. BRASSINGTON gave notice of the following questions:—

1. What amount has been spent on Drainage and Irrigation Schemes in Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice with the object of increasing the production of Rice during the last five years and for the 10 months ended October, 1934? Give each county and district separately.

2. What is the area, production and quantity of Rice exported for the last five years and for the 10 months ended 31st October, 1934?

3. What is the Estimated quantity of Rice available for export in 1934?

4. What is the policy of Government in regard to increasing the production of Rice during 1935 and 1936?

5. What amount has been received by the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board from the Rice Industry since its inception to 30th November, 1934? Give each year separately.

6. What is the amount on hand to 30th November, 1934, after deducting expenses, and what is it proposed to do with this amount?

7. What amount has been received by Government for Grading Fees since the establishment of the Rice Grading Office to 30th November, 1934? Give each year separately.

8. What amount has been spent for carrying on the office to 30th November, 1934? Give each year separately.

9. What is the amount on hand at date in respect of grading fees collected, and what is it proposed to do with this amount?

ORDER OF THE DAY.

EXCLUSIVE PERMISSIONS IN MINING DISTRICTS.

Mr. ELEAZAR asked the following questions:—

1. How many Exclusive Permissions have been granted in the Mining Districts of the Colony? How long has each subsisted?

2. What is the area covered by each?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1 and 2. The following Exclusive Permissions have been granted and are still in force. They have subsisted from the dates shown against each.

The area covered is stated in each case:—

EXCLUSIVE PERMISSIONS APPROVED.

Name of Permittee.	Date of Approval.	Area in acres.
Minnehaha Development Co....	9. 1.31	940
U. Willems	22. 4.32	900
Do.	1. 7.32	2,065
Demerara Bauxite Co.	1. 1.32	269,624
Kahane and Nagler	22. 4.33	600
South American Mining Engineering Syndicate	17. 5.33	2,630
Puruni Gold Co., Ltd.	27. 3.34	500
South American Mining Engineering Syndicate	27. 3.34	500
J. A. Eytte ...	12. 4.34	534
Garrett and Bennett	1. 2.34	1,320
A. J. deSouza	7. 2.34	3,093
L. MacGillivray	21. 9.31	500
E. M. Walcott	24. 5.34	50,000
U. Willems	24. 5.34	20,000
South American Mining Engineering Syndicate	22.11.34	15,360
Do. Do.	31. 7.31	1,500
E. F. Correia	23.11.31	2,500
South American Mining Engineering Syndicate	1. 9.34	5,000
Do. Do.	1.10.34	3,050
Pires and Silva Brothers	1. 7.34	60,000
Do.	23. 7.34	10,000
Do.	23. 7.34	7,500
Do.	23. 7.34	5,000
Do.	23.11.34	9,000
Jacob and Sons	20.10.34	2,560
W. H. Botsford	2.10.34	2,000
Do.	2.10.34	500
Do.	1. 4.34	8,000
Do.	1. 4.34	11,000
Do.	12. 4.34	1,400
Potaro Gold Syndicate ...	1. 4.34	12,000
Essequibo Gold and Exploration Company	23. 7.34	10,000
D. Lewes ...	2.10.34	6,000
Demerara Bauxite Company ...	23.11.34	2,400

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the

Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1935.

ROADS AND BRIDGES—EXTRAORDINARY.

Item 17—Construction of ferro-concrete sea sluice, No. 73, Corentyne, Berbice, \$6,000.

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works): I ask leave to revert to item 17 under Roads and Bridges—Extraordinary, and to move that the item be deleted. The reason for the deletion is that it has been found possible to provide this sum from the balance of the Unemployment Relief Fund for this year. The work is now in hand and there is no necessity to provide this amount on next year's Estimates.

Mr. CANNON: Is it not possible to divert this sum to another place, possibly another bridge?

THE CHAIRMAN: I appreciate the hon. Member's suggestion. Perhaps the Director of Public Works will suggest some other useful works to which the \$6,000 might be diverted.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Perhaps I may be allowed to state that for the last three or four years I have asked that attention be given to the public road going through Ithaca. It will cost less than \$6,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am quite certain that the Director will consider any representations made by the hon. Member.

Item deleted.

LAW OFFICERS.

Mr. SEAFORD: Is it possible for Government to give Members of the Council some idea when the various Heads are likely to be taken? Some of us have other work to do.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is proposed to go straight through now. We only took the Public Works Estimates so that I could send a telegram to the Secretary of State with regard to starting unemployment relief works on the 1st of January. I have received a request that "Magistrates" be taken this morning. I am entirely in the hands of Members in this connection.

The estimates under "Law Officers" were passed without discussion.

MAGISTRATES.

Mr. ELEAZAR: With regard to the Service Allowance to the Magistrate discharging duties in the County of Berbice, I have a very vivid recollection, and I think nearly every Member of this Council will remember that it is only a few years since Government had two Magistrates in Berbice, involving another Magistrate's Clerk, two Chief Clerks and some other minor officials in the County of Berbice. I have a distinct recollection that it was then mooted that one Magistrate might do the work because it was found to be too little for two men, and yet more than should be required of one individual without any extra remuneration. There was a distinct arrangement that the Magistrate who discharged the duties should receive a Duty Allowance of £100. That recollection is more vivid in my mind on account of what subsequently occurred, because when the officer who had entered into that arrangement left that district he tried to get that Duty Allowance transferred with him, and he was then told that the allowance was not for the individual Magistrate but for whoever discharged the duties in the County of Berbice.

That experiment of one Magistrate has been tried for some years with varying success. I hold no brief for anybody. Nobody can question that since the trial has been made it has been carried on with varying success until the arrival of the present Magistrate. Since then it is very seldom indeed that he has a whole day's work from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. More often than not everything is cleared off. Some days he only sits up to 11 o'clock, and that occurs many days during the month. To my mind it is certainly a breach of faith on the part of Government to withhold from that officer the £100 Duty Allowance. If another officer went there to-morrow and cooled his heels Government would be compelled to appoint another Magistrate to Berbice, and if he is given the niggardly sum of £500 per annum with a travelling allowance, even that would be more than £100 given to the officer who is doing the work now. Government would also have to provide another clerk and another bailiff. Although it was a distinct arrangement with Government the allowance is being withheld. Naturally the

officer will become dissatisfied. Since the inauguration of a single Magistrate the work has never been so efficiently done. Even if there was no such arrangement it would be time to consider whether that officer should not get £100. He is toiling and succeeding where others have failed, and he deserves £100. I am not confining my remarks to him; he may not be there very long; the Attorney-General might conceive the idea of transferring him to somewhere else.

I may also mention that in Berbice there are not sufficient bailiffs. A bailiff on the West Coast, Berbice, has to serve a writ on the Corentyne Coast. Inquiry should be made into the matter. Inconvenience is being caused litigants, and I do not know whether it is because nobody complains that it goes on.

MR. CANNON: When was this allowance discontinued, and what was the reason why it was?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: There was never any Duty Allowance. The position is that down to about 1927 there were two Magistrates in Berbice, in what was then the Berbice Judicial District, and subsequently a change was made and one Magistrate was appointed to do the work in the Berbice Judicial District which was somewhat restricted in area. That Magistrate was then given a Duty Allowance of £100 which was discontinued in 1930. The present Magistrate in Berbice is therefore the third holder of the office who has not had a Duty Allowance.

MR. CANNON: I have heard my friend's appeal and I certainly do think it is a pleasure when we hear Government officers spoken so well of. Unless there is good reason why that officer should not be given a Duty Allowance I think he should. I am not a legal practitioner yet (laughter) therefore I can be excused for making the appeal I am. If Government has a good officer he should be encouraged.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The position is as I indicated a while ago. I think from 1922 there was given a Duty Allowance of £100 a year to each of the Georgetown Magistrates. That Duty Allowance was continued until 1930 when it ceased. When the officers who were

then receiving it ceased to be Magistrates in Georgetown, in accordance with the decision of Government the Duty Allowance ceased. No officer in Georgetown has since then had a Duty Allowance. The position with regard to Berbice is, as I indicated, that in about 1927 or 1928 there was a Duty Allowance paid to the Magistrate who first took over the work, or some of it, which had hitherto been performed by two Magistrates. His successor received a Duty Allowance, but since 1930 no Duty Allowance has been paid to any Magistrate in Berbice. During that time there have been two Magistrates who preceded the present holder of the office. Consequently the hon. Member will have to look back to the Estimates for some years before he will find an item of the kind which he has been looking for in to-day's Estimates. The position is that Magistrates are appointed at salaries which rise by increments up to a certain amount. A Magistrate might be sent anywhere to perform his duties, in any district whatever, and the salary which he receives is the salary of the particular Magistrate.

