

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.*Tuesday, 20th August, 1940.*

The Council met at 11 a.m., His Excellency the Governor, SIR WILFRID JACKSON, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary Mr. G. D. Owen, C.M.G.

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

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

The Hon. 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. M. B. Laing, O.B.E., Commissioner of Labour and Local Government.

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

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

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

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

The PRESIDENT administered the Oath of Allegiance to Mr. L. D. Cleare, Director of Agriculture (Acting), who then took his seat.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on the 14th of March and the 5th and 16th July, 1940, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.**COMPASSIONATE GRATUITY TO MRS. B. H. HINDS.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. G. D. Owen) communicated the following Messages from His Excellency the Governor to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 16.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,
The Council is invited to approve of the payment of a compassionate gratuity of \$374.40 to Mrs. Blanche Helena Hinds, widow of the late Henry Hinds, formerly a punt captain, Public Works Department, who served the Department for 45 years as a sailor and captain.
2. The late Mr. Hinds resigned on account of failing eyesight. As he was not a monthly employee he was not eligible for a gratuity under existing authorities, but in view of his long service and the circumstances which compelled him to resign he was recommended for a compassionate gratuity of \$374.40, the equivalent of one year's pay.

3. Mr. Hinds died on the 5th of July, 1940, before effect could be given to this recommendation, and approval is now sought to pay the amount of the gratuity to his widow.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

EX GRATIA AWARD.

MESSAGE No. 17.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The Council is invited to approve of an *ex gratia* award of \$1,560 to the legal personal representative of the estate of the late Mr. G. R. S. Stevenson, Overseer, Public Works Department, who died in the Service on 2nd October, 1939, nine months after his office had been placed on the pensionable establishment.

Mr. Stevenson's total service exceeded 30 years, but as he had not held a pensionable office for a full year preceding his death, he had not qualified for the grant of a gratuity, not exceeding one year's salary, to his legal personal representative, under section 19 of the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, as enacted by section 2 of the Pensions (Death Gratuity) Ordinance, No. 14 of 1936.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

COMPASSIONATE GRATUITY TO RAMJESS.

MESSAGE No. 18.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The Council is invited to approve of the payment of a compassionate gratuity of \$224 to Ramjess, Foreman of the Henrietta Rice Experiment Station, Essequibo, whose retirement will take place shortly for reasons of ill health.

2 Ramjess is 64 years of age and has given good and faithful service in the Agriculture Department for 16 years. The gratuity proposed is calculated at the rate of 1/26th of a year's pay for each year of service.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

EX GRATIA PAYMENT TO MRS. A. JAMES.

MESSAGE No. 19.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The Council is invited to approve of an *ex gratia* payment of \$72 to Mrs. A. James, widow of the late Charles James, who served with the Public Works Department as the captain of a punt for 10½ years.

James rendered satisfactory service and his widow is now 68 years of age. The gratuity is calculated at the rate of one week's pay (\$7.20) for each completed year of his service.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF DECLARED DRAINAGE AREAS.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) communicated the following Messages from His Excellency the Governor to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 20.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to inform the Council that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has now notified me of his approval of the recommendations contained in the Report* of the Committee which examined the financial position of the declared drainage areas under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 165, subject to the modifications stated below:—

- (i) that the Kitty Drainage Area be excluded from the proposals;
- (ii) that waiver of the charges for interest and sinking fund in respect of the liability for the capital cost of the drainage works should have effect from 1st January, 1940 and not from 1st January, 1939, as proposed by the Committee.

The modification at (ii) above and the interval which has elapsed since the presentation of the Report has made it necessary that the "funding" arrangements for payment of arrears proposed by the Committee should be given effect as from 1st January, 1940, instead of 1st January, 1939.

2. By Resolution No. XVIII of 14th March, 1930, the Council adopted in principle the Committee's recommendation with regard to the establishment of a Central Drainage Board contained in paragraphs 109 to 112 of the Report as a condition of the immediate inception during the current year of work on the programme of reconditioning works to be financed from special funds. The Colony has now undertaken that these works will be financed by the Colonial Treasury. The Committee have, however, submitted a supplementary report in which they advise that their original recommendations in this respect should be varied as follows:—

- (i) No District Drainage Boards as proposed should be appointed, but instead, the local authorities in declared drainage areas should be represented on the Central Drainage Board by two persons selected by the Governor in Council from the members of these bodies;
- (ii) the Governor in Council should have power to amend or vary the estimates and rates fixed by the Central Drainage Board, and adequate powers generally should be reserved to the Governor in Council.

3. In paragraphs 118 to 121 of the Report the Committee recommended that the Canals 1 and 2 Polder, West Bank, Demerara, should

*Legislative Council Paper No. 5/1939.

become a declared drainage area under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, and be subject to the control of the Central Drainage Board. This recommendation implies that:—

- (i) no action should be taken on the proposals for the reconstruction of the Canals Polder Authority put forward in the Report* of the Committee which considered this question but that, as has since been suggested by the Canals Polder Authority itself, the Polder should be established as a local authority under the Local Government Board;
- (ii) similar consideration and relief should be accorded to the Canals Polder (as a declared drainage area), as in the case of other declared drainage areas, with respect to its outstanding financial obligations to the Government and the expenditure which is being incurred on the reconditioning works now in progress.

4. The Council is now invited to approve of the adoption of the Committee's Report with the modifications and amplifications outlined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above and, in particular to approve of effect being given to the financial recommendations summarised under heads (a) to (e) of paragraph 102 of the Report subject to these modifications. For convenience of reference paragraph 102 of the Report is reproduced hereunder, the modifications being printed in italics.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor,

18th July, 1940.

Extract from Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the financial position of the declared drainage areas, etc.

x x x x

102. The Committee accordingly recommend:—

- (a) the charges for interest and sinking fund in respect of the liability for the capital cost of the drainage works should cease for all areas with effect from 1st January, 1940, with the exception of the *Kitty Drainage Area which has been excluded from the proposals*;
- (b) that the total cost of reconditioning the works as proposed by the Director of Public Works should be borne by the Government;
- (c) that collection of outstanding liabilities due to Government for interest and sinking fund and for maintenance should be spread over a period of twelve (12) years from 1st January, 1940, in the case of all areas with the exception of those named in (d) and (e) hereunder, and subject to the extension of this period in the case of the Essequibo Areas, should this be found necessary when the "typical estimates" of future annual maintenance costs are available;
- (d) that collection of the outstanding liabilities for interest and sinking fund due to the Government by the following areas should be waived and the amounts written off:—

Golden Grove—Nabaclis, Victoria and Cove and John, Craig.

(e) that the following areas should for the time being be removed from the list of declared areas, and all outstanding liabilities due by them to the Government be written off:—

West Coast, Berbice—Bush Lot.
Corentyne Coast, Berbice—Gibraltar—
Courtlands; Lancaster—Manchester;
Ulverston—Salton; Limlair-Kildonan.

(f) that maintenance charges after reconditioning be borne by all areas (with the exception of Craig for which an annual grant of \$147 is recommended) in accordance with the "typical annual estimates" which have been prepared by the Public Works Department (*vide* paragraph 58).

ALLOWANCES AND GRATUITIES TO NON PENSIONABLE EMPLOYEES.

MESSAGE NO. 21.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite reference to Section IV of Major W. Bain Gray's report on matters relating to the conditions of service of unclassified officers and employees (Council paper No. 14 of 1936) in which he deals with the question of superannuation allowances and gratuities to non-pensionable employees in the Public Service.

2. The recommendations made therein have been carefully considered, and it has been decided, with the Secretary of State's sanction, to adopt, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council, the proposals as summarised in paragraph 76 of the report, with the following important modifications:—

- (a) the rate of annual allowance to be *two-thirds* of normal pension (as provided by the Pensions Ord. 1933) instead of *three-quarters* as proposed;
- (b) the maximum gratuity to be *one year's pay* instead of *eighteen months' pay* as proposed.

3. The Council is accordingly invited to approve of the payment of superannuation allowances and gratuities to non-pensionable employees at the rates and on the conditions set out below:—

A—(i) Annual allowances to be granted to employees who have served satisfactorily in approved appointments for 20 years or over.

(ii) Rate of allowance to be two-thirds of the normal pension payable under the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, as provided by regulation 17 (1) of the schedule to that Ordinance.

(iii) Approved appointments to be those declared by the Governor-in Council as such. (A schedule of the proposed approved appointments is appended to this Message).

