

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.***Tuesday, 19th May, 1936.*

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

**PRESENT.**

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, (Mr. E. J. Waddington, C.M.G., O.B.E.)

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

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

Major the Hon. W. Bain Gray, C.B.E., Director of Education.

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

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

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

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

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

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

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

The Hon. J. A. Henderson, Surgeon-General.

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

The Hon. A. R. Crum Ewing (Essequibo River).

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

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

The Hon. S. H. Seymour (Western Essequibo).

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

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

**MINUTES.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 18th March, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

**MEMBERS SWORN.**

The following Members took and subscribed to the oath:—

Mr. S. E. Gomes, Assistant Attorney-General.

Mr. A. MacDougall, General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department.

**THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.**

The President addressed the Council as follows:—

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,**

The year that has passed away and the early months of the current year witnessed two events remembrance of which is still vividly in our minds. Each of them in its own way gave abiding proof of the deep devotion of all the peoples of the British Empire to the Crown, of the personal love and honour in which they held His Late Majesty King George the Fifth and of their loyalty towards and trust in his successor King Edward VIII. On January 22nd this Council passed a Resolution which gave words to what was in their hearts on that sad day and I now have it in command from His Majesty the King to convey to you an expression of

the appreciation felt by His Majesty, the Queen-Mother and the Members of the Royal Family of the sympathy and loyalty expressed in that Resolution.

It is with very deep regret that I record the death of Mr. Philip Francis Steward. Mr. Steward was appointed as a senior stipendiary magistrate on December 8th, 1933, and his sudden recent death has deprived this Colony of an able and conscientious civil servant who during a very short period had won the affection of many and the high respect of all who came into touch with him. I venture to offer to Mrs. Steward and her infant daughter this Council's deep sympathy.

It will, I hope, be of assistance to Members if I review briefly the principal events and results of the year 1935 and with that object in view I will turn first to the year's financial out-turn.

#### FINANCIAL OUT-TURN: 1935.

The Colonial Treasurer's annual report for the year 1935 which will be laid on the table this morning discloses that, exclusive of grants and loans in aid, the ordinary revenue amounted to \$5,034,226 and the total Colony revenue was \$5,227,575. The former, which represents the Colony's regular income, is, of course, the more significant figure of the two and Honourable Members will be glad to perceive that the situation which the individual revenue heads reveal is, generally speaking, healthy. The total reached by ordinary revenue was the highest amount realised since 1929 and the third highest during the past decade. Examination of its components, moreover, puts the Colony's income in an even more favourable light, for the only considerable decrease is under Head III., Internal Revenue: this, however, was due mainly to lower income tax yields caused by the 1934 floods and may be regarded as fortuitous: death duties also produced a smaller sum. The small fall in Post Office revenue is attributable to the fact that the sale of Jubilee stamps brought in a smaller amount than the pictorial issue in 1934: Miscellaneous Revenue also is lower than in the previous year but the fact has no significance. All other heads show that where we have not improved we have at any rate maintained our position. The most pleasing features are the continued rise in the receipts

from customs duties, excise and licences which have together yielded \$76,376 more than last year and, secondly, the spring in revenue derived from mineral products. The decrease in the Colony's total revenue as compared with that of 1934 need cause no apprehension: it is due to the abolition of salary abatements and to the accrual of a much smaller sum in the form of extraordinary receipts than was taken to revenue in the preceding year.

The recurrent expenditure exceeded that for 1934 by \$217,159. The principal factors in this rise were:

(1) the necessity for providing increased funds for renewals for the Transport and Harbours Department from revenue; the actual cost of these came to \$125,658, an increase of \$93,017 over the amount spent in 1934;

(2) increased expenditure on district administration, education, agriculture, public works and sea defence maintenance, amounting to \$148,562;

(3) certain expenses which did not occur in 1934 and therefore obscure true comparison with that year: the more important of these included special measures in respect of the alastrim outbreak and the labour disturbances and a large refund of estates duty, costing in all some \$32,000: a new item was the surrender of the operating profit on the Post Office Savings Bank, amounting to \$10,850.

A welcome though, I fear, only a temporary feature was a reduction in the charges on the public debt by \$27,942.

The increase in recurrent expenditure, considerably exceeding as it does the rise in ordinary revenue, is at first sight somewhat ominous: but comparison between the total Colonial expenditure, exclusive of that on Colonial Development Fund schemes, is reassuring, the 1935 expenditure having been lower than that of the previous year by \$97,756. The explanation lies in the fact that in 1935 the normal Public Works votes, both recurrent and extraordinary, were largely increased so as to carry the burden of unemployment relief, specific expenditure upon which fell from \$343,877 to \$17,536, mainly incurred in the completion of

works begun in the previous year. If allowance is made for the increased amount spent on renewals for the Transport and Harbours Department the comparison between the expenditure of the two years is more favourable still. When these facts are taken into consideration and regard is had to the wide distribution of savings among the departments, which show that votes generally have been well husbanded, it will be seen that there is no cause for alarm or reproach in respect of last year's expenditure.

The financial out-turn of 1935 was that revenue failed to meet expenditure by \$189,156 or, if the specific expenditure on unemployment relief is included, by \$206,692; but so far as the surplus balance is concerned the loss on the year was reduced by taking credit for a new loan-grant-in-aid of \$96,000 and for an appropriation of \$17,536 from a previous loan grant for unemployment relief. The net result was that the Colony was able to carry forward a balance of \$313,442 on January 1st.

The improvement in the Colony's financial situation is apparent when the 1935 working loss, viz. \$206,692, is compared with the working losses for the last thirteen years, as shown on page 8 of the printed copy of my Address to this Council on October 15th last. These I will quote again for convenience of comparison.

