

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 19th December, 1939.

The Council met at 11 a.m. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, THE HON. G. D. OWEN, C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

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

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

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

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo, O.B.E., (Eastern Berbice).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar Berbice River).

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

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

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

The President administered the Oath of Allegiance to the Hon. Colonial Secretary (Acting) (Mr. G. C. GREEN, M.B.E.) who then took his seat.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 30th November, 1939, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

PAPERS LAID.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting) laid on the table the following documents:—

The Third Schedule of additional provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the provision made in the estimates and not included in the first and second schedules of additional provision for the year 1939.

The Telephone (Amendment) Regulations, 1939, made by the Postmaster-General under section 94 of the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Chapter 185, as amended by section 4 of the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, 1935 (No. 6), and approved by the Governor in Council on the 12th of December, 1939.

Report to the Governor in Council by the Advisory Committee for the Development Trust Fund on a scheme for the improvement of the drainage of the Government estates of Essequibo.

Copies of telegrams sent by the Officer Administering the Government conveying the sympathy of the people of British Guiana to His Majesty and Royal Family on the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Louise and reply received from His Majesty expressing appreciation of the message.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

FREE GRANT FOR MALARIA RESEARCH.

Dr. MACLENNAN (Director of Medical Services) communicated the following Messages :—

MESSAGE NO. 2.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to accept a free grant of £2,082 from the Colonial Development Fund towards the cost of maintaining for two years a malaria research investigation unit.

2. Council has already voted on the second schedule of additional provision for 1939 (Head XX.—sub-head 14) the total estimated expenditure on this scheme to the end of the current year, and the work began in July last. As Council is aware, the Rockefeller foundation and the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association are each contributing a third of the cost (the amounts received being credited to Revenue Head IV., sub-head 36, as re-imburements). The Colonial Development Advisory Committee is willing to grant the remaining third.

G. D. OWEN,

Officer Administering the Government.

8th December, 1939.

FREE GRANT FOR ANTI-AEDES SERVICE.

MESSAGE NO. 3.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite Council to accept a free grant of £17,685, from the Colonial Development Fund for the establishment of an Anti-aedes service.

2. On the Second Schedule of additional Provision for this year a sum of \$2,240 was provided for the salaries of two senior supervisors, and in his speech on the opening of this session of this Council, Sir John Waddington intimated that a free grant had been obtained from the Colonial Development Fund to cover this and most of the other expenditure on the scheme. It is proposed to carry out a Colony wide campaign against the mosquito *aedes aegypti*, and the recurrent expenditure was estimated at

1939-1940	£ 4,070
1940-1941	8,470
1941-1942	4,070

£ 16,610

The British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association have, however, agreed to provide the salaries of junior inspectors for certain estates, and the net sum to be found for recurrent expenditure has therefore been reduced by £1,530 to £15,080. In addition to this, capital expenditure on the scheme is estimated at £2,605. The total sum to be found is £17,685, and a free grant of this amount has been made from the Colonial Development Fund.

3. The services of a trained Medical Officer to direct the campaign are being provided by the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Foundation has also provided for the training at Rio de Janeiro of the two senior supervisors (including the cost of their travelling to and from Rio). Free laboratory services for immunity surveys and diagnosis are being rendered by the Foundation, which is also supplying immunising material free of charge.

4. The scheme has the full support of the Central Board of Health and the Municipalities of Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and the Georgetown Municipality has intimated its willingness to contribute towards the cost. As, however, this Municipality has in view a new Water Supply Scheme for Georgetown involving the abolition of the rain water vats and constituting thereby a most important anti-mosquito measure, the Town has not been asked to contribute.

5. When the proposed campaign has been carried out the aedes control scheme will have been gradually brought to the point where its financing can be taken over by Government on a permanent modified basis. The Municipalities will then also be expected to assume normal control measures.

G. D. OWEN,

Officer Administering the Government.

6th December, 1939.

DRAINAGE OF GOVERNMENT ESTATES IN ESSEQUEBO.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) communicated the following message :—

MESSAGE NO. 4.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

In pursuance of section 11 of the Colonisation Fund Ordinance, 1937, I have the honour to invite Council to approve of the scheme for the improvement of the drainage of the Government estates on the Essequibo Coast (including certain reconditioning works) which is laid before the Legislative Council in Sessional Paper No. 28 of 1939. The object of the scheme is to increase the production of rice and other food crops as a war emergency measure.

2. In accordance with section 10 of the Ordinance the scheme has been considered by the Governor in Council and the Advisory Committee for the Development Trust Fund, and the Governor in Council has sanctioned the scheme as set out in the Committee's report. It is proposed to make a grant of \$25,000 from the Development Trust Fund for the following works :—

Internal drainage of La Belle Alliance	\$ 5 200
Separation of front and back lands from Henrietta to Bush Lot (inclusive)	8,200
Internal drainage—Richmond, Henrietta, Anna Regina and Bush Lot	... 10,460
Contingencies	... 1,140
	<hr/>
	\$ 25,000

It is also proposed to make a loan of a sum not exceeding \$5,000 from the Fund for advances to cultivators.

3. The Secretary of State has intimated that he is prepared to approve of the scheme.

G. D. OWEN,
Officer Administering the Government.
14th December, 1939.

WAR BONUS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

The Colonial Secretary communicated the following message :—

MESSAGE NO. 5.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

In view of the increased cost of living which has resulted from present world conditions, the Council is invited to approve of the payment to Government employees in receipt of salaries or wages of not more than \$40 a month, of a temporary war bonus of 10% of their salaries or wages as from 1st January, 1940, inclusive ; and of the salaries or wages of employees receiving between \$40 and \$44 a month being increased to \$44 a month as from the same date.

2. The grant of such a bonus is estimated to cost \$170,000 in 1940, and it is proposed to meet this sum as far as possible from next year's revenue.

G. D. OWEN,
Officer Administering the Government.
15th December, 1939.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at a later stage he would move that the Standing Rules and Orders of the Council be suspended to enable all business on the agenda to be proceeded with and carried through all its stages.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

Notice was given of the introduction of the following Bills :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to continue certain expiring Laws. (*Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, Chapter 38, by increasing certain rates of duty. (*Mr. Mc David*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Shops Regulation Ordinance, Chapter 77, in respect of the hours during which certain shops may be permitted to remain open. (*The Attorney-General*).

THIRD SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motions :—

THAT, this Council approves the Third Schedule of additional provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the provision made in the estimates and not included in the first and second schedules of additional provision for the year, 1939, which has been laid on the table.

WAR BONUS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 5 dated 15th December, 1939, this Council approves of the payment from 1st January, 1940, of a temporary war bonus of 10 per cent. to Government employees in receipt of salaries and wages of not more than \$40 a month ; and of the salaries or wages of employees receiving between \$40 and \$44 a month ; being increased to \$44 a month as from the same date.

DUTIES ON COCONUT PRODUCTS.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) gave notice of the following motion :—

Be it Resolved,—That, in pursuance of section 20 of the Coconut Products (Control) Ordinance, 1935, as re-enacted by the Coconut Products (Control) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1939, this Council hereby fixes the following duties to be raised, levied and collected as from the date hereof on coconut products which have been manufactured in the Colony and are delivered for consumption in the Colony :—

	\$	c.
(a) upon every gallon of deodorised coconut oil	0	12
(b) upon every 100 lbs. of lard and butter substitute	0	42

FREE GRANT FOR MALARIA RESEARCH.

Dr. MACLENNAN (Director of Medical Services) gave notice of the following motions :—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. dated 8th December, 1939, this Council accepts a free grant of £2,082 from the Colonial Development Fund towards the cost of maintaining for two years a malaria research investigation unit and requests that an expression of Council's appreciation of this gift be conveyed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Colonial Development Advisory Committee.

FREE GRANT FOR ANTI-AEDES SERVICE.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 3 dated 6th December, 1939, this Council accepts a free grant of £17,685 from the Colonial Development Fund for the establishment of an Anti-aedes service, and requests that an

expression of Council's appreciation of this gift be conveyed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Colonial Development Advisory Committee.

ROYALTY ON TIMBER.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests) gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, in pursuance of section 17 of the Crown Lands Ordinance, Chapter 171, this Council hereby makes the Crown Lands (Amendment) Regulations 1939, altering the First Schedule to the Principal Regulations with respect to the royalty on timber, as printed in *Official Gazette Extraordinary* dated 18th December, 1939, and circulated.

DRAINAGE OF GOVERNMENT ESTATES, ESSEQUEBO.

Professor DASH gave notice of the following motion:

That, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 4 dated 14th December, 1939, and in pursuance of section 11 of the Colonisation Fund Ordinance, 1937, this Council approves of the scheme for the improvement of the drainage of the Government estates on the Essequibo Coast (including certain reconditioning works) set out in Legislative Council Paper No. 28 of 1939, involving (a) a grant of \$25,000 and (b) a loan of a sum not exceeding \$5,000 from the Development Trust Fund.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

AGRICULTURAL BIAS SCHEME.

Mr. LEE gave notice of the following questions:

1. Will Government state in how many schools the Agricultural Bias Curriculum operates giving names of schools, teachers in charge and status, and date on which the scheme was started?
2. (1) Will Government also give with respect to each school
 - (a) Name of school.
 - (b) Number of Agricultural Bias Curriculum pupils at end of school year ended 31st August, 1939.
 - (c) Number of pupils who had completed the 2 years course on or before school year ended 31st August, 1939.
 - (d) Number of pupils who have left school having completed the 2 years course on or before the 31st August, 1939.
 - (e) How the said pupils are employed?
- (2) State number of home gardens established by pupils in (d) above with respect to each school?
3. Will Government state the names of school and number of visits paid to each by the Supervising District Agricultural Officer, naming each school and dates of visits separately for the school years ended 31st August, 1937, 1938, and 1939?

4. What is the total amount of Government Grant provided annually for the scheme for

- (1) Maintenance of Gardens.
- (2) Relief teachers employed under the scheme.

Under (1) give the following figures.

(a) Names of Schools each separately.
(b) Amount allocated to each garden for the years 1937, 1938 and up to 31st August, 1939.

(c) Amount expended for the years 1937, 1938 and up to 31st August, 1939?

Under (2) give the following figures:—

(d) Amount provided for the years 1937, 1938 and up to 31st August, 1939?

5. How many teachers in charge of Agricultural Bias Curriculum Classes receive extra allowance for necessary special clothing, boots, etc.?

6. Is Government satisfied that the scheme is producing any desirable results. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government state in what direction?

7. (a) In how many schools has the scheme been abandoned since its inception?

(b) In how many schools was the scheme never started, although plans for starting the scheme in such schools were already begun?

8. What encouragement or help has been given boys who have completed a two years' course?

9. Will Government examine and give consideration to the following suggestions for securing some measure of success for the scheme?

(a) Proper selection, maintenance, fencing, and drainage of all sites selected for gardens under the scheme, and the supply of seeds, etc., at the right seasons?

(b) Appointment of supervisors two or three part-time officers selected from amongst the teachers who show experience, ability, and enthusiasm for such work, to leave their substantive duties to pay regular visits at least once a quarter to visit other gardens and

- (1) advise on work being done
- (2) advancement and extension of the Home Gardens and Young Farmers Club's idea.

(c) Selection of the best boys from time to time who have shown aptitude for further and advanced training by the Department of Agriculture in the absence of a Farm School.

(d) Extra remuneration for all Agricultural Bias Curriculum Teachers for the necessary extra work involved under the scheme—and for necessary clothing and boots, and a personal allowance for head teachers who work the scheme in addition to their ordinary duties and responsibilities for the organization and instruction in the whole School.

RICE STOCKS.