With regard to Berbice it must be borne in mind that in that, as in every other Court, conditions vary and change. Sometimes there is a great pressure of work, and sometimes there are very long cases to be dealt with, civil and criminal, and very long preliminary investigations. When these occur they necessarily take up very much more time of the Magistrate. Then there comes a time when there are less of these and the volume of work decreases. That has been very much the condition which has arisen in most of the Magistrates' Courts recently. I am very glad indeed to hear the high opinion which has been expressed of the holder of the office. It is the duty of a Government officer to perform the work which falls to him with the greatest possible amount of expedition and efficiency. If he chooses to neglect that work because he is dissatisfied with his salary of course he is acting contrary to his duty, contrary to the interests of the Service, and his conduct may amount to misconduct if he chooses to remain in the Service for what he considers inadequate remuneration. I may point out that Magistrates go from place to place, and there are some districts in which there is less work than others. It is right that

Magistrates should be moved from one district to another. A change of Magistrate is a useful and a necessary thing. It is better that he should not remain in a district for a very long period. It is well that he should go somewhere else; it means a fairer distribution of the work among them. I wish to point out that the principle of a Duty Allowance to Magistrates has ceased for several years and has not been brought up in this Council for some time. It is an innovation. What is now proposed would be by way of innovation having regard to the present condition of affairs and the principles in regard to it. The Magistrates are Magistrates of the Colony and are assigned from time to time to different districts. Where the work is heaviest a Magistrate does not remain for an excessive length of time.

I am sorry that I cannot recommend to Government to depart from the principle which Government decided upon some years ago, and which has been followed, that the Duty Allowance should not be paid to any Magistrate in any district. Perhaps, sir, times may change and the volume of work may be such in a particular place that the Colony may be able to afford to give a Magistrate special remuneration so long as he occupies a particular office. On the other hand the position may be met by giving temporary assistance if it appears that the volume of work is more than one man can reasonably do.

The hon. Member has referred to the question of bailiffs in the Berbice Judicial District. I have taken a note of the remarks of the hon. Member and I shall cause an inquiry to be made in respect of that.

Mr. ELEAZAR: There is no principle specially involved in this matter. There were two Magistrates, Mr. Ruggles and Capt. Coghlan. They actually came to grips on one occasion in the office. Capt. Coghlan, the younger of the two, conceived the idea of running the district alone, and put up the proposition to Government that he be given an allowance of £100. It seems that Government acceded to the request because Mr. Ruggles was removed and Capt. Coghlan got £100 on his salary. He did not do the work. He put up little Courts and made Tom, Dick and Harry Magistrates. He discouraged people to go

to Court. However, he got his £100. When he was removed he fought for the £100 to follow him, but Government said it was for the Magistrate who was doing the work. The Magistrate who went to do the work never got the £100. The Magistrate in Berbice does more work than any Magistrate in Georgetown because there are two Magistrates in Georgetown, and neither of them can say that he does more work than the Magistrate in Berbice. The idea of having one Magistrate came from Capt. Coghlan because he wanted to get Mr. Ruggles out of the way, and he got him out of the way. The next officer clamoured for the £100 allowance but did not get it.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The next Magistrate did receive the allowance so long as he continued to do the work in the Berbice Judicial District.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Thanks for the correction. In that case why hasn't the other man received it? One man is still doing two men's work. You cannot now say it is a matter of principle. It is a matter of Government doing the obvious thing that is proper. I regret very much to hear the Attorney-General say that, because after all he is in Georgetown. I know exactly what is the procedure in Berbice. One Magistrate cannot divide himself, and if I cannot attend a case in the country I lose it because I cannot get a postponement. I see my friend (Mr. Luckhoo) coming in and I shall sit down as soon as he has got the trend of my remarks.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would remind the hon. Member that he has already been speaking for 40 minutes on the subject.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I have no desire to protract the discussion, but I desire to emphasise that that allowance was given to the Magistrate on account of the onerous duties cast upon him. Some years ago the work of the district was performed by three Magistrates, one on the Corentyne Coast, one in New Amsterdam and another on the West Coast of Berbice, but in order to economise it was thought necessary that the work should be done by one Magistrate with a special allowance. I know that was tried out for some time, and there was one Magistrate who was promised a special allowance of £100 for the extra work

thrown upon him by the amalgamation of those three Judicial Districts. I know these are not times when very excessive expenditure should be incurred, but at the same time I think in common fairness whoever is sent there should be given a special allowance for the extra work thrown upon him, and in view of the fact that there has been retrenchment of travelling expenses in that district. Whatever Government considers fair and reasonable should be awarded to the Magistrate, who is doing the work most expeditiously and to the general satisfaction of the community. I commend it to the Government's favourable consideration.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I find it extremely difficult sometimes to follow the policy of Government in matters of this kind. From the remarks of the hon. Member it seems that Government made a bargain. There were three Magistrates before and the work is now being done by one. A former Magistrate was given an allowance of £100. We are told that the present officer is doing the work satisfactorily. It is a clear case of Government going back on the bargain it made on the ground of economy. It seems to me that it is stretching the honourable profession too far; these men are qualified barristers. I do not think the treatment is fair, and I ask Government to reconsider the matter and give justice to the particular officer.

THE CHAIRMAN: As has been pointed out by the Attorney-General this matter cannot be considered by the Government, for the moment at any rate. I am very glad of the appreciative remarks made of the officer. It has been a great pleasure to hear those remarks.

Item 1g—7 Assistant Clerks (\$360 each), \$2,540.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I desire to know why this item appears below the line. In 1934 we had above the line 4 Assistant Clerks. It is true that it is now 7 Assistant Clerks but it is removed from above to below the line.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I am afraid I have not the information at the moment. I was not here when the estimates were prepared but I will go into the matter and let the hon. Member know later.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member can refer to it again.

Item passed.

OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE.

The items under this Head were passed without discussion.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND MINES.

Item 1.—Commissioner of Lands and Mines, \$4,320.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The estimates of this Department present some difficulty to hon. Members because one does not know what a particular officer is doing and why he is entitled to his salary or otherwise. Therefore one can only address his remarks to the whole of the Department. In the replies to my questions which I had this morning I find that one exclusive permission was granted in 1931, 3 in 1932, 4 in 1933 and 26 in 1934. I also note that one has been granted for 60,000 acres, and the same individual or individuals have been granted 10,000 acres, 7,500 acres, 5,000 acres and 9,000 acres. To my mind, and to the mind of everybody who gives the matter a thought, these exclusive permissions for tremendous areas of the country are a hindrance to the development of the mining districts of the Colony. I think the reason for securing these large areas can be described by the hackneyed expression—a dog-in-the-manger policy. It slipped me to ask how many of these areas are being developed in any form or shape, and I think if I had asked that question—except in the case of the Minnehaha Development Co.—it would have been difficult for Government, or the officer in charge of the Department, to give any proper reply.

It was brought to my notice, and very forcibly, when I went up to Garraway Stream with Sir Edward Denham, that certain people held those lands to prevent other people from getting on them. They have no intention of developing them but are keeping them in the hope that somebody will give them fabulous amounts for those areas. Such a person would be a fool if he did not ask: "If it is so rich why do you want to sell it to me?" The idea is to have these lands locked up, keep the pork-knockers out and go hunting all over the world to find people to come and develop

the gold and diamond industries. Why is it that although gold is fetching the highest price ever known in this Colony unemployment is rife in the country? You can find gold-diggers looking for work on the Nog Eens sea defences at 52 cents per day. It is because these men have to hang around places in the gold and diamond fields that have already been worked. Those places that have something have been locked up.

There are 34 concessions, nearly the whole of the Essequibo Coast. That cannot make for development of the area. What is the Department doing? Can't the Department advise Government as to what is best for the development of the area, especially at this time? The small men cannot go far distances where they are being sent, because there are no shops. I think this matter should be investigated. I do not think anybody in this country is willing at the present moment to develop nearly 100,000 acres of the Colony, and as soon as a man begins that way it ought to strike the Commissioner of Lands and Mines that something is wrong. When I went to Garraway Stream I saw a woman who had a small claim. She told me that the Lands and Mines officer had told her to clear out because he wanted the place for a purpose, and that she told him when he got rid of other people there she would go. She said he was only trying to get rid of her for the benefit of those people. I put the matter to the Commissioner of Lands and Mines and it was decided on the spot not to interfere with her.