Year.	Working loss.
1923—1930 (average)	...\$ 323,247
1931	1,471,979
1932	659,691
1933	294,570
1934	453,005
1935	206,692

#### PROSPECTS FOR 1936.

The draft estimates as passed by the Legislative Council have been approved by the Secretary of State with certain amendments which will be moved in the Council in the form of supplementary estimates. So far as expenditure is concerned, the necessary alterations during this session will be as follows:—

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| (1) a revote of ...  | ...\$ 35,771 |
| which represents that part of the cost of M.V. "Pomeroon" that was incurred during this year : |              |

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| (2) additional charges on account of the new conversion loan by | ...\$ 43,747 |
| (3) a sum of  | 7,000        |

of which \$1,000 represents the emoluments for part of the year of a warden at the Leprosy Hospital and the remaining \$6,000 the cost of erecting quarters for that officer and for housing an assistant medical officer when one is available. I will leave over the arguments in favour of these additional expenditures until the supplementary estimates are introduced.

The amounts, if approved, will cause an increase of	86,518
on the expenditure side of this year's budget.	

On the other hand increased interest earnings from deposits of the proceeds of that loan justify an increase of the revenue estimate by	14,947
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Leaving a net increase in expenditure of ...	71,571
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This will convert the deficit for the year at first estimated, viz.	471,021
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to one of	...\$ 542,592
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The corresponding figure for 1935 was ...\$ 558,422 but as the revenue estimate for that year included a sum of \$200,000 from extraordinary receipts, which has no counterpart in the 1936 figures and more than sets off the difference in the amounts included for Transport and Harbour replacements in the expenditure estimates of the two years, another indication of financial recuperation is visible from the comparison. After setting off the balance carried forward on January 1st, 1936, against this estimated deficit the amount remaining to be covered is \$229,150: a loan-grant-in-aid not exceeding £75,500 has been promised by the Imperial Government to meet this deficit and also to provide for the estimated requirement in respect of the first quarter of 1937.

The current year is not sufficiently

advanced to allow any definite forecast to be made of financial results. Revenue, however, is coming in fairly well and there is good reason to hope that the estimate will be more than fulfilled.

#### COMMERCE AND PRODUCTION.

I have already commented upon the satisfactory rise in the revenue derived from customs duties; the details will be found in the Comptroller's annual report and I need not take up the time of Members by reciting them now. The most significant fact is that in 1935 the value of the Colony's imports exceeded that for 1934 by \$350,530 and the relative value of the exports was greater by \$1,760,612, making an improvement in total trade of \$2,111,142. The rise in imports had, of course, direct relation to that in exports of domestic products, which were the best for the last six years.

The principal gains and losses in domestic exports as compared with 1934 were as follows:—

Commodity.	Quantity.	Value.	Gain.	Loss.
		\$	\$	\$
Sugar (tons) ...	174,156	6,926,439	1,357,985	
Molasses (galls.) ...	5,949,393	307,931	29,577	
Rum (pf. galls.) ...	1,073,406	422,660		63,765
Rice (tons) ...	10,565	473,086		110,004
Coffee (lbs.) ...	471,506	23,849		23,389
Copra (ton) ...	1,226	55,134	31,647	
Lime Oil (galls.) ...	597	25,092		7,875
Lumber (feet) ...	373,432	26,310	16,019	
Timber (cub. ft.) ...	195,824	94,093		7,649
Balata (lbs.) ...	296,757	69,354		945
Other forest products		76,480		2,643
Livestock and hide ...		18,925		3,482
Gold (ozs.) ...	33,313	845,494	170,198	
Diamonds (cts.) ...	43,187	496,313	12,828	
Bauxite (tons) ...	111,500	663,911	345,774	

The following brief facts regarding the exports of last year and their prospects in the near future may be of interest to Honourable Members:—

As is well known, the exports of sugar surpassed the previous record, which occurred in 1932, by 37,078 tons. This very large increase was due to a rise in the average yield per acre to about 3 tons and is attributable to a more intensive application of the results of soil, variety and fertilizer investigations. Cane farmers produced 24,613 tons of cane which was greater than the production in 1934 by 11,376 tons. The price paid was \$2.20

per ton. The outlook for this year's crop is, so far, good.

Rice exports on the other hand were the lowest since 1926. They had fallen heavily in 1933/34 as the 1933 crop was very seriously damaged by floods: a drought in the succeeding year resulted in an even smaller harvest, as it gravely affected the autumn crop. The 1935 crop, however, was exceedingly good, the exportable surplus being estimated at 25,000 tons. This surplus itself created a very considerable problem, as, owing to the unpredictable fluctuation in local rice production and to lack of organisation in selling, shippers had been unable to contract forward sales to any considerable extent. The Rice Marketing Board assisted by certain millers made strenuous efforts to dispose of this surplus and was successful in placing approximately 13,000 tons; other sales have since been made by exporters and, while it seems probable that a certain quantity of padi will have to be carried forward, it is felt that by the end of the year the position in this respect should not cause any undue anxiety. At the present time, however, great difficulty is being experienced in milling owing to continuous rainy weather. As regards this year's autumn crop, prospects at the moment are unsettled as the abnormal rains in March have rendered ploughing in many areas where rice is 'shied' difficult if not impossible.

The exports of coffee again fell owing to the continued drop in the world price, an improvement in which I regret to say cannot be expected in the near future. While in the North West District I was asked to fix a price for locally consumed coffee, which accounts for about 50% of the coffee grown in British Guiana; but I was unable to accede to the proposal as the cost of supervision necessary to ensure such a scheme against "pirated" coffee would be out of all proportion to the benefit that might be derived. The only possible alleviation of the present situation would appear to be some measure or measures which would reduce the cost of production of clean coffee and this question is having my attention.

Copra exports were the highest since 1931. Towards the end of last year the legislation for the control of coconut



products was revised with, it is hoped, beneficial results.

The livestock industry was again at a low ebb during the year under review although there was a considerable increase in the quantity and value of hides exported. Recently a Committee which I had appointed to consider how the meat and meat products industry could be assisted produced a useful report of a practical nature. The report, however, indicated the need for examination of certain other points and these have been referred to the Committee. I am grateful to the members for the careful consideration which they gave to the problems before them and hopeful that some of their recommendations will bear fruit.