1. Will Government state what quantities of rice are in the hands of merchants of the City of Georgetown, or other persons, stating the name of each merchant or person separately, and quantity for the period ending 31st October, 1939 and the name of any other holder in any part of the Colony of 250 bags rice or over for the said 31st October 1939, and where held?

2. Is Government aware that the holders of large stocks of rice had previous knowledge of

the introduction of the Rice Regulations and made use of such knowledge to acquire and hold large stocks of rice?

3. What steps Government intends to take in respect to the profits to be made by the improper use of such knowledge?

RUM TAKEN FROM BONDS.

1. Will Government state how many gallons of rum were taken out of Bond in the months of July, August, September and October, 1938, as compared with the quantity taken out in the corresponding periods of the year 1939, and by whom and how much revenue was lost through the introduction of the new Customs duties?

REVENUE FROM TOBACCO IN BOND.

2. Will Government state how many pounds of tobacco were taken out of Bond in the months of July, August, September and October, 1938, as compared with the quantity taken out in the same period in the year 1939, and by whom, and how much revenue was lost thereby?

3. Is Government aware that the knowledge gained of such increases constitutes a breach of faith to Government, and what action is being taken in such cases?

RICE CULTIVATION AND LACK OF WATER.

1. Will Government state how many acres of cultivated rice lands on the West Coast of the County of Demerara were lost through want of water to irrigate them for the crop ending 31st October, 1939, and why was not the water supplied to the tenants who have to pay the landlord who is responsible for irrigation and drainage of the lands?

2. What amount per acre is paid to the Boerasirie Commissioners for irrigation and drainage for rice and cane cultivation for the year 1939?

Is Government aware that the said loss was caused through the neglect of the Ranger in not allowing a sufficient quantity of water on the rice lands? What measures Government is going to adopt to fulfil the trust imposed on it to see that its implied contract of drainage and irrigation is carried out?

4. Is Government aware that the Ranger has passed the age limit for retirement and is therefore unable and incompetent to carry on such arduous duties?

ORDER OF THE DAY.

ABORIGINAL INDIAN PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Aboriginal Indian Protection Ordinance, Chapter 262, by abolishing the minimum penalty for harbouring Aboriginal Indians and female

half-castes." be read a third time and passed.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

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

Bill read a second time.

STANDING RULES SUSPENDED.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the Standing Rules and Orders of the Council be suspended to enable the business of which notice of motion has been given to be proceeded with and taken through all its stages. It is not the wish of Government unduly to hasten the work of the Council as set out on the Order Paper, but it is understood that it is the wish of hon. Members to proceed with the business as expeditiously as possible so as not to have occasion to return to-morrow, if that is at all possible, in view of the fact that this week is a very busy one, being so near to Christmas.

THE PRESIDENT: Before putting the motion I should like to say that most of the items on the Order Paper deal with measures of which I gave notice in the Budget statement on November 15, and as the Colonial Secretary has said, it is possible that hon. Members may wish to proceed with that business to-day so as to give them time to consider the other business. If, however, hon. Members prefer to deal only with the urgent business to-day and return to-morrow to consider the other business I shall be quite prepared to do so.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Standing Rules and Orders suspended.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to continue certain expiring laws" be read the first time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to continue certain expiring laws" be read the second time. It is unnecessary to say anything in regard to this Bill which speaks for itself. I regret that I am not in the happy position of being able to inform hon. Members that this is the last time on which this Bill will be introduced. In the present circumstances it is extremely necessary that it should be continued for at least another year.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Mr. JACOB: I desire to object again to this Bill going through. I think it is not quite the right thing, but owing to the exigencies of the present situation I am not going to press my objection. I however think that other means should be adopted of raising revenue. I think the Customs revenue could meet this amount, and I think it is distinctly unfair that essentials, such as sugar and other things, should be taxed. It is true that it may be argued that Government proposes to give certain of its employees a war bonus, but if it gives a war bonus on one hand and continues to levy this taxation or increase taxation it means that in effect it is giving nothing. Apart from Customs revenues I think other means should be adopted to increase the revenue of this Colony, and I do urge Government to consider that aspect of the matter rather than approaching the Council continuously to increase taxation by Customs duties on essentials.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause without discussion.

The Council resumed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to continue certain expiring laws" be read a third time and passed.

Mr. Dias seconded.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT No. 2) BILL, 1939.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, Chapter 38, by increasing certain rates of duty" be read a second time. The purpose of this Bill is to give effect to one of the proposals for additional taxation contained in the Colonial Secretary's budget which was presented to the Council some time ago. It is proposed to increase the rates of income tax on individuals by approximately 33½ per cent., and in the case of companies from 12½ to 15 per cent. As a war measure, and bearing in mind the financial position of the Colony, I do not think it would be considered that these increases are at all unduly burdensome, because income tax in this Colony is only a fraction of what it is in the United Kingdom. The new rates are set out in clause 2 of the Bill. Hon. Members will notice that the first four rates in the schedule represent exactly one-third increase on the existing rates. Those rates relate to chargeable incomes between \$1,200 and \$6,000. The rates on incomes above \$6,000 up to \$9,600 represent an increase of slightly higher than one-third, but the rates on that portion above \$9,600 represent an increase of just one-third.

In your Message to the Council, sir, you stated that the proposal was to increase the tax by approximately one-third, but it was never the intention to make it a rigid increase of one-third. The proposal is to provide a new scale which provides stable progression. Opportunity has been taken to put such a scale into force and remove the surtax of 50 per cent. which is in force at the present time. As regards the 15 per cent. rate for companies, hon. Members probably realize that the company tax is really a means of collecting income tax at the source, because a company is able to recover that tax by deducting it from its dividends. Even though a portion of a company's profits are held in reserve, if and when those reserves are distributed the company is still able to recover the tax by deduction from its dividends when that distribution is made. Therefore the increase does not really fall on the company except temporarily in the case of a tax on its reserve. The main purpose of the increase in the case of companies is to take

advantage of the increase in the tax payable by companies which are liable to the tax both in the United Kingdom and in this Colony. As hon. Members perhaps know, the rate of tax in the United Kingdom has been increased to 7/6 in the pound, and under the Income Tax Act in England the United Kingdom Government grants relief from the double taxation up to one-half of the U. K. rate. It therefore follows that as the United Kingdom Government is willing to grant relief of 3/9 in the pound, by increasing our rate to 15 per cent., which is 3/- in the pound, no additional burden will be put on companies which have to pay the tax both in the United Kingdom and in this Colony. In effect the increase is really met from the United Kingdom.

Let us illustrate the effect of the new scale on individuals. At the present time a married man with a gross income of \$2,400 per annum pays \$36 in tax. Under the new scale he would pay \$48. A married man with a gross income of £1,000 a year now pays \$162, and under the new scale he would pay \$216. I would like to point out that \$216 represents a tax of only 4.5 per cent of the gross income of such a person, and that is not at all a high rate as income tax goes in these days. I can only add that I am confident this increase will be cheerfully borne as part of the war effort of this Colony in an attempt to balance the budget without financial assistance from the United Kingdom. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Dr. MACLENNAN seconded.

Mr. SEAFORD: I do not oppose the Bill but I would like to refer to one or two of the remarks made by the Colonial Treasurer. First of all he said he did not consider this increase unduly burdensome. I disagree with him entirely. There are in this Colony a large number of salaried men with families who are going to find it extremely burdensome, but nevertheless they will bear it cheerfully because they realize why it is being imposed. It is, however, not right to say it is not unduly burdensome.

The second point is that he said that our income tax is only a fraction of what it is in the United Kingdom. That we all know, but he failed to state also that the import

duties in the United Kingdom are only a fraction of what our import duties are, and that it is necessary to take both into consideration when you are referring to taxation generally.

Another point is with regard to the fifth item in the schedule, where it seems to me that the Colonial Treasurer has tried to sneak in a little bit of extra taxation. When he referred to the proposal to increase the rates of income tax on individuals by 33½ per cent, he anticipated that it would not be considered unduly burdensome, but he has not told us why Government has increased the rates in respect of companies from 12½ to 15 per cent. I agree with him, however, on the point that although this taxation is extremely burdensome everyone will pay it quite cheerfully, because it is being imposed with one great object, and that is saving us from asking the Mother Country for financial assistance. It is only right that wherever possible every colony should stand on its own leg.

Mr. ELEAZAR: When income tax is being discussed in this Council I certainly think I have the right to say something about it. Although I regard the present increase as a war measure, which would have come under some head, I would still like to say when reference is made to the proportion of income tax in this Colony as compared with the Mother Country, that there is no country I am aware of in the civilized world as half-developed or as undeveloped as this one is, where there is income tax at all. Income tax is not a tax for an undeveloped country. When it was introduced here I was told by the Governor who introduced it (I refer to Sir Cecil Rodwell) that when income tax was imposed all the other taxes would be removed. Income Tax was imposed, but other taxation has never been removed. Sir Gordon Guggisberg used words to the same effect, and I told him that I protested against it on the ground that I knew of no country in the same position where there was income tax. Instead of our ordinary taxation being reduced as a result of the imposition of income tax, it has all been increased, and income tax is also being increased. We agree that it is a war measure, and we cannot grumble. Other people are worse off, but I do not think it

is quite correct to say that in England they are paying so much more and we are getting off very lightly here. In this country one man is carrying the burden of ten men, and when in addition we have to pay income tax it is not fair to say that it is not unduly burdensome. It is burdensome, and every increase makes it unduly so for the reason I have stated.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I would not like to disappoint the Colonial Treasurer by not joining in this debate, and for that reason I have risen to make a few remarks. I wish I could be as cheerful as the taxpayer he referred to, and even as cheerful as he looked when he was moving the Bill, but I would like to assure him that I am not one of those cheerful persons he had in mind, and for most of the reasons mentioned by the hon. Members who have spoken. I am not cheerful also because, although he was at great pains to point out that this increase was a war measure in order to balance our budget without approaching the Imperial Government for financial assistance, he did not complete his sentence from my point of view by adding that when the war was over and we could go back to the Imperial Government he would approach the Council with a view to remitting this increase. But that is nothing new. That is what Members of the Council are accustomed to. Taxes of this kind are introduced first of all as a temporary measure, but they remain, and we find that administration costs keep rising from year to year.

There is one point on which I would like to obtain some information, and that is with regard to the tax on companies. I agree with the Colonial Treasurer when he said that the tax on companies was merely a tax at the source. Those who have to deal with it year after year will appreciate that in the case of an individual, although in the first instance a tax of 15 per cent. is deducted from his dividend, he is never called upon to pay the tax on his whole income. On the question of the tax on reserves it must be remembered that in so far as local companies are concerned, especially those whose dividends are paid half-yearly, the tax in such cases is deducted at once. I also wish to speak on behalf of those companies whose accounting periods have ended prior to this meeting of the Council. The position in

regard to those companies will be, so far as I understand it, that their dividends have been distributed and the tax deducted at the rate of 12½ per cent. What will be the position of those companies now that they will have to pay 15 per cent? That is a point which should be explained. Obviously, to call upon those companies to pay 15 per cent on dividends from which only 12½ per cent. was deducted would be to impose a penalty on them. I do not know whether I have made my point clear, because I see the Treasurer nodding. I would like him to clear that point up. I appreciate the point he made as regards the tax on reserves. I am dealing with those dividends which have already been earned by those companies and actually paid by them, upon which an individual tax of 12½ per cent. has been deducted. Perhaps that will explain to him why I am not as cheerful as he was. Unless Government is prepared to make some provision whereby that difficulty will be met it seems to me that something ought to be done in this Bill.