The bigger man is being allowed to swallow up the smaller man. These concessions bear testimony to that fact. I think Government is very short-sighted to permit this kind of thing. I see a lot of names here which I do not see in the reports as having brought down an ounce of gold. These concessions are too liberally granted, and Government is not sufficiently concerned to see that every person is given a reasonable bit of land. The Bauxite Company deserve what they have, (Mr. Cannon: Question) but most of the concessions are held with the sinister view of getting people from outside to buy them. It does the Colony harm because when the people come to investigate and find nothing they go away and tell other people that the Colony is a fake. In the

old days when balata was prosperous companies sent men out to prospect. They knew exactly how many men to send to the various areas because they were properly prospected. Can't Government organise prospecting parties or assist prospecting parties to develop the country rather than allow people to lock up the land? I think the Department should give more value for the money spent on it. It should do better. I do hope that Government will itself inquire into what can possibly be done to develop the gold industry especially. Instead, the Department allows people to lock up the country and keep the small men out, and in the meantime we are asking the Imperial Government for doles.

Mr. AUSTIN: When the late Sir Gordon Guggisberg was Governor he made the statement that the two most important Departments in this Colony, in his opinion, were the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Lands and Mines, and he thought progress should be made in both those directions. Sir Edward Denham came along and he thought the Department of Lands and Mines might be amalgamated with the Forest Department, and later on in a communication to the Council he thought perhaps it might come under the District Administration Scheme. There seems to be no continuity of policy, and I am wondering whether opportunity should not be taken to see whether, without disturbing the emoluments of the Heads and the officers, those three Departments might not be amalgamated in some way and some economy effected. There can be little doubt that in the Department of Lands and Mines and the District Administration Scheme there is quite a lot of overlapping. Different officers serve both Departments and it seems opportune to me that Government might consider at this stage whether there should be amalgamation of those two Departments.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I wish also to make some general observations. I also wish to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. Member for Berbice River about exclusive permissions being granted to certain people, and to point out that the total area that has been granted has now reached an alarming figure, a little over half a million

acres—527,976 acres according to the answers given to the hon. Member. It would be very interesting indeed for Members to look at the various charts of the places where these exclusive permissions have been granted. I have not had the pleasure of seeing any of those charts, but I can imagine that the lands in close proximity to Bartica are those that are covered by these exclusive permissions. In other words when the average pork-knocker ever gets a chance to work for gold he will have to go to the "back of beyond." The position will be made so difficult for him that he must, if he wants employment, agree to become a contracted labourer, for the reason that all the lands in close proximity have been more or less taken up. Those that are near and have not been taken up can very well be put down as being lands of no value so far as prospection for gold is concerned. I think I am right in arriving at that conclusion, and I ask the Commissioner of Lands and Mines in the course of his reply to say whether or not that assumption is correct, because it is a matter of far-reaching importance to the pork-knocker. I think those of us who have lived here all our lives know the value of those men. Whenever they come to Georgetown we can see a smile in their faces.

Regarding the estimates I wish first of all to say that I will refer to the document in my hand as the supplementary estimate. The original draft provided for a total expenditure of \$62,256. In the supplementary estimate the amount is increased to \$67,036. When we examine the estimates a little closely we will find that the increases are in respect of three items. It does seem to me that something is wrong somewhere. Before I refer to them I want to mention in passing that under Revenue I find that this Government will receive from the Boundary Commission \$4,704. That amount is found on page 8. The expenditure of this Government in respect of the Boundary Commission under a separate estimate is \$9,648. In addition to that expenditure the Department of Lands and Mines has to provide for additional Surveyors that are at present engaged on Boundary Commission work, and on the Estimate for 1935 the item is put down at \$8,304 as against \$4,632 in 1934 and

\$4,704 in the original Draft Estimate for 1935. In other words, since the preparation of these estimates a sum of \$3,600 has been added to that item. I am not going to anticipate the reply because I am going to answer my own question.

That item of \$3,600 and item 14 I propose to deal with together. It provides for a new officer who is to be called Acting Superintendent of Surveys. This Colony therefore has to provide, in addition to the difference between the amount that is put down under the Head "Boundary Commission" and revenue, the sum of \$8,304 plus £100 house allowance. Where is this \$3,600 coming from? Would it be true to say that that amount is to provide for the salary of a retrenched officer from another Colony? If that is so then it seems to me that there is something wrong somewhere. Would it be also true to say that that officer was on pension six months before his appointment here to add to the burden of this Government? If that is so I am afraid that so far as my vote is concerned I will not be able to support the appointment of that officer. As a matter of fact I am going to make a strong appeal that this officer should not be appointed.

In this Estimate provision has been made for an additional Class I. officer at \$1,716. I suppose we will be told the reason for that. The only explanation I have found is that the post has been restored which had been abolished for some reason, and I take it that it must have been a good reason. It is also on the Fixed Establishment. Lower down in the estimates we find a little bit of shuffling; certain officers have been regraded and classified, and of course all of that means increased expenditure. Was I not right in my remarks a few days ago? Heads of Departments were told "We have so much money to spend, spend it." If that is so it seems to me that all the careful scrutiny of these Estimates amounts to so much waste of time. I have very little time to waste. If representations from Members on this side of the House as regards expenditure or revenue are not going to be considered by Government favourably, or at all, then the less we say about the Estimates the better for all of us.

Reverting back to the Acting Superintendent of Surveys I want to make a special

appeal. Having regard to the fact that this Colony cannot afford to pay—that is what we have been told from time to time—if we have to substitute Surveyors for those engaged on the Boundary Commission at a cost of \$8,304 it seems to me that something is wrong. We cannot afford it. I am only using the words of Government. We could not afford just now to give a good Magistrate a Duty Allowance of £100, but here we can afford to appoint an officer at £750 with a house allowance of £100. If the officer is here may I ask who paid his passage out? I understand he is here, and it would be interesting to know how he got here. Did he pay his own passage, or was it paid by the Government of the Colony where he was retrenched? We seem to be living in a very unfortunate land. I am sorry I have had to make that remark, but I sit here from day to day and I listen very attentively to the remarks made from time to time. The policy of Government is one that is extremely difficult for me to follow. So far as this increase in the Estimate is concerned I am making a personal appeal to Your Excellency not to use Government's majority to carry this item.

Mr. SEAFORD: I think we were told here that it was the policy of Government to grant exclusive permissions on the understanding that work would be carried out on those lands within a year or some such time, and that if that was not done Government would withdraw those permissions. I would like to know whether that is still the policy of Government. If it is I do not think anyone can raise any objection to giving exclusive permissions. The land in the interior where there is gold is apparently almost unlimited. Naturally one feels for the native of the Colony known as the pork-knocker, and everyone is, I am sure, only too anxious that he should have his full share of the land and be allowed to work where he would like and on as good land as anyone else. I do not think anyone has ever suggested anything that would place him at a disadvantage, but in my opinion it would be a great pity if we proposed to shut out these larger companies with capital. They are the only people who can develop the land with the population here. It cannot be done unless one is prepared to put hundreds of thousands of dollars in a gold mine. That has been

pretty obvious in other parts of the world, Canada and South Africa. It would be a great mistake to keep those people out, but at the same time we should not allow people to come here and tie up the land. I would like to know if it is the policy of Government that certain works should be done on those lands within a reasonable time.

As regards the point raised by the hon. Member for Central Demerara I feel that some explanation is needed. We were told that the Boundary Commission would cost the Colony nothing. Without knowledge of how these estimates are worked out it seems to me that it is costing the Colony a considerable sum of money. Perhaps there is some explanation of it, and if we got that explanation we would understand it. I always feel that when things like that come up the Council is entitled to an explanation which should be made immediately as the estimates of the Department come up for consideration. I think it would save a lot of time. I ask that Government would explain the position so that we can realise where we stand in the matter. The Colony cannot afford more money, and as far as I am concerned I am not prepared to vote one penny more unless I think it is absolutely essential.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: We have heard a great deal during the session about Government's policy. I asked a question in regard to Government's policy in Essequibo. This morning Members have asked about Government's policy with regard to gold-mining concerns in the interior. May I reply to the Members who asked that question? To my mind Government has no policy. Government has never had any policy since I have been a Member of the old Combined Court. The policy of Government which is the policy of the Colonial Office, as I see it, is to drag everything it possibly can out of this Colony. Its policy is to give millions of pounds to beet farmers, to bolster up every possible thing it can for the Mother Country. Its policy is not only to neglect this Colony but to help foreign countries, to help the Assyrians, to bring them here and spend millions of pounds. Great stress has been laid by the Acting Colonial Secretary on the consideration and the great concern the Colonial Office has for this Colony. It has been thrown into our faces

that the Imperial Government has lent us several millions of dollars and has given us grants with and without interest, but when it comes to anything tangible what has the Home Government done for this Colony besides giving us defence in time of war? All the use the Colonial Office has for this Colony is to dump its sons, brothers, friends and various relations into fat jobs here and throughout the West Indies. I am getting tired of it and I ask how long are we going to sit under this neglect?