B.—An employee holding an approved appointment who serves for 7 continuous years or more, but less than 20 years to be eligible for a gratuity calculated at the rate of 1/18th of a month's pay for each month of service, with a maximum of one year's pay.

C—(i) An employee not holding an approved appointment who has served for at least 7 continuous years to be eligible for gratuity calculated at the rate of 1/26th of a year's pay for each year of service, with a maximum of one year's pay.

(ii) In the case of employees paid at daily, weekly or fortnightly rates, the number of working days in any calendar year to constitute a year's service to be taken as 225 days including public holidays and days on paid leave or sick leave, but not Sundays; the following rules to apply as regards broken service:—

Account shall not be taken of—

- (a) any service previous to an interval of three years or more in which there was no service, or
 (b) any service previous to an interval of three or more consecutive calendar years in which there was no service of which account is to be taken, or
 (c) any service previous to the last of seven calendar years in all in which there was no service of which account is to be taken, or
 (d) any service previous to the end of any period of service which was terminated by resignation, or dismissal for misconduct.

D—An allowance or gratuity to be paid only in respect of service after the age of 20 years and, on retirement on account of ill-health, incapacity (including old age), or abolition of post.

E—The dependents of an employee who dies in service after qualifying for an allowance or gratuity to be eligible for a gratuity equivalent to that which would have been payable to the employee in respect of his service up to the date of his death; provided that such gratuity shall not in any case exceed one year's pay of the deceased.

4. It is not possible to state definitely the cost of these proposals, but it is estimated that they will involve additional expenditure of approximately \$14,400 per annum.

5. On the adoption of the proposals set out above gratuities will cease to be awarded on the basis of Resolution No. LXIII of 2nd July, 1930, as amended by Resolution No. XXIII of 10th February, 1931.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

14th August, 1940.

SCHEDULE.

List of Appointments, the holders of which will be eligible for annual allowances on retirement.

GENERAL.

Janitor.
 Laboratory Assistant.
 Laboratory Attendant.
 Messenger (other than postal and telegraph messenger).
 Ranger.
 Revenue Runner.
 Typist-Clerk.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.
 Librarian.
 Technical Assistant.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.
 Clerk, Central Stationery Store.

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.
 Cooper, Colonial Bond.
 Coxswain }
 Engineer } for launches.
 Motorman }
 Overseer, Colonial Bond.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.
 Secretary, Carnegie Trade School.
 School Attendance Officer.
 Woodwork Instructor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.
 Cleaner.
 Deckman.
 Mechanic.
 Quartermaster.

FOREST DEPARTMENT.
 Clerk, Forest Station.
 Mechanic, Forest Station.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.
 Assistant Schoolmaster and Assistant Clerk.
 Junior Officer.
 Matron.

LABOUR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
 Adjuster of Scales and Weights.
 Interpreter-Clerk.
 Launch Engineer.
 Porter, Customs Bond, New Amsterdam.

LANDS AND MINES DEPARTMENT.
 Launch Engineer.

MAGISTRATES DEPARTMENT.
 Bailiff.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.
 Certificated Nurse.
 Chief Attendant.
 Dispenser.
 Enquirer.
 Health Visitor.
 Hospital Clerk.
 Issuer.
 Matron.
 Sanitary Inspector.
 Skilled Tradesman.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.
 Ambulance Driver.
 Launch Engineer.

POOR LAW DEPARTMENT.
 Carpenter, Alms House.
 Enquirer.
 Issuer, Alms House.

POST OFFICE.
 Postal Branch.

Letter Carrier, G.P.O.
 Postal Clerk.
 Postmaster.
 Stamp Vendor.

Telecommunications Branch.
 Chauffeur.
 Engineering Assistant.
 Junior Electric Inspector.
 Lineman.
 Mechanician.

Radio Operator.
Telegraph Clerk.
Telephone Operator.
Wireman.

PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

Clerk and Storekeeper.
Master Baker.
Matron.
Prison Warder.
Schoolmaster.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Chauffeur.
Drawing Office Assistant.
Foreman Porter.
Overseer
Resident Carpenter.
Stores and Office Assistant.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

Woodwork Instructor.

SEA DEFENCES.

Assistant Hydrographer.
Launch Engineer, Hydrographic Survey.

SUPREME COURT.

Marshal.

SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS FOR T. H. D.
EMPLOYEES.

MESSAGE No. 22.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite reference to Section V of Major W. Bain Gray's Report on matters relating to the conditions of service of unclassified officers and employees (Council Paper No. 14 of 1936) in which he deals with the question of the provision of superannuation benefits for employees of the Transport and Harbours Department.

2. Major Bain Gray's recommendations on this matter, together with alternative recommendations submitted by the Board of Commissioners of the Department, have been examined by Government, and, after careful consideration it has been decided, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, to adopt, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council, the proposals set out herein. Under these proposals employees of the Department (other than those who are already pensionable by virtue of their status as public officers on the Fixed Establishment of the Colony under the provisions of section 4 of the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, 1932, (No. 25), will be granted by the Department superannuation benefits on terms and conditions precisely similar to those now in force and proposed for officers and employees in the Public Service. In this connection reference is invited to Resolution No. IV of 24th November, 1938, which approved of all permanent full-time posts carrying a fixed or maximum salary of not less than \$720 being made pensionable, and to my Message No. 21 of 14th August, 1940, inviting the Council to approve of the payment of superannuation allowances and gratuities to non-pensionable employees on the new basis therein proposed.

3. By section 37 (2) (s) of the Transport and Harbours Ordinance 1931 (No 30) the Board of Commissioners are empowered, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, to make regulations in respect of the granting of pensions and gratuities to employees of the Board other than those on the permanent establishment of the Colony- It is proposed that the Board should make regulations which will provide for the granting of pensions, superannuation allowances and gratuities to employees of the Department and their dependents in the manner summarized below:

(a) Pensions, gratuities, marriage and death gratuities (calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, and any Ordinances amending the same) to be granted by the Board to the holders of all permanent full-time posts in the Department which carry a fixed or maximum salary of not less than \$720 per annum.

(b) annual allowances, gratuities and death gratuities, (calculated on the same basis as that in force with respect to the holders of non-pensionable "approved appointments" in the Public Service) to be granted by the Board to employees, other than those in (a) above who are employed in "approved appointments" in the Department; a list of such "approved appointments" to be included in a schedule to the Regulations. A list of the proposed "approved appointments" is appended hereto.

(c) gratuities and death gratuities calculated on the same basis as that in force for non-pensionable employees in the Public Service not holding "approved appointments" to be granted by the Board to all employees of the Department other than those in (a) and (b) above.

4. It is not possible to state definitely the costs of these proposals, but it is estimated that when they are in full operation the expenditure of the Department will thereby be increased by a sum not exceeding \$27,750 per annum, involving a possible corresponding increase in the sums to be voted by the Council to provide for the net deficiency on its working in terms of section 3 of the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, 1932 (No. 25).

5. These proposals are put forward on the assumption that the motion in relation to Message No. 21 of 14th August, 1940, referred to in paragraph 2 above will be accepted by the Council and, on that understanding, the Council is invited to approve of effect being given to them.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

14th August, 1940.

TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS DEPARTMENT.

Proposed List of Appointments the holders of which will be eligible for annual allowances on retirement.

Attendant—

(Lighthouse or Light Beacon).

Blacksmith.
Boiler-maker.
Clerk.
Carpenter.
Chauffeur.

Cleaner (Locomotive Shed).
 Conductor.
 Coppersmith.
 Cranedriver.
 Electrician.
 Engineer (Marine).
 Engine Driver
 Fireman.
 Fitter.
 Foreman (Workshops and Permanent Way).
 Gateman.
 Machinist.
 Messenger.
 Motor Mechanic.
 Moulder.
 Painter.
 Pattern Maker.
 Platelayer.
 Pointsman.
 Purser.
 Sailmaker.
 Sawyer.
 Seamen—(Mate, Boatswain, Leading Seaman,
 Ordinary Seaman, Coxswain, Launch Cap-
 tain).
 Shipwright.
 Shunter.
 Station Master
 Stoker.
 Striker.
 Trimmer.
 Vanman.
 Wagon Examiner.
 Welder.

PAPERS LAID.