Mr. JACOB: I am sorry I cannot agree with the statements made by the three hon. Members who have spoken, and particularly with that made by the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar). The hon. Member for Berbice River went so far as to suggest that income tax should not be levied at all. Looking at the Estimates I see that it is proposed to collect \$470,000 in 1940, and that this additional tax will produce \$140,000, making a total of \$610,000—more than 10 per cent. of the revenue of the Colony. If it is not the right thing to collect income tax and to collect such a large sum from those who are best able to pay then I wonder what kind of statesmanship hon. Members would adopt in order to collect the additional revenue required. Those hackneyed phrases I hear from time to time from certain Members tend to mislead the public.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I never said what the hon. Member is saying there. He has built a house of cards and knocked it down himself. I said that when income tax was introduced it was said that most of the other taxes would be removed.

THE PRESIDENT: That is what the hon. Member said.

Mr. JACOB: I will not worry to reply to the hon. Member. What is required is increased production in the Colony, and I cannot understand why this Council does not press for it for all its worth. If we do not have increased production we have to continue to tax incomes. There is nothing else to substitute for income tax. I would like to enquire whether persons resident outside the Colony are paying the same tax as those resident in the Colony? If that is so, and I think it is so, I think those resident outside the colony should be made to pay an additional tax. The trouble in this country is that money made here is always taken out of the Colony and not spent here, and in my opinion, and I think the opinion of the majority of people, Government should endeavour to keep all the money made in this Colony within the Colony. I think those who are earning incomes in the Colony and residing abroad should be made to pay an increased rate. I cannot say that I have studied income tax very closely, but perhaps the Treasurer might explain that point. On the whole I do not consider this increased taxation burdensome, and I agree with its introduction.

Mr. McDAVID: The chief burden of the criticism of the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) appeared to be directed against my unfortunate use of the phrase "unduly burdensome." I am quite willing to withdraw that particular phrase. It is no secret that when the budget was being prepared I submitted a scale which was very much higher than the present one in the Bill, but it was eventually found possible to reduce it. The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) raised the old story about the promise to reduce taxation if income tax was introduced. I have heard that very often before. The hon. Member knows that he should not blame income tax for that. Income tax is, of course, the fairest tax. It is a form of taxation that is now almost general throughout the Colonial Empire, and I cannot see that it would be fair or equitable to remove it. The reason why other forms of taxation have not been removed is that we cannot afford to do so, and the hon. Member should also be aware of that fact. I hope that it will please the hon. Member when that time comes. I do not know myself when that time will come; I can only hope for it.

With regard to the suggestion made by the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) that persons earning incomes in the Colony and residing abroad should pay an increased rate of income tax, I believe that in one or two parts of the world that principle has been adopted, but it has not been adopted generally throughout the Colonial Empire, and I do not know whether it is a fair principle. Incomes earned in the Colony by persons resident abroad are taxed at precisely the same rates as those of persons resident here, and there is something fair in that because, after all, a person resident abroad does not claim anything on the services of the Government. A person resident abroad does not get the benefit of Government's services, and in some cases he has to pay income tax in the country in which he resides. There is a proviso in the Ordinance by which he does not get personal allowances unless he brings into the calculation of the tax his income from all other sources for the purpose of computing the tax. I am glad to see that in spite of the criticism of my phrase "unduly burdensome" the increased tax has been rather cheerfully received.

With regard to companies the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) has raised a rather difficult point. I take it that what he means is that where a company's accounting year has ended on a date before the 31st December, and its dividend has been paid before the 31st December and has been subject to a deduction of 12½ per cent., what is the position going to be? All I can say is that the principle of income tax legislation is that the amount paid out by a company is recoverable from the dividend paid out, and although I cannot now give a definite decision I think it would be possible for the extra amount to be recovered under the legislation as it stands. If that is not so I promise the hon. Member to go into the question and see what should be done.

THE PRESIDENT: For the benefit of the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) I should like to make it quite clear that Government does not hold out any promise to remove this increased tax immediately after the war. The hon. Member has referred to promises made by

previous Administrators, and I do not wish to be connected with any promise.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause without discussion.

The Council resumed.

Mr. McDAVID: I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, Chapter 38, by increasing certain rates of duty," be read a third time and passed.

Dr. MACLENNAN seconded.

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

Bill read a third time, and passed.

SHOPS REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1939.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. E. O. Pretheroe, M.C.): I move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Shops Regulation Ordinance, Chapter 77, in respect of the hours during which certain shops may be permitted to remain open" be read the first time.

Professor DASH seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that the Bill be read a second time. The reason for the Bill is stated in the Objects and Reasons. I think those Objects and Reasons are quite clear, and there is no need for me to add anything. December 24 falls on a Sunday this year, and there is need to pass this Bill early to meet the convenience of shopkeepers and purchasers. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Professor DASH seconded.

Mr. LEE: I suggest that Government

might draw the attention of the Police to the Regulations in order that there might be no prosecutions.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause without discussion.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

Professor DASH seconded.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

THIRD SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1939.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move:

That, this Council approves the Third Schedule of additional provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the provision made in the estimates and not included in the first and second schedules of additional provision for the year 1939, which has been laid on the table.

The total of the estimate is \$224,800, and I have certain items to be moved in when we reach the Committee stage, amounting to another \$10,000, making a somewhat formidable total of \$235,000. Some of the items principally responsible for this total may be mentioned. On the first page under Education there is an amount of \$5,000 for grants to schools to meet major repairs to school buildings for which the annual grant for maintenance will not suffice. Under Fire Protection there is an item of \$8,000 in respect of the very necessary fire equipment that is required and will be purchased this year. As was explained during the annual session, approximately two-thirds of the additional expenditure will be recovered from other sources. On page 2 under Medical there is an item of \$6,460 for Dietary. This excess, of course, is due to reasons which are uncontrollable—increased numbers under treatment and increased prices of staple foodstuffs. Under Medical—Government Health

Department—there is an item of \$10,000 for Anti-Aedes Campaign, recoverable from the Colonial Development Fund. On the next page is an item of \$5,400 under Miscellaneous—Subventions, etc., other than Municipal—which represents the proportion payable for the period 1st October to 31st December of the amount to be paid to the B.G. Airways, Ltd., in respect of the contract entered into with Government. On the other page there is an item of \$4,344 under Post Office for conveyance of mails, which is due to increased payments resulting from increased Air Mail despatches. This expenditure will be counterbalanced by revenue from increased sale of stamps. Under Public Works Annually Recurrent there is an item of \$6,000 for Engineering Surveys which is to meet expenditure on surveys of river communications to the Rupununi during 1939 with a view to ascertaining how such communications to various parts of the interior could be improved. It was the commencement of the work of development to which, unfortunately, the War has put a stop. It was following on a recommendation by the Hinterland Development Committee. On the next page there is an item of \$15,265 for Roads, Rivers, Creeks and Portages, which will be utilized to avoid serious deterioration of the main roads of the Colony. There is an item of \$30,000 for Unallocated (Timber Stocks) for the purpose of establishing a revolving fund to supply the Public Works and other Departments with supplies of seasoned local timbers sufficient to fill their requirements without using any imported timber. That proposal has already been put before the Council.

At the end of the page there is an item of \$7,485 representing a further expenditure on drainage works in New Amsterdam. That was due to a quickening up of the work as it was desired that there should be no interruption in its progress. It does not affect the total cost of the work according to programme. At the beginning of the next page there are four items under Public Works Extraordinary amounting to \$10,000 which it was announced at the annual session had been authorised by the Secretary of State in order to provide for the relief of unemployment. It is not anticipated that the full amount will be expended, and such

sums as remain over at the end of the year will be revoted in the following year for the same purpose.

I do not think there is any other item of particular importance to which I would like to refer, except that on page 11 there is a large item of \$40,000 for Colonial Emergency Measures, which has already been passed by the Council. I would like to say that the majority of the items on this schedule are covered by savings, and that this estimate in no way affects the results of the year's working as already presented to the Council at the budget session. In the Committee stage if there is any particular information that hon. Members may require Government will be glad to supply it. I move that the Council resolve itself into Committee to consider the schedule.

Council in Committee.

EDUCATION—SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Item 10—Grants to schools, \$5,000.

Mr. LEE: I hope Government is considering repairs to the school at Zealandia, which is unsafe for the number of children who attend there.

Item agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move the insertion of a new item under head XI—Industrial school—sub-head 13—Purchase and installation of second-hand boiler, \$600. This item is covered by savings and is very necessary for carrying on the factory for the manufacture of lime oil and cornmeal.

Mr. LEE: I am not an engineer but from my experience of practical results obtained by several people whom I know I think it would be far better if Government purchased a new boiler which would give longer service. The cost of repairs and spare parts for a second-hand boiler would offset the cost of a new boiler.

THE CHAIRMAN: This boiler has been examined by technical officers of Government and they strongly recommend that Government should purchase it. I am prepared to be guided by the opinion of Government's technical advisers in this particular matter.

Mr. LEE: I know from experience that expert advice has been taken in several instances and it was found that it would have been far better if a new boiler had been bought in the first instance.

Item agreed to.

MEDICAL—HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Mr. LEE: Complaints have been made to me that patients at the Public Hospital are not receiving proper diet.

Dr. MACLENNAN: I would ask that specific instances be supplied to me by the hon. Member.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move the insertion of a new sub-head 4—Additional printing not under contract, \$149. This is required for the re-printing of certain Ordinances relating to public health matters for the Central Board of Health for distribution among local authorities.

Item agreed to.

**MISCELLANEOUS—(b) SUBVENTIONS, etc.—
OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL.**

Item 64—Contribution to British Guiana Airways, Ltd., \$5,400.

Mr. JACOB: I have a recollection that before I left the Colony I suggested that Government should be represented on the Board of the British Guiana Airways, Ltd., and that one of the terms of the contract should be that the accounts of the company should be audited by the Colonial Auditor, and should be laid on the table of this Council from time to time. I wonder if that has been done. If it has not been done I suggest that steps be taken to do it. Where public money is being expended this Council should have the right to review all items of expenditure.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The full conditions and particulars relating to this contract with the British Guiana Airways, Ltd. were placed before this Council, probably during the hon. Member's absence from the Colony, and were fully debated.

Mr. JACOB: My point has not been

answered. I asked whether the accounts have been laid on the table, whether Government is represented on the Board of Directors, and whether the Colonial Auditor will review the accounts?

Mr. McDAVID: I seem to remember that the hon. Member was here when the debate took place, and he did make that suggestion. I said at the time that it was a private company being subsidized, and that Government was not taking any part in its management or any direct responsibility. The terms of the contract were carefully considered, and I should hate to see the Colonial Auditor auditing the accounts, or a Government director on the Board. It is entirely a private company, and Government is not responsible for its operations.

Mr. JACOB: I am really surprised to hear the Treasurer make that statement on behalf of Government. We are subsidizing a private company with taxpayers' money. I am not suggesting for one moment that the money may not be properly spent, but the Council should have the right to see the company's balance-sheet and know whether it is properly drawn up, and we should have an opportunity of reviewing the expenditure from time to time.

Mr. McDAVID: The terms of the subsidy are based on hours flown, not on the actual working of the company. Those were ascertained beforehand by reasonable estimates, and we have agreed to pay so much per hour subject to a rebate of so many dollars for flying over a certain figure. The hours flown will be certified by an auditor and presented to Government. The revenue earned by the company will be certified as well as the number of hours flown, and it is on those accounts the subsidy will be based. Government is not really concerned with the private results of the transactions of the company.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: It would seem to me that there were several other matters which might have engaged the attention of the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob). For instance the contract has been signed. Can it be altered? The Memorandum and Articles of Association have been signed. Can they

be altered without the consent of the parties concerned? I do not think it is a position which Government could entertain for one moment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The terms to which the hon. Member has referred do not form part of the agreement, and cannot therefore be included in the agreement at this stage.