We ought to strive for the management of our own affairs. President Roosevelt said that the desire for the management of its own affairs by any country or dependency is compatible with the greatest loyalty to the Throne of that country. We talk from the 1st of January to the 31st December but we get no further. We can get further and we can obtain what other countries have obtained. We can obtain that degree of self-government and the management of our own affairs which we are far better able and more competent to do than people who have never seen this Colony, and who have not got much time to bother with its affairs. I say we can accomplish it by unity, by co-operation, but a house or colony divided against itself can never accomplish anything. We have to adjust our differences, our petty jealousies, our dislikes and our little-mindedness and make an effort from now to unitedly agitate for some change in the Government of this country, a full measure of self-government. When we get that this Colony will go ahead—not till then.

Mr. WALCOTT: My hon. friend, the Member for Berbice River, drew attention to the names on this list while he was questioning the advisability of granting such concessions. In the first place I think he ought to be very pleased to see my name there. It is the name of a local man, somebody born in the Colony (Hear, hear) to whom preference should always be given. As regards the granting of these concessions I consider it is absolutely essential if we are ever going to develop the mineral resources of this Colony, that such concessions should be given, but naturally given in a judicious and very careful way. (Hear, hear) Looking at this list I have no reason to

think that the Commissioner of Lands and Mines has not used a lot of discretion in granting those concessions. I presume that in the same manner as I have been asked for safeguards other people have been asked. In the particular instance of the 50,000 acres granted to me it was naturally not granted with the idea that I was going to work it. I applied for the concession advising Government that mine was only a name. I did so to try to get large capital interested in this Colony. My first effort was made at the special request of the Governor.

As regards this particular concession—and I have no reason to believe that other concessionaires are not in the same position—we had to pay to the Government fees amounting to over \$3,000 before we knew whether there was anything on the ground or not. Perhaps if I had the same knowledge 6 or 7 months ago as I have to-day I would not have paid those fees. At any rate the fees were paid. Government benefited to that extent. Engineers have come out to the Colony and have spent over \$30,000 in inspecting the ground. A lot of that money has been spent on labour, thus relieving, I suppose, some of the so-called unemployment that is existing, or is supposed to exist. These concessions, I believe, will in the ordinary way be worked in a short while. Had it not been possible to get an exclusive permission it would not have been possible to interest that capital in the Colony. Of course I expect to make something out of it—not in cash because no such consideration was asked—but if the place is a success then, as a creole, will share in the success. (Hear, hear).

I would like to mention for the information of that Member, that for 20 years the land in question has not been worked or occupied in any way. As a matter of fact some local pork-knockers took out claims there 20 years ago. They have been paying claim licences for 20 years but no work has been done. An exclusive permission is granted for one year and work has to be done within that period, and at the end of that period the land has to be taken up either by concession or by claim. So that if these financiers take up the land and decide to work it within the next 12 months they would be making use of land which the pork-knocker has not used for 20 years.

Mr. MULLIN (Commissioner of Lands and Mines): I will deal with the question of the exclusive permissions first. The hon. Member for Berbice River asked what was Government's policy in regard to these things. The policy of Government or the policy of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines is laid down in the Mining Ordinance and Regulations. It has been the same ever since the first Ordinance was passed, and the change of the Constitution which is now being blamed for all our ills made no change whatever in the method of dealing with mining lands. An exclusive permission is not a development title, it is not a working title; you cannot work it for profit. It is an exclusive prospecting right which is obtainable by anyone who has the intention and the means which would warrant him being given exclusive rights over certain territory, to examine and explore and find the value of it. These titles are only issued for one year at a time, and if the work done is not satisfactory to Government the title is not renewed. If it is satisfactory to Government and he is not yet ready to commence development work because further examination is necessary, and in the opinion of Government extra time should be granted, the permission can be renewed for another year. But he must within a reasonable time arrive at a decision as to what portion of that area he is going to take up and develop on proper mining lines, either dredging, large-scale sluicing or deep mining. So that it is not a case of the lands of the Colony being held up indefinitely by those permissions to any one private individual or corporation; but if he is going to spend large sums of money, and if he must spend them to examine the ground properly with a view to proper development then he must have some protection against speculative people coming in and locating all around him with the idea of being bought out if he finds anything. In every country in the world that protection is afforded to responsible people who can satisfy Government as to their means, intention, skill and plant to do the necessary work. On that list which has been laid over in answer to the questions—

The Committee adjourned for the luncheon recess.

Mr. MULLIN (resuming): When the Committee adjourned this morning I was

referring to the list of exclusive permissions which was laid over in reply to the questions by the hon. Member for Berbice River. On that list there are 15 permissions which have been granted to local people. The areas look formidable to one not used to dealing with areas but—taking out the very large exclusive permission granted to the Demerara Bauxite Co., which covers lands which are not gold or diamond bearing and do not come into the argument—the total area involved is 255,952 acres, about 400 square miles. The total proved mineral area of the Colony is 13,560,000 acres, so that the total area here represents 1/53rd of the area available, or 1.9 per cent. approximately. It is therefore not really formidable. There is one respect in which Government has slightly altered its policy in regard to the issue of these exclusive permissions, and that is that before granting them Government requires to be satisfied that the persons who apply have the necessary capital at their disposal and are in a position to provide the necessary technical advice and skill to explore those areas. The usual requirement is a banker's guarantee that the money is available, and in every case in connection with this list that was the requirement which was complied with.

From the financial point of view these exclusive permissions represent even in themselves a considerable amount of revenue to Government. For instance the amount collected in respect of exclusive permissions this year up to the present is \$14,621 as against a total in respect of claim licences throughout the Colony of \$7,560 for gold and \$5,212 for precious stones, making a total of \$12,572. In other words these exclusive permissions have brought in more revenue than all the claim licences of the Colony put together. It is a nice assistance to the revenue. Of course it is only, we hope, a drop in the ocean as compared with what these are going to lead to. Already on this list there is one concern which has floated a company of two million dollars in the United States, one million dollars of which has been subscribed. A considerable amount of dredging and other machinery has just arrived, or is about to arrive. It is on its way. I have seen the shipping bill. There are several more which are reaching that stage. Therefore I really think this Council can be assured

that some considerable development will accrue as the result of these exclusive permissions. In some cases the results have been disappointing; in others they have been promising.

But there is another aspect of this question, and that is we are accused of having no policy by which the local man could benefit. It seems to have been overlooked that we have had a geological survey in progress for some considerable time with a break in between, but it has been reconstituted and has been for the last 18 months, and also we have had the benefit of seeing reports by engineers brought out by those holders of exclusive permissions. The position seems to be, so far as we can make out at present, that as an alluvial field the gilt has rather been taken off the ginger bread, or the icing off the cake as one engineer put it. In other words the easily, readily accessible and even remote areas like Wenamu and Pigeon Island have been worked out by the pork-knocker, and in every instance here the lands taken up are those which the pork-knocker has worked in past years up to the limit of his capacity. I think it was the hon. Member for Berbice River who drew rather a glowing picture of a pork-knocker returning to the interior, but I can assure the hon. Member that the pork-knocker to-day is what he himself calls "taking blows," and very severe "blows." It is not an easy matter to-day for a man to go out and find readily ground on which he can make a living with the primitive methods at his disposal, but in those districts there remain the deeper creeks, hills with heavy overburden and things of that kind which can still be worked economically by modern machinery. There are also creeks which can be dredged, and which with the high price of gold now prevailing, and the great improvement in dredging practice, will pay to-day but would not pay before.

A lot of the interest which is now being shown in our gold potentialities is due to these two factors—the considerable rise in the price of gold and the improvement in modern methods of extraction. On the other hand, notwithstanding the rise in the price of gold the gold fields are still proving unattractive to the pork-knocker. We have taken a good deal of trouble to try to get him to the district cheaply.

