

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Tuesday, 22nd November, 1932.*

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, SIR EDWARD DENHAM, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., President, in the Chair.

### PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G.

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

The Hon. T. T. Smellie (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

The Hon. T. Millard, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer.

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

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

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

The Hon. E. F. Fredericks, LL.B. (Essequibo River).

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

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

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

The Hon. Q. B. De Freitas, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Surgeon-General (Acting).

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

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

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

The Hon. A. V. Crane, LL.B. (Lond.) (Demerara River).

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

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

The Hon. V. A. Pires (North Western District).

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

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

The Hon. G. E. Anderson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

### MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 15th November, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. C. Douglas-Jones) : I am the bearer of the following Message from the Governor to the Council :—

#### MESSAGE No. 3.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of a surtax of fifteen per centum being levied, during the year 1933, on the amount of Tonnage and Light dues which shall be collected under section eighteen of the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, 1931. This surtax will not be levied in respect of any vessel which lands and takes away cargo not exceeding in the aggregate five hundred tons, or in respect of any sailing vessel of not more than three hundred tons net register.

2. Honourable Members will recall the enactment of the Transport and Harbours (Temporary Surtax) Ordinance, 1932 (No. 1 of 1932) which provided for the collection of a temporary surtax of fifteen per centum on Tonnage and Light dues during the current year.

3. The reason for the re-imposition of this surtax is that the Colony still requires the additional revenue to meet the estimated

expenditure in 1933. The financial position has not sufficiently improved to allow of any taxation imposed during 1932 being reduced, and I accordingly invite the Council to approve of the collection of this surtax during 1933, after which the position can again be reviewed.

EDWARD DENHAM,  
Governor.

21st November, 1932.

#### PAPERS LAID.

The following documents were laid on the table :—

Schedule of petitions addressed to the Legislative Council which have been dealt with by the Governor in Council showing the decisions arrived at in each case.

List of cases of escheat to the Crown through failure of legitimate heirs or through illegitimacy of the deceased in which the Governor, in the name of the Crown, has been pleased to forego the whole or part of such escheat under section 2 of the Escheats Ordinance as amended by section 2 of the Escheats Ordinance, 1929, to persons who would have succeeded but for their own or their ancestor's or the deceased's illegitimacy.

Comparative statement of expenditure under the separate heads of the Colonial Estimates for the ten years 1922 to 1931. (*Mr. Millard*).

Schedule of applications for gratuities from dependants of deceased teachers. (*Major Bain Gray*).

Schedule of articles not exempt from duty which have been exempted by the Governor in Council under Article 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the Customs Duties Ordinance. (*Mr. D'Andrade*).

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move the following motion :—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 3 of the 21st of November, 1932, this Council approves of a surtax of fifteen per centum being levied on the amount of Tonnage and Light dues which shall be collected during the year 1933 under section eighteen of the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, 1931.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at a later stage he would move the suspension of Standing Order No. 11 (1) to enable him to move that the following Bill be read a first time and taken through all its stages :—

A Bill further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, Chapter 34, with respect to the rates of duty on certain articles.

Notice was also given that at the next

meeting of the Council leave would be asked to introduce and have read the first time :—

A Bill to continue certain expiring laws (*Mr. Millard*).

A Bill to amend the Bitters and Cordials Ordinance by requiring a licence for the manufacture of sweets. (*Mr. D'Andrade*).

#### UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

##### VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. WOOLFORD gave notice of the following motion :—

WHEREAS there exists at present a considerable amount of dissatisfaction over the management and control of village affairs generally throughout the Colony;

And whereas the maintenance of some of the provisions of the Local Government Board Ordinance (Chapter 84) in the said Ordinance very largely contribute to this undesirable condition of things;

And whereas it is expedient that this Council should take the necessary steps by legislation to remove any obstacles there may be to improvement in the methods of village administration :

*Be it Resolved*,—That section 34 (2) be amended and provision made in the Ordinance for the Chairman of every Village Council to be elected to that position by members of such Council from among their number.

That section 49 (e) be amended by providing that a person who owns more than one property in a village shall still be eligible for election to the Village Council, notwithstanding that that person has not paid his arrears of village rates or taxes in respect of one property or more than one property; but provided he is not in arrears in respect of all of his said properties.

That section 50 of the Ordinance be amended by deleting therefrom 50 (d).

That section 51 be amended—

(a) as to (1) by providing that all persons who are co-proprietors shall be both eligible for election and be entitled to vote in respect of the land owned by them if qualified in other respects under the Ordinance.

(b) as to (3) by its deletion.

That section 53 be deleted and there be substituted therefor a provision whereby the Returning Officer shall be appointed by the Local Government Board, who shall, in making the appointment, not be empowered to appoint to such a position any voter in the Village District concerned in an election.

That provisions be inserted in the Ordinance allowing the representation of a candidate at the polling station by his duly authorised agent.

##### APPOINTMENT OF NOTARIES.

Mr. CRANE gave notice of the following questions :—

1. When does Government propose to proceed with the Bill providing for the appointment of Notaries in British Guiana?

2. Does Government appreciate that the failure to enact the legislation proposed by the Bill would be a grave breach of an undertaking given to this House by the Governor of the Colony himself on the occasion of the amendment of the Tax Ordinance to impose a tax on Notaries, to wit, that such a Bill would be introduced and passed at an early date?

3. Is it the intention of Government to permit the system of private Notaries in British Guiana to be maintained by a single Notary appointed by an institution whose authority in this Colony is highly questionable?

4. Is it true that the published Bill to give effect to His Excellency's undertaking has been held up by reason of representations made by this Notary, in which the claim to exercise a monopoly of private Notarial practice was made?

5. Will Government undertake to have the said Bill introduced and passed at the present session of the House?

#### IMPORTED AND LOCAL WINE.

Mr. DEAGUIAR gave notice of the following questions:—

1. What was the quantity of wine cleared for home consumption for each of the years 1917 to 1931, showing separately the quantity—

(a) in bulk.

(b) in bottle.