Mr. JACOB: It seems to me to be a most one-sided agreement. Government is paying money out without knowing how it is going to be spent, or whether it is going to be spent in the interest of the Colony. I supported the motion for the subsidy and I therefore urge Government to re-consider its position. It is distinctly unfair to the taxpayers.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am not sure that the hon. Member has not missed the point. For instance, this Colony is paying a subsidy to the Canadian National Steamship Co., and I do not know that the Colonial Auditor ever looks into their accounts. We give them a subsidy for doing certain work.

Item agreed to.

PRISONS.

Item 9—Bakery, Georgetown Prison, \$3,000.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am sorry I have not had time to go through this formidable list. I always like to scrutinize these supplementary estimates, but this estimate was only laid on the table this morning. This item seems to call for some explanation. The original estimate was \$12,200, and an additional sum of \$3,000 is now required. I observe from the remarks column that the excess is due to an increase in the price of flour and the breakdown of the oven. The oven has been broken down for over a year, and I am wondering how much longer it is going to be allowed to remain in that condition. I am also wondering what is happening to the new oven, if there is going to be a new oven. Generally, I would like to know what is going to be the position as regards the baking of bread at the Prison. An oven was repaired at the Prison a year or two ago. Is it the same oven that has

broken down? If so, who is responsible for it? The expenditure under this head is rising all the time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: All these matters have received the earnest attention of Government. The new oven has been obtained. The delay was, of course, due to the conditions obtaining abroad. The oven has either actually arrived or is about to arrive, and will be erected in the course of the next few weeks. Active preparations are now being made to that end. The existing oven has broken down from time to time, due principally to the load, and it has never had any standby. When the new oven has been erected the old one will be repaired and kept as a standby to allow the new one to be rested and cleaned, and to carry any extra pressure of baking.

PUBLIC WORKS—ANNUALLY RECURRENT.

Item 6—Engineering Surveys, \$6,000.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am disturbed about the abnormal additional requirement. We voted \$12,700 on the original estimate and now an additional \$6,000 is required. There seems to me to be a better explanation than was given by the acting Colonial Secretary. I understood him to say that the reason for the additional sum was in order to carry on work which was urgently required. An increase of \$6,000 on the original estimate seems to me to be a large sum, and some further explanation ought to be given.

Mr. CASE (Director of Public Works and Sea Defences): This work was undertaken in order to improve the rivers of the Colony, and was quite apart from the ordinary surveys. A considerable amount of work has been done on these surveys. Aerial surveys have been made on the Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo rivers in order to find out which is the most likely river to afford the possibility of improved communication by waterway to the Kupununi. As a result it was found that the most probable route would be by the Berbice river. Since then a land survey has been made, and the party of surveyors has only come down quite recently. The details of the survey have not yet been worked out, but I can say this: that the results show no engineering difficulties whatever in making certain

improvements in order that boats can travel from Georgetown to the Repununi.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Mention of the Berbice river tickles me. There is a road already made from New Amsterdam to Mara, but only eight miles of it is passable now. One cannot get beyond the eighth milestone on the East Bank of the Berbice river by any means whatever, yet Government is spending \$6,000 on surveys for the improvement of the river, which it has no intention of doing. People are dying at Mara and their relatives in New Amsterdam do not know, and *vice versa*. Is Government going to allow that road to be abandoned when it is throwing away money in other directions? Government has abandoned a public road which was made at great expense, and has also abandoned the telephone service. It is now wasting money in making surveys of the rivers with a view to improving communications which it does not intend to undertake.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I must confess that I am very little wiser than when I asked the question. It seems to me that we are being asked to vote money for something we knew nothing about. That is my complaint in this Council every time we consider these estimates. I thought this \$6,000 was required to meet expenditure on ordinary engineering surveys, but it seems to me that I am wrong. It is required to do work which nobody—certainly I did not know about. I am now tempted to ask why was this money spent? What does Government intend to get out of it? Is it an investment? I strongly deprecate the expenditure of Government money without the Council being approached in the first instance with a definite programme. I hear now that it is to improve river communications. For what? To go to the Rupununi? What for? If we are going to bring cattle down let the Council be informed. I want to lay down this principle once and for all: that before Government expends any large sum of money this Council should be taken into its confidence and asked to express its views on it. This item will certainly not have my vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: I should like to explain that this work was certainly not thought of when the estimate of \$12,700 was

prepared. When there appeared to be every likelihood of Jewish settlement being effected in British Guiana, Government was particularly anxious to investigate the possibility of improving river communications. The matter at that time was one of considerable urgency, and it was felt that surveys should be carried out immediately. Of course I am speaking of the time before the war began. When Government was informed that for the time being the proposal to establish a Jewish settlement here was postponed Government at once considered whether the work which was then in hand could be stopped immediately. The officers undertaking the work were then in the interior. The bulk of the money had been spent to get them there. To bring them out of the interior would have saved very little of the \$6,000, and therefore the officers were allowed to remain for the few weeks necessary to complete the task they were then carrying out. Government did it with the very best intentions, having regard to the fact that we were particularly anxious to start the Jewish settlement scheme in the Colony

Mr. SEAFORD: The gravamen of the complaint is that this money has been spent without this Council knowing anything about it. The hon. Member feels that the Council should have been taken into the confidence of Government. After all is said and done this Council is supposed to control the finances of the Colony, and if Government can at any time spend money without its knowledge it seems to me useless for us to sit here. On that point I am bound to agree with the hon. Member. Some years ago when I was on the other side of the table I was rather bitter on exactly the same point, because I felt that if this Council represented the people of the Colony we were entitled to know what money was being spent and how it was being spent. Whether Members of the Council can give any help or advise is a different matter, but I think it is the duty of Government to bring all items of expenditure to the notice of the Council. Perhaps in this case, as the matter was urgent and the Council was not sitting at the time, Government was unable to do so, but I think it was the duty of Government to inform the Council at the very first meeting after it was decided to spend this money.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: The hon. Member is correct in his interpretation of what I said in connection with this item, but I am afraid I have another complaint to make, and perhaps it is just as serious. Now that this money has been spent without the approval of this Council having been obtained in the first instance, I would like to enquire whether it is proposed to regard the item as a suspense account with the hope of obtaining a refund from somebody, whether it be the people responsible for the Jewish refugees in England, the Imperial Government or whatever organisation it may be, if and when it is decided that those people should come here? The reason I ask that question is because when the proposal was made to settle the refugees here Government emphasized the point very clearly that it would cost the Colony nothing. If I had not raised the question of the expenditure of this money without the authority of this Council this item would have been passed without a complete explanation being given to the Council. However, Government has spent \$6,000 under the head of Engineering Surveys, but it was money spent with the primary object of improving hinterland communications for the purpose of settling Jewish refugees. Therefore it seems to me that I am quite justified now in asking whether it is proposed to put this item on suspense account with a view of collecting it at a later date from somebody.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am not at all in agreement with the hon. Member's last remark, because I consider that this money has been extremely well spent in survey work which will tend to help the development of this country. Any money so spent is money well spent, I was a member of the Hinterland Development Committee which strongly recommended that work of this kind should be started immediately. It is no use our hoping that survey work will be done by people from outside. It is for us to develop the country if we can. Although I agree that the Council should have been told about it I am convinced that the money has been well spent, and I do not propose to oppose the item.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests): I am not discussing the question as to whether the money was put to the vote, but

there is a certain amount of misunderstanding about the matter. The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) has it in his mind that it was decided to undertake this work because it was expected that there would be a Jewish settlement in the Rupununi. That was not the case. The hon. Member suggested that the money might have been used in providing a telephone service between New Amsterdam and Mara.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I said nothing of the kind. I only referred to the abandoned condition of the Mara road and how the people of the district were being treated.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member's point was that this \$6,000 would have been better spent on the road to Mara.

Mr. WOOD: This money was spent on the recommendation of the Hinterland Development Committee of which I was Chairman. It was recommended that the money should be spent for this reason: that in going into the question of the development of the hinterland the Committee spent a great deal of time, and had to emphasize the lack of knowledge there was as to the best means of transportation to any particular part of the interior where there were possibilities of development. Before the very expensive methods of all-weather roads, railways and methods of that nature, which would involve the expenditure of very large sums of money, were considered the Committee recommended that engineering surveys of the rivers ought to be undertaken because, if by some very simple and less expensive engineering method the interior of the Colony could be penetrable by a waterway it would involve an enormous saving compared with the establishment of very expensive methods of transportation. It was for that reason that the expenditure of this money was recommended. The Director of Public Works put up a memorandum to the Committee which made the whole situation very clear, and it was recommended for that reason. The question of transportation to the interior shortly afterwards became much more important when the question of Jewish settlement arose, but the original proposal was not on that account at all.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Having succeeded in making the Conservator of Forests, who was Chairman of the Committee, contribute to this debate I consider I have rendered very useful service. It seems to me that by a system of painless extraction we are getting to know what is going on within the Government at the present time and, perhaps, for a very long time. We have it that Government has embarked on the expenditure of money arising out of a report of a Committee which has not been placed before the Council for discussion. The Committee made certain recommendations, and without placing the matter before the Council for discussion Government proceeded to spend money. I know I am going to be told that the report of the Committee was laid on the table. I have a copy of it, and I knew what I was leading up to, but I did not expect to have so many easy victims this morning.

Here is a country that is trying its best to balance its expenditure with revenue embarking on the expenditure of money without full and careful consideration being given to those matters. I am not in the fortunate position of the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) to be able to say whether it is good or bad. I am told that the Director of Public Works put up a splendid report on it. Hon. Members who have had an opportunity of reading that report may share that view, but I have not had an opportunity of seeing the recommendation referred to. I shall never be a party to Government spending money without affording the Council an opportunity of saying whether the money should be spent or not. I have suggested to another President that greater care should be exercised with the expenditure of public money without previously approaching this Council. I quite understand that in matters of an urgent nature, when the Council cannot be got at, money might be spent, but it cannot be said that this particular item was of such an urgent nature that this Council could not have been approached before the money was spent, especially in view of what has been said by the previous speaker.

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

2 p.m.—

Mr. WALCOTT: When the adjournment was taken hon. Members were talking about the fact that Government had not brought this item to the notice of the Council earlier. I would agree with them entirely but for the fact that I know that it was never the intention of Government to bring this before the Council except in an indirect way. This amount should have been given from the Colonial Development Fund. When the work was undertaken, I am perfectly sure, it was intended and expected that the Colonial Development Fund would have paid this amount. I think that had my hon. friends known that, they would not have criticized Government as severely as they have done.

As regards the actual expenditure of the money, I think that we should continue as far as we can with developing the waterways of the Colony. There is no doubt that water transport is the cheapest, and if we can by these surveys find the means whereby we can make transport to the interior cheaper than it is at present, we are much likelier to get interior development than we would if that is not done. In some of the mining districts of this Colony, hon. Members may be surprised to know, the cost of getting goods up to the point where you are developing or trying to develop the gold industry is about three or four times as much as the actual cost of the goods in Georgetown. Consequently you can easily understand that if we can reduce the cost of transport, for example to the Cuyuui River from seven cents to two cents per lb., probably many more people would be found going there to try and develop the gold mining industry of the Colony. I do appeal to hon. Members to think of this development vote in a serious way as far as possible.

THE CHAIRMAN: With regard to the reference made by the hon. Member to the Colonial Development Fund, he is not quite correct. I would like to explain that Government had every reason to believe that an application for money for this work would have been granted, and the application forms had actually been filled in and were ready to go forward when on the outbreak of the War it was decided that the Government should not apply to the Fund for the amount which is now on the Supplementary Estimate.