We have assisted him by putting him on claims that were producing, advancing money for upkeep, towards tools and even pumps, and with all that the number of men going into the fields has steadily decreased. There are very few pork-knockers to-day who would not exchange their chances for a good steady job. The hon. Member for Berbice River met them at Nog Eens and other places on the Coast where they are working, and I do not blame them. They have a steady job and a good wage, and if they are offered the same opportunities in the interior they would readily go there. I do not think that any firm that wished to operate in the interior would find the slightest difficulty in getting plenty of labour, and good labour, to go there as long as they offered reasonable terms of wage and proper living conditions which I am sure can be provided. I do not think there is anything more I can say about exclusive permissions. The desire was expressed by the hon. Member for Central Demerara to see them on a plan. If he would come over to the Department we would be glad to show him our plans and explain anything he wants to know. I can assure him that we are not unmindful of the interests of the small man. We realise that in the past he has been the backbone of the industry and we hope to see him, if not the backbone at any rate the ribs in the future.

The hon. Mr. Austin spoke of overlapping with the District Administration Scheme. Since the District Administration Scheme came into force we have not had a single officer in a district which is run by a District Commissioner. The officers have either been transferred to the District Administration Scheme or retrenched, so I do not quite understand where the overlapping comes in.

I think I had better now take the estimates and explain them before hon. Members take them one by one. The hon. Member for Central Demerara complained that it was very difficult to understand the estimates and I agree with him. That is why we had a separate page printed instead of trying to interpolate the changes which have come about through the lamentable death of one of our senior officers, Mr. Cheong. In consequence of that we have to move up officers in the

Department in the order of their seniority and merit. Fortunately, merit in this case coincides with seniority, and there is nothing that calls for any comment. The next senior Surveyor fills Mr. Cheong's place and the next senior Surveyor in the class below goes up into his, and so on. One officer who is a Class III. officer is a qualified Surveyor—he qualified since he was appointed to the non-technical staff—has been moved into the Survey Branch by reason of seniority and merit. Those will explain themselves.

The first item on the estimate that requires explanation is Item 3—1 Class I. Officer, \$1,716, which is a post restored. I will have to go into figures a little bit to explain how we came to put that on. In the Comparative Statement of Expenditure the progress downwards of this Department in expenditure on personal emoluments is clearly shown. In 1924 it was \$89,096, 1925, \$89,944, 1926, \$86,014. In 1928 when I took charge of the Department it was reduced to \$80,748. That was partly achieved by abolishing the post of Assistant Commissioner. The next year, 1929, it dropped \$78,423, and in 1930 it went up to \$81,103. In 1931 it dropped to \$75,351, and I will have to explain in respect of 1932 and 1933 because at that time the Boundary Commission expenditure was separated from that of the Department of Lands and Mines. In 1932 there was an expenditure of \$57,025 on personal emoluments in the Department of Lands and Mines, and the expenditure of \$10,800 under Boundary Commission represents the salaries of the Senior Surveyors of the Department of Lands and Mines who were transferred to the Boundary Commission.

The arrangement in regard to the Boundary Commission was that the work was to be carried out by officers of the Department of Lands and Mines, and that this Government would continue to pay the salaries of its own officers who were seconded for work on the Boundary so as to avoid any pension complication, but the Imperial Government would pay any substitutes which the Department had to employ to take the places of those officers. In 1932, therefore, one has to add to the \$57,000 the \$10,800 being paid to the officers of the Department seconded to the Boundary Commission, and then take off the sum of \$5,928 which was paid to sub-

stitutes voted on our Estimates and refunded by the Imperial Government, so that the net expenditure was \$61,897 in 1932. In 1933 we were caught by the wave of economy and the net expenditure, worked out in the same way, was \$53,847. The next year we were completely submerged and dropped to \$50,422. In 1935, notwithstanding the inclusion of a new Class I officer's post, it will be \$49,895, plus the Boundary Commission's expenditure of \$9,648, which gives a total of \$59,543 less \$8,304 which is the amount shown on the Estimate for substitutes, leaving a net expenditure of \$51,239, or \$1,817 more than in 1934. So that there is a very small increase on the Estimate for the Class I post.

I am going to explain the necessity for this Class I. Officer. When the wave of economy to which I referred first struck the Department we were deprived of two First Class officers, one Second Class officer, and three Fourth Class officers, all from the administrative staff. We have done our best to try to carry on with that short staff, and I am sure that no Department in the Service, or no firm in Georgetown or elsewhere in the Colony has a more loyal, conscientious and hard-working staff than the Department of Lands and Mines. We have done our best to carry on but we have found it quite impossible to do so and keep up with the requirements in regard to the issue of titles, both mining and agricultural, and we are now faced with the position that we have 650 mining titles and 225 agricultural titles, all of which have to be issued in duplicate, awaiting issue which are behind hand. It is not to be wondered at. They have all done their best, and I can assure you that there is an excellent team-spirit in that Department, so much so that we have had three marriages amongst the staff (laughter), and another was developing very nicely until the male officer was transferred to one of those cold-blooded Departments like the Treasury or the Audit Office. That shows the spirit, sir. (Laughter). The Superintendent of Lands, the Accountant and the clerks under them are grossly over-worked.

I was not raised in the Government Service. I was raised first in railway work where it is well known that there is hard

work, and in mining where they expect to get their pound of flesh out of everybody. I say that the staff of my Department is over-worked. If we have to go on we will have to, but the public will suffer. It means that I am tied by the leg to the office, and I do not see how you can expect to get the best technical service out of a man if he cannot go amongst the people who require his advice. I deeply regret the fact that I cannot give more attention, more help to those engaged in those industries when they need it. I would like very much to keep in touch with the geological surveys in the districts. Fortunately I happen to know the districts fairly well from previous visits, but at the same time the Head of the Department should keep in touch with the different activities and be in a position to advise Government with first-hand knowledge of the subject. I can say nothing more except that the restoration of one Class I. officer, which is all that is asked for, is very necessary both in the interest of the Government and the public, but if the Council says "No," well we shall have to struggle on.

There is one change—item 8—1 Class III. Officer, \$840—and that is due to the officer who held the post being moved into the Surveyors' Branch, and another officer transferred at an increment. Then there is item 12—Draughtsman (\$1,476 to \$1,620 by \$72), \$1,548. That officer was appointed to a Long Grade before the Long Grade system came into the clerical service, and the maximum of his grade was that of a Third Class officer. He has been 16 years in the Service, 14 of which have been in his present appointment. He is an extremely useful officer, an excellent draughtsman and a good computer, and during the time we have been short of a Superintendent of Surveys he has naturally had a lot of extra work thrown on him and has been doing extremely valuable work and will continue to do so. I do not see why because he is a technical officer he should stop forever at the maximum of a Class III. officer when clerical officers without his technical training will go on to a higher grade. We have therefore put him into the next grade, \$1,476 to \$1,620, which is a Class II. officer. He only gets one increment as the result of that, and he is two years overdue for an increment.

Item 20—Boats' Crews—has been

increased from \$2,700 to \$3,000. That is due to the re-opening of the Potaro Station in consequence of which an officer has to be stationed in the Potaro as Warden once more. The Warden was withdrawn from that district owing to the small number of men there, but the completion of the Bartica-Potaro Road has rendered it necessary to restore the officer as larger numbers of men are going into the district.

Now we come to item 25—Substitutes for Government Surveyors employed on Boundary Commission, \$8,304. I must apologise to my friend the hon. Member for Central Demerara, for not getting up to explain this to him beforehand. I fully intended to do so as soon as the discussion on exclusive permission was finished, but he appears to have a spring in his seat and he hopped up before I could get a chance. The position is that the provision for substitutes was placed on the Estimates before we knew definitely at what salary Mr. Trotter was being engaged. That has now been corrected. I had better explain why he has been appointed. When the Superintendent of Surveys, Mr. Cunningham, and three Senior Surveyors were taken from the Department to work on the Boundary Commission we were assured by the Imperial Government that they would pay for all the substitutes we required. We were able to get local substitutes for the ordinary survey work, and we were all agreed that it was very desirable to get out, if possible, an officer with considerable experience of survey work, and particularly the compilation of plans from detailed surveys, which is the duty of the Superintendent of Surveys to supervise, and the co-ordination of the surveys generally.