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

Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the year 1939.
 Report of the Registrar-General for 1938.
 Divisional Reports of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending 1938.
 Statement of Loans from voted expenditure written-off during the year ended 31st December, 1939.
 River communications to the Interior—Report No. 1—Preliminary Aerial reconnaissance to ascertain the possibilities of improving river communications between Georgetown and the Rupununi District.
 Report of the condition of Indians in Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad by J. D. Tyson, I.C.S. Officer on deputation in connection with the West Indian Royal Commission.
 Financial Statement for 1939 of the Public Free Library.
 Annual Report of the Imperial Institute 1939.
 Report of the East Demerara Conservancy on the flooding of the Mahaica River Area by G. O. Case, F.S.E., Director of Public Works and Sea Defences.
 The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture—Report of the Governing Body and the Principal's Report at 31st December, 1939.
 Final Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1939.
 Separate Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1939 in accordance with Colonial Regulation 265 (2).

First Schedule of Additional Provision 1940.
 Report of the Colonial Forest Resources Development Department from 1st April, 1937, to March 31st, 1939.
 Report of the Director of Medical Services for the year 1938.
 Report of the Director of Colonial Audit on the account of the Treasurer of British Guiana for the year ended 31st December, 1938, together with the Governor's comments thereon.
 Regulations made under the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Chapter 185, (No. 16 of 1940).
 The Post Office (Declaration) Regulations 1940. (No. 18 of 1940).
 British Postal Order (Amendment) Regulations 1940. (No. 20 of 1940).
 Education Code, 1940.
 Report of the Primary Education Committee (L/C No. 16/39).
 Report of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board for the period ending 31st March, 1940.
 Report on the working of the Joint Colonial Fund for the nine months ended 31st December 1939.
 Report of the Director of Public Works for the year 1938.
 Annual Report of the Comptroller of Customs for the year 1939.
 British Guiana Timbers—Air Seasoning Experiments at Public Works Yard, Georgetown, by G. O. Case, F.S.E., Director of Public Works and Sea Defences. (L/C. No. 4/40).
 Report of the Board of Commissioners and the General Manager on the administration of the Railways, Steamers, Road Transport and Harbour Services for the year 1939.
 Schedule of expenditure on loan works for 1939 showing excesses on the estimated expenditure for the year as indicated in Appendix J to the Estimates for 1939.
 Report of the Commissioners of Currency for the year 1939.
 The Report of the Administrators of the Patoir Trust Fund for the year 1939.
 The Health (Yellow Fever Control) Regulations, 1940.
 Report of the Directors of the New Widows and Orphans' Fund, 1939.
 Report of the Co-operative Credit Bank's Board on the Co-operative Credit Banks established in the Colony for the year 1939.
 Report of the accounts and administration of the Mitchell Trust Fund for the year 1939.
 Report on the Fires in Canals Polder No. 2 (L/C. No. 9 of 1940).
 Comparative Statement of Revenue 1930-1939.
 Report of the Trustees, Berbice Lutheran Fund, 1939.
 Annual Report of the Poor Law Department for the year 1939.
 Regulations made under the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Cap. 185, (No. 27 of 1940).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make special provision in regard to the pensionable service of Adrian Allan Bannister.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to validate all acts performed by Abel Augustus Cunha as a Justice of the Peace during the period January 1925, to December, 1939.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Spirits Ordinance, Chapter 110, by increasing the penalty for the unlawful possession of distilling apparatus.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make such special provision with respect to patents, registered designs, copyright and trade marks, as is expedient to meet any emergency which may arise as a result of war.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make provision for the Licensing, regulation and use of motor vehicles, the regulation of traffic on roads and otherwise with respect to roads and vehicles thereon.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Tax Ordinance, 1939, by deleting therefrom all provisions relating to licence fees in respect of motor vehicles and trailers.

Mr. McDAVID gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended the thirty-first day of December, 1939.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1935, with respect to the duties payable on sweet potatoes and the exemption of certain articles from the payment of duty.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance, 1939, in respect of the duty payable on overproof perfumed spirits other than Bay Rum and lime rum.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

COMPASSIONATE GRATUITY TO MRS. HINDS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motions:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 16 dated 5th August, 1940, this Council approves of the payment of a compassionate gratuity of \$374.40 to the widow of the late Henry Hinds, formerly a punt captain, Public Works Department.

EX GRATIA PAYMENT.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 17 of the 17th of May, 1940, this Council approves of the grant of an *ex gratia* payment of \$1,560, the equivalent of one year's salary, to the legal personal representative of the estate of the late Mr. G. R. S. Stevenson, Overseer, Public Works Department.

EX GRATIA AWARD TO RAMJESS.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 18 dated 22nd June, 1940, this Council approves of the grant of an *ex gratia* award of \$224 to Ramjess, Foreman of the Henrietta Rice Experiment Station, Essequibo, who has served with the Agriculture Department continuously from 1924 and whose services are being dispensed with on account of ill-health and advanced age.

EX GRATIA PAYMENT TO MRS. A. JAMES.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 19 dated 2nd July, 1940, this Council approves of an *ex gratia* payment of \$72 to Mrs. A. James, widow of the late Charles James, who served with the Public Works Department as the captain of a punt for 10½ years.

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE.

THAT, this Council approves the statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1939, additional to that included in the Schedules of Additional Provision for the year 1939 already passed by the Legislative Council which has been laid on the table.

SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGE TO PUBLIC FUNDS

THAT, this Council approves the statement of Supplementary Expenditure which has occurred during the year 1939, and which has not been included in any previous schedule and now admitted as a charge to Public Funds under Colonial Regulation 265 (2), which has been laid on the table.

FIRST SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL PROVISION.

THAT, this Council approves the First Schedule of Additional Provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the provision made in the estimates for the year 1940, which has been laid on the table.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF DECLARED DRAINAGE AREAS.

Mr. McDAVID gave notice of the following motions:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 20 of 18th July, 1940, this Council approves of the adoption of the Report of the Committee which examined the financial position of the declared drainage areas under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 165, with the modifications and amplifications as set out in the Governor's Message and, in particular, approves of effect being given to the financial recommendations contained in paragraph 102 of the Report subject to those modifications.

ALLOWANCES AND GRATUITIES TO NON-PENSIONABLE EMPLOYEES.

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 21 of 14th August, 1940, this Council approves of the payment from and after the date hereof to non-pensionable Government employees of allowances and gratuities at the rates and on the conditions set out in the Governor's Message and undertakes to provide the necessary funds for this purpose.

SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS FOR T. H. D. EMPLOYEES.

THAT, with reference to the Governor's Message No. 22 dated 14th August, 1940, this Council approves of effect being given to the proposals as set out in the Governor's Message for the grant of superannuation benefits to the employees of the Transport and Harbours Department.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

AMENDMENT OF BRITISH GUIANA CONSTITUTION.

Mr. JACOB gave notice of the following motions :—

WHEREAS The British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council 1928, together with the amendment by an Order of the King in Council, dated 13th August, 1935, are not working satisfactory ;

And Whereas the qualifications of voters for the election of Members of the Legislative Council are unnecessarily high ;

And Whereas the qualifications for membership of the Legislative Council are unnecessarily high ;

And Whereas the West India Royal Commission has made certain specific recommendations in regard to a change in the personnel of the constitution of the Legislative Council of this Colony :

Be it Resolved.—That a competent and representative Committee of all interests in the Colony be appointed forthwith to make recommendations for an early amendment of the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council in terms of the recommendation of the West India Royal Commission.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

WHEREAS there has been an alarming increase in the expenditure of the Colony ;

And Whereas there are serious complaints by the General Public in regard to the general incapability of Civil Servants ;

And Whereas the salary scales of certain Heads of Departments, Deputies and Senior Officers are too burdensome to the Taxpayers of the Colony :

Be it Resolved.—That a representative Commission be appointed to enquire into the entire Civil Service of the Colony with a view to effecting economy coupled with efficiency.

P. W. D. STANDING COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS there has been great laxity in the supervision of works carried out by the Public Works Department in all parts of the Colony ;

And Whereas serious irregularities have been and are occurring in regard to the carrying out of works in accordance with approved plans, specifications and estimates ;

Be it Resolved.—That a Standing Select Committee of this Council be appointed with full powers to inspect all plans, specifications, estimates, accounts, pay sheets and all books and documents from time to time so as to avoid wasteful expenditure and check possible irregularities.