2. What was the duty collected during the same period, showing the amount collected each year separately?

3. What was the quantity of wine produced in the Colony by process of fermentation only for the past five years, and the amount of excise duty collected thereon? Show each year separately.

4. How many persons and/or companies were registered under the Bitters and Cordials Ordinance as manufacturers of "sweets" as at 30th September, 1932, and state the amount received for licences issued to such persons during the same period.

5. Is Government satisfied that wine is produced under the best sanitary conditions in the Colony?

6. If Government is unable to furnish the full information asked for in questions 3, 4 and 5, what steps are being taken to—

(a) recoup the revenue that is lost annually from this source without imposing additional taxation in other directions;

(b) effect proper control over its production under sanitary conditions.

#### FISCAL PROSECUTIONS.

Mr. GONSALVES gave notice of the following questions:—

1.—(a) How many persons were given the option of being fined by the Commissary of the Georgetown Fiscal District during the period from January, 1932, to November, 1932, for failing to take out licences of a duty not exceeding \$10?

(b) How many of such persons have been so fined?

(c) What is the amount of the fine which can by law be imposed by the Commissary?

(d) What was the minimum and maximum fine imposed by the Commissary in respect of such licences during the said period?

Give particulars for each month, and the different kinds of licences, separately.

2.—(a) How many persons have been fined by the Magistrate of the Georgetown District during the said period for failing to take out licences of a duty not exceeding \$10?

(b) What was the minimum and maximum fine imposed?

(c) What was the minimum and maximum fine fixed by law which can be imposed by the Magistrate?

Give particulars for each month, and the different kinds of licences, separately.

3.—(a) How many of such persons who were prosecuted before the Magistrate were offered the option of being fined by the Commissary? And how many were not?

(b) What were the reasons for not giving them such options?

4. How many days during each month of the above period from January, 1932, to November, 1932, and approximately how many hours on each of such days were the Commissaries of the said district occupied or engaged in the Magistrates' Courts in such cases?

5.—(a) Were such prosecutions before the Magistrate brought with the knowledge and approval of the Chief Commissary?

(b) Was he satisfied that the time spent in the Magistrate's Court in connection with such cases by the Commissaries could not have been better used by them in his office or in other work of the Department?

6. What was the total amount of fines imposed during the aforesaid period in respect of the above kinds of licences—

(a) by the Magistrate.

(b) by the Commissary.

(c) Have all such fines been paid, if not how much?

7. Is any share or portion of such fines imposed—

(a) by the Magistrate

(b) by the Commissary

paid to any person or persons? If so, to whom and what share or portion is so paid.

#### PETITION.

Mr. GONSALVES laid on the table a petition from Mrs. Hilda A. Paul praying for a compassionate allowance in respect of the services of her late husband in the Customs Department.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY.

##### SERVICE OF PROCESS BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Hector Josephs): I move that "A Bill to facilitate the proof of service of process

under the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Ordinance, the Summary Jurisdiction (Petty Debt) Ordinance and the Criminal Law (Procedure) Ordinance" 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 (*Attorney-General*).

#### TRADES UNIONS BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move that "A Bill to amend the Trades Unions Ordinance by making provision for the compulsory registration of Trades Unions" 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 (*Attorney-General*).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. MILLARD (Colonial Treasurer): I move that "A Bill to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended thirty-first day of December, 1931" be read the first time.

Professor DASH 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. Millard*).

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GOVERNMENT BILL.

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education): I move that "A Bill to amend the

Church of Scotland Government Ordinance, Chapter 230, by removing all doubts as to the relationship between the Presbytery of British Guiana and the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and as to other incidental matters" 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. (*Major Bain Gray*).

#### CUSTOMS DUTIES BILL (No. 2).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: With the permission of the Council I move that Standing Order No. 11 (1) be suspended to enable me to move that "A Bill further to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, Chapter 34, with respect to the rates of duty on certain articles" be read a first time and taken through all its stages to-day.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that the Bill be now read the first time.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In pursuance of notice I move that the Bill be now read the second time.

Mr. CRANE: On a point of order. Can we have the second reading of a Bill moved in this way? There is a rule which says what time must be given.

THE PRESIDENT: I understood the Colonial Secretary to give notice to move that the Standing Rules be suspended in order to take the Bill through all its stages.

Mr. CRANE: I do not know if such a motion would be in order because it in-

volves the suspension of a number of Rules and not merely one. However, I am not here to raise technicalities. I consider the time is insufficient to enable us to consider a matter of this kind which involves a series of questions relating to the Ottawa Conference. The Bill was only presented to the Council this morning and I submit that it is neither fair nor reasonable that we should be required to take the second reading to-day. The proposals have been the subject of grave and bitter controversy in the several West Indian Colonies, and we should not rush them here without appreciating what we are asked to consent to.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** In moving the suspension of the Standing Order I said it was in order to enable the Bill to be read a first time and taken through its further stages to-day. Government's intention in moving the second reading to-day is to save time. I propose to describe the reason which led up to the Ottawa Conference out of which this Bill has emanated. When I have spoken it would then be open to any hon. Member to move the adjournment of the debate. I only want to get the introduction of the second reading through. In this particular instance I would point out that this Bill is covered by Rule No. 36 (c) and need not be published for seven days before the second reading, and there is some urgency in this matter. At the same time Government does wish to give hon. Members full time to consider the Bill and debate it, and it is for that reason that I propose to occupy the Council for a few moments in moving the second reading. If hon. Members then wish it the debate can be adjourned until another day or until to-morrow. In considering this Bill I think it is just as well that we should examine the conditions and circumstances which led up to the Ottawa Conference, the reasons for it and its objects. It is necessary for me to refer back, but very briefly, to the history of the introduction of preferential tariffs not only in the British Empire but perhaps throughout the world. So far as the British Empire is concerned one need only go back as far as the days of Joseph Chamberlain when he attempted to alter the economic system of Great Britain by the introduction of preferential tariffs, also to that famous statesman, Sir William Laurier, the first