When I was in England in 1930, when the Boundary Survey commenced, I discussed this at the Colonial Office and suggested that if we could get a retired officer from the Ordnance Survey Department in England it would be an advantage to us in the training of young surveyors and in the compilation of our plans, and generally in laying down the character of different surveys to be done and checking the work when it came in. They agreed and I went down to Southampton and interviewed the officer in charge there who thought it could be arranged. The arrangement was

agreed to by this Government and a despatch was sent asking that such an officer be engaged, but unfortunately the Financial Commissioners were due to leave England about that time and the matter was held in abeyance until they came out. They recommended that this appointment be not made,—on what grounds I have never been able to discover, because the Imperial Government was going to pay for this officer— and it meant that for the last four years we have had to do without the services of a Superintendent of Surveys. We have had to detail one of our Surveyors to act from time to time. Two of our Senior Surveyors are on the Boundary Commission and one is Warden-Magistrate, an extremely valuable officer in that particular line. We have had to resort to all sorts of make-shifts by allowing this or that Surveyor to act for the time being. That is a very unsatisfactory arrangement. Whoever is going to do that work should devote his whole attention to it and be in a position to go into the field at a moment's notice where difficulty has arisen, and at the same time to have continuity of policy in regard to the compilation of the different plans with a view to correction of the Colony map, and also the indexing of plans on which all titles have to be marked and a record kept. We pressed again for the appointment but were put off. Last year we pressed for it again and the Colonial Office was fortunate in being able to secure the services of a retrenched officer from Nigeria. His passage and that of his wife has been paid to the Colony by the Imperial Government, and his salary during the two years he will be here will be paid by the Imperial Government.

I am going to move a correction to the item under Revenue because I quite realise how confusing it is, but there was not time to correct it because it would have meant reprinting the whole Estimate. The item of Revenue will be amended to agree with the exact amount to be provided. That amount will not be quite the figure put down here. It will be \$7,824. It included the salary of the substitute who was transferred to the Harbour Board for service and they forgot to take him out. The correct sum is \$7,344, and the revenue on page viii. of the Draft Estimate, item 34, which is now \$4,704 will be amended to \$7,824. There is nothing else

on the Estimate that calls for any comment and I hope that explanation will be satisfactory. I am sorry I could not give it before so that hon. Members would know the position.

Mr. CANNON: May I ask the Commissioner whether that Class I. officer is to be found in the Colony?

Mr. MULLIN: He will be selected from the Service somewhere, by the Promotions Board.

Mr. CANNON: Isn't he coming from abroad?

Mr. MULLIN: No, he will be a local officer. He will be, presumably, a Class II. officer. I do not know who it will be.

Mr. SEAFORD: Is the Boundary Commission costing this Colony anything at all? The reason I ask it is because we were told it would cost the Colony nothing, but apparently the Senior Surveyors have been working there, and as we have not had anyone to replace them right through it must have been costing the Colony something. If that is so, how much has it cost?

Mr. MULLIN: I do not think there was any such assurance. I think the hon. Member is mixing it up with the Assyrians. (Laughter).

Mr. SEAFORD: No, I also remember that.

Mr. MULLIN: At first the Colony was told that it would stand the whole cost of the Survey, and then by good luck we got off that, but the position was from the start that the Surveyors attached to the Government; who were employed on the Boundary Survey, would be paid by this Colony, and that we could have substitutes up to that amount if we liked to. We have not been able to get substitutes up to the full amount, one reason being that we had not the money to pay for their services, and we could not get a Superintendent of Surveys. Of course the difference between what we were paying our officers on the Boundary Survey and we were recovering for substitutes has been lost to the Colony.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I did not expect more

from Government than what we have got. We are not one bit further. I complain that these concessionaires are getting too much of the mining areas, and in that way they are keeping out the pork-knockers. I am told that men have gone up there assisted by Government and that they come back regretting that they went. I am not surprised to hear that because Government took a few Water Street clerks who were out of work, assisted them in a way and sent them into the interior. What could we expect but failure? The officers of the Department of Lands and Mines find that they have so little work to do that they court and become married. Their salaries should be reduced. (Laughter).

We were told what revenue was got from the mining areas, but we were not told the areas covered by people other than the concessionaires. We were not told what royalty was paid by those people, plus what they paid for the licences. If all that is put together I am sure it will be more than \$14,000. But let us assume that Government got \$14,000. Does the Department consider \$14,000 anything to talk about, a Department that is costing so much? The Department of Lands and Mines and the Forest Department are costing the Colony \$97,000. When Government attempted to foist the Forest Department on the community every Member protested and suggested that the officers should be attached to the Department of Lands and Mines. That was the burden of the complaint of every Elected Member. We have a very good officer spoiling in the bush.

Nobody complains about dredging concessions. Government can give the whole length and breadth of those rivers for dredging purposes so long as it leaves the little creeks for the pork-knockers who cannot go in for dredging. What we are complaining about is the 10,000 and 50,000 acres of land locked up there for the fool who is going to come and buy it for a very large sum and then go up to find nothing.

Mr. MULL'N: I would ask the hon. Member not to let those views go forth because they will have a very deterrent effect on capital coming into the Colony if any legislator openly states that a man

who puts money in gold lands in British Guiana is a fool.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am not here to back up Government in fooling anybody. I say he would be a fool indeed to take 50 acres of land from a man who wants to give it to him. That is the kind of thing I object to. Government should throw open the country to the ordinary pork-knocker as in the past. Do not lock it up and wait for people who will not come at all. Mr. Lupton knew what he was writing about when he wrote warning the Government about large companies locking up the lands. It seems to me to be a waste of time to suggest anything to Government that might be of help to the Colony. All Government officers do is to sit in their offices, draw their pay and bring officers from Uganda and wherever they can to help them. They do not consider the country at all.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: There are three outstanding points in the reply of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines that occur to me. First of all he attempted to justify the appointment of an acting Superintendent of Surveys in spite of the recommendation of the Financial Commissioners. It would be interesting to refer to the recommendation made by those Commissioners. Paragraph 70 reads as follows:—

“This proposal involves the abolition of the post of Commissioner of Lands and Mines. In addition, we recommend that the post of Superintendent of Surveys be not filled while the present holder is on special duty on the Brazil Boundary Commission, and that it be abolished when the term of special duty comes to an end or, if the situation at the time demands, that an officer on lower pay be appointed.”

To my mind that is very strong indeed. It says that while the holder of the substantive post is engaged with the Boundary Commission no appointment of a Superintendent of Surveys should be made, and we have had it from the Commissioner of Lands and Mines that he has done without this officer for three years.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member realises that he is a little out of order in talking about this. I hope he will not want to speak on it again when we come to the item. If he tries to do so I will ask him not to continue.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I will leave it until we come to the item. The next point is that the officers who have been substituted to do the work at the Department of Lands and Mines in the place of those on the Boundary Commission are paid by the Imperial Government. Some Members state that it was definitely stated in this Council—and that is my recollection also—that this Boundary Survey would not cost the Colony one penny. To say it is not costing the Colony anything is not correct. Our highly paid officials whose emoluments total \$9,648 are engaged on the Boundary Survey work whereas the Imperial Government is only paying for their substitutes, the cost of which will now be \$7,344 according to the Estimate for 1935, but in respect of 1934 it was \$4,332. If that is Government's method of accounting it is not surprising that Government finds itself in difficulty in balancing its budget. Government on the one hand gives out a very substantial sum and receives a much smaller sum, and says that it gets back all that it pays. I do not understand it.

Item passed.

Item 3—1 Class I. Officer, \$1,716.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I move that this item be deleted. This is a new item. I do not think we should import these officers and put them on the Fixed Establishment right away.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is a new administrative officer who will be transferred from some other Department. He will probably be a Class II. officer.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If he is a creole and is already in the Service to be transferred from some other Department I shall not oppose it.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member could not do it. (Laughter).

Item passed.

Item 25—Substitutes for Government Surveyors employed on Boundary Commission, \$8,304.

Mr. MULLIN: I beg to move that the item be reduced to \$7,824.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I would like Government to say now whether this new officer's appointment is under special contract, and for what period, because from experience I have found that officers are engaged for special work, like in this case, and after they have served their first or second term of office they are relegated into the Service, and before we know where they are they are put on the Fixed Establishment. We have been told by the Commissioner that the officer's salary is going to be paid by the Imperial Government. If that is so I have no grouse, but I would like Government to say whether his term of appointment is for a specified period, and whether after the work that is being done on the Boundary Commission is completed his salary will disappear from the Estimates.

Mr. SEAFORD: Did I understand the Commissioner of Lands and Mines to say that the house allowance which the officer is to get is not to be refunded by the Imperial Government?

Mr. MULLIN: It is to be refunded by the Imperial Government. In reply to the question by the hon. Member for Central Demerara I would say that it is a special agreement for two years.

THE CHAIRMAN: Isn't the house allowance under item 14?

Mr. MULLIN: Yes, sir, it is my mistake. Item 25 should be carried out at \$7,344. The amount in the Revenue column would be \$7,824.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The hon. Member's question has been answered in part. Who is to pay him?

Mr. MULLIN: Both his salary and his house allowance are being paid by the Imperial Government. We pay and recover from the Crown Agents.

Mr. ELEAZAR: For two years?

Mr. MULLIN: Yes, for two years.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item reduced to \$7,344.