Turning to forest products industries, the quantity of lumber exported was the largest since 1913. Timber showed an improvement over the last three years so far as quantity goes, though the value of the export was only \$94,093 as compared with \$140,932 in 1931, when practically the same quantity was sent out of the country. There was a slight improvement in the balata industry over 1934 and there may be, I understand, a certain amount of re-organisation in this industry which in two or three years should lead to its partial recovery.

The greatest improvement in the Colony's export trade occurred in its mineral products. 1935 witnessed a larger quantity of gold exported than had been exported since 1916 when 36,245 ozs. worth \$649,025 were sent out. Comparison of these figures with those for last year, that is to say 33,313 ozs. worth \$845,494, is of interest. Honourable Members will have read with gratification the news of the floating of a company named the British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields Limited. The chairman of the company is one of our most able and trusted citizens whose entry into this important British Guianese industry has given immense encouragement locally. The success of the company will mean great profit to the Colony and we wish it to them very cordially. The export of diamonds increased in value though it shrank slightly in the number of carats. The biggest recovery of any local industry during the year was made in bauxite, the

exports of which were more than double those of the previous year and reached to the proportions of the exports for 1931. It is hoped that a further large expansion will take place and continue.

While the outlook for one or two of our industries is still somewhat discouraging, I think that Honourable Members will agree that this brief review of the export trade of the Colony for the year 1935 and the glimpses taken of the future justify on the whole a feeling of considerable optimism as regards both the Colony's revenue and the increasing employment which their further expansion would bring about.

Before leaving the subject of our productive industries I would like to touch on a few points which are relevant to it. On the side of agriculture the Director of Agriculture has informed me that laboratory and field research with flood fallowing has afforded some light upon the factors which bring about the phenomenon of increased yields from land so treated. As regards rice I have been given to understand that a scheme will be put forward before long designed to improve marketing conditions and methods and I shall be glad to give it my early attention. I am not aware whether it will suggest any alterations in grading but there is reason to believe that the present grades might be revised with advantage, so as to bring one of them into closer conformity with the grade of Burmah rice which constitutes British Guiana's chief competitor. Furthermore it cannot be denied that many mills in the Colony are either deficient, especially as regards a clean water supply, or are inefficient or are both, with the result that the rice turned out by them is inferior to the quality which the padi that goes into them justifies. Obviously inefficient milling cannot be allowed to injure an important industry of this nature and it will be necessary to tighten up the control over rice mills. This question is at the moment under investigation. During 1934 the Rice (Export Trade) Ordinance was materially amended and new Rice (Export Trade) Regulations were introduced.

As I informed the Council at its last session, the Conservator of Forests is on duty in Great Britain where he is investigating the possibility of assisting our tim-

ber industry in certain respects. Before he sailed he informed me that a three months reconnaissance up the Demerara river had revealed plenty of good forest above the Great Falls, principally of greenheart and crabwood; the Falls appear to allow the haulage of non-floating logs round them. Experiments in re-afforestation have shown good promise of success and the study of the natural regeneration of greenheart has been begun. So far as utilisation goes, trial shipments resulted in an immediate order from London for thirty fitches of 'bull head' greenheart: experiments with cheap local woods for the cooorage industry in Barbados are being continued and a trial shipment of boards was recently sent to the Royal Engineers in Jamaica at the request of the Officer Commanding. An interesting experiment that was completed during the year on a large scale was with crabwood and showed that 31 per cent. of the seasoned and dressed boards were of exportable quality. Local purchase of timber sawn and cured in the Colony increased very considerably during the year under review: so, it may be added, did the imports of timber.

The principal point to be recorded regarding mineral products is already within the knowledge of Honourable Members; I allude to the generous free grant by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee of £22,000 for the continuation of the geological survey of the Colony. This amount should be sufficient for the exploration of all or nearly all the parts of the Colony which justify such expenditure of that nature.

#### THE TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS DEPARTMENT.

The net cost to the Colony of the Transport and Harbours Department during the year 1935 stands at \$231,749, a figure which is reached as follows:—

Deficit (being the amount by which the sum of working expenditure (\$613,702) and capital charges (\$199,622) exceeded the gross receipts (\$733,613) ...\$	79,711
Extraordinary expenditure on Renewals and Replacements	125,658
Capital expenditure	26,380

\$ 231,749

This is an unusually high figure on a crude comparison with former years. If, however, there is deducted from it the sum just mentioned of \$125,658, which represents expenditure on a new steamer, a new locomotive, relaying and other replacements that ordinarily would have been debited to a renewals fund, it is seen not to be abnormal and, indeed, is smaller than the comparable amount for last year. On the other hand the department's road service hitherto has escaped bearing the prime cost of the vehicles which it uses, they having been purchased out of a loan granted by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee. It has also to be remembered that the Bartica-Potaro road service bears no part of the cost of maintenance of the roads over which it operates. It is, perhaps, pertinent to remark here that the maintenance cost of the 173 miles completed or under construction in this area at \$300 per mile, together with the equated annuities due to the Colonial Development Fund in repayment of loans made for the establishment of this road service, will, in 1942, amount to \$108,000. This already existent liability should be borne closely in mind when schemes for increased expenditure on these routes are under discussion.

Honourable Members will observe with pleasure and congratulation that when truly compared with that of the year 1934 the 1935 deficit, as just defined, was smaller by \$10,784, notwithstanding the fact that the Harbour and Pilotage Service was called upon to bear expenditure on dredging and hydrographic survey amounting to \$17,160 which found no place in the former year's accounts. Railway earnings were lower than in that year notwithstanding a record sugar crop, owing to the further shrinkage in passenger traffic, but all the other services, notably Harbours and Pilotage, showed a higher revenue.