statesman of Canada to introduce preferential tariffs in 1897. The effect of those preferential tariffs had a very marked effect on the increased trade in British goods with Canada. Since that time the number of preferences has been extended by the Dominions and the Colonial Empire. It is not necessary to follow closely or at any great length the history of other economic systems, Zollvereins or Customs Unions which have grown up in the world. The earliest we know of was in the United States of America, which was formed in the year 1789. In Canada a federation was formed in the year 1867, by the amalgamation of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, introducing preferential tariffs. In considering this matter one has to consider also the effect upon trade that population has. In the United States of America, the population is estimated at 120,000,000, in Europe at 450,000,000, and in the British Empire also at 450,000,000. I give those figures as an indication of the wide scope of any form of Empire Zollverein or Customs Preferential Agreement and the large population which it covers. We then proceed down the years past what was known as the Most Favoured Nation Clause and Treaties which did not have the effect of protecting the products of Great Britain against the protected produce of the neighbouring nations. It must also be remembered that the policy of Empire Preference is no new one. It existed in England and her Colonies from the 17th to the middle of the 19th Century, and it is interesting to note that it was provided for then under the Navigation Acts. The system was one of bounties, preferences and prohibitions quite inapplicable to present conditions. The Navigation Acts laid it down (1) No goods could be shipped from or to the Colonies except in British ships built and manned by English or colonial labour; (2) all goods imported into the Colonies from foreign countries had to go *via* England; (3) certain enumerated articles could not be exported direct from the Colonies to foreign countries but only to England. Among those articles were sugar, tobacco, molasses, furs and timber. The intervening years down to the present time form a wide and very interesting study for any student who wishes to examine the development of world trade and the building up of tariff walls. We

now come down to the period of 60 years prior to 1919 when the tariff system of Great Britain during those years was mainly for revenue purposes, but in 1915 was begun a system of protection which was then called the McKenna Duties. Those duties were imposed on motor cars, musical instruments, clocks, watches and cinematograph films, and it was a just decree of fate that the man who first moved for a change in the economic system of Great Britain was a Chamberlain and that in 1919 Sir Austen Chamberlain should provide in the Budget of that year for a modification in the existing tariffs to give preference to Empire products.

What then was the position of Great Britain at that time? It was practically a Free Trade country surrounded by large manufacturing countries whose industries were protected by high tariff walls and Great Britain had become the dumping ground of the world. Factories were being closed, she could find no employment for her people, unemployment was increasing by leaps and bounds, and her trade generally was diminishing. In other words in self-defence Great Britain had to adopt a change of her economic system and deliberately to change from the policy of Free Trade to one of Protection. When that policy was decided upon it was only natural that the Dominions and Colonial Empire should say to Great Britain: "We have respected in the past your Free Trade policy though we may not have agreed with it, but now that you have changed your economic system from Free Trade to one of Protection we must ask that you give our raw and primary products a similar degree of protection that you are now giving within your own country against foreign importations." It might be interesting if I give a few figures of the primary products which are imported into Great Britain so as to indicate the wide margin for the extension of trade within the Colonial Empire. I only have figures from 1925 to 1928—I am unable to obtain later figures—but I think to all intents and purposes there has been little change. With the new economic system I hope the change will be very much more rapid and very much greater than it has been in the past. 50.6 per cent. of wheat was imported into Great Britain from Empire countries and 49.4 per cent. from foreign countries. The new system will assist in

the consumption in Great Britain of Empire grown wheat. As regards beef, 31 per cent. comes from Empire and 69 per cent. from foreign sources. There, again, on the Ottawa Agreement foreign exports of beef into Great Britain will be restricted, enabling Australia, South Africa and other beef producing Colonies and Dominions to increase their export of beef to the United Kingdom. I do not think it is too much to expect that when in time British Guiana has fixed her own policy to encourage an increase in the quality and production of local cattle some at all events will find a market in Great Britain and be assisted by the arrangement which is now being made. Bacon and hams are 17.7 per cent. from Empire sources and 82.3 foreign. There, again, restrictions are being imposed, and this Colony, I think, may very well produce bacon. Cotton is represented by 10.4 per cent. Empire grown and 89.6 per cent. foreign; sugar by 27.7 per cent. from Empire and 72.3 per cent. from foreign sources; and tobacco is 13.8 per cent. Empire grown as against 86.2 per cent. foreign. I will deal with tobacco presently but will remark here that in 1922-23 the percentage of Empire grown tobacco imported into the United Kingdom was 6.2 per cent. and it has risen in 1929-30 to 16.4 per cent. That figure has again risen and under the proposal agreed to at the Ottawa Conference it should rapidly increase.

With such wide margins between the Empire and foreign produce and the opportunities for the development of trade between the Dominions and the Colonial Empire, is it to be wondered at that the statesmen of the Empire decided that they should get together and examine the whole problem? That was the outcome of the Ottawa Conference. I have heard it said that the Conference, because it happened to meet in Canada, was designed for the benefit of Canada alone, and that everything the Colonies have been asked to do has been done for the benefit of Canada. So far as this Colony is concerned Canada will be in no better position by the new tariff now to be introduced. Nor is that a correct estimate of what took place at Ottawa. That Conference met to decide how the position which had been created by the transfer from Free Trade to

Protection in the United Kingdom should be met. The Dominions wanted to meet around a table and discuss with Great Britain how this situation was to be met to the mutual advantage of the Empire. New tariff duties which Great Britain has agreed to impose on a selected list of foreign imports for the protection of her own primary producers throughout the Empire introduce new principles by which the Dominions have agreed to regulate their tariff policy. It is the adoption of those principles by countries hitherto devoted to a policy of indiscriminating and prohibitive protection which will in the long run be recognised as the great achievement of the Conference. The Ottawa Conference has broken down the indiscriminate and prohibitive protective tariffs by the Dominions against other parts of the Empire. The economic history of the world for the last three years has been one of continued and ever-increasing restrictions on international trade that continued in foreign countries and the point had been reached when export was impossible. The Ottawa Conference represents the first large-scale attempt to reverse this process and to create conditions in which trade between parties to the Agreement can be increased. The Colonial Empire, as distinct from the Dominions and the United Kingdom, will share in that increase of trade, and although the Colonial Empire was not an independent party to the Agreement as were the United Kingdom and the Dominions, it must not be forgotten that this is the first occasion on which the dependent Colonies have been brought right into the economic picture, included in the preferential system and given substantial advantages in the markets of the Dominions as well as of Great Britain for many of their most important products. This is a point which I think we must not overlook and one we want to remember. It is the first occasion on which the Colonial Empire has been brought into close relations with the Imperial Conference and I hope it will not be the last. If, sir, the example set at Ottawa is followed only one result would follow, and that is a general lowering of tariff values throughout the world which cannot be but advantageous to the Colonial Empire. As a preliminary step to the International Economic Conference which it is proposed to hold this year it was necessary that the British Empire should

form itself into if not a larger Zollverein, if I am permitted to use that word, at any rate into closer trade relations and to reduce trade values which at present exist.