B.G.-BRAZIL BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

Item 2—1 Surveyor at \$2,400 to \$2,880 by \$120, \$2,520.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I will ask permission to recommit this item as soon as we have heard from the Commissioner of Lands and Mines as to what is the cost of the Boundary Commission to the Colony. We have been told definitely it would not cost the Colony a penny. I have been given figures which show that it is costing the Colony money, and I would like to know how much, and whether the statement has been made that it would not cost the Colony anything.

Mr. MULLIN: No undertaking was given that it would not cost the Colony anything. At first when the Boundary Commission protocol was sent by His Majesty the King and we were informed that the Survey was to be made, the intention was that this Colony would have to pay for the whole thing.

Mr. SEAFORD: That understanding could only have been by Government.

Mr. MULLIN: Then Government took the matter up with the Imperial Government and it was agreed that they would pay the actual cost of the Survey, but we would provide and pay the staff because they did not want any complications to arise with regard to pension. They also agreed to pay for any substitute Surveyors required to replace those on the Boundary Survey. That was the arrangement from the beginning and has remained so ever since.

Mr. SEAFORD: It was very apparent that there were many more Surveyors in the Department of Lands and Mines than were required, and we were told "Let them go to the Boundary Commission."

THE CHAIRMAN: There were substitutes.

Mr. SEAFORD: How much money have we been paying out for substitutes? That is the question that is being asked.

THE CHAIRMAN: I happened to be Administering the Government when the matter was raised, and I can confirm what the Commissioner says, because when it was suggested that we should pay the whole of the cost I in a telegram told the Colonial Office that this Colony could not possibly do it, and refused to take any responsibility for any appointment at all. Then an arrangement was made by which

we supplied the officers for this Survey, and that we could have substitutes which the Imperial Government would pay for. But as was pointed out by the Commissioner we could not employ all the substitutes we would have liked because we could not find sufficient money to pay for their travelling and the cost of the surveys they would have done.

We are in arrears with local surveys—600 mining claims and 200 agricultural titles—and it is perfectly true to say that this Boundary Survey has hampered very considerably the work of the Department. After all it is our own boundary and it is becoming increasingly a matter of importance, having regard to the development of the gold areas to the south of the Colony, that this boundary should be defined, even more so now than when it was decided. We are getting very valuable information for very little money. The greater portion of it is being paid by the Imperial Government. With the increasing gold prospecting that is going on, and the high price of gold, it is becoming more important that we should know our southern boundary so that we should not lose to some neighbouring State our valuable gold areas.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Can you tell the Council when it is likely that the activities of the Commission will be brought to a conclusion? How long may we expect this work to go on? Surely Government must have some idea.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. Member give the Commissioner an opportunity to reply before he says "Surely Government must know?" Of course Government must know.

Mr. MULLIN: It will take about two more years.

Mr. SEAFORD: With regard to the statement made by you, sir, I understand the result of the Boundary Survey is that we are definitely losing very valuable gold lands.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have not heard that. On the other hand we may be gaining.

Item passed.

POLICE.

Item Ic—4 County Inspectors (2 at \$2,160 to \$2,640 by \$120; 2 at \$1,920 to \$2,400 by \$120), \$10,080.

Mr. SEAFORD: I understand that the intention is that the Inspector of Police in a populated district like the West Coast should live in Georgetown. I understand there is one house there. There was another but Government said it was not sanitary, and at present it is being occupied by a medical man. In view of the fact that the District Commissioner has to live in the district the Inspector of Police will have to live in Georgetown. That is a district above all others in which the Inspector of Police should reside. I do not know what Government actually has in mind, if it is proposed to build a house for him, but I do know that the District Commissioner lives in the middle of the West Coast and his office is at Vreed-en-Hoop. He spends about \$50 per month travelling from his house to his office and back. The Police Inspector has to travel to the central Police Station and has to go backwards and forwards. That is why I say these offices are not co-operating. Government should take steps immediately to make sure that the Inspector of Police lives in his district.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot conceive of anybody making such a suggestion to the Government. I would like to know whether the Inspector General was consulted. You can put the District Commissioner to live at Timbuctoo for all the use he is to the Colony, but you want the Police Inspector to keep the peace.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is not the slightest truth in the rumour that the Police Inspector is going to be removed. It is not even being considered.

Mr. SEAFORD: Is there a house on the West Coast for the officer?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Arrangements will be made for both officers to live on the West Coast. There was not the slightest intention of bringing the Inspector to Georgetown.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I am glad of the statement made by the Colonial Secretary. It is necessary that the Inspector should

live in the district; it has a disciplinary effect. If there was any trouble in the district it would be very awkward to have the Inspector in Georgetown. I have heard the rumour that the Inspector in charge of the district would be permanently resident in Georgetown, and I am glad it has been dispelled.

Mr. SEAFORD: Isn't it a fact that lately he has been living in Georgetown and not on the West Coast? I know he has been coming from Georgetown. I will mention the name of the Inspector if Government desires it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Inspector of Police is also acting as District Commissioner, and Inspector Carruthers has been assisting him.

Mr. SEAFORD: The District Commissioner has more work than he can do and on top of that Government has added Police duties. It seems to me incredible.

Mr. WALCOTT: Where was the Inspector of Police living before?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: At one time Mr. Macnie, the District Commissioner, lived at Vreed-en-Hoop. He got very ill and said the place was very unhealthy. He moved into the house where the Inspector is now at Leonora. I think when that happened there was a bachelor Inspector on the Coast, and he made arrangements to live at some other house at Vreed-en-Hoop. After Mr. Macnie was removed the Inspector went into his house, and the District Commissioner then acting, Mr. Thompson, had his own house. Mr. Nicole was appointed some time ago to act as District Commissioner and is acting for the time being. He will not have to act next year and will revert to Police duties. There is not the slightest intention of removing Mr. Nicole to Georgetown; the Inspector will always be in the district.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am glad to hear that. Is it proposed to continue the practice of the District Commissioner having to travel about 20 miles per day to his office?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is a very difficult matter. The Commissioner's district extends from the West

Bank up to Parika. Where it is more convenient for him to live I cannot say. He has been told to go into the matter and get the most suitable place to live in. It is not easy to get a house on the West Coast; we might have to build a house.

Mr. ELEAZAR: What is going to happen next year? Where is each man going to live?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I can say nothing more. I have informed the Council that the matter is being gone into. We are looking for a House. If we can find a suitable house at Vreed-en-Hoop the District Commissioner will go there because it would be nearer to his office. The matter is being investigated.

Mr. ELEAZAR: We are being asked to vote large sums of money for officers who do not know where they are going to live.

Mr. WALCOTT: I do not understand the position. You have an Inspector of Police living down the West Coast and a District Commissioner living at Vreed-en-Hoop. They are both married men and have separate houses. Why shouldn't the Inspector of Police continue to live in the house he had before? If the District Commissioner moved into the Inspector's house while he was away, why shouldn't the Commissioner go back where he was before?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The house the District Commissioner lived in has been taken away; it was not a Government house. There is no Government house over there; we are looking for one. If we can find one the difficulty would be solved.

Item passed.

Item 1k—Personal Allowances—Major C. P. Widdup, \$480, Capt. C. C. Murtland, \$240.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Government, after hearing the arguments of Members of this Council that no personal or other allowances which are new on the Estimates should be granted this year owing to the fact that the abatements will have to be voted this year, does not think it fair that these allowances should be voted. It is therefore proposed to abandon

all these new items, but it does seem very hard that some deserving officers should be deprived of these allowances, more particularly so in the case of the Inspector General of Police and Mr. Billyeald who are doing duties additional to those which they would ordinarily be doing, owing to the wave of economy that struck us some years ago. They have to do extra duties, but in view of the remarks made by hon. Members it is not proposed to proceed with those items on the Estimate.