The dredger began work in the Georgetown Harbour on May 13th last year and had removed about 100,000 tons of mud by the end of the year. On February 25th last the new steamer "Pomeroon" arrived and is now in service and giving ample satisfaction. It will, I fear, be necessary to order another next year.

The department's prospects for the

current year are fairly encouraging. Up to the end of March the revenue earned was some \$6,500 higher than during that period in 1935, while expenditure is more than \$16,000 less. There has been a notable increase in passenger journeys owing to a reduction of third-class fares. It is hoped to open the road service to Issano Landing, the new road's terminus on the Mazaruni river, and the boat service to the upper Mazaruni in July next. The return journey, at the outset at any rate, between Bartica and Issano Landing will consume three days. The first day's run will end at Apanachi rest house, 99 miles from Bartica: on the second day the lorry will proceed to Issano Landing, a further 27 miles, discharge its load, pick up passengers and goods destined for Bartica and go back to Apanachi for the night: the third day's journey will be the return to Bartica. Negotiations respecting a boat service to the upper Mazaruni are proceeding.

The lengthening of the stelling at New Amsterdam has been begun and should, I am informed, be completed in some six months time.

Two questions closely affecting the interests of the department have been under examination recently. One concerns the duties that should be charged for motor licences and the report of the Committee appointed 'ad hoc' is expected shortly. The other is the future of the West Coast Railway as to which I await the recommendations of the Transport and Harbours Board.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

##### *Municipal Affairs.*

Partly as a result of the legislation passed early in 1935 the financial situation of the Georgetown Municipality improved very considerably. A Committee appointed to consider the adequacy of Government's subvention towards road costs in Georgetown is, I understand, about to report to Government. The period under review has also been one of progress in New Amsterdam where fine municipal stables and a garage have been erected and major repairs are now being carried out upon the market and the Town Hall.

##### *Provincial Affairs.*

In two respects progress can be recorded

in the sphere of Provincial Local Government. The first is that in 1935 the village councils were re-constituted on an elective basis with the right of electing their own chairman: at the first elections held under the new Ordinance some sixty per cent. of the registered electors voted. In the second place there was a noteworthy improvement in the payment of village rates and taxes. Individual points of interest have been the erection of excellent markets at Buxton and Beterverwagting, the re-organisation of office accommodation at New Amsterdam, where the various activities of the District Administration were brought under one roof, and the alienation of the Philippi-Macedonia block of the Kilmarnock-Springlands empolder; leases for 3,250 acres were offered in five blocks at 30 cents per acre per annum and were readily taken up.

A recent alteration of administrative district boundaries merits mention. The greater part of what was formerly known as the West Coast Demerara district has been amalgamated with the former Georgetown and East Bank district under the name of West Demerara, Bartica and the lower Essequibo river passing to the Essequibo district.

Extensive and prolonged unrest and disturbances occurred last year among labourers employed on sugar estates for the third year in succession. A commission appointed to investigate its causes and preventive and remedial measures will, I believe, complete its report this month.

##### *Crime.*

Generally speaking, serious crime has shown a diminution. The Police Force is to be congratulated on the successful capture of counterfeit coiners during last year and that particular method of robbing the community was greatly checked in consequence. Unfortunately, another method, *i.e.*, bush rum distilling, has continued to evade repression and the revenue therefore continues to suffer.

##### *Education.*

Turning to the two principal social services, that is to say education and health, it is pleasant to find signs of progress in each. In the primary schools during the school year 1934-1935 there was an in-



crease in enrolment of 1,733 and, what is better still, an increase in attendance by 1,960. The percentage of average attendance throughout the Colony rose from 69.4 to 71.2, the highest ever recorded. The Broad Street Government School in Georgetown was enlarged by four class rooms and can now hold 840 pupils: it has reached what is regarded as its efficiency maximum in respect of size. Government schools came into existence during the school year at Anna Regina and Beterverwagting, the former the result of an amalgamation of two denominational schools, the latter owing to the inability of a denominational school to remain in existence. Naturally the growth in numbers of pupils required an additional number of teachers and during 1935 their ranks were enlarged accordingly by 38 posts. As Honourable Members will remember the amount for grants to primary schools in this year's estimates was increased by \$12,600, which allowed for a further 33 teachers to be engaged in the primary schools. Allowing that the enrolment figure for 1936 has grown at the same rate as that by which the figure for 1935 exceeded that for 1934, the average number of pupils on roll per class teacher will be 60 during this year. The maximum at which we should aim in this respect, as our finances improve, is 50. I would emphasise the point that I am speaking of enrolment and not attendance figures.

21 youths completed their courses at the Trades Centre, Kingston, during the year: at the Carnegie Centre a system of bursaries was introduced which enables girls from all parts of the Colony to be taught there. Next year the grant received from the Carnegie Corporation will be exhausted and the upkeep of the Centre will fall upon the Colony's charges. An interesting event during 1935 was a visit by 80 teachers from the primary schools to Trinidad in order to take part in an educational conference.

The revised regulations governing the salaries of teachers came into force on January 1st last year and a further advance in the organisation of education in the Colony should ensue soon, as I understand that the draft of the new educational code is complete and under study by the Education Committee.

A recent innovation has been the estab-

lishment of a class for teachers where they can be trained in elementary agricultural science and practice. The importance of giving an agricultural bias to education in this farming Colony is, I know, recognised by this Council who will, I feel sure, support any endeavour to extend the scope of such training. Of the imperative necessity of such an extension I myself have no doubts and I have under consideration a scheme which I hope will render it possible.

#### *Health.*

Apart from the outbreak of alastrim in the North West District, during which occurred 56 known cases and one known death, the health of the Colony has been good during the period under review. Vital statistics show the lowest recorded death and infantile mortality rates and the highest recorded number of births in our annals. The figures are so satisfactory that Honourable Members will be glad to hear them quoted. The birthrate for 1935 was 34.3 per 1,000 as against 28.8 for the preceding year and the death rate was 20.6 per 1,000, the average for the previous quinquennia having been 22.5 and 25.2: furthermore, infantile mortality was lowered to 122 per thousand births, the previous best figure having been 139. No doubt this steady progress is due to the steady application of public health measures, including the continuing extension of the pure water supply. The combined result of these improvements in vital statistics is that the known increase in the population was 5,048 persons.