Mr. JACOB: I want to take a different line in this debate. I realize that all these works may be good works later on, but how are the engineering surveys of river communications to the Rupununi going to benefit the inhabitants now, I do not know. What we are asking for at the moment is Coastal Development to put the unemployed or under-employed people in a position to earn a livelihood. This money is being spent from general revenue and therefore has to be voted. Various excuses have been made by hon. Members representing Government or who are in the confidence of Government. While all that is right in a way, my point is that we must do something for the immediate development of the coastland and the immediate amelioration of the sufferings of the people on the coastland. I have insisted over and over again that something should be done and also that money should not be wasted in this way. This is a waste. Surveys are made now, and in four or five years time other surveys have to be made to find out if the previous ones are correct. These long range views are all right if they interest Capital. That is what was expected when the Constitution was changed, but we are yet to see any capital come into the country, we are yet to see all this cleaning of creeks and rivers of any real benefit to the country, as the hon. Mr. Walcott has urged in respect of the Cuyuni River. You have got to attend first to the people who want work and are willing to work on the land. Rather than spending money in this way, I urge on Government to spend it in a direction that will give practical and immediate benefit. It is not that you have got insufficient data to make a start. I am confident that Government has sufficient data and if not, it would not take more than a couple of weeks to complete them; but there seems to be something wrong somewhere. I urge that the principle is wrong to spend money without the sanction of this Council, but on the other hand I do also urge on Government to do something really practical at the moment, in the interest of the suffering people because you are going to vote for additional burden and increased taxation resulting in very little production of necessaries for these people to live on.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I hope that nothing I

have said would lead hon. Members to believe that I am against development, nor that I am against the money being spent. I object to the amount in the Estimates because I want to emphasize a fact that Government should perceive and understand. On the East Bank, Berbice, Government has abandoned a good piece of road, 25 miles long, just for the want of spending a few hundred dollars on it, and is embarking on this long range scheme. Why not make up that road by spending a few hundred dollars rather than abandon it and go farther afield to spend money on something which may give benefit in the remote future, even if it is in the immediate future? It is not that I object to this vote.

Hon. Members have said Government should not spend money before asking this Council. Sometimes it is necessary to do that, I must admit. It seems a waste to abandon that road now and, when it has to be done five or six years hence, spend \$40,000 on it when only a few hundred dollars will remedy the situation now. I would be the last man to object to anything being done for the development of the interior. The Hinterland Committee has sat and recommended this thing and, although as a member of that Committee I had to join with bad company and make this recommendation, I do not object to it though I was in the minority against it. I want to emphasize the fact that I do not disagree with what Government has done in trying to help industries in the interior, but I do not accept the principle that Government should abandon something it has in hand to go and look for "Birds in the bush."

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I think this debate serves a useful purpose. It shows this: The Council always disapproves of Government spending money without bringing the matter up and thus affording hon. Members of Council an opportunity of expressing their views. I am very grateful to the hon. Member, Mr. Walcott, for his explanation and also for Your Excellency's correction, and therefore there only now remains for me to enquire whether it is proposed at a later date, as Government has very good reason to ask the Colonial Development Fund to foot the bill, to ask the Committee to assist us with the expenditure of this money. How soon that

will be, I do not know. Perhaps it may be found that some fairy godmother will arrive in the meanwhile and the necessity to ask for alms will no longer arise. I merely mention that because I want to see how far it is Government's intention that we go into this matter.

I look upon this matter as involving a very important question. I think, that after it was found that it was not advisable to approach the Development Fund for a grant, this Council should have been approached before any money was spent. I am sure this money was authorised to be spent long before that. It would be a peculiar thing to happen to this Council, if the request was made to the Colonial Development Fund and refused. All the more it would be regrettable if the expenditure was embarked upon before Government knew whether the Colonial Development Fund would contribute the amount or whether this Council should be asked to vote the amount. It all depended upon the urgency of the works. To my mind I am not satisfied that the works were of such an urgent nature to necessitate the money being expended before it was granted by the Colonial Development Fund or before it reached this Council. I do hope this is the last occasion that I would have to make such remarks on the expenditure of public money.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to refer the last speaker to page 4 in the middle of which he would see that there had been telegraphic correspondence with the Secretary of State on this subject on the 2nd of August and a special warrant was signed on the 25th of August. That was done before the outbreak of War, and as I have already said the application form had been prepared and was ready to go forward. I know that Government will not now, if the money is voted, ask the Colonial Development Fund to refund us the \$6,000. That is not the whole amount required to complete the work. Whether at a later stage in order to complete the work Government will be prepared to approach the Colonial Development Fund, I do not know. I cannot commit Government on that point now. I can say definitely, however, that Government has no intention of asking the Colonial Office to apply to the Colonial Development Fund for the refund of this \$6,000. The action taken by Government

was done in all good faith. It was an urgent matter, and if the War had not broken out and that application had gone forward to the Colonial Development Fund, there was every hope that the money would have been granted and this Council would not have been asked to vote this amount.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I crave Your Excellency's indulgence for a moment. From what you have just told us I am becoming a little alarmed now and am wondering whether you should not take the Council into your confidence and say how much more money would be required to complete it. I hope we are not going to be faced with an alarming expenditure. If this \$6,000 is going to be the first contribution, I am beginning to think we may possibly be asked to spend more money than we can afford. The question to be considered is whether the money we hope to receive will give a suitable return. I am in favour of development, but at the same time I want to be able to think a little as to what we are going to get in the future from the expenditure. I had thought that this \$6,000 was going to put an end to the expenditure, but it seems to me now that it is going to be \$66,000.

Mr. CASE (Director of Public Works and Sea Defence): The estimated cost of making complete surveys of all the rivers of the Colony was \$60,000, and it was proposed to spread the work over a period of ten years.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: In that case I am going to ask Government to furnish this Council with a little more information on this subject. I think the stage has been reached where a programme of that kind, involving the expenditure of a large sum of money, should receive the earnest and most careful consideration of hon. Members of Council. I said just now that I was becoming alarmed, now I may say that I am exceedingly alarmed at the moment because I want to be perfectly satisfied that a programme involving the expenditure of such a large sum should not only receive the consideration of the Executive Officers of Government but also the consideration of hon. Members of Council.

I regret exceedingly that this debate has

now reached the stage where my criticism of Government is going to be all the more severe. I cannot conceive that this Government has decided to embark upon an extensive programme involving the expenditure of such a large sum, whether it be over a period of five, or ten, or fifteen years without affording this Council an opportunity of considering it and offering any advice—whether it be good or bad—to Government on it. I am still in the dark as to what this work is. I hear it is to improve river transport in the interior. Hon. Mr. Walcott has said it may help to reduce the cost of transporting goods to the interior from seven to two cents per lb. That may be so in his opinion or it may be only in respect of one section of the work, but I cannot help criticizing Government on embarking upon this expenditure without bringing the matter before this Council. I have no desire to embarrass Government at this stage. I understand that a great portion of this money has been spent. If I were satisfied that a portion of this money was not spent, I would have had no hesitation in moving its deletion, irrespective of what the decision would be. I do not think, however, from all I have heard from the various hon. Members who have spoken in connection with the item, that there is sufficient justification for this work to have been commenced, especially in view of the fact that it is one that will extend over a period of ten years and will involve the expenditure of such a large sum of money as \$60,000, without this Council having something to say about it. As I have aforesaid, I have no desire to embarrass Government as the money has already been spent, and I do not suppose any motion of mine to delete the item would serve any useful purpose. I take my seat feeling very disappointed at the action which Government has taken in connection with the whole of this matter.

Mr. CASE: With regard to the remarks of the hon. Member, what I intended to convey in my explanation was that the application had been prepared to be forwarded to the Colonial Development Fund for a complete scheme for the improvement of all the rivers of the Colony, which would have cost \$60,000, spread over ten years.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) that in no instance has this Council been approached before an application for a grant from the Colonial Development Fund is made. I know that when Government proposes to apply for a loan this Council has been approached, but the practice when a grant is being asked for is to find out first whether the Colonial Development Fund is prepared to grant it and then inform the Council. I do not think there has been any departure from the policy in the past. This money has been spent, and I shall arrange for reports published by the Director of Public Works to be laid before hon. Members who, I feel sure, will be satisfied that the money has been well spent.

Question put, and agreed to.

SUPREME COURT.

Item 3—Travelling of Court, \$2,800.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I do not know whether it is convenient to take items 3, 4 and 5 together. I know that certain hon. Members of Council do not like to debate this Head, but what strikes me as peculiar is this: There seems to be an alarming increase under this Head. I think that \$750 is the sum put on the Estimates every year for the item "Travelling of Court," and also that that amount is not often spent. This time, however, we are being asked to vote an additional sum of \$2,800 making the vote under this item \$3,550. There must have been something extraordinary that occurred in the Courts to necessitate that. Surely this Council should have an explanation of this alarming increase.

Mr. JACOB: I notice that the explanatory remarks to item 3—Travelling of Court—read: "To provide for excess due to heavy charges incurred in the travelling of the Court" and that to item 5—Witnesses Expenses—"Due to lengthy criminal sessions and under-estimate in respect of number of witnesses and jurors expenses." I would have thought that the same explanation given to one would have been given to the other—due to lengthy sittings of the Court. We as laymen cannot say very much about

these legal matters, and I think the legal Members of Council, as has been stated by the hon. Member for Central Demerara or as he inferred, do not want to touch a matter like this. I do not know what was the inference, but I think the hon. Attorney General will be only too glad to explain how it has gone up so considerably. I have always taken a keen interest in these matters. I do not know if all this money spent in litigation is of any use to the country at all. Some years ago legal conditions were in a very deplorable state, but subsequently they improved. I hope they will not get back into that old state. The taxpayers are hard pressed, and those officers of Government who are earning large salaries have got to see that the travelling expenses do not multiply. I think some explanation ought to be given in regard to this very huge expenditure of nearly four times the original estimate.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not think the hon. Attorney-General is aware of what the hon. Member, who has just taken his seat, has said. That hon. Member in and out of season has asked for justice for everybody and the people he represents, and I may tell him that this increase in the vote is the result of Government trying to do justice not to 75 per cent. but a very small percentage of those people he represents. The Criminal Session in Berbice had much to do with the necessity for this money. When you have two lives involved and the trial lasting 26 days (Saturdays and Sundays excepted) with 68 witnesses giving evidence, how can the increased expenditure be helped? There was also another case in which the Jury could not agree in the first instance and there had to be a re-trial in justice to all parties, which occupied several days as well. It would have been twice this amount if the hon. Attorney-General had allowed the entire 68 witnesses to appear again in a re-trial. It was an extraordinary situation and could not be helped.

I agree that the "Witnesses' Expenses" vote is very large, and it is a vote I always attack every year. This, however, has reference to the Supreme Court, and what I am up against is that relating to the Magistrates' Court. I do not think that from an intimate knowledge of what transpired in New Amsterdam, this amount should be questioned at all.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: There is very little to add to what the hon. Member for Berbice River has said. This is a Supreme Court vote. I have very little firsthand knowledge of it, but I have ascertained that the surplus is due to the effect of three cases. I have not the details of each. One has been mentioned, the murder trial in Berbice; it cost the Crown \$2,200 and after that the Jury disagreed. Another case cost Government \$1,200. I cannot give any particular details of the items as to how they are expended. This much, however, I can say, it is quite beyond the point of possibility to have any control whatever over this vote in this particular. As long as a man is indicted the trial must take place and the Jury expenses, travelling expenses and Court expenses have to be met and to be paid. The total amount depends upon the number of people indicted and how long the cases take. This year there had been three long cases, and that accounted for the extraordinary expenditure. Beyond that I cannot explain.

Mr. JACOB: According to the hon. Member for Berbice River there were 68 witnesses in a case at one trial and not at the second trial.

Mr. ELEAZAR: There was no second trial in that particular case.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The hon. Member referred to the fact that a *nolle prosequi* was entered. What he said was that if the case was heard a second time the cost would have been more.