Mr. CANNON: I will be no party to that suggestion. As I have said before, I am going to vote any sum of money that is going to be advantageous to the existing staff of the Government Service so long as it means no increased taxation to the people. If the British Government is finding the money for all this extra expenditure, by all means let us have it. I wish it clearly understood that I am prepared to record my vote in favour of each and every one of these items on the distinct understanding that it will cost the taxpayers of the Colony no more than they are paying at present. I quite appreciate the fact that there is no chance of our getting any reduction, and so long as the Administration of the Colony stands as it is I am prepared to take all I can get from the British Government. When they realise that they are making fools of themselves and allow us to manage our own affairs it will be high time for me to move the reduction of any item. But if Your Excellency directs that your Estimates should not be given effect to I cannot make you do otherwise.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am not in the same boat with my friends, but I do not think Government's action in this instance is just what we should expect of Government. Government has foisted on us the District Administration Scheme with large increases, therefore we have indicated that we will not have anything of the kind, but we did not indicate that where an officer is doing additional work he should not be given extra remuneration. It seems to me that Government, finding that it cannot carry out some of its pet schemes, has decided to give nobody. That is not the attitude Government should adopt. Government has taken away the allowance which the Sergeant at the Powder Magazine has been getting all the time. Government is

also depriving the Inspector General of extra remuneration although he has been doing extra work, and also Mr. Billyeald. They are both worthy of consideration and no Member would grudge them extra remuneration. The same applies to Captain Murtland who has been stagnant for 14 years. Because we will not allow those parasites from abroad to get personal allowances these deserving officers are to be jettisoned. If that is the position Government is taking up it is Government's funeral.

Mr. SEAFORD: There is one point I would like cleared up. The hon. Member for Georgetown North says that all these amount are to be paid by the Imperial Government.

Mr. CANNON: I would like to explain myself. The Estimates before us show that we are \$368,000 short, and we are going to tell the British Government that we want \$368,000 to balance our budget. That is what I mean; they are paying.

Mr. SEAFORD: We will have to pay it back.

Mr. CANNON: Nonsense. There is no chance in the world of our being in a position to repay, therefore let us take all we can get. The day is not far distant when they are going to realise it, but while the honey is flowing let us get all we can.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: At the beginning of the session I said I very reluctantly would have to vote against any increases of salaries of officials no matter how worthy. I was quite willing to vote that the "cut" in salaries should be restored to the whole Service (Hear, hear). I will vote for that now, but for me to say that out of the whole Service of the Colony there are only five or six officers that can be picked out for personal allowances I cannot. For me it is all or none. There are other men in the Service who are quite deserving of an increase of their salaries. I do not understand the attitude of Government. The Colonial Secretary in one breath says that Government does not propose to put forward the increases in respect of those officers mentioned in the Estimates. My friend the hon. Member for Georgetown North gets up and says he will vote for all of the items.

No sooner than he sits down the hon. Member for Berbice River indicates that there are certain officers he is going to vote increases for while there are others he is not going to vote for. I have a great regard for the value of the services of the hon. Member for Berbice River as a legislator and his sound commonsense, and also for the courage of the hon. Member for Georgetown North, but we say that the Colony is in the last stage of financial depression, yet we are going to vote that A should get an allowance of £100, B £50 and C and D nothing at all. On every one of these items I am going to ask for a division so as to have my vote recorded against them. It is a very unpleasant thing to do. Most of these officers are personal friends of mine, but are we in a position at the present moment to grant these allowances? I indicated at the last session that I hoped Government would be able to restore the "cut" next year. I will gladly vote for that, but not for discrimination. It is a hard thing to say, but officers who have not that "pull" at headquarters are left in the cold.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Many are called but few are chosen. The hon. Member knows lots of things but he does not know his Scripture. (Laughter).

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I have a high respect for the hon. Member's knowledge of Scripture, but I do not know that he carries it out very strictly. (Laughter).

THE CHAIRMAN: Government's position with regard to these increases and allowances is that they all stand on the same footing. There are no personalities about the matter. They must all be passed, or all must come out. There can be no question about that. I am grateful to the hon. Member for Georgetown North for what he has said. The whole question is that certain Members indicated during the debate that they were going to pick and choose. Government has suggested that all these officers are deserving of these increases, and as far as Government is concerned it is all or none. I will proceed to put the item.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: My remarks did not include officers who were given Personal Allowances last year. I referred to the new allowances.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If Government's policy is all or none Your Excellency had better put the reduced amount at once because we are not going to vote some of them.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am in the hands of hon. Members. The hon. Member for Western Essequibo has pressed for a division. If hon. Members desire it, that item of \$720 could be reduced to \$480.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: On the Estimate there is an item "Personal Allowance to Major Widdup, \$480," but item ~~It~~ is carried out at \$720. What we can do is to carry out the item at \$480.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is what I have said.

Mr. CANNON: In view of what Your Excellency has said I suggest to you that you allow me to move that the Personal Allowances be taken *en bloc*. I understand it is your wish not to have any personalities dragged into it. At any rate I suggest that we take a vote on them.

Mr. LUCKHOO: The pronouncement Your Excellency made just now has put us in a great deal of difficulty. If I understand the position rightly, these items were put on the Estimate after due consideration by Government, that those officers were deserving of certain increases. If in view of certain remarks by hon. Members Government has changed its opinion and decided to withdraw those items, let it be done at once. I quite agree with the view expressed that the salary abatements should be restored to all officers before any Personal Allowances are given. It is manifestly unfair that one officer should be given an increase of salary while others are suffering abatements. The business of the Council cannot be carried on in that way. There are certain officers who I think should receive consideration, but if Government's attitude is that there should be no increases at all then I will vote with Government.

I cannot subscribe to the view that the Imperial Government is going to bear our burden. I know the day is coming when we will have to foot the bill. We will always have Crown Colony Government unless we try to get out of our difficulties. We have had help from the Imperial Government, but when it comes to paying our

officers' salaries it would not be right for us to lean on the Imperial Government for any help in that direction. There are other important matters for the development of the Colony in respect of which we can properly appeal to the Imperial Government for help. I would like Government to state a definite policy in this matter, whether there should be any increases or not. It will cause a great deal of dissatisfaction in the Service if these allowances are given to certain officers and denied others. I think it is the unanimous wish of the Electives that the salary "cuts" should be restored to the whole Service, but the Colonial Office thinks they should continue to bear their share of the burden.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I think the course recommended by the hon. Member for Georgetown North is a very wise one. I understood him to say that he would ask Your Excellency to put *en bloc* those items by which it is proposed to increase the salaries of certain officers by Personal Allowances. I cannot understand the attitude of the hon. Member for Eastern Berbice. He talked about the injustice of giving certain officers increases while the remainder of the Service continue to suffer "cuts" in their salaries, and at the same time he thought certain officers were deserving of increases. If this Council is to decide which officers are deserving of increases and which are not, the only way that could be accomplished would be to appoint a Commission to inquire into the salaries of the entire Service. That would obviate a lot of unpleasant remarks in this Council, and I would suggest that Government take their courage in both hands. In my opinion this Colony is not in a position to increase the salaries of highly paid officials at the present moment. What are the lower ranks of the Service and the man in the street going to say? They will say it is favouritism. I always speak as I feel, and I feel very strongly.

Dr. SINGH: I think the Colonial Secretary has already made a pronouncement that Government proposes to delete all Personal Allowances from the Estimate. I am prepared to support that.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Colonial Secretary has made the statement as being the policy of Government in view of the

representations made by the Elected and other Members in regard to Personal Allowances next year.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that item 1*k* be carried out at \$480.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item reduced to \$480, and amended to read "Personal Allowance to Major Widdup, \$480."

Item 1*s*—Allowances—Sergeant in charge Powder Magazine.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Has the Sergeant in charge of the Powder Magazine been removed?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There has been a change in the holder of the office.

Item 27—Lighting Bridges, Mahaica, Mahaicony and Abary, \$20.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: Some years ago these bridges had gates which were used to prevent people passing cattle through at night, and were a great assistance to cattle owners in preventing cattle-stealing. A watchman was stationed at the bridges to check cattle passing through, but he was expected to do this work without remuneration. I appeal to Government to replace the watchmen and the gates.

Item passed.

Item 35—Rent of Quarters, \$780.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not know of any

house for a Sub-Inspector that is worth \$65 per month.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand it is for two houses; not one.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The house at Belfield is \$40 per month and the one in New Amsterdam is \$25 per month. The rent of the one in New Amsterdam has been increased.

Item 39—Revenue Protection Expenses, \$1,200.

Mr. WALCOTT: I would like to know what has been done to protect the revenue that is being lost in respect of those people who are making the ordinary refined oil but are not paying the Excise Duty which they are supposed to pay for making refined oil. As you are aware, the Copra Board has taken this matter up with Your Excellency and various Departments on several occasions, and asked that some action be taken. Up to the present I have seen reports of two cases prosecuted in Georgetown, but throughout the country this method of making semi-refined oil is going on, and Government is losing considerable revenue. I estimate that the revenue lost this year is something in the vicinity of \$20,000. I attribute a lot of it to the fact that the Commissaries do not get any reward out of the fines. Some time ago Government abolished the system under which Commissaries shared in the fines imposed, and since then we have had comparatively few prosecutions. I believe if Government revived the system a good deal of revenue that is lost at present would be recovered.

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