CIVIL SERVICE VACANCIES.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT gave notice of the following questions :—

1. Are there any vacancies in the offices of the Civil Establishment ?

2. If the answer to question 1 is in the affirmative please specify the department or departments in which the office or offices is or are vacant and the period for which such office has remained vacant.

3. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative does Government intend to make appointments to fill such vacancies? If so, when? Please give dates in respect of each office.

4. Are any of the offices aforementioned to be abolished? If so, which?

EXPENDITURE ON THE ESSEQUEBO COAST.

1. What sum or sums of money does Government propose to expend in the Essequibo Coast during the year 1940 in relation to (a) permanent works or development, (b) works for the purpose of relieving unemployment caused by the loss of the rice crop?

2. Please give details as to the areas in respect of which such sums are to be expended and the amount to be so expended in each area?

3. On what date is proposed that such expenditure shall commence?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION.

1. Does Government propose to enact and or introduce any legislation similar to or identical with the provisions of Section 212 of the Local Government Ordinance, Chapter 84, which said section was repealed *inter alia* by section 162 of the Public Health Ordinance, 1934?

2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the negative why not?

3. Was not the section above-mentioned repealed by inadvertence?

4. If the answer to No. 3 is in the negative why was the said Section repealed?

ARTESIAN WELLS ON THE ESSEQUEBO COAST.

1. Does Government propose to carry out any works on the Essequibo Coast or in the Pomeroy River District in connection with the drilling of artesian wells or the laying of pipe lines for water supply?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, when does Government propose to start such works?

3. If the answer is in the negative, why not?
4. When was the last artesian well drilled on the Essequibo Coast and in the Pomeroon River District? Where is such well situate?
5. How many artesian wells are there on the Essequibo Coast, and how many are there in the Pomeroon River District?
6. When were works last carried out in connection with the laying of pipe lines on the Essequibo Coast and in the Pomeroon River District?
7. Does Government consider the present available supply of drinking water sufficiently adequate to fulfil the requirements of the population on the Essequibo Coast and in the Pomeroon River District?
8. If the answer is in the negative when and how does Government propose to remedy the defect?
9. When works are being carried out on the Essequibo Coast or in the Pomeroon River District is it Government's policy to employ only residents of the aforesaid districts?
10. If the answer to Question 9 is in the affirmative, have any persons other than residents of the areas in question been employed in the carrying out of works in such areas? If so, why?
11. When does Government propose introducing a Labour Code or Ordinance?

DRAINAGE RATES ON CROWN OR COLONY LANDS.

1. Is the rate levied under the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 165, the same on land owned by a proprietor as on Crown or Colony land held therewith *vide* Section 28 (1) of Chapter 165?
If the answer is in the affirmative, why is the rate the same?
2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative will Government abolish the levying of any rate in relation to Crown or Colony land held with an estate *vide* Section 28 (1) of Chapter 165. If not, why not?
3. Does Government intend to relieve proprietors of estates in Essequibo from payment in whole or in part of any rates due?
If so what is the nature of the relief to be so given and in respect to what rates?

CENTRAL RICE MILL.

1. Does Government intend to adopt the recommendations of the Royal Commission for the erection of a Central Rice Mill on the Essequibo Coast?
2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative when does Government propose to commence such erection?
3. Is Government of opinion that the present time calls for assistance to the farming community of this Colony more so than at any other time?
4. If so, can Government explain their attitude in issuing legal process at the present moment for the recovery of loans *e.g.*, the Flood loan in the Pomeroon District, made several years ago?
5. Is Government of the opinion that the recent dry season has caused hardship to the farming community of the Colony?
6. If the answer to No. 5 is in the affirmative, does Government think that legal action

against farmers for recovery of loans made by Government *per se* or through the Co-operative Banks would relieve the hardship?

7. Does Government think that while they are advocating a policy of growing more food within the Colony, legal action against those members of the community largely affected by such a policy would tend to encourage or support such a policy?
8. When judgment is obtained by either Government or the Co-operative Banks for an indebtedness to either of them, is it proposed to proceed to execution?
9. Has Government ever given any assistance to the farming community of this Colony? If so what?
10. Has Government ever encouraged peasant farming? If so, in what way or ways?

REGISTRATION OF UNEMPLOYED.

1. Has Government any record of the number of unemployed persons in the Colony?
2. If the answer to Number One is in the negative, has Government at any time made an effort to ascertain the number of persons unemployed in the Colony?
3. If the answer to Number One is in the affirmative, what is the number?
4. If the answer to Number One is in the negative, will Government endeavour by registration or otherwise to ascertain the number of persons so unemployed?

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE.

1. Did not Government receive a letter dated the 28th day of February, 1940, from C. Vibart Wight *inter alia* enquiring whether the following Ordinances are still in force, viz:—
(a) The Agricultural Relief Ordinance Chapter 152,
(b) The Rice Growers Loans Ordinance, Chapter 155,
(c) Produce Protection Ordinance, Chapter 157.
2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative has Government replied to same yet?
3. Was a further letter dated the 27th day of May, 1940, addressed to Government reminding them of the letter of the 28th February, 1940, referred to in No. 1, received by them?
4. If the answer to No. 3 is in the affirmative has Government replied to same yet?
5. If the answers to Nos. 2 and 4 are in the affirmative on what dates were the replies forwarded?
6. What amounts if any have been advanced in accordance with the terms of Section 2 of the Rice Growers Loans Ordinance, Chapter 155?
7. Has Government decided to make use of the provisions of the Rice Growers Loans Ordinance, Chapter 155, for the purpose of making loans to rice growers or otherwise?
8. If the answer to No. 7 is in the affirmative, was the said decision arrived at by Government before or after receipt by Government of the letter referred to in No. 1 hereof?
9. If the answer to No. 7 is in the negative, why not?
10. Please give the date of the decision mentioned in No. 8 hereof.

IMMIGRATION FUND.

1. Is there in existence an Immigration Fund as provided for under Section 27 of the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 208?
2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative, is the said fund in credit?
3. If the said sum is in credit, what is the amount standing at the credit of the said fund?
4. For what purposes is it intended to use the amount at credit of the said fund?
5. Could not the sum so standing at the credit of the said fund or a considerable portion of it be utilised for other purposes?
6. Are not the purposes or the majority of them for which the said fund was created now obsolete?
7. If the answer to No 6. is in the affirmative, is Government prepared to introduce legislation authorising the utilisation of the said fund for other purposes? If not, why not?

CROWN COUNSEL'S ASSUMPTION OF DUTY.

1. Is Government aware of the fact that they stated in March 1940, that Mr. A. C. Brazao would assume duties as Crown Counsel on the completion of the next Georgetown Assizes, because the cases had been prepared by the then acting Crown Counsel?
2. Have the next Georgetown Assizes referred to in No. 1 been completed? If the answer is in the affirmative, why did not Mr A. C. Brazao, assume his duties?
3. Is it not a fact that the non-assumption of duty by Mr. Brazao has necessitated the employment of King's Counsel to prosecute on behalf of the Crown?

RECOVERY OF ADVANCES TO SUGAR PRODUCERS.

1. Does Government propose to enact legislation for the recovery of the sum of \$191,438.07 referred to at page 36 of the Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the year 1939 as a contingent liability by the sugar producers in the Colony for the repayment of advances for expenditure on improvements?
2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative, when does Government propose to enact the necessary legislation?
3. If the answer to No. 1 is in the negative, why not?
4. Does Government propose to enact legislation for the control of the sugar industry in the Colony similar to that enacted in the United Kingdom for the control of major industries thereof?
5. If the answer to No. 4 is in the affirmative, when will such legislation be enacted?
6. If the answer to No 5 is in the negative, why not?

LOANS EXPENDITURE BALANCES.

What are the loans comprised in the sum of \$29,232.00 referred to under Loans Expenditure Balances at page 33 of the Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the year 1939?

ACTIVITIES OF RICE MARKETING BOARD.