Mr. JACOB: That is why, when the question of Crown Counsel came up, we were wondering whether so many witnesses as sixty-eight should be examined, whether the Magistrate examined them all, and whether if there had been a more skilful person handling the matter half of that amount could not have been saved.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The witnesses were on both sides.

Mr. JACOB: I am not pursuing the matter any further.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I would like to

explain very briefly one or two factors that contribute to the cost of these prosecutions, and I am doing so for the last time. First of all, the Courts of Law and lawyers who form part of those assemblies are composed of ordinary human beings, and by an arrangement come to long before this case and an arrangement which, I hope, will continue the Courts start at certain fixed hours and adjourn at certain fixed hours just as this Council does. This Council meets at an hour under its Rules. The Courts of Law meet at 9.30 a.m., adjourn at 11 a.m., resume at 1 p.m., and adjourn at 3 p.m. It is patent that only four hours work is done in the Courts of Law every day, so that the Courts' day consists of four hours. When, therefore, you have an indictable matter such as Murder, in which a plea of guilty is not accepted and there must be an investigation, it is perfectly clear that much depends on the attitude of the accused person in relation to the evidence as to how long that prosecution lasts. I have heard the hon. Member for North Western District declare that with a more skilful prosecution the trial shortens. I do not know of any more skilful prosecutor than Mr. Duke. I also know that there are some lawyers like Mr. Luckhoo who do not give up easily.

Mr. JACOB: I rise to a point of order. I do not like the question of names being brought in. When I make comments I do so without any idea of being personal.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I entirely acquit you of that. The hon. Member said if the prosecution was in the hands of a more skilful person.....The language employed by the hon. Member imputes lack of degree of skill in the conduct of the trials and, as a lawyer, I resent any such imputation although I know that the hon. Member does not weigh his words before he utters them. I cannot allow such remarks about the conduct of prosecution by capable men as regards one man being less skilful than another. My reason for doing that is to emphasize the fact that it does not matter how skilful a Murder Prosecutor may be there are certain persistent men who are prepared to defend the cause of their clients whether the case lasts 40 or 60 days, and the cost of Witnesses' expenses, Jurors' expenses, and the Court Allowance which amounts

to \$8.00 per day have to be met. I am inclined to think that this description is wrong. It does not include travelling. It includes the Subsistence Allowance of the Court and the Officials, which has a fixed limit of \$8.00 per day, but I have known that limit to have been exceeded in my time. In other words, it provides for the maintenance of the Judge's Clerk who has to travel, and there are occasions—I do not know that hon. Members grudge it—when the Judge, who is not a hermit and is not entitled merely to go to his room after a trial and sit like a book on a ledge but is entitled to have some one in to have tea with him, lavishly entertained members of the Bar after a hard day's work. The main cause, the *raison d'être*, for this amount is due to the length of trials exceeding the ordinary period. It gives me an opportunity to say this to you, and I hope that my words will be weighed because I know them to be true and I know that this Colony is being burdened with a permanent charge as the result of the expected appointment of a Crown Counsel:

This Council does not want a Crown Counsel, if the Government really believes that the performance of the duties of the Crown Prosecutor at the Criminal Sessions is so very important. I have reason to believe that trials lasting as long as those in question and the absence from office of whoever is deputizing for the hon. Attorney-General have largely influenced Government in creating this post. It is a bagatelle compared to the services of a Crown Counsel in other places. What is wanted in the Attorney-General's Office is a capable man to read the laws, adjust them in accordance with comparative legislation elsewhere, and bring these laws of ours up-to-date. There are many lawyers in this community who can give advice, but I am positive that in 90 per cent. of the cases so far as the Statutes are concerned that advice is likely to be wrong, for the reason that the laws require consolidation. You go into the Courts frequently and find that some charges cannot be sustained. Quite recently I had a case in which the Police brought a charge for which there was no legal sanction at all. No one has prosecuted oftener than I have done and, therefore, I know what I am saying. It is after all a matter of judgment, a certain amount of experience, but the man who is to be useful in this post need not

have the ability to prosecute. It is not because of the necessity of employing somebody else that the Attorney-General has suggested he wants a Crown Counsel. If it is humanly possible for Government to prevent that appointment from being made, it should not be. In the public interest it is far better and cheaper to the Colony to appoint a person, when one is required, to prosecute in Essequho and Berbice, than to have a permanent charge of £6,000 on the Estimates.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind the hon. Member that we are dealing with the travelling of the officer and not the officer himself.

Mr. WOOLFORD: You have allowed reference to the cost of the travelling being due to the fact as you state here: "Due to the lengthy sessions." Reference has been made to the fact that the hon. Attorney-General could not go and the acting Crown Counsel was the person who conducted the prosecution. It is, therefore, not altogether inappropriate to refer to the man's duties.

THE CHAIRMAN: That particular question has been so recently discussed that, I would suggest to the hon. Member, that it is not necessary to repeat it.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I am saying if there is a Government motion as to the necessity for that appointment we will have some opportunity of reconsidering it. I am glad to remind the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) that matters like these are not considered as litigation. This is not a litigious matter. It is the duty of the Crown to investigate every crime and in that investigation the Crown represents the whole public. It is not held to be a legal battle; that is what I want to convince the hon. Member.

Mr. JACOB: I do not think the hon. Member, who has just taken his seat, is going to dispute the fact that cases have gone before the Judge which should never have been brought and that unfair methods were used by the Police and others. I do not think, therefore, the hon. Member can take very much exception to my saying that litigation is carried on which should not be. I have seen comments in the newspapers from time to time that certain cases should

never have been brought before the Court. I am making a general observation and am not referring to any particular individual or place. I still think that the explanation given to item 3 is not the same as that given to item 5, and maybe there are some other reasons.

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree with the view that the note to Item 3 is not explicit. It was copied from the 1939 item. I will arrange that steps be taken to include subsistence allowances. I am glad of the comment made on that.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: If you look at page 11 under the same Head there is an item "Subsistence." I have no intention to interfere with the little entertainment given to members of the Bar after a hard day's work of four hours, but it seems to me that \$2,800 is a large sum of money under this item, and it has occurred to me that it is not an appropriate head especially when I turn to page 11 and find there that "Subsistence" has been increased by \$100.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not want to interrupt the hon. Member, but that is a different sub-head. Sub head 2 refers to "Travelling Expenses—(b) Subsistence" and sub-head 3 refers to "Travelling of Court." We are at present dealing with sub-head 3.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I see under Head XL.—Supreme Court—an item "Travelling of Court," I not know what other head is meant.

Mr. McDAVID: Under the Head—Supreme Court—there is also included the departmental vote of the Deeds Registry. Travelling Vote relates to officers of the Deeds Registry, which is item 2, and item 3—Travelling of Court—relates to officers of the Court.

Question put, and agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS—EXTRAORDINARY.

Item 37—Erection of a cottage at Eve Leary for one Warrant Officer, \$4,500.

Mr. MACKEY: I would like to ask the hon. Director of Public Works, if he is going to build this cottage with local wood or not. There have been occasions when I thought it necessary to raise this ques-

tion, especially when the hon. Conservator of Forests is very keen that every one—and I think he includes the Public Works Department—should use local wood.

Mr. CASE: As soon as local timber is available, no imported timber will be used.

Item 22—Draining and filling Government Lands, Georgetown, \$3,100.

Item 24—Drainage and Irrigation re-conditioning works in declared areas, \$1,500.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I want to ask for information in respect of items 22 and 24 and also to make some observation in respect of item 26. I would like to know in respect of items 22 and 24 whether these excesses that the Council is being asked to approve today exceed the original estimate which was put forward in respect of this work. We had an original estimate of \$18,000 and, if I remember rightly, as the result of the necessity to accelerate the work the Council was approached for a further \$18,000. In other words \$36,000 was spent this year in respect of item 22. Now we are asked to provide a further sum of \$3,100. The same remarks are in respect of item 24 where we are asked to provide a further \$1,500. Is it because it is going to cost us more money than the original estimate? This work is being done under a definite programme. I would like to know whether this money asked for is in excess of the estimate as originally prepared, and if so why?

Mr. CASE: No; this money is asked for to speed up the work and to help unemployment. It is in anticipation of an excess.

DIVISION B.—AGRICULTURE.

Item 20—Maintenance of breeding centre and agistment area at La Belle Alliance, \$138.87.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): Under Division B, Head III—“Agriculture”—I move the insertion of sub-head 20—“Maintenance of breeding centre and agistment area at La Belle Alliance, \$138.87.” This represents arrears of rates resulting from some misunderstanding in regard to the collection of rates.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to take this opportunity to ask what is happening at that breeding centre. Perhaps, we may be told how many head of cattle are there and what is going on there. I am very disappointed over the Dairy Products Committee's report. I think there is a particular member who is still to submit a minority report. It is time we know what is happening, as the report has been hanging too long.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture): I can tell the hon. Member that the cattle are doing splendidly there, and I invite him to visit there when he will know all about it.

Mr. JACOB: What is the number of cattle there?

Professor DASH: Hundreds! (smile).

Question put, and agreed to.

LABOUR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Item 1 (9) (a)—Overseer, Government Estates, West Demerara, \$500.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The explanation in the remarks column seems to be insufficient. \$1,200 was the amount provided originally and now we are asked to provide an additional \$500. The explanation given is that it is to provide salary for the Overseer, while Mr. Trotter is on leave prior to retirement. I desire to ask whether the salary of the person who is now appointed is not higher than that of the officer in course of retirement?

Mr. MACNIE (Commissioner of Labour and Local Government, Acting): The salary is the same.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): Under this Head I would like to move in two items—

Sub-head 17—Revenue Protection, \$320.

Sub-head 18—Refund of Revenue, \$420.

These are excesses which could not have been foreseen as they are in respect of items which cannot be controlled with any degree of accuracy.

Question put, and agreed to.

LANDS AND MINES.

Item 8—Miscellaneous, \$200.

Mr. JACOB : Under "Miscellaneous" I notice that there have been no telegrams to the Secretary of State in respect of the items, though I have seen that several telegrams have been exchanged about other items of expenditure. I would like to know how much has been actually spent on telegrams on a specific item. I am wondering whether it is necessary to telegraph the Secretary of State for his approval of these items of expenditure, and whether writing a letter would not be cheaper.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): Whenever it is possible the use of sea route is followed in conducting correspondence with the Secretary of State. It is only where it becomes a matter of urgency that telegraphic facilities are availed of. I shall be happy to supply the hon. Member with particulars in respect of the cost of telegrams, if he sees me at some later day in the office.

MAGISTRATES.

Item 7—Miscellaneous, \$73.

Mr. ELEAZAR : If you are going to provide furniture for Court rooms, I do not see why it should be confined to West Demerara, as the Courts in Berbice also have no accommodation. They have some rickety chairs; those at Reliance seem much as bad as those at Albion. If I get into one I cannot get out. The Courts are not treated with any respect. People cannot have any regard for any Court of Law when they find it in a ramshackle condition. While Government is about remedying the state of affairs in one district, why not enquire and find out about the various Courts in all districts and make one thing of it?

THE CHAIRMAN : I gather that the West Demerara Judicial District is worse off for furniture than the Berbice District.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I do not think it could be worse off than the Berbice District.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL : This is a particular case. This particular Court

has not one chair, table or anything. (Laughter).

THE CHAIRMAN : I take it, the hon. Member is not opposing this item.

Mr. ELEAZAR : No sir.

MEDICAL—HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Item 3—Dietary, \$2,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I move the insertion of sub-head 3—"Dietary, \$2,000,"—under Head—Medical—Hospitals and Dispensaries. The explanation is given in the previous Division, "A." It is not possible to control the number of patients, and the excess is also due to the increased cost of staple foodstuffs.