So far as institutions are concerned, the new clinic for the treatment of venereal disease has been completed: for this valuable unit, as for pure water distribution, we have to thank the Colonial Development Advisory Committee. During the period under review considerable improvements have been and are still being carried out at the various hospitals of the Colony and notably at the Leprosy Hospital where further considerable expenditure is necessary. I regret the delay in providing the new tuberculosis hospital for which the Colonial Development Advisory Committee have generously given a large grant. It is due, however, to no neglect on the part of those responsible but to the fact that the scheme which Government has in mind in this connection raises certain



other issues which are under discussion with the Secretary of State and the Colonial Development Advisory Committee and will I hope be determined to the Colony's advantage before the next meeting of this Council. I cannot pass by the subject of tuberculosis without expressing on behalf of the Colony the deep regret which has been widely felt at the death of Mr. Manoel Gonsalves. For many years Mr. Gonsalves had devoted himself to the fight against this disease and to the alleviation of the sufferings caused by it; by his charity and his energy he rendered a great public service to the Colony during his life-time. On behalf of this Council I desire to render a tribute of gratitude to him and of deep sympathy to his widow and relations.

The provisions of the Public Health Ordinance are being brought gradually into force and the Central Board of Health has met regularly. The Medical Re-organisation Committee has just presented its report and this will be laid on the table during this session.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

##### *Road Construction.*

The road under construction from mile 74 on the Bartica-Potaro road to the Mazaruni river, is nearing completion and the terminal facilities at Issano landing are now being put up.

##### *Sea Defences.*

Honourable Members are fully cognisant of the facts relative to the collapse of the new sea wall west of Buxton Village and of the consequential measures which it is intended to take. The cost of these is being charged against loan funds for the time being. Copies of Mr. Case's latest report with a covering minute from the Sea Defence Board are already in members' hands but a copy will also be laid on the table during this session. Recent expenditure in this locality has been as follows:—

(i) Construction work (including sheet piling) on Annandale-Good Hope section of wall (now abandoned) ...\$	39,978
(ii) Temporary defences in area of (i)	13,795
(iii) Shoring and sheet-piling near Buxton Village	1,000

It is estimated that work under (ii) and (iii) above will cost a further	...\$ 30,227
making a total addition of	...\$ 85,000

to already approved expenditure.

It was, I think, made clear to the satisfaction of those Members of Council who attended the meeting with the consulting engineer for sea defences in my office on April 17th that an extension of the hydrographic survey is a proper step to be taken in future sea defence work. Coast erosion in British Guiana is set up at times when and at places where the sea floor is lowered at the coastline. The action causative of this phenomenon, whatever it may be, takes place out of sight with the result that hitherto every assault on the sea defences has been a surprise attack which has left no time for protective measures. Obviously what is wanted is the earliest possible information of the enemy's impending movements and this can only be obtained by means of constant, systematic patrolling by the hydrographic survey staff. These things being so I am confident that this Council will vote the relatively small amount of \$5,000 which, as the sessional paper on the subject reveals, needs to be found this year for the implementation of this precautionary measure. When the vote comes up the Honourable the Director of Public Works will have an opportunity of giving to the Council the latest news of the sea defence position in the area of which I have been speaking.

#### GENERAL.

British Guiana was happy to receive the Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in January last. His attention was invited especially to the water problems which affect the fortunes of this Colony to a peculiar degree and are so peculiarly intractable. I feel confident the future will show that we will have good reasons to be grateful not only to Sir John Maffey for the unsparing industry with which he studied the matters which came within his purview but also to Lady Maffey who took a deep interest in our social problems and to Mr. Sidebotham who investigated many administrative questions which time would not allow Sir

John Maffey to take into close consideration.

I cannot close this review without shortly referring to three senior officers of Government whose services the Colony is about to lose. The first, in order of time, is Mr. Worlledge who has already left the Colony on well deserved promotion as Auditor-General of Jamaica. During his four years in British Guiana, Mr. Worlledge won a high respect for firmness, fairness and an ability, of which one among many valuable characteristics was strong common sense: we wish him well indeed in his new sphere.

The second is Major J. C. Craig, our Director of Public Works. After all but ten years Major Craig, I am sorry to say, has been advised that he is in need of complete rest for a while and in those circumstances I had no option but to accede, however reluctantly, to his request to be allowed to retire. As the Members of this Council have good reason to know, the last five years of his service have imposed upon the Director of Public Works a specially heavy strain, fraught as they have been with heavy attacks upon the Colony's sea defences and with such strenuous episodes as the floods of 1932; and that strain has been the greater because of the depletion of the department's establishment which financial conditions made inevitable in 1931. I know that I shall have the whole-hearted agreement of this Council in saying that we very deeply regret his too early departure and its cause, and in tendering to him the grateful thanks of the Colony for his unsparing labours on its behalf. We wish him many years of restored health and happiness in retirement.

The third officer whose departure we deplore is one to whom the Members of this Council have very often listened—and always listened to its own great advantage. Taken in all Mr. Hector Josephs has served this Colony for over twelve years, usually as Attorney-General but once in the high capacity of Chief Justice. His deep and wide knowledge of the law alone would have distinguished him in any parliamentary gathering: but happily for those who have been his hearers what has come to them from that garnered store has always been graced by a

natural eloquence, often illumined by a sense of humour. It is no reflection upon his successor to say that we will miss his personality sorely when we meet next without him. And what I have said of Mr. Josephs in respect of this Council is equally true of him in his many-sided life outside. Of his value to the Bar of the Colony its members will, no doubt, pay their tribute in due course: it has been, I know, very high. Elsewhere than in Council and Court his colleagues, both in official and in unofficial affairs, will lose in him not only a wise and willing adviser but one who has given a very wide and practical interpretation to his duty as a citizen. We wish him a long and happy life in his island home of which at times we have heard him speak, and speak with deep love.