Mr. JACKSON, on behalf of Mr. LEE, gave notice of the following questions:—

1. Will Government state on what date or dates the Rice Marketing Board stopped selling Grades No. 2 and No 3. rice in this Colony for resale by the shops and retailers?
2. Will Government state how many bags of No. 2 and No. 3 rice were in stock by the Rice Marketing Board for sale on that date or dates, and where were they stocked?
3. Will Government state on the said date or dates how many bags of padi approximately were on hand at the rice mills in this Colony?
4. Will Government state if the Rice Marketing Board had any contracts to fulfil for No. 2 and No. 3 rice for export, each separately, and to whom, where and at what price were they sold?
5. Will Government state the quantities of each of the following grades of rice in stock by the Rice Marketing Board on the 31st of May 1940, (a) Super, (b) Extra No. 1, (c) No. 1, (d) No. 2, (e) No 3?
6. Is Government aware that the workers of this Colony purchase No. 2 rice for their staple food, and will Government give reasons for restricting the sale of this lower grade of rice? Will Government consider the advisability of selling No. 2 and No. 3 rice immediately in this Colony?

NUMBER AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD.

Mr. JACOB gave notice of the following questions:

1. How many Rice Marketing Boards have been established by the Government of British Guiana since 1932?
2. What were the functions of each Board, and how long did each last?
3. If the functions of the Boards were to regulate and control the exportation of rice produced in the Colony, how many tons were produced and exported during the last ten years, each year separately?
4. If the figures of export show a consistent decline, will it be reasonable to conclude that the real objects of the Rice Marketing Boards were to adopt measures to decrease the production and export of rice?
5. When the new Board was constituted in December, 1939, did this Board receive information that there were at least 30,000 tons of rice available for sale and export during the year 1940? If not, what quantity was available for sale and export, giving details as to how the figures were computed and as to the number of tons that were in rice and in padi in the Counties of Demerara; Berbice and Essequibo, each separately?
6. Who is the Chairman of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board? If this person is the Director of Agriculture, what are the reasons for appointing someone else?
7. What quantities of Rice have been exported during the three months ending 31st March, each month separately?
8. What quantity of rice it is estimated will be exported during the remaining nine months of this year, each month separately?
9. What quantity of rice has been sold for delivery during the nine remaining months ending 31st December, 1940, giving the names

of the markets and the quantities sold for delivery to each?

10. What will be the stock of rice in Georgetown at 31st March, 1940, giving each grade separately?

11. What will be the stock of rice at 31st March, 1940, in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo, each County separately?

12. What will be the stock of padi at 31st March, 1940, in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo, each County separately?

13. What quantity of rice it is estimated will be recovered from the padi in hand as per Question No. 12?

RE-EMPLOYED PENSIONERS.

1. How many persons receiving a pension from this Government were employed as monthly servants by the Government in its various Departments, including the Transport and Harbours Department, the Rice Marketing Board and other Boards on 1st April, 1940, giving the name of each such person, date of employment and amount received by each?

2. Is it the intention of this Government to continue to re-employ retired Civil Servants when there is a large number of qualified persons seeking employment?

MEETINGS OF THE RICE MARKETING BOARD.

1. How many meetings have been held by the B. G. Rice Marketing Board from 1st November, 1939 to 31st July, 1940; and how many members were present at each of these meetings, giving the names of each of the members?

2. How many persons were employed by the B. G. Rice Marketing Board on a monthly basis as at 1st January, 1940, giving the full names, addresses, previous employment and experience of these employees, the position now held by each, together with the monthly salary paid to each of these employees?

3. Similar information to be supplied for the period as from 1st July, 1940.

4. Is it a fact that \$20,000 bags of rice have been bought by the B. G. Rice Marketing Board from Barbados recently for export to Trinidad? If so, at what price, and is the Board doing this business at a profit, if so, how much, or at a loss of how much, bearing in mind that the Board contracted to sell 10,000 tons of rice for shipment to Trinidad by 30th September, 1940?

5. Will the Board consider the question of suspending all exports in view of the probable shortage of rice before the Autumn crop is reaped, say November/December, 1940 as soon as possible?

6. Will the Board consider the advisability of not arranging to sell any rice, or entering into any contract in the future for export from date?

7. Will Government consider the advisability of requesting the Colonial Auditor to examine and report on the Balance Sheet that has been issued by the B. G. Rice Marketing Board as at 31st March, 1940, particularly in regard to the following:—

(a) Why no provision was made for depreciation of plant and machinery which is shown at cost?

(b) Why no provision was made for bad and doubtful debts?

(c) Whether the actual stock of rice on hand was used for asset purposes and whether due allowance was made for loss in weight by wastage and by vermin?

(d) Whether the report of the Auditors was "full and fair" and whether the balance sheet as printed exhibited a "true and correct view of the state of affairs on the Board"?

PETITION.

Mr. GONSALVES laid on the table a petition from Albertha Paton, widow of the late J. A. Paton, formerly employed by the Georgetown Fire Brigade, praying for a compassionate allowance.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

POTARO COURT.

Mr. GONSALVES asked and the Colonial Secretary laid over replies to the following questions:—

Q. 1. (a) How many days has the Magistrate of the Essequibo Judicial District to be away from his headquarters at Suddie when he has to take Court at Potaro?

(b) How many cases—civil and criminal—engaged the attention of the said Magistrate at Potaro Court for the period January, 1939, to October, 1939? Give the number for each month and the nature of the cases.

(c) Does Government consider the present arrangement for the holding of Court at Potaro satisfactory? If not, what is proposed to be done in the matter?

(d) Is the Warden of the Potaro Mining District not sufficiently capable to take such Court at Potaro?

A 1 (a) Eight days, but this includes the time spent in Court at Bartica.

1. (a) Eight days, but this includes the time spent in Court at Bartica.

(b)

	Criminal.	Civil.
January—October, 1939	90	24
January	21	2
February	6	2
March	7	3
April	9	1
May	19	4
June	8	4
July	4	6
August	3	
September	2	
October	11	2
	90	24

(Disposed of at Bartica, no court at Potaro in September).

NATURE OF CASES.

JANUARY.

	Criminal.	Civil.
Disorderly behaviour	13	Nil.
Abuse and insults	6	
Larceny	1	
Assault to cause grievous bodily harm	1	
Malicious injury to property	1	
	21	

FEBRUARY.

	Criminal.	Civil.
Malicious injury to property	2	Goods sold
Using used postage stamp	1	
Indecent gesture	2	
Disorderly behaviour	1	
	6	2

MARCH.

	Criminal.	Civil.
Insults	1	Money lent
Disorderly behaviour	1	Judgment summons
Larceny	3	
Assault	2	
	7	2

APRIL.

	Criminal.	Civil.
Breach of public peace	1	Damages
Disposal of gold with intent to defraud	1	Judgment summons
Unlicensed gun	1	
Disorderly behaviour	3	
Assault	1	
Indecent gesture	1	
Insulting language	1	
	9	3

MAY.

	Criminal.	Civil.
Embezzlement	1	Goods sold
Abuse, insults and threats	5	
Disorderly behaviour	8	
Assaults	5	
	19	1

JUNE.

	Criminal.	Civil.
Breach of Mining Regulations	3	Damages
Larceny	1	Board and lodging
Assault	1	Promissory note
Malicious damage to property	1	
Disorderly behaviour	1	
Threats	1	
	8	4

NATURE OF CASES—(CONTD.)

JULY.

	Oriminal.	Civil.
Malicious damage to property ...	1 Goods sold	1
Insults ...	2 Boarding	1
Larceny ...	1 Account stated	1
	Rent	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	4

AUGUST.

Assault ...	2 Goods sold	5
Threat ...	1 Work done	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	6

SEPTEMBER.

Breach of the Peace ...	1 Nil.	
Assault ...	1	
	<hr/>	
	2	

OCTOBER.

Disorderly behaviour ...	1 House rent	1
Larceny ...	1 Promissory note	1
Assault ...	2	
Insult and abuse ...	6	
Failure to produce skin of animal slaughtered ...	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	2

(c) No, as the time occupied by the Magistrate travelling to and from this Court is disproportionate to the amount of work done.

As from the month of April last the Magistrate sits in Potaro Court every eighth Friday instead of every fourth Friday as formerly.

(d) He is considered capable but as he has no clerk on his staff to act as clerk of the court his services as an acting Magistrate are not available.

Q. 2. Is it Government's opinion that a legally qualified person is necessary to take Court—

(a) at Potaro

(b) in the Mining Districts of the Colony?

If it is Government's opinion that qualified persons are necessary as Magistrates in Mining Districts of the Colony will Government consider the early appointment of such qualified persons as Travelling Magistrates for the said Mining Districts of the Colony including Potaro?

A. 2. (a) and (b) No, but if funds were available the employment of such a person would be desirable.

The second part of the question does not arise therefore.