Question put, and agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Item 4—Additional printing not under contract, \$75.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I move the insertion of sub-head 4—"Additional printing not under contract, \$75," This is due to overtime work necessitated for printing the work of this Council and other urgent matters.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item 5—Contingencies—\$195.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I also move under this head the insertion of sub-head 5—"Contingencies, \$195." This is covered by savings and is due to expenses of the Board of Education in the selection of candidates.

Question put, and agreed to.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES.

Item 4—Police Pensions, lump sum payments—\$3,500.

Item 5—Teachers Pensions and lump sum payments—\$2,500.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I move the insertion of two items under Head XXVII.—Pensions and Gratuities: Sub-head 4—"Police Pensions,

lump sum payments, \$3,500"—to meet expenditure up to 31st December, 1939, and sub-head 5—"Teachers' Pensions and lump sum payments, \$2,500." Both of these items represent statutory payments.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am not rising to oppose the items at all, as the hon. Colonial Secretary has said they are all statutory payments. What I have risen to find out is whether these items could not have been foreseen when the Estimates were first framed. Some time ago I had the temerity to accuse Government of not including a small amount of \$40,000 in one of their estimates under this very Head and the Council had to be approached at a later date for a supplementary vote. These little omissions, small as they may appear to be to some people, interfere with the calculation one may make, especially when one desires to offer useful criticism to Government in so far as the Budget is concerned. At the time I spoke very strongly about the omission and accepted the statement made by the hon. Colonial Treasurer in that connection, but I do ask that where statutory payments are concerned every effort should be made to include them in the Estimates at the beginning of the period, because these supplementary estimates are only for things that are unforeseen and have arisen after consideration has been given to the Estimates. I do not think it is good administration to omit such items. One can never tell what may be involved one of these days. This is only \$5,000, but it may have been greater and where would we be in trying to balance our Budget. I am particularly anxious now that we cannot go hat in hand to the Imperial Government for assistance. The time is coming when the shoe is going to pinch and, therefore, we ought to be very careful in framing our estimates.

Mr. McDAVID: I quite agree with the hon. Member. I myself would like to see the estimates for pensions more carefully prepared, for the reason that one would like to see the Budget well balanced, if balanced at all. It is, however, very difficult to know eight months in advance how many policemen are going to die. These lump sum payments are paid on death, and I would ask the hon. Member

to forgive us this time for having made a small mistake in that respect.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am particularly anxious always to lay before Council the draft Estimates as thoroughly prepared as possible, so as to avoid coming back to the Council with supplementary estimates, but as the hon. Colonial Treasurer has said, it is impossible under such a head as this to foresee the exact amount of money that will be required.

Item 38—Compensation for the loss of a horse by the Police in the Rupununi, \$25.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I move the insertion of a new sub-head 38—"Compensation for the loss of a horse by the Police in the Rupununi, \$25." The Police had occasion to borrow a horse to carry out certain duties and unfortunately the horse was drowned.

Question put, and agreed to.

PRISONS.

Item 3—Dietary, \$300.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I move the insertion of sub-head 3—"Dietary, \$300"—under this Head. The same reason applies in this case as in the case of the Hospitals.

Question put, and agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS—EXTRAORDINARY.

Item 29—River Defences, Bartica Village, \$500.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I move the insertion of sub-head 29—"River Defences, Bartica Village, \$500." That is merely in continuity of a programme which is being carried out there, and the amount is required so as to avoid the cessation of work. It in no way affects the total cost of the scheme or programme.

Mr. ELBAZAR: I would like to bring to Government's attention that the koker at Enfield, behind Pln. Friends, has been blown out some time now and there is no river protection for the villagers. They are left to the mercy of the elements. At flood tide the water goes into the

village without obstruction and with the falling tide it carries away everything it can. In a short time there will not be a single house standing in that place, as the foundations will all be washed away. There is also another koker in the same condition. It is the one at De Kinderen about a mile from the other one, and this involves the safety of a public road. A small amount can put these kokers in order, but the villagers are unable to do it and this Government sits down supinely and allows a condition of that kind to continue. The villages have been long in existence and the public road has been made up at considerable cost to Government, but for the sake of the replacement of a koker Government is allowing the road to go and the people resident there to clear out. It is a pain and grief to me. I am addressing Your Excellency on it because I have a shrewd suspicion that you also saw a part of it. Hon. Members of this Council who have seen that thing can hardly believe it exists. I do appeal to Government in the matter. This country is not being governed, in this way it is being driven. Government does not seem to understand what is going on outside of Georgetown.

Item 35—Rebuilding house at Maria's Lodge, Essequibo, \$3,500.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I desire to refer to item 35—"Rebuilding house at Maria's Lodge, Essequibo, \$3,500." In the Remarks column the note says: "Demolition of present houses and re-building same."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): It is only a printer's error. One house has been demolished and re-built.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I do not know the house which is involved, but what I do know is that to demolish a house and re-build it at a cost of \$3,500 it must be a very large house indeed. I would like to know the house. I am particularly anxious to scrutinize as carefully as I can the estimates for the building of houses and repairing work done by this Department.

Mr. SEAFORD: I regret to hear the remark of the hon. Member that to spend \$3,500 to demolish and rebuild a house it must be a very large house. I entirely disagree with him. Under present conditions one can only build a cottage with \$3,500. The hon. Member means a cottage.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Perhaps I may receive a reply now as to the house involved, because unless I have the information before me I am unable to agree or disagree with my hon. friend.

Mr. CASE: It is the house occupied by the Sanitary Inspector on the main road near the Magistrate's house. As regards the remarks made by the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) I would make enquiries as to the cost of the kokers, have them inspected, and see what is possible to be done.

Question put, and agreed to.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEMES.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I wish just to make a remark with respect to the Allotment Scheme which Government proposes, and to say how urgent that matter is because I observe from what is going on the season in which preparation ought to be made will soon be gone. I have an idea that by next New Moon we will have plenty of rain and there will be no possibility of doing the necessary preparation work on the land. The people all along the Coast have the foresight and, if you travel by train, you would see them digging and preparing the land. This Allotment Scheme should be going on now. As far as I am aware, nothing is being done, and I shall be very pleased indeed to see a start made. I have in mind especially the scheme Government proposes in respect of New Amsterdam. I can prove that one reason why Government expenditure is so great is because the work is done out of time. If when the season is favourable the work is not done then you must get bad work when it is done in the unfavourable season. This is the season for this allotment scheme to be started, and it is fast passing away.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I can assure the hon. Member that Government is as anxious to proceed with the scheme as he is. There has been some correspondence between Government and the Municipality in respect of details, and there are one or two other points which have to be settled. I assure the hon. Member that the matter will be expedited as much as possible.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The communication

has not reached the Municipality as yet. We will pass it back as quickly as we get it.

Items put, and agreed to.

YELLOW FEVER CAMPAIGN.

Mr. WALCOTT: I want to speak on the Yellow Fever campaign in Kitty Village.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will have to move a motion for the recommittal of the Head.

Mr. WALCOTT: I move that Head XLVII—Colonisation Development Fund Schemes—be recommitted.

Mr. JACKSON seconded.

Question put, and the Committee divided, the voting being—

For—Messrs. Mackey, Jackson, Jacob, Walcott, Peer Bacchus, DeAguiar, Eleazar, Percy C. Wight, Macnie, Crease, Seaford, Woolford, Dr. Maclellan, Professor Dash, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—16.

Against—Messrs. C. V. Wight, Wood, Case, D'Andrade and McDavid—5.

Motion carried.

Head recommitted.

Mr. WALCOTT: I just want to bring to the attention of Government what is going on in this campaign at Kitty Village. Several persons have been to me and pointed out that whilst the water in their vats has been oiled or fished and both sometimes, no action is taken against the landlords who are responsible for allowing the water to get into that bad condition. It does seem ridiculous that if you hire a house and the landlord does not screen the vat and therefore allows malarial germs to get into it, he should get away with it and you be made to go without water. Those people have their water spoiled because as soon as fresh water gets into the vat there are new larvæ found in it. I want to know what steps Government is going to take to control those landlords, because it does seem to me very wrong that people should be placed in that position. At least twenty persons, who are paying rent for the houses which they occupy, have been to me in this matter and, I think, it is a matter which should have the serious attention of

Government, and especially the hon. Director of Medical Services.

Dr. MACLENNAN (Director of Medical Services): As far as I understand the Public Health law on the subject at the moment, action can be taken against either the owner or occupier. I understand it is more convenient for the Public Health Service that any action required be taken against the occupier, but the occupier must be the person to ask the landlord to put the vats in order. I am not quite sure about the law relating to landlords and tenants in this country. I think the law is being revised at present by the hon. Attorney-General. At the moment for the convenience of the Service they must ask the occupier in the first instance to remedy whatever defects there are.

There has been a certain amount of criticism of the work at Kitty, but in a campaign of this description, especially in its initial stage, it rather tends to inconvenience individuals. One woman was fined for causing a certain amount of obstruction, but really the only inconvenience caused to individuals is the inspection of their houses once weekly. In the case of defective vats where the owners or occupiers are not in a position to repair or are not inclined to do so, no pressure is brought to bear upon them to do so but they are merely provided with fish to put into the vats, though this is not so effective as screening the vats. The Public Health law at the moment is that either the occupier or landlord is liable, and until that is altered I cannot do anything more.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I hope the law will not be altered in that respect. The occupier ought to be able to see that mosquitoes do not breed in his vat. Some of these people rent the houses and do not want to pay, but the landlord must be called upon to do everything. They create a nuisance on the premises and then the Sanitary Inspector must send for the landlord, who may be living miles away, to get it abated. It is only fair that the man who occupies the place should keep it free of mosquito larvæ. I remember that Sir Cecil Clementi, as Colonial Secretary of this Colony, was taken before the Magistrate for allowing mosquitoes to breed on his premises. The law is as good as it ought to be and can be, and it should not be interfered with. In the

first instance the occupier is got at, and if that cannot be done then you get at the owner. The law must not be touched. I do not see why Government should be inconvenienced to go and search for the landlord when you have the occupier on the spot. If a man cannot take care of himself and family on the spot by seeing that the vat is screened, but must go and complain so that the landlord should be prosecuted, he should not be allowed to be in occupation of the place.

Mr. WALCOTT: I do not understand what the hon. Member is getting at. What I said was—and I said it clearly—the occupier is penalized and not the landlord. I have been a landlord for many years and have always had to screen my vats in Georgetown, if not I was prosecuted and not the occupier. It is ridiculous to say the occupier must do the screening of vats which is the landlord's duty. I would like to know of any instance where the occupier of a house, unless he is occupying it under very special conditions, does repairs to the house or to the premises such as screening the vat.

The Council resumed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I beg to move that the original motion be amended by the substitution of the words "as amended in Committee" for the words "which has been laid on the table."

Mr. Mc DAVID seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion as amended carried.

WAR BONUS FOR JUNIOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 5, dated 15th December, 1939, this Council approves of the payment from 1st January, 1940, of a temporary war bonus of 10 per cent. to Government employees in receipt of salaries and wages of not more than \$40 a month; and of the salaries or wages of employees receiving between \$40 and \$44 a month being increased to \$44 a month as from the same date.

I do not propose to say very much on this motion which, along with the Message which has been presented to Council, speaks for itself. As has been explained in the Message, the increased cost of living justifies a temporary increase to employees in the junior ranks of the Government Service and it is proposed that a temporary War Bonus of 10 per cent. should be paid on salaries and wages as from January 1, 1940. It is estimated that for the whole year, 1940, the cost of such a temporary War Bonus will amount to approximately \$170,000, and it is explained in His Excellency's Message that it is proposed to meet this amount as far as possible from next year's revenue.