In order that the Colonial Empire should be represented at the Ottawa Conference it was necessary for the Secretary of State to go there to represent the Colonies. He had with him able advisers of whom Sir Edward Davson was one. It should also be remembered that most colonial products are either foodstuffs or raw material. It was therefore necessary to obtain some preferential treatment in the markets of the United Kingdom and Dominions for Empire raw materials, and the Secretary of State set out to create a situation by which, as the result principally by tariff adjustment, it would be possible for a greater volume of goods to be exchanged between the Colonial Empire and the Dominions. But in a matter of this kind there must be reciprocity, and the Colonial Empire has been asked to give increased preferences to produce of the Dominions, India and Southern Rhodesia in exchange for new and increased preferences granted on colonial produce. I submit it is a matter of the first importance that the Ottawa settlement, so far as it relates to produce of the Colonial Empire, should be put into effect as an integral part of the whole even although in some minor instances some local inconvenience may be caused.

I will now proceed to an examination of the preferences which we are asked to grant. Sugar is not mentioned because Empire sugar is already receiving a very considerable preference in the market of the United Kingdom. I do not know whether hon. Members have had an opportunity of studying the last number of the West India Committee "Circular," but I would ask the Press to take from this "Circular" the digest which appeared in the number of October 27 on the effect of the Ottawa Agreement. It is there put very concisely and can be followed by anyone. I do not propose to go into the details, but if hon. Members wish to study the position more closely I refer them to this article. As the result of the Conference at Ottawa the United Kingdom is granting preferences on bananas, canned fruit (except apples), coffee to the extent of one penny per lb. (which I feel sure

will assist coffee growers in this Colony very considerably), dried fruit, raw grape fruit, honey, raw oranges, and rice to the extent of one penny per lb. It may be said that we cannot compete with India in the United Kingdom market for rice, but I am not sure that we cannot do something in that direction, especially if we can improve the quality of rice. At any rate we have been granted a preference of one penny per lb. which we did not have before. There is also a number of articles on which the United Kingdom is pledged not to reduce the existing duty of 10 per cent. ad valorem—copra, spices, ground nuts, fruit juices and tobacco—nor the existing margin on sugar. Balata, one of the products of this Colony, is included in that. Then it goes on to describe and show what each Dominion is giving with regard to preferential tariffs and the preferences granted on the various products. We come next to the Colonial Empire. The Colonial Empire has been asked to grant a number of increased preferences on certain articles. As far as this Colony is concerned amongst the articles upon which no increased preference need be made, owing to the present figures of the Customs Tariff, are motor cars, tyres and spare parts, butter, bacon and ham, condensed milk, etc.

The articles affected are brandy, manufactured tobacco and cigarettes (cigars and leaf tobacco remain unaffected), wines, lumber, rubber boots and shoes, and canvas boots and shoes with rubber soles and hosiery. So far as brandy is concerned what has been done is to reduce the British preferential rate, leaving the general tariff rate at the same figure. Very little brandy comes from Empire countries, most of it being of foreign production, therefore I anticipate that the present position would not be affected and no increased or decreased revenue will accrue. As regards tobacco, in the Agreement the Colonial Empire has been asked to grant a special preference of two shillings per lb. on wholly grown Empire tobacco—that is on tobacco and cigarettes of tobacco grown within the Empire. The percentage of Empire tobacco imported into the United Kingdom is increasing very rapidly and with this extra assistance it is likely to increase even more so. It is important that we should lose no revenue in regard to any of these

changes, and it is proposed therefore to leave the present duty of \$2.10 per lb. on (i) cigars and cigarettes manufactured wholly, or 100 per cent., from Empire tobacco and (ii) to increase the duty to \$2.47 on cigarettes manufactured in the British Empire entirely from foreign grown tobacco. With respect to cigarettes manufactured in the British Empire which contain a blend of Empire and foreign tobacco the duty thereon shall be at such rate intermediate between the duties prescribed under (i) and (ii) as corresponds to the certified proportion of Empire tobacco contained in the blend. In other words the more Empire tobacco used in the manufacture of cigarettes the less duty would be paid on it. It is anticipated that at present there may be some increase in the Customs duties received on tobacco although it is not anticipated that the local price of the retail article would be increased to such an extent as to reduce its consumption. It has been said that the consumption of tobacco has been decreasing. I have looked into the matter and I find by reference to the report of the Comptroller of Customs for 1931 that the revenue derived from tobacco has rather been on the increase, so we might take it that the consumption of cigarettes and tobacco has not decreased to the same extent as the consumption of other commodities. In other words tobacco has suffered from the depression in very much the same way as other commodities but not quite to the same extent, so it is doubtful whether any small increase in the local brands of cigarettes and tobacco will have very much effect on that consumption.