Honourable Members,

I now commend the business of the session to your consideration.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### COLONIAL FOREST RESOURCES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Waddington): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor to the Council:—

#### MESSAGE No. 12.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite you to vote a sum of \$288 (£60) as this Colony's contribution in respect of the year 1936-37 towards the cost of the Colonial Forest Resources Development Department established in London in 1935.

2. On the 19th of March, 1935, the Secretary of State addressed the following despatch to the Government of this Colony:—

Downing Street,  
19th March, 1935.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that I have had under consideration the future arrangements to be made for the testing and marketing of colonial timbers.

2. The work in connexion with seeking a market for such timbers, hitherto performed by the staff of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research attached to the Forest Products Research Laboratory, is regarded not only as definitely outside the functions of that Department, but likely, if continued, to be a source of some embarrassment. It is considered, however, that unless this work and also the work in connexion with the investigation and development of production, transport, etc. in the

Colonies, etc., can be maintained. the testing of colonial timbers, at present carried out at the Laboratory, is of little practical value.

3. As a result of such consideration it has been decided that while the testing of colonial timbers should continue to be carried out at the Laboratory, the control of the investigation and development of sources of supply and of the exploration and encouragement of demand for colonial timber should pass to the Colonial Office. For this purpose a new organization will be set up as from the 1st of April, 1935, under the Colonial Office, to be known as the Colonial Forest Resources Development Department. The personnel of this organization will consist of Major F. M. Oliphant and Major J. R. Cosgrove, D.S.O., M.C., M.E.I.C. both hitherto serving in the Laboratory. They will be accommodated with an office in London and supplied with the necessary clerical staff. The salary of each officer will be £1,100 per annum and in the case of Major Oliphant an additional allowance of £100 will be paid on account of special duties referred to in the next paragraph.
4. It is contemplated that Major Oliphant will be largely occupied in making tours of different Colonial territories with a view to investigating their timber resources and the organization of their Forestry Departments for the commercial exploitation of such resources. When so employed, his salary, subsistence and travelling expenses would be chargeable to the territory interested, the amount being refunded to the United Kingdom Government.
5. Major Cosgrove will be largely responsible for the task of keeping in touch with the timber trade in this country and discovering the possibilities for the marketing of colonial timbers here.
6. As already stated, the work of sampling and testing colonial timbers will be carried on at the Forest Products Research Laboratory as at present, but the cost of work performed for the Colonies will eventually, it is hoped, be paid to the Laboratory on behalf of the territories concerned.
7. The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have agreed that the general expenses of the new organisation may in the first place be borne on the Colonial Services Vote and they have sanctioned the inclusion of a sum not exceeding £5,000 for this purpose in the estimates for 1935-36. I desire to make it clear, however, that I regard it as a definite principle that the whole of the cost of the organization should ultimately be met by contributions from the Colonies, etc., with forestry interests. I appreciate that it is not possible for some of these territories to make any contribution at present; on the other hand, it is desirable that those territories which are financially in a position to make some contribution should do so from the outset.
8. I shall be glad to know whether you would be prepared to agree that the

territory under your administration should contribute to the cost of the new organization on a fair basis of allocation to be decided by me, having regard to the relative importance of forestry in the various parts of the Colonial Empire, and the amount of work performed for each territory by the new Department.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most obedient, humble servant,

P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

The Officer Administering  
the Government of British Guiana.

3. On its receipt I consulted the Executive Council who advised at that time that while it was considered that the request should be accepted in principle it did not appear that the Colony was in a financial position to contribute at the moment: the Secretary of State was so informed in August and in reply a despatch was received recently from him intimating that for the financial year 1936-37 the total of the contributions from Colonial Dependencies towards the cost of the Colonial Forest Resources Development Department had been put at the relatively small figure of £600 and that of this total, he, with the consent of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, proposed that the share of British Guiana should be £60. The Secretary of State added that in making this allocation he had had regard to the work for the various Dependencies which the Colonial Forest Resources Development Department has in hand and in prospect for the forthcoming year.

4. In view of the improved financial out turn for the year 1935 and the relatively small amount of the proposed contribution the Executive Council have now advised it approval.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

12th March, 1936.

#### MHAICA-SUPPLY CREDIT BANK.

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

#### MESSAGE NO. II.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve the write-off of the sum of \$1,178.60 being the amount of loan capital outstanding in respect of loans made to the Mahaica-Supply Co-operative Credit Bank.

During the years 1919 and 1920, the shareholders of this Bank embarked on a cane-farming venture on an extensive scale at Fin. La Bonne Mere, East Coast, Demerara. The venture failed and a considerable amount of the debts proved to be bad. The debtors were all cane-farmers who had received advances from the Bank, and who had lost heavily through



adverse weather conditions and the unsuitability of the land. The Bank ceased to function in 1923.

3. The total sum loaned by Government to this Bank amounted to \$2,455—\$895 in 1917, \$660 in 1918, and \$900 in 1919. Every effort has been made to collect outstanding amounts, and a total sum of \$1,276.40 has been recovered, leaving an outstanding balance of \$1,178.60 which is unrecoverable.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

3rd March, 1936.

#### PURE WATER DISTRIBUTION SCHEME.

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor to the Council:—

#### MESSAGE No. 10.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

It is with great pleasure that I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the acceptance from the Colonial Development Fund of a further free grant of £20,000 to enable the pure water distribution scheme to be continued until 1939.

2. As Honourable Members are aware, £10,000 was granted for this purpose by His Majesty's Government on the 26th February, 1932, and another free grant of £10,000 was made on the 17th January, 1934. The Secretary of State has now informed me that a further grant of £20,000 has been approved.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,  
Governor.