It would be observed that it is proposed that salaries between \$40 and \$44 a month should be increased to \$44 a month. The reason for that is obvious. An employee receiving a salary of \$42 a month would be at a disadvantage with an employee receiving \$40 a month who would receive the temporary War Bonus of \$4. Therefore, any employee receiving between \$40 and \$44 would have, if this proposal is accepted by Council, his or her salary automatically brought up to \$44.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I have much pleasure in seconding this motion. I very seldom second a Government motion as there is always something to complain about. In this motion I have very little to complain about. Although this motion is dated 15th December, I am sure that the idea was conceived before that date. Conditions in the Colony in respect of the cost of living had been noticed long before then, somewhere in the month of July or August, when there was considerable trouble with labour due to the low prices prevailing on account of unemployment and the increased cost of living generally in the Colony. Junior Government Officials are included in the category of people whose wages are small and on whom the increased prices have a very discouraging effect. But the moment War was declared that condition became intensified to a very large extent, and I wonder whether Government has taken into consideration the fact that if it were necessary to put 10 per cent. on these people's wages before War was declared, whereby the man getting \$40 would be given \$4 more while the man getting \$20 a month, who is worse off than the other

man, would only get \$2 more, more so is it necessary now to give the latter more. I do not know whether Government should not reconsider the position and see if something more could not be done for the man who is getting a smaller amount than \$40 a month.

I am inclined to think that if Government considers salaries up to \$60 a month, it would not be far wrong, considering what has happened since July. It would be surprising if Government knew all that is going on. Government endeavoured in the first instance to control food prices. These have been kept pretty well in hand, but there are other things which are necessary and which have been increased in price sometimes more than 50 per cent. and sometimes 100 per cent. Take ordinary flannel cloth. That used to be sold at 24 cents per yard before the War, and to-day the cheapest quality is being sold at 48 cents per yard. Take school children's material for dresses, it used to be 10 and 11 cents per yard before the War, and to-day it is 16 cents per yard for the worst quality. There are other necessary things the prices of which have gone up in some cases 100 per cent. and in other cases 50 per cent. Certainly Government did not consider that when this increase of 10 per cent. was decided upon.

I always feel that it is a good policy to ask for what you want, take what you get, and then ask for more. In this case Government is making this gift for 1940 now, but we are asking for a little more than this. We are taking what we get but we will soon have to ask for more, because those people in the lower ranks who are getting less than \$40 a month are feeling the pinch in a way Government hardly can conceive. I have been wondering whether while Government is about it, consideration should not be given to pensioners who are receiving now less than \$40 a month and they be given an increase. I have a recollection that during the last War when bonus was being given even pensioners received a small increase on their pensions. Some of these people have no other means of livelihood and have to eke out a living on the small pensions they get, and they also feel the increased cost of living. One must thank Government for having considered the people in the lower ranks of the Service,

but Government's consideration of them was done at a time before War was declared, although the Message is dated later, and if it was necessary then, Your Excellency can understand how much necessary it is now. A little more than 10 per cent. should be given. It is a pleasure to think that Government has considered these employees. I understand that Government had to refer the whole matter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and, if that is so, I do not think I can move that those getting up to \$35 a month be given 15 or 20 per cent. so as to enable them to get a \$4 increase on their salaries as well. That is a matter which has to be worked out but Government, having already worked it out and sent it away to the Secretary of State and got a reply, can hardly do that at this stage. I thank Government, however, for what it has done, but I may inform Government that we will soon come back for a little more. I make bold to make this suggestion because the money spent in this way is simply to be put into circulation. Money spent on food, clothing and necessary things goes into circulation in the country. I hope Government will take into consideration the pensioners as well as the further claims of persons who are getting less than \$40 a month and to whom a 10 per cent. increase is very small. I see that the proposal by Government involves an expenditure of \$177,000 next year. While it is a large amount, even if it was twice that sum it would not be money lost. It is like indestructible matter.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: In welcoming the motion which is placed before Council I shall not be as long as the hon. Member for Berbice River. Perhaps, a few remarks may express exactly what I have to say and substantiate largely what the hon. Member has said. I agree with the hon. Member to a certain extent that indirectly Government will retrieve the expenditure which may appear to be large. I do not think this motion, as it stands, goes far enough. There is one point. I notice the very careful phraseology in the use of the words "Government employees." I would just like to find out from Government whether one can so designate *de facto* employees or *de jure* employees. We know the difficulty arises that certain Government Services, when the time arrives, may or

may not be Government Services or the employees may or may not be Government employees, as for example, teachers, Transport Officers, Police, Postal Officials. Are they to be embraced in this motion? Perhaps, in considering this motion one may have thought there would have been a differentiation of the scale of salaries and not merely a flat rate of 10 per cent. Those low down the scale should get a larger percentage rising to 10 per cent. than those who are getting \$40 per month. Government should to consider some sort of sliding scale. I would also like to ask Government whether this is confined to the monthly employees, or whether it is going to embrace those employees who may be paid weekly or fortnightly at the rate of \$40 per month. There are a considerable number of employees in the Service who are paid at the rate of \$40 per month but are not paid as in the terms of the motion. There are other details which may receive the attention of Government. I leave that with Your Excellency as Officer Administering the Government and the assistance you may get from your Executive Officers.

Mr. JACOB: I think Government should be congratulated on having acceded to the request of the "Under-dogs" in granting them a 10 per cent. increase on their wages of not more than \$40 per month. I am wondering whether the daily employee—the man who is receiving 60 cents or 72 cents per day as in the Transport Department—is entitled to it. The hon. Member for Western Essequibo suggested that those people should be included. I would just like to get it perfectly clear whether every employee, whether he is paid by the day or by the month, would be entitled to that increase. Seeing that Income Tax is leviable from an income of \$60 per month upwards, I think Government may extend the principle and grant the whole request of the Trades Unions by increasing all salaries up to \$60 per month, either by 10 per cent. or on a graded scale. The middle class people in every part of the world suffer the hardest when the cost of living is taken into account. Those earning between \$40 and \$60 per month are very severely hit. It may be argued that the amount would be too much to be got from revenue next year, based on what this Council has passed, but, as was stated by hon.

Members who have spoken, the revenue may increase to some extent if this money is given to these workers and Government will therefore have no difficulty in finding the additional amount.

The hon. Commissioner of Labour and Local Government is probably making up his mind to tell us what is the exact increased cost of living at the present time.

I think, he ought to be able to tell us something about that. Some such data should be collected. I do not want to say that the system of controlling prices is wrong, but that system ought to be improved and very considerably too. I do not think it is fair just only to control. Statistics should be given in respect of not only items in the Schedule but other things. Government ought to be able to say at any particular time what is the increased cost of living. I am inclined to think that the increased cost of living is over 25 per cent. at the present time compared with six months ago. I think if gone into minutely it would be found to be more than 25 per cent. Unless we get at those figures we would not be in a position to meet arguments from the other side. I urge on Government to consider very carefully the question of increasing the amount. As I said, those who are going to benefit would be very grateful to Government. Those who are getting between \$40 and \$60 per month are going to feel aggrieved, but it may be argued that those receiving between \$60 and \$100 per month would be aggrieved as well. I think, however, a limit must be placed and \$60 is the reasonable limit for us to take. After listening to what the hon. Commissioner of Labour and Local Government has to say on the increased cost of living, I may be able to say something more. He should be able to convince us that the cost of living has only gone up 10 per cent.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: In view of the language used in the motion there is not much I would like to say. I refer to the words "temporary War Bonus of 10 per cent." I do not wish it to appear that I am not in favour of the motion at all and, therefore, all that I would like to say would have to be subordinated on account of those words. I am in sympathy with the motion. I hope Government figures are wrong as to the amount being \$170,000 during 1940, as

that means that the salary bill is \$1,700,000. I do want to ask hon. Members when dealing with the big question of increased cost of living to exercise great care in the comparison they make. The hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) has rightly or wrongly expressed the view that the increased cost of living is 25 per cent. more than what it was six months ago. My own view is that it is not so. It would be extremely difficult, however, to convince the hon. Member against his view if I disagree with him. What I want to say is this: It would not be correct to make a comparison with six months ago. In arriving at the increased cost one has to take into consideration what were the general conditions at the time when the existing rates were fixed.

I am in sympathy with the motion that at the present time there is a great deal of hardship imposed upon those people who are very often described as "Under-dogs," but there are others with whom I am also in sympathy. Strange as it may seem, it always appears that these people are better able to champion their cause, but that does not weaken their support. I do not want it to appear that those are the only people who should get consideration. There are others. The hon. Member for North Western District referred to the Income Tax as a basis for the limit of the grant of the bonus. The man who is earning \$65 a month may be in a worse position than the man who is earning \$45 a month, as he is liable to Income Tax whereas the other is not. The motion is quite in order, but my only regret is the postponement of payment to the 1st January, 1940.

Mr. JACKSON: I join in complimenting Government for bringing forward this motion at the present time. The hon. Member for the Western Essequibo (Mr. C. V. Wight) has raised a very important point as to how far the term "Government employees" can be stretched. I think he asked definitely whether teachers, policemen and others are included in that term. I only rise to support what has been said in that direction, and to join in asking for a definition of the term "Government employees."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Acting): It is indeed very gratifying to Government to know that this motion has

met with such ready sympathy, but that was expected. It was very natural, of course, that certain enquiries should have been made for the elucidation of exactly what is proposed and what is meant by "Government employees." I would like right away to dispel any fear on that point. The term "Government employees" is used in the very widest sense and covers every class of employee that is paid by Government whether teachers, Transport workers, Police or Post Office employees. (Voices: Hear, hear!) It also covers casual employees, and that refers to daily wage-earners whose wages are calculated on the basis of \$40 per month. I know that will meet with the satisfaction of hon. Members.

The hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) suggested that this matter was under consideration long before the outbreak of the War. That is not so. As the motion clearly indicates, it is purely a war measure. The matter was taken up during the War, and all statistics were prepared on a purely war basis and as a temporary measure.

The hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) suggested that Government, in bringing this motion forward, was acquiescing in the request of the various Trades Unions. I would like to make it quite clear that the initiative in this matter was taken by Government long before any request whatever had been received. (Voices: Hear, hear!)

As regards the question of increasing the rate of salary on which it is proposed to pay the War Bonus, I would like to say that was touched upon by my hon. friend, the Colonial Treasurer, when referring to the Income Tax Bill. Every one is expected, and I think every one expects, during the present conditions to make some sacrifice. That sacrifice is demanded of us to-day at the commencement—I am referring to the sacrifice demanded of the civilian population—so as to make it easier for us after the War, not as on the last occasion when the sacrifices became a heavy burden on us subsequent to the cessation of hostilities: Bearing that in mind and taking everything into consideration, Government, after consultation with its advisers, made representation to the Secretary of State that conditions here justified an increase to Juniors receiving

salaries not exceeding \$40 a month, because it was felt that below such a wage there was no margin for sacrifice. It was after taking all factors into consideration that Government decided on that figure.

I do not know that there are any other points raised by hon. Members which have escaped me. The main point was that hon. Members wanted a clear definition of what was meant by "Government employees," and I think I have satisfied Council in that respect. I do not think there is anything more I can add. As regards the cost of living, whilst it is true that it may be higher than 10 per per cent. Government has taken into consideration in fixing 10 per cent. all the circumstances connected with the present situation. The

latest figures available to Government are that the increased cost of living varies between 13 and 18 per cent.

THE PRESIDENT: One hon. Member has asked Government to consider extending the principle. I would like to say that Government had considered very carefully all or very nearly all the points raised by hon. Members to-day, and the decision of Government was that it could not go further than is indicated in this resolution.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

The Council adjourned until the following day at 10.30 a.m.