Q. 3. (a) Have representations been made to Government with regard to the shortage of Magistrates for the work required to be done in the various districts of the Colony?

(b) Is Government satisfied that there are sufficient Magistrates for the several districts of the Colony? If not, how soon does Government propose to increase the number?

A. 3. The number of Magistrates is to be increased by one.

Q. 4. (a) How many persons are at present filling acting appointments as Magistrates?

If there is more than one acting appointment, for how long would each such acting appointment continue?

(b) Is it Government's intention to appoint, or to recommend the appointment of the persons at present acting as Magistrates?

A. 4. (a) One

(b) It is not usual to indicate in advance what recommendation the Governor proposes to make for filling an appointment.

BREACHES OF MOTOR VEHICLES ORDINANCE.

Mr. JACKSON, on behalf of Mr. LEE, asked, and the Colonial Secretary laid over replies to the following questions:—

Q. 1. Will Government state how many arrest cases under the Motor Vehicles Ordinance, No. 43 of 1932, were instituted on the 26th January, 1940, in the Magistrate's Court of Georgetown, naming the defendants and charges, each separately, and the date of the offence?

A. 1. None.

Q. 2. Is Government aware that a police constable summoned the same defendants for breaches of the said Ordinance, and on the day of hearing of the summons case, i.e., 26th January, 1940, the defendants were then informed by the Magistrate that they were charged for other offences under the said Ordinance and for which charges they were never summoned nor notified until the day of hearing?

A. 2. On the date mentioned four charges in respect of motoring offences were preferred against three defendants. The same defendants had also been served with writs of summons in respect of other motoring offences. None of the cases was heard that day but a date for the hearing of each case was fixed.

Q. 3. Will Government make investigation in these cases and apply the principle that only

charges or summons of which the defendant has had notice shall be taken and heard against the defendant, but not to bring the defendant on a summons charge and then lay charges against him in open Court?

A 3. This does not arise therefore.

G.M.O.H.'s TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE.

Q. Will Government state whether the Government Medical Officer of Health draws a computed allowance for travelling and how much, or is paid for the number of miles travelled by him; and will Government state how many miles the said Officer has travelled for the year 1939 each month separately?

A. The Government Medical Officer of Health (now Deputy Director of Medical Services) is paid motor car transport allowance in accordance with the rates fixed for Government Officers required to travel in the performance of their duties, viz.: \$20 a month plus 4½ cents a mile. In addition he is paid a chauffeur allowance of \$16 a month. The mileage travelled by him on official duty during 1939 was as follows:—

January	...	129.0
February	...	57.6
March	...	543.3
April	...	11.9
May	...	178.0
June	...	58.6
July	...	4.8
August	...	13.6
September	...	369.3
October	...	16.3
November	...	77.3
December	...	155.0

The total amount paid to this officer (including refund under the travelling regulations of proportion of licence and insurance) was \$545.54 in 1939.

BREACHES OF SUNDAY LABOUR ORDINANCE.

Q. 1. Will Government state how many reports were made to the Police Stations in Georgetown of breaches of the Sunday Labour Ordinance section 190, Chapter 13 in Georgetown during the months of December, 1939, and January, 1940?

A. 1. In addition to the verbal reports made by the Honourable Member to police officers, one report was made in January last.

Q. 2 & 3. Will Government state why the police has not taken any steps to prosecute anyone for breach of the Sunday Labour Ordinance, section 190, Chapter 13 especially the Bakery Proprietors of Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

Will Government accept the principle that this section of the Ordinance, Chapter 13, should be strictly adhered to, and that persons committing a breach thereof be prosecuted?

A. 2 & 3. Prosecutions have not been instituted because consistent action in the enforcement of the provisions of section 190 of the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Ordinance, Cap. 13 would prevent certain essential services and duties being performed on a Sunday, e.g., the burial of the dead, as there are no provisions in the local laws similar to those in the Burial Laws Amendment Act, 1880. The desirability of introducing legislation to amend sections 190-196 of the Ordinance is receiving consideration.

OUT PATIENTS AT THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL.

Q. 1. Will Government state how many cases were attended to and treated at the Public Hospital, Georgetown, Outdoor patients consulting rooms, and how many of these were repeat cases for the periods from January to October, 1939, daily:—

A. 1. The daily average attendances at the outpatient clinics at the Public Hospital, Georgetown, for the period stated were as follows:—

- General Dispensary—101.7 new cases with 58.2 repeats.
- Ophthalmic Department—28.2 cases (seen by Ophthalmic Surgeon) and 4—6 cases for dressings, lotions, etc. by nurses under medical supervision.
- Veneral Diseases Clinic—56 cases seen by Medical Officer, and 155 other attendances for irrigations, dressings and routine treatments.
- Ear, nose and throat Department—22 cases (seen by Medical Officer).
- Mental Treatment Clinic—7 to 10 cases (seen by Mental Specialist at monthly clinics).
- Dental Department—23 cases daily.
- X-Ray Department—16.5 cases daily.
- Filaria Clinic—50 cases every Friday.
- Insulin Clinic—8 cases daily.

Q. 2. Is Government aware that it is being found impossible for one medical attendant to properly investigate and conscientiously attend to so many cases in one day?

A. 2. The cases noted above are attended to by the following Medical Officers:—

- The Medical Officer on outpatient duty and the Casualty Officer.
- The Ophthalmic Surgeon.
- Veneral Diseases Officer (and recently his part-time assistant).
- A Medical Officer specially trained in ear, nose and throat diseases.
- The Mental Specialist.
- A Dental Surgeon.
- Two Radiographers with medical consultants.
- and (i) The outpatients physician.

On certain days, e.g. Mondays, the Medical Officers are hard put to it to cope with the attendances. In the case of the general dispensary, however, a large percentage of the cases are for minor ailments, serious cases being admitted to hospital. A properly equipped outpatient department, dealing separately with surgical, medical and gynaecological cases recommended by private practitioners, as distinct from a dispensary, would relieve the congestion. As regards the veneral diseases clinic a part-time medical officer has now been appointed to assist with the cases.

Q. 3. What steps will Government take to remedy this serious condition? Is Government aware that many cases from the country districts had to be turned away?

A. 3. See reply to question 2 with regard to the establishment of an outpatient department. Government is not aware that patients have been turned away.

Q. 4. How many nurses are in attendance at the Outdoor Patients consulting rooms daily and how many dispensers are in attendance

daily to compound and give the requisite medicine to these patients?

A. 4. The nurses in attendance are as follows:

- (a) General Dispensary—2 nurses.
 - (b) Ophthalmic Department—2 nurses.
 - (c) Venereal Diseases Clinic—3 nurses.
 - (d) Ear, nose and throat Clinic—1 nurse.
 - (e) Mental Treatment Clinic—1 nurse.
 - (f) Dental Clinic—1 nurse.
 - (g) X-Ray Department—2 nurses.
 - (h) and (i) Medical injection clinics dealt with as part of the general dispensary.
- Two dispensers and three students are also on duty at the outpatient dispensary.

Q. 5. Is Government aware that the nurses and dispensers are inadequate to meet the demands, and how many persons were turned away without any medicine being given them?

A. 5. The nurses on duty are considered adequate. The hospital authorities are not aware of any case where patients have been turned away without the medicines prescribed for them.

VACANCIES IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

Q. 1. Will Government state when the two vacancies in Class IV in the Sanitary Department will be filled?

A. 1. The vacancies referred to are probably those for two sanitary inspectors on the scale \$450 x 30—\$600 per annum caused by the death of Mr. Surujbali Singh and the retirement of Mr. S. Pollard which occurred on 7th July and 18th July, 1939, respectively. These vacancies were filled in December, 1939, with effect as from the dates of their occurrence.

Q. 2. Is Government aware that unless they are filled before 15th December, 1939, they cannot be made retro-spective, and will be a great loss to those appointed to fill the vacancies?

A. 2. See reply to Question 1.

Q. 3. Government is fully aware that no application is or was necessary to fill any vacancy occurring in Class V of the Sanitary Inspector's Department and will Government state why the senior probationers recognized by Government were not appointed to the vacancies?

A. 3. Vacancies for Sanitary Inspectors occurring in the Government Health Department are normally filled by selecting the most suitable volunteer. In making the appointment special consideration is given to the qualifications and experience of the candidate rather than his length of service.

Q. 4. Will Government state who are the senior probationers and what period of free probationary services have these officers given?