I now turn to sparkling wines. Hon. Members have before them a schedule showing the existing rates of duties and the new rates proposed. Government has often considered in the past the question of altering the import duties on these wines. I think it is generally known by those who deal in wines that wines of certain strength are not imported because being of a higher proof spirit content they come under a higher scale of duty. The proposed graduated scale will, it is hoped, permit of the importation of certain wines which have hitherto been excluded. The Ottawa agreement with regard to lumber is that a preference of



10 shillings per 1,000 ft. should be given to Empire lumber as against foreign lumber. The existing rates on pitch pine dressed are \$2.50 under the preferential tariff and \$5 under the general tariff, on pitch pine undressed the duties are \$1.50 and \$3, on lumber, dressed, other than pitch pine, \$4 and \$12, and on lumber, undressed, other than pitch pine \$2.40 and \$7.20. We now propose to fix the preferential duty on lumber, undressed, at \$2.40 and the duty under the general tariff at \$4.25. Dressed lumber under the preferential tariff will be \$4 and under the general tariff \$5.85. The total increased revenue anticipated would be only about \$700. Apart from the desire to increase the use of Empire grown lumber, it is hoped that the small increase of the duty may also have some effect on the local timber. Steps have been taken with the assistance of the Forest Department to season and mature lumber and it is hoped that gradually local lumber will take the place of imported lumber, especially pitch pine. We now come to boots and shoes of rubber and canvas boots and shoes with rubber soles, in regard to which perhaps there will be more to be said than in regard to the other items. Under the present tariff the preferential duty is 10 per cent. ad valorem and under the general tariff it is 30 per cent. ad valorem. We are asked to grant a preference of one shilling per pair on these rubber shoes, and it is interesting to note the actual effect on the cost of these cheap rubber shoes this increased duty would have. Canadian shoes are not really affected because they are a high-class article. The average cost is 70 cents per pair. Canvas shoes with rubber soles from the Straits Settlements work out at 42 cents per pair. The cost of Singapore shoes at the new rate would be 48 cents, and the new rate would bring Singapore shoes very closely to the price of the Japanese shoes. Singapore and Japanese shoes with crepe soles were being sold at 48 cents per pair, but that price has recently been increased to 56 cents, while a cheaper quality which were being sold at 40 cents have been recently increased to 48 cents per pair. I have figures showing the effect of one particular shipment. The cost of Singapore crepe shoes was 40.7 cents and of plain Singapore shoes 36.3 cents, while the corresponding prices of Japanese shoes were 30.7 cents and 35 cents, respec-

tively. Those figures show that the preference is not likely to increase the cost of what is popularly known as yachting shoes, and I understand from the wholesale trade that if they are prepared to be content with 48 cents they will make a profit. If wholesale dealers therefore agree to accept 48 cents, leaving it to the retailers to keep the price down, there is no reason why the price of canvas shoes of a cheap quality should increase at all. It is anticipated that there may be some loss of duty—approximately \$3,000—if the Japanese shoe is wholly kept out of this market, but I think the Japanese traders will try very hard to retain a footing in this market. The preference should not increase the price of the cheap rubber soled shoe to any extent and it should assist the local boot-making industry. As regards hosiery the Agreement hardly affects this Colony. We are asked to impose a specific duty of sixpence on the cheaper and ninepence on the more expensive classes of hosiery. Most of the cotton hosiery has been imported from the United States and if it is wholly diverted to Empire countries, which is very likely to happen, there should be no increase in the cost. The cheaper lines of lisle thread stockings, which were imported and sold at sixpence per pair, are no longer imported because the exchange has kept them out. The more expensive silk stockings are mainly imported from Canada and they will not be affected. All the artificial silk stockings, which I understand are very largely bought in this Colony, are imported from the United Kingdom and will not be affected. I move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Mr. CRANE: I understand the mover of the motion contemplated moving the second reading of the Bill in order to give the House a full opportunity to study the statement he has made. If that is so I formally move that the debate be adjourned until the next meeting of the Council.

THE PRESIDENT: I am quite willing to adjourn the discussion until to-morrow. But would it not be more convenient for the Council to go into Committee to consider the Bill when hon. Members will be able to ask questions?

Mr. CRANE: There are one or two

questions of principle which can only be discussed on the second reading of the Bill and one would lose an opportunity of making those general observations if we went into Committee. I am not opposing the Bill at all but I have some general criticisms to make on the Ottawa Conference, which I think affects the community as a whole, and I would like to avail myself of the opportunity on the second reading of the Bill to do that.

THE PRESIDENT: Under the circumstances Government is prepared that the Bill shall be taken up at to-morrow's meeting. I remind hon. Members that it has been before the country for some considerable time. After the discussion to-morrow I hope it will be possible to put it through the later stages.

#### ADDITION TO SERVICE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 2 of the 4th of November, 1932, this Council approves of the addition of five years to the pensionable service of Ex-Police Constable C. C. Smartt to allow of him being granted an increased pension and lump sum payment

The Message describes the circumstances under which this Police Constable was retired and the pension and lump sum were then granted to him. Certain representations have been made on this man's behalf by himself and others and Government has reconsidered his position and is prepared to recommend that his pension be increased from \$72.80 to \$96.80 per annum and an increase of \$128 to the lump sum payment already made to him.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE.

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education): I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Governor's Message No. 1 of the 4th of November, 1932, this Council approves of the payment to Mrs. Susan McAulay, late uncertificated Assistant Teacher of Skeldon E. School, of a compassionate allowance at the rate of \$125 per annum from 1st September, 1932.

The circumstances of this case are set out in the Governor's Message. This teacher reached the age for compulsory retirement while she was short of one year and seven months of the period required under the Ordinance. In view of her long service it was recommended by the Education Committee and approved by the Governor-in-Council that a compassionate allowance at this rate be granted.

Mr. BRASSINGTON seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The Council resumed discussion of the motion:—

THAT the Council do resolve itself into Committee of Supply upon the Estimate of expenditure to be defrayed from revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1933.