2nd March, 1936.

#### PAPERS LAID.

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

Report of the Surgeon-General for the year 1934.

Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the year 1935.

Report of the Georgetown Fire Brigade for the year 1935.

Report of the Government Industrial School, Underneeming, for the year 1935.

Report on the Transport and Harbours Department for the year 1935.

Report of the Commissioners of Currency for the year 1935.

Report of the District Commissioner on the work of the Rupunni District for the year 1935.

Report of the District Commissioner on the work of the Essequebo District for the year 1935.

Papers regarding visit of Conservator of Forests to United Kingdom and Continent of Europe in connection with Colony's timber exports.

Report of the Imperial Forestry Institute for the year 1934-1935.

Sixteenth Annual Report of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1935, additional to that included in the Schedules of additional provision for the year 1935 already passed by the Legislative Council.

Schedule of Additional Provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the estimate for the year 1936, for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1936.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

##### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at a later stage he would move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable the following Bills to be introduced and read the first time:—

A Bill to repeal the Institute of Mines and Forests Ordinance, Chapter 215.

A Bill to amend the Audit Department Ordinance, Chapter 200, to make provision for the appointment of an Assistant Auditor on the abolition of the post of Chief Clerk, and for purposes connected therewith.

A Bill to amend the Deeds Registry Ordinance, Chapter 174, by making better provision with regard to the effect of sales of immovables in execution.

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

A Bill to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended thirty-first day of December, 1935.

A Bill to make special provision for the payment of arrears prior to Nineteen hundred and thirty-six, of annual rates under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 165, and of advances of instalments thereof under the Drainage and Irrigation (Advances Repayment) Ordinance, 1932.

A Bill to transfer to the Comptroller of Customs the powers and duties of the Chief Commissary under the Bitters and Cordials Ordinance, Chapter 109, the Spirits Ordinance, Chapter 110, and the Stills Ordinance, Chapter 111.

##### SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motions:—

THAT this Council approves the expenditure in excess of the provision already made for the year 1935, as set forth in the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1935 additional to that included in the Schedules of additional provision for the year 1935, already passed by the Legislative Council.



THAT this Council approves additional provision being made to meet expenditure in excess of the provision already made for the year 1936, as set forth in the Schedule of additional provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the Estimate for the year 1936, for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1936.

#### COLONIAL FOREST RESOURCES.

THAT with reference to Message No. 12 of the 12th of March, 1936, this Council approves a contribution of \$288 (£60) being made by this Colony towards the cost of the Colonial Forest Resources Development Department in respect of the year 1936-37.

#### MAHAICA-SUPPLY CREDIT BANK.

Professor DASH gave notice of the following motion :—

THAT with reference to Message No. 11 of the 3rd of March, 1936, this Council approves the write-off of the sum of \$1,178.60 being the amount of loan capital outstanding in respect of loans made to the Mahaica-Supply Co-operative Credit Bank.

#### PURE WATER DISTRIBUTION SCHEME.

Major CRAIG gave notice of the following motion :—

THAT with reference to Message No. 10 of the 2nd March, 1936, this Council expresses the gratitude of the Colony for the free grant of £20,000 which has been made from the Colonial Development Fund to enable the pure water distribution scheme to be continued until 1939, and respectfully requests that the Colony's thanks be conveyed to the Secretary of State and the Colonial Development Advisory Committee.

### UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

#### SALE OF FRESH MEAT.

Mr. D'AGUIAR gave notice of the following questions :—

1. What is the licence duty for the sale of fresh meat in the public markets of—
  - (a) Georgetown and New Amsterdam
  - (b) elsewhere in the country districts?
2. Is Government aware that a licence duty of \$8 per annum is now being demanded for the sale of fresh meat in public markets outside of Georgetown and New Amsterdam?
3. Is it not desirable, in the interests of public health, that the sale of this article be encouraged in public markets wherever possible?
4. If an anomaly exists, would Government consider amending the Ordinance which imposes the licence duty referred to in question 2?

#### REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

Mr. JACOB gave notice of the following questions :—

1. What are the area and population of the North Western Electoral District?

2. How many persons in the North Western District are authorised by Government to receive declarations for the registration of voters?

3. Is Government satisfied that adequate facilities exist for the registration of voters in the North Western District?

4. As now is the time for the registration of voters has Government sent a supply of forms to the several Police Stations throughout the Colony so that eligible persons may be able to obtain forms for placing their names on the List of Voters for 1937; if not, will Government take immediate steps to do the necessary?

#### SEA DEFENCE GROYNES.

1. How many groynes were erected by the Case Coast Protection Corporation and the Director of Sea Defences during 1916 to 1920 from Kitty to Pln. Non Pariel, giving the exact position of each groyne, and the kind of materials used for the construction of each?

2. How many of those groynes have been dismantled, giving the dates of the dismantling of each?

3. What is the length of the groyne at the entrance to the Demerara River and what materials were used for its construction?

4. What is the length of the groyne that runs northward of Vissengeu Road at Kitty, and what materials were used for its construction?

5. What is the condition of the foreshore from Pln. La Bonne Intention to Kitty?

6. Did the Director of Public Works discontinue the dismantling of the groyne at Pln. Annandale in March or April, 1936; if so, what were his reasons for so doing?

7. Was the groyne at the Mahaica creek removed about a few years ago; if so, by whose authority was this done?

8. Is it a fact that Government is surveying the northern portion of the residential area of Buxton and Friendship with the object of purchasing the land, buildings, etc, so as to build a new sea wall some distance from the present wall?

#### RICE AND SUGAR.

1. What quantities of rice and sugar, with values, were exported during the years 1932, 1933, 1934, and 1935 and for the three months ended March 1936?

2. What quantities of rice and sugar were exported for the three months ended March 1935?

3. What quantities of rice and sugar it is estimated will be exported for the year 1936?

4. Is Government satisfied that the working of the Rice (Export Trade) Ordinance, 1935, has been and is beneficial to the rice industry?