A. 4. The first four senior volunteers were:—

Name.	Length of Voluntary Service.
W. McKenzie (no qualification) ...	4 years 9 months.
A. A. Chintomby (local qualification) ...	3 " 9 "
F. E. Drepaal (") ...	3 " 7 "
R. Dinally (R.S.I.) ...	3 " 5 "

Q. 5. Will Government state what length of probationary service did Mr. Henry give, and whether he was ever recognized by the Department as a Probationer? Will Government

state who were the persons who recommended Mr. Henry to fill the post, and whose name or names were given for reference?

A. 5. This question presumably refers to Mr. I. S. Henry, recently appointed Government Sanitary Inspector, on the scale \$288 x 24—\$480 per annum. Mr. Henry was attached to the Health Department as an "unofficial" volunteer for varying periods between 1931 and 1933, gaining the local certificate 1931 and the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in 1932. After qualification, he was employed as a Sanitary Inspector with the New Amsterdam Municipality and was so employed up to the date of his present appointment with Government. Mr. Henry was recommended for permanent appointment as a Government Sanitary Inspector because of his R.S.I. qualification and subsequent experience; no references were specially required.

Q. 6. Will Government state if it is a requisite condition for appointment in the Government Medical service of the Colony that the applicants should hold a diploma showing their qualification for that particular branch of services?

A. 6. If the Hon. member is referring to Government Medical Officers, the reply is in the affirmative—Section 5 of Chapter 186 of the Laws of British Guiana applies.

Q. 7. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government state how many holders of appointments in the special branches of the Government Medical Services do not hold such special recognised qualification? Will Government state the reason why such holders were appointed, naming each of them in each particular branch?

A. 7. The answer to question 6 does not imply that the holders of special appointments in the Government Medical Service must hold special additional qualifications—see the reference to the law in the reply to question 6.

Q. 8. Will Government state whether in the several branches of the Government Medical Services there are men holding special qualification for their appointment, and whether there are vacancies in the said services, and why were they not appointed?

A. 8. This question is not understood.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION OF RICE LANDS.

Q. 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?

Q. 2. What amount per acre is paid to the Boerasterie Commissioners for Irrigation and Drainage for rice and cane cultivation for the year 1939.

Q. 3. 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 them to see that their implied contract of drainage and irrigation is carried out?

Q. 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?

A. 1, 2, 3, 4. The matters referred to concern principally the Boerasterie Commissioners. The Honourable Member has, however, been furnished with a report obtained from the Commissioners.

PETITIONS FROM LEGUAN AND WAKENAAM.

Q. Will Government state how many petitions have been received by Government within the year 1939 and up to January, 1940, by the Local Government Board and/or Commissioner of Labour from the Local Authorities known as Country Districts of Leguan and Wakenaam

and the prayers of the said petitions naming each district separately and when received and the reason for the non-compliance with the request of the petitioners, each separately?

A. Six communications were received from proprietors of Wakenaam and Leguan during the period mentioned.

The sources of the communications and the subjects thereof are detailed below.

In every case the representations made were given due consideration by the proper authority.

The appointment of members of Local Authorities of Country Districts is under the control of the Local Government Board, which has statutory powers defined by the Local Government Ordinance, Chapter 81, as amended by Ordinance No. 20 of 1937.

Source.	Date received.	Subject.
Proprietors of Notgedacht, Wakenaam	11th December, 1939	... Recommending the appointment of certain persons as members of the Local Authority for the years 1940-41.
Proprietors of Arthurville and Fredericksburg, Wakenaam	11th December, 1939	... do.
Proprietors of Phoenix, Leguan	11th December, 1939	... do.
Proprietors of Louisiana, Leguan	11th December, 1939	... do.
Do.	Do.	... do.
Mahesh and Others, Phoenix, Leguan	20th December, 1939	... Complaint against the administration of the district by the Local Authority.

GEORGETOWN OMNIBUS SERVICE.

Q. 1. Is Government aware that dissatisfaction exists over the omnibus service in the City of Georgetown, if so, what steps are being taken to remedy same?

Q. 2. Will Government give the Georgetown Town Council notice that unless a definite omnibus service is run for the convenience of the public within one year from the date of the notice that Government will take steps to grant a monopoly for a proper omnibus service to be run in the City of Georgetown?

Q. 3. Will Government state how many applications are received for the monopoly of the omnibus service in Georgetown?

A. (1, 2 and 3). The Government is aware of the desire of the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown to secure a suitable omnibus service for the city, and has appointed a committee of members of the Executive Council and the Town Council to consider what steps can be taken to provide such a service. The Committee has not made a final report and there is little prospect of early progress in the matter owing to the outbreak of the War.

With regard to the institution of a monopoly service the Honourable member is aware that applications for the exclusive right to operate an omnibus service in Georgetown were invited by public notice in September, 1938. In response to this invitation applications were received from the British Guiana Omnibus Association (on behalf of the owners of omnibuses operating in the city) and from Mr. S. N. Collins (on behalf of the Colonial Co-operative Society Ltd.). It was considered that neither of these applicants was in a position to provide a satis-

factory service. Subsequently, an application was received from the Honourable T. Lee on behalf of the Georgetown Omnibus Company, Ltd. (stated to be a private company comprising four other members and himself). Enquiries were also received from Mr. L. B. Eckstein of Barbados. All the applications have been brought to the notice of the Town Council and the Committee referred to above.

It may be added that the Government would be prepared, subject to the concurrence of the Town Council, to grant an exclusive licence to any person or organisation, who would be prepared to furnish the necessary guarantees to provide a satisfactory and efficient service.

REPAIRS TO COMMISSIONER'S HOUSE AT HAGUE.

Q. 1. Did Government invite tenders for the repairs to the District Administration Officer's residence at Hague, West Coast, Demerara? If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government state how many tenders were received and from whom, stating names and amounts tendered?

A. 1. No. The class of reconditioning work which had to be done cannot be satisfactorily carried out by contract.

Q. 2. Will Government state what is the largest number of carpenters employed at any one time during the period of the repairs, and what is the greatest amount expended in any one fortnight in labour, carpenters, watchmen, and other labourers, each separately.

A. 2. 24 carpenters,	
Supervision\$ 30 00
Carpenters\$ 370 60
General labour\$ 39 00
Masons\$ 12 60
Watchmen\$ 4 48

Q. 3. Will Government state the following in detail:—

(a) The amount expended in materials for repairs.

(b) The amount expended for labour in carpenters, porters, watchmen, foremen and each separately?

A. 3. (a) Cost of materials \$1,143.26.

(b) Labour Supervision ...	\$ 75 47
Carpenters ...	\$ 836 36
General Labour ...	\$ 98 00
Masons ...	\$ 23 94
Guttersmiths and Plumbers ...	\$ 98 33
Watchmen ...	\$ 50 03
Transport ...	\$ 51 69

Q. 4. Will Government adopt the principle of not employing any person as foreman or supervisor for the same work which be had tendered for? If the answer is in the negative, will Government give reasons?

A. 4. No. The decision as to what method is to be adopted in carrying out works, and the selection of the most suitable man for supervision of same are matters to be determined by the Engineer in charge.

Q. 5. Is Government aware that the foreman and/or supervisor of the said repairs was a tenderer, and that the excess expenditure was deliberate and wilful?

A. 5. The foreman employed in charge of the work had offered to contract for the same. He is equally satisfactory as foreman or contractor.

There was no excess on the allocation of the work.

Q. 6. Is Government aware that if the repairs are calculated by the tariffs in the Public Works Department and given out as job work, that the amount would not have been exceeded?

A. 6. No. See also answer to question 1.

Q. 7. Will Government state if the repairs are completed, and if not, state what further amount will be required to complete the said work?

A. 7. The repairs are complete.

Q. 8. Will Government state whether an offer was made for the purchase of the said house and land, and what amount was offered? And whether another house and land situate on lot 20 Hague, West Coast, Demerara, was offered for sale to Government with the fittings and erections thereon? Would it have been a saving to Government if these offers for sale and purchase were accepted?

A. 8. Yes. An offer of one thousand, six hundred dollars (\$1,600) was made for the house, which has floor area of over 3,000 square feet, and three acres of land.

Yes. Property at lots 12 and 13 Hague village, specified as comprising "a cottage measuring 38 ft. x 54 ft. (205² square feet) with all buildings and erections thereon for the sum of \$3,600" was offered to Government.

There would have been a small saving in money (\$377) but a considerable loss in property value.

POLICE ASSISTANCE TO HIRE-PURCHASE CONTRACTOR.

Q. 1. Will Government state at whose request a police constable was supplied during the months of September and/or October and/or November, 1939, to accompany the agent of a hire-purchase contractor to the Waratilla, Creek, Camoumie Creek, Demerara River, in order to effect a seizure of a motor lorry?

A. 1. No such request was made during the months mentioned, but on 2nd December, 1938, a timber contractor named T. H. Adams obtained permission for a police constable to accompany him to Mabirie Creek, Demerara River, in connection with the seizure of a lorry, the property of Messrs. T. Geddes Grant, Ltd., bought on a hire-purchase agreement.

Q. 2. Will Government state whether it is one of the duties of the Police Force to accompany agents or principals of hire-purchase agreements to effect seizures?

A. 2. It is not one of the duties of the Police Force to make seizures in connection with hire-purchase agreements, but it is sometimes necessary for the Police to preserve the peace when such seizures are being made.

Q. 3. Will Government state whether payment is made for the services of the police constable in such cases, and if not, why?

A. 3. If the Police Department is informed that a seizure will be made at a place where no policemen are stationed, and it is anticipated that a breach of the peace may occur as a result of the seizure, a police constable is detailed for duty at the place. The duty of constables so sent is to prevent any breach of the peace and not to assist in any way in recovery of goods or articles.

Q. 4. Will Government state whether payment was made to the Police Department in the case of P. C. Gill No. 3302 who accompanied an agent of Messrs. Geddes Grant Ltd., to effect a seizure in the Waratilla Creek, Camoumie Creek Demerara River, and how many miles was P. C. Gill taken from his station and which station, naming it, and was he on duty during this period of time, and how much payment was made, if any, for his services?

A. 4. In such cases it has in the past been considered reasonable that the person or firm making the seizure should pay the expenses of the constable detailed for duty, and in the case to which the question apparently refers, the Constable was away from the Brickdam Police Station for two days and the sum of \$1.72 was paid for his expenses.

Q. 5. Will Government accept the principle that no police constable shall in future accompany any person for the seizure of any hire-purchase goods or articles?

A. 5. The matter is one for decision by the Commissioner of Police, or one of his officers when application is made for the services of a police constable; and if the Police consider that police measures are necessary to prevent a breach of the peace, the expense will be borne by Government.

NEW INFANT SCHOOL AT KITTY.

Mr. JACOB asked and the Colonial Secretary laid over replies to the following question:—

Q. (a) Is it a fact that of the grant of \$240 for 1940 to the New Infant School at Kitty Village nothing has been paid for the months of January and February, 1940?

(b) If so, will Government state the reasons for withholding payment from this very deserving school?

A. (a) No grant was paid to the New Infant School, Kitty Village, for January and February 1940.

(b) No payment was made for January because approval by the Secretary of State of the Estimates had not been received. On the 6th February, 1940, a petition was forwarded by the Honorary Secretary of the British Guiana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha, stating that there was great dissatisfaction among the residents with the administration of the school and asking that payment of the grant be deferred until the matter was settled. Payment was accordingly deferred.

Government has since been satisfied that the dispute has ended and payment of the grant has been approved.

CONVERSION OF FIRE FLOAT TO MOTOR POWER.

Mr. DE AGUIAR asked and the Colonial Secretary laid over replies to the following questions:—

Q. 1. Has any action been taken to convert the fire-float "Vesta" from steam to motor power, as recommended in the report of a Committee dated 18th May, 1939?

A. 1. Yes. An estimate has been received from Messrs. Merryweather & Sons giving the cost at \$14,160 as against \$10,000 estimated by the Committee,—to this must be added the sum of \$890 to cover the cost of installation, war risk and freight. The Secretary of State's authority to incur this additional expenditure is being sought.

Q. 2. Would Government state how soon it is expected to bring this vessel into service with its new equipment?

A. 2. Owing to difficulty of obtaining the necessary replacements and of transport, it is not possible to give any date.

Q. 3. Can this vessel give satisfaction if put into service in its present condition?

A. 3. No. Its pumping capacity is considerably reduced while the life of the boiler will expire this year.

Q. 4. Is it true that the fire float "Alert" is out of commission? If so, why?

A. 4. One of the two pumps is out of commission. It is at present with Messrs. Sprotons, Ltd., undergoing repairs which should be completed by the middle of April.

One pump of the fire float "Alert" can, in case of necessity, be used but owing to wear and age the pumping capacity is considerably reduced.

Q. 5. Is Government aware of the necessity of keeping at least one of these vessels in proper working order?

A. 5. Yes.

RADIO OPERATORS AND PROMOTION.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT asked and the Colo-

onial Secretary laid over replies to the following questions:—

Q. 1. How many radio operators are there on the Radio staff of the Post Office Telecommunications Branch?

Is the present staff adequate to meet the demands of the service?

A. 1. Provision has been made on the Estimates for nine radio operators. One post has been vacant for some time but a suitable qualified candidate is now available and it is hoped to fill it at an early date.

The staff of 8 operators has been strengthened by 2 engineering assistants to meet the abnormal demand being made on the staff. These 10 operators are just sufficient to meet present demands allowing for one operator at a time to be absent on leave. The filling of the vacancy referred to above will ease the position.

Q. 2. What are the grades of salaries of such operators?

A. 2. The grades of salaries of radio operators are:—

4 at \$570 to \$720 by \$30.

1 at \$450 to \$600 by \$30.

4 at \$288 to \$480 by \$24. (1 post vacant).

Q. 3. Are there any officers drawing their maximum salary? If the answer is in the affirmative, how long have such operators been in receipt of their maximum salaries?

A. 3. Yes.

One since 1.11.35 (maximum \$720).

Two since 1. 1.39 (maximum \$720).

Two since 1. 1.40 (maximum \$720).

One since 1. 1.37 (maximum \$480).

One since 26. 6.38 (maximum \$480).

Q. 4. What prospects of promotion have radio operators?

A. 4. None, after reaching the highest grade for operators unless they qualify for promotion in the telephone and telegraph sections of the Telecommunications Branch.

Q. 5. Was there a post of senior operator?

If the answer is in the affirmative, what were the personal emoluments of such officer?

A. 5. Yes.

\$1,200 to \$1,440 by \$120.

Q. 6. Why was the post of senior operator abolished?

A. 6. Because the duties eventually carried out could be and are now performed by any radio operator and retention of post was not warranted.

Q. 7. How long was the post of senior radio operator in existence previous to its abolition?

A. 7. Five years; the post was the last of several which existed when Government operated the Radio Station at Thomas Lands.

Q. 8. Since the abolition of the post of senior operator by whom have the duties attached to that post been carried out?

A. 8. Any radio operator.

Q. 9. Does Government intend to augment the staff of the branch of the Post Office Telecommunications service?

If the answer to No. 9 is in the affirmative, does Government propose to make such appointments from the present staff? If not, why not?

A. 9. No.

BILLS—FIRST READING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable the Bills, notice of which has been given at an earlier stage, to be read a first time.

Agreed to.

The following Bills were read the first time :—

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make special provision in regard to the pensionable service of Adrian Allan Bannister. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to validate all acts performed by Abel Augustus Cunha as a Justice of the Peace during the period January, 1925, to December, 1939.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Spirits Ordinance, Chapter 110 by increasing the penalty for the unlawful possession of distilling apparatus.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make such special provision with respect to patents, registered designs, copyright and trade marks, as is expedient to meet any emergency which may arise as a result of war.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make provision for the licensing, regulation and use of motor vehicles, the regulation of traffic on roads

and otherwise with respect to roads and vehicles thereon.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Tax Ordinance, 1939, by deleting therefrom all provisions relating to Licence Fees in respect of Motor Vehicles and Trailers. (*The Attorney-General*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended the thirty-first day of December, 1939. (*Mr. McDavid*).

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance 1935, with respect to the duties payable on sweet potatoes and the exemption of certain articles from the payment of Duty.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance, 1939, in respect of the duty payable on overproof perfumed Spirits other than Bay Rum and Lime Rum. (*Mr. D'Andrade*).

Notice was given that at the next or a subsequent meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bills be read the second time.

THE PRESIDENT : That concludes the formal business before the Council to-day. The Council will now adjourn until tomorrow at the usual hour.