Mr. CRANE: This motion is the opportunity which is given us at this time of the year to consider the work which Government has done in the past year and also that which it proposes to carry out in the coming year. To enable us to understand the proposals of Government you, sir, have given us a most exhaustive review of the Colony's position from which Members are able to grasp the situation fully for themselves. Personally, I thank you for the very clear statement made in the speech delivered at the opening of this session. If, however, I do not agree with all the conclusions which you have reached, it is because I view many of the matters dealt with from my own standpoint, which I claim is the standpoint of the Colonial born and bred, and I hope you will regard any criticism which I make as honestly offered and with no desire to complain unnecessarily. It will be criticism on a situation which I believe can be improved by our own local efforts. Success in Colonial administration has to be judged from the recovery which those in charge of the administration have allowed the Colony to make over a reasonable period. The tendency of the Colony after such a period to recover its financial equilibrium must be one of the fruits by which we shall know the administration. It is probably no fault of those in immediate command of the ship of State that she is unable now to carry her own crew and

cargo without assistance from those who are expected to answer the S.O.S. call. As far as you are concerned, sir, you came to this Colony and met it in a most deplorable condition, the worse to which it had sunk during the 125 years of British administration. The fault is due to the system of Colonial administration, directed from Great Britain, by which this Colony, amongst others, is exploited to the utmost until it has now reached a point when it is necessary to put back into the pond some of the water which has been drawn out. Those remarks are specially directed to that phase of your address which deals with the assistance which the Mother Country has been called upon to give to this Colony. The ring of the speech told us of the necessity for Imperial assistance, that that assistance had been given, and that without that assistance the Colony would have gone under. The ring tells the truth, but, sir, deep below the truth is the reason why the Colony has found itself in this deplorable state. That reason is that over and above the exploitation to which I have referred there is the maintenance of top-heavy Departments which Government refuse to reduce and its failure to stimulate Colonial development to the extent which it is in duty bound to do. I appreciate that our accumulated deficits have been wiped off with Imperial money and that any anticipated deficits will also be wiped off in the future as long as our fairy god-mother agrees to do so. But as a Guianese I feel humiliated that this Colony, which is capable of development and is capable of maintaining itself, has been brought to such a state that unless charity is distributed it must go under. I say the system of administration under which we are compulsorily kept is responsible for it, and you cannot bring about a condition and then complain that that condition involves you in financial loss. What is wanted in this community is something to enable us to turn the corner, not merely to appear to turn the corner by increasing taxation not only of wage-earners but of the necessities of life. That taxation has enabled us to appear that we are turning the corner, but we have not improved one whit in so far as the economic condition of the Colony is concerned. Unemployment is still rife and people are still hounding down those whom they consider able to assist them in their necessity. We see no new industries arising.

Next we see retrenchment instead of a greater number of persons employed. That is an index of what must happen to Government because, after all, Government reflects the condition of the community itself. I would be the first to resent the statement that the people of this Colony are not grateful for the assistance which has been given us by the Imperial authorities, but we do not want to remain in that position continuously. Great Britain is doing a duty to her children in rendering them financial assistance at a time when they need it, yet we find the Secretary of State for the Colonies quite recently declaring that it must be well known that the Colonies at the present time are existing through doles from the British Treasury. You could not have the statement made by a higher authority than the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the moneys granted are regarded by the British people as doles to this community. When we called them doles it was resented, and I was alarmed in view of the position taken up by yourself, who always graciously refused to term them doles, when that harsh though truthful term was used by the Secretary of State. No rational man can say that those moneys, which were donated in certain cases and loaned in others, have not been of immense benefit to the Colony; but I want to see a system by which charity is put an end to and the just reward of the endeavours and energies of the people of the Colony take the place of the receipt of alms. That can only be done when British statemanship drags the Colony out of the slough of despond and not by means of a juggling with figures and hoping that that condition of things will improve. You remarked, sir—I take it as a corollary to your proposition that the Colony has made some progress during the year—that the Colony's credit stands considerably higher than it has been for some time. I respectfully submit that the determination of the position to-day is a matter of mere speculation and nothing short of conjecture. In 1922 the British Guiana loan was over-subscribed in half-an-hour, while in 1929, when the Colony had the backing of the British Treasury, there was difficulty in raising money. What the Colony's credit is to-day, I say with great deference to you, sir, can only be determined by an attempt to raise money on the London market

Between 1927 and 1928 the back of the financial credit of the Colony was broken by the Constitution Report, and it takes a considerable time after the credit of the Colony has been ruined in London to restore it. That is the reason why you experienced difficulty in 1929 and why you experience it again in 1932. In less than an hour after the British Guiana Constitution Report was telegraphed to Canada negotiations which were proceeding were held up in this Colony by the Canadian promoters on account of the alarming nature of that report. This Colony has not yet recovered from that stigma, and it will be many a long year before it recovers. Investors, with all the backing of the British Treasury, are exceedingly tardy about putting money into British Guiana. Whatever might have been the motives of that report it has succeeded, I think for the next 25 years, in preventing capitalists from coming to this Colony and expending any considerable sum. Personally, I see no outward and visible sign of great development in this Colony, and no Member can say there is any very great prospect ahead for this Colony. Our optimism has lasted so long because we have had you here to buoy us up these past two years, but the greatest optimism is likely to break under the severe strain of hope not being realised and of hope converted into despair. You tell us as men: "Why despair? Put your shoulders to the wheel and work." Excellent precept, sir. You do not leave it there merely but give us an example. But a great deal of the ruin has been done already, and it continues to be done because this Colony is being administered by a sort of routine system in which British Guiana comes in as one of many Colonies to which a general principle and system are applied. British Guiana is not considered as having her special problems which require their special solution on the spot. That is the great drawback we suffer from. There are two necessities. The first is retrenchment.

I want to join issue with the hon. Colonial Secretary that Government has already retrenched so far that it cannot carry things any further in that direction. I deny that that is the position. That is one of the directions in which reform has to be made if we are not to carry the heavy public burden we are now carrying. This is not the place for me to

make suggestions as to the details connected with retrenchment in the Service, but I make a general statement that you have not reached the limit as Government appears to have considered. There are several offices where further retrenchment can be made, but Government seems to be content merely with shuffling a pack of cards. From the Estimate it will be seen that all Government has done is to shuffle officers from one Department—the Lands and Mines—to that for District Administration. Heads of Departments are naturally very unwilling to suffer reduction of their staffs, and this is a matter which, I respectfully submit, should come under Your Excellency's direct and immediate attention. While retrenchment alone will not save the ship it would certainly assist in lightening it. The Allowances Committee made certain recommendations as regards allowances to Public Officers, which I propose to point out in detail when we are dealing with the Estimate, but Government has overridden those recommendations of the Committee. I shall postpone for a moment the second requisite if this Colony is to recover itself to refer to Your Excellency's statement with regard to the realisation of certain Colonial assets. I take that, sir, as an announcement that you propose to come to this Council and ask us to approve of Government realising those securities. Some three or four years ago several Elected Members asked Government seriously to consider the question of realising two particular Colonial assets—the Colonisation Fund and the Immigration Fund—to wipe off the deficits or so much of them as the funds would permit in order to avoid the accumulation of interest charges on these deficits. While appreciating the obligation of Government to repatriate Indians as and when it was necessary, those Members were wise enough to foresee that only small sums would be required each year to repatriate immigrants and that those sums could be met out of current revenue. They also thought there should be utilised for this purpose the Colonisation Fund, which we are always told was raised by an export tax on produce but is public funds the disposal of which lies on this House no matter from what source it was raised. Members saw that it was wrong to accumulate interest charges and asked Government to consider the advisability of realis-

ing these funds and so be relieved of those charges. Government did nothing of the kind. There were other assets which were being accumulated for specific purposes, viz., the Colonial Steamers Replacement Fund, the Colonial Steamer Service Replacement Fund and the Railway Renewals Reserve Fund. We have not been asked yet whether we consider that these funds should be realised in order to meet deficits, but I submit that these particular funds ought not to be applied. These funds are for the definite and specific purpose of replacement of steamers and railway renewals as and when required and it is not proper financing to wait until we require a steamer to put the whole cost of that steamer into our annual expenditure. The first six steamers imported have been in service for 18 years and require serious overhaul. I shall be surprised if sooner or later we are not told that it is dangerous to send them to sea from the Demerara River to the Essequibo River. The time is very near at hand when we shall have to replace one or more of those boats and I submit it is not good financing to dispose of the funds specially earmarked for the purpose of replacement and say that when the time comes you will put it on annual expenditure and get assistance from the fairy god-mother. I believe that the longer we are donees of charity of this kind the longer we will be in the position we are at the present moment. I do not know if I am correct in anticipating that the approval of the Council will be asked with respect to the realisation of these funds.

**THE PRESIDENT :** I may say in reply to the hon. Member that the Council will undoubtedly be consulted as regards these funds. The balancing of the Budget necessarily depends on them and an opportunity will be given Members to discuss the question.

**Mr. CRANE :** These decisions are final decisions which are made by the Secretary of State in London and have to be carried through this House even if all the 14 Electives are against them. That is the reason why I am opposed to the system that doles should be given and we be told to do as we are directed whether it is in our interest or not. Your Excellency refer also to the assistance which has been given by the Colonial Development Fund

to the extent of \$234,230 in the form of a loan free of interest for five years and thereafter at 4 per cent. interest repayable in 20 years. Here again we thank you for the interest which you have evinced in obtaining this money which is to carry the road from Bartica to the Potaro and a branch road across to the Tiboku Falls. We naturally must approve of your endeavour and success in obtaining this money; but this is not the only sum of money which is loaned to the Colony. Interest is free for a short period but we shall nevertheless be called upon to pay interest. This country must guard against the accumulation of these loans which almost insensibly must impose a crushing burden of loan charges. I think the time has come when we should ask Government to bring before us an annual statement of all money loaned to the Colony interest free but on which interest would have to be paid in order that we may know the amount for which we shall be liable and have to repay. Although we are not actually paying interest on them they should be put in the Estimates and kept before our eyes. Unless they are kept permanently before our eyes we are likely to lose sight of the fact that we are accumulating year by year serious financial burdens. I know, Your Excellency, that you have the hearty thanks and co-operation of every Elected Member in so far as the development of interior communication is concerned. It is going to be a boon to those who have for years and years travelled up the Mazaruni to pursue their avocations in the gold and diamond fields. Government has on the other hand reaped considerable reward of tolls on the goods transported over the road, and if the road becomes a thoroughly good road I hope Government will consider the question of prohibiting traffic over the waterfalls as long as that road is open and serves the public.

Any remarks I propose to make on the Ottawa Conference will be deferred until to-morrow when the debate on the second reading of the Bill will be resumed. There is one matter in your speech which is of more than passing interest to us: that is the coastal pure water supply. I speak for every Elected Member when I say that we are gravely alarmed over the expenditure on the wells. We had an estimate just under half-a-million dollars and various

intermediate ones which eventually brought the sum to \$1,300,000. Loan funds have been exhausted and \$34,000 is now to be put on the Estimate and added to loan funds. Before we agree to this expenditure we should get an assurance from Government that this money is not going to be frittered away. Without making a statement to this Council it would appear that Government has changed control of the boring of these wells. The last we know of it is that the work was being done by some officer who was superintended by the consultants, Messrs. Beebe Thomson. I have now learnt that the Public Works Department has nothing to do with it and that a gentleman has been put in charge of the work. I think it is due to us to be told how it is that this work has been taken from the Public Works Department, which we expected would have been responsible for it. We would like to know whether Messrs. Beebe Thomson are no longer consultants but are now contractors. The time has come when we must definitely determine whether wells are going to serve the countryside, and, if not, cry "Halt" and cease to sink into the earth money we cannot afford to spend. If Government is not convinced that these wells can with safety serve the public but are liable to cease to flow and leave the districts without a supply of water, we should adopt the heroic method of cutting our loss and tap some other means of providing the countryside with a proper supply of water. It seems to me to be bordering on criminal prodigality for Government to continue spending money on these wells without some assurance that the new devices will render these wells serviceable for some time.

I have now reached the question I deferred. We have all from time to time given our individual opinion as to progress. Each one has had a different solution and we have never come to any agreement. Unless we have a substantial increase in the population it is useless to expect any further development in the sugar industry. From the statement you made, sir, the sugar industry has done well enough with the population at its disposal, and we cannot therefore look to that industry to turn the Colony from depression to prosperity. I pointed out some time ago that, unlikely as it appears, there is excellent prospect of development

of the rice industry. This Colony is the only great rice-producing country belonging to Great Britain on the western hemisphere, and it should be the granary of the West Indies and Canada in addition to supplying the Mother Country with a large quantity of her supplies of rice. Instead of that prospect you have the Colony, which is pregnant with possibilities as regards this industry, unable to harness it or to secure a market for the very limited supply that it now produces. I gave some figures in this House before and so important I consider them that I do not hesitate to repeat them to-day.

The Council at this stage adjourned for the luncheon recess.

Mr. CRANE (resuming): I was proceeding to give the quantity of rice which is recorded as being imported into Great Britain and Canada when the Council adjourned. In the American Yearbook of Agriculture, 1931, Great Britain is recorded as having in 1929 imported 258,000,000 lbs. of rice, including flour, meal and broken rice, and as exporting 12,000,000 lbs. of that quantity. Canada imported only 42,000,000 lbs. and exported 1,000,000 lbs. I refer to these two countries for the sole purpose of showing them as sources of possible trade in rice from this Colony. A great deal of the supply taken by these two countries comes from American sources, viz., Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and one or two other States in the South. We are supposed to have a tariff in our favour and I submit that, unless we are told that the rice-growing areas have been exhausted by the harum scarum system which is now in force, it behoves us to put our house in order to organise and to utilise all the talent we have in order to establish the tremendous trade in rice with these two countries with which we are in commercial relationship. We have a Trade Agreement with Canada, and we have Canadian steamers coming down here and returning practically without any cargo. There is communication with the Mother Country almost fortnightly. What are we shipping from this country, except sugar? I think I told you personally, sir, and I repeat it here, that I consider this question one of sufficient importance to justify a Conference, with you as Chairman, of representatives of the sugar

planters, rice estates' proprietors and small growers, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and of the general public, to see whether or not it is possible to take up lands which are now lying idle and by the use of mechanical tillage extend the rice industry from the puny thing it now is into a vast concern for this Colony. We are always reminded of the fact that where a country has the good fortune of producing something which its neighbours cannot or do not produce it is the occasion on which that country can make capital of its opportunities. I am not claiming that we have a monopoly of rice production, but I do not think I claim much when I say that British Guiana is the greatest rice-producing country in the western hemisphere. Rice as it is produced in this Colony is the business of the small man. I will do some plain speaking, which is intended not in any ridicule but as a statement of fact, to show those who are not contributing what they should to this industry the possibility of co-operation open to them. Rice has been cultivated by the small man in small plots all over the country, until recently of inferior quality and of several grades. The capitalist comes into the field after the rice is produced and offers the market price of rice. The capitalist is the better educated man. The poor rice-farmer, who expends the labour of himself and his family on an acre, does not count his cost. What is important to him is that he has produced an acre of rice. It does not matter to him, if he were to descend to figures, that he had lost heavily on the transaction. The middleman comes in, buys the rice and establishes the trade. Years ago a number of firms advanced money to rice-growers with the expectation of getting their crops, but with all they have done in that direction I am still entitled to say that the commercial community have not put into the industry the money and brains which they possess. So long as they are content to buy small parcels of rice produced by small producers so long will the industry remain the puny industry it is from the standpoint of what the Colony is capable of doing. So long as they are satisfied with sending out agents or obtaining their supplies for export through mill-owners, so long will this industry remain incapable of satisfying even the needs of the West Indies far less the needs of Great Britain and Canada,

What we want, in my humble opinion, is that the sugar estates' proprietors, who have a great deal of land uncultivated, should try rice as a secondary crop. Sugar estates have an obligation to this Colony, and we regard their interests as the interests of the Colony. It is no use depending on sugar. The sugar production of the Colony is infinitesimal compared with the world's production, and it cannot influence the price of sugar in any market, British, American or Continental. I am sufficiently a visioner to see for this country very great prosperity if we were able to ship tens of thousands of rough rice to Canada, of which her needs are great. That brings me to what this Colony has done to make it possible to ship rice to Canada. Someone told me upon the death of a great planter some two or three years ago that he was considering the question of whether rice and sugar should not be pursued together. If that is so, where is his successor in the sugar industry? Some Members seem rather expectant about the name of that planter. He was the late Mr. Strang of Uitylugt—a man of sterling worth and ability. I will not believe that the planting interest is devoid of such men as he. It is no use to say that the sugar proprietors will be getting into competition with the East Indian. The East Indian will continue to plant his acre of rice. With better facilities for drainage and irrigation, better equipped staffs and their ability to put mechanical tillage in the field, the sugar estates would drop the unit cost of rice to such a point as to make it possible for this Colony not merely to capture but to maintain the tremendous trade with Canada and Great Britain. What we are suffering from is our inability to keep pace with Indian rice. We have our problems but we also have our brains to get over them, and my honest belief is that we are not working up to those problems. The Agricultural Department is content to say that we have improved pure line seed padi. What is the use of getting pure line seed padi and limiting cultivation to restricted areas when there are vast areas that can be put under cultivation? I do not want it to be thought that I do not appreciate the work done to improve the strain of padi, but I do not think the Department of Agriculture has appreciated its destiny. It is tinkering with experiments when it can extend the acreage under cultivation. I cannot help

thinking that the position British Guiana occupies under the Reciprocity Treaty is one of giving and getting very little in return. What have we to export to Canada but our rice. The market for sugar is assured. Sugar has no problem as regards its markets. If the sugar planters produce three times the quantity they now produce they can sell it at the world's ruling price. What are the advantages gained for rice? The mission to Canada in 1925, when the Treaty was concluded, brought us no considerable preference for rice. We had another Mission about 1929 or 1930 in the shape of a visit of the Director of Agriculture to Canada which cost us \$1,800. What we get for it? The Director returned and told us about Canada's needs of rough rice, Canada not wanting our finished product as they had their own milling factories. He told us that the parboiled rice was not required but would be used for feeding monkeys and chickens.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture): To a point of order. I ask the hon. Member to point out where I said that parboiled rice was used to feed monkeys and chickens.

Mr. CRANE: My memory serves: it is