5. When was Legislative control for the exportation of rice brought into force?

6. Did Government appoint a Committee in 1934, consisting of the late Thomas Millard, then Colonial Treasurer, Messrs. Charles Shankland, H. G. Seaford and Professor the Hon. J. S. Dash, to make recommendations for financial assistance to the rice and minor industries; if so, will Government lay that report on the table of the Legislative Council?

7. What acreage of rice was reaped during the last 5 years, 1931-1935, in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo, giving quantity of rice obtained in each county from the Spring and Autumn crops, each year and crop separately?

8. What acreage of rice it is estimated was reaped during the Spring crop of 1936, in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo and the rice obtained from these areas?

9. What acreage it is estimated will be planted in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo during the Autumn crop of 1936?

10. In accordance with section 17 of the Rice (Export Trade) Ordinance, 1935, will Government lay on the table of the Legislative Council at the present session, a copy of the report of the transaction of the B. G. Rice Marketing Board to the last day of February, 1936, together with a full and detailed statement of its receipts and expenditure duly audited, also the Auditor's report?

### PETITIONS

Mr. ELEAZAR laid on the table petitions from (i) Marion Gravesande praying for a compassionate allowance or a lump sum gratuity in respect of the services of her late husband, P.C. No. 3052 Gravesande; (ii) Jessie Bakker praying for a lump sum in respect of the services of her late husband, P.C. 2573 Bakker.

### THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

#### EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

Mr. JACOB asked the following questions:—

1. What was the average cost for 1934 per pupil in British Guiana for Primary Education, as compared with Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica?

2. What is the allowance to a British Guiana scholar who has been awarded the Guiana Scholarship, as compared with a similar scholar from Trinidad and Barbados?

3. Is it a fact that Trinidad offers two Scholarships yearly as compared with one offered by British Guiana?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1. The average cost of Primary Education in 1934 per pupil on roll in the schools of the Colonies named below is as follows:—

British Guiana	... \$7 20	
Trinidad	... 8 90	or \$1.70 more per pupil than in British Guiana.
Barbados	... 8 04	or \$.84 more per pupil than in British Guiana.
Jamaica	... 5 62	or \$1.58 less per pupil than in British Guiana.

The figures given for Barbados and Jamaica are in respect of 1933, which are the latest figures available.

2 & 3. The following information received from Barbados and Trinidad shows the value of the University scholarships awarded by those Colonies as compared with that awarded in British Guiana:—

Colony.	No. of Scholarships.	Value and Tenure.
British Guiana..	...	£900, usual period of tenure 3 or 4 years.
Barbados	1	£1,050-£1,110, tenure 4 to 6 years.
Trinidad	2	£300, usual tenure 4 years value may be increased to maximum of £1,200 and tenure to 6 years by the Governor in Council.

Of the 2 Trinidad Scholarships, one is a Science Scholarship.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to enable the Bills of which I have given notice to be read the first time. I move the suspension of the Standing Orders in order that we may be able to proceed with these Bills on second reading to-morrow. I am sure that hon. Members would wish that we should proceed with the business of the Council as normally as possible, but I assure them that there is no intention whatever of rushing any of these Bills.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### INSTITUTE OF MINES AND FORESTS (REPEAL) BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move that "A Bill to repeal the Institute of Mines and Forests Ordinance, Chapter 215" be read the first time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Notice was given that at the next meet

ing of the Council it would be moved that the Bill be read the second time. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

AUDIT DEPARTMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move that "A Bill to amend the Audit Department Ordinance, Chapter 200, to make provision for the appointment of an Assistant Auditor on the abolition of the post of Chief Clerk, and for purposes connected therewith" be read the first time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Notice was given that at the next meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bill be read the second time. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

DEEDS REGISTRY (SALES IN EXECUTION) BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Hector Josephs): I move that "A Bill to amend the Deeds Registry Ordinance, Chapter 174, by making better provision with regard to the effect of sales of immovables in execution" be read the first time.

Major BAIN GRAY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I give notice that at the next meeting of the Council I shall move that the Bill be read the second time. I also give notice that when the Bill is in Committee I shall move that the following proviso be inserted at the end of paragraph (b) of clause 2:—

Provided that where the holder of a registered incumbrance has consented in writing to the grant of a lease, a sale at execution for the purpose of enforcing his rights under the incumbrance shall be subject to the lease.

APPROPRIATION. BILL.

Mr. Mc DAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I beg to move that "A Bill to appropriate the supplies granted in the last session of the

Legislative Council" be read the first time.

Major BAIN GRAY seconded.

Question put, agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Notice was given that at a subsequent meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bill be read the second time (*Mr. McDavid*).

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. Mc DAVID: I beg to move that "A Bill to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended thirty-first day of December, 1935" be read the first time.

Major BAIN GRAY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Notice was given that at a subsequent meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bill be read the second time. (*Mr. McDavid*).

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (PAYMENT OF ARREARS) BILL.

Mr. Mc DAVID: I beg to move that "A Bill to make special provision for the payment of arrears prior to nineteen hundred and thirty-six, of annual rates under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 165, and of advances or instalments thereof under the Drainage and Irrigation (Advance Repayment) Ordinance, 1932" be read the first time.

Major BAIN GRAY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Notice was given that at a subsequent meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bill be read the second time. (*Mr. McDavid*).

**SPIRITS (COMPTROLLER OF CUSTOMS  
POWERS) BILL.**

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs): I beg to move that "A Bill to transfer to the Comptroller of Customs the powers and duties of the Chief Commissary under the Bitters and Cordials Ordinance, Chapter 109, the Spirits Ordinance, Chapter 110, and the Stills Ordinance, Chapter 111," be read the first time.

Dr. HENDERSON seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Notice was given that at the next meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bill be read the second time. (*Mr. D'Andrade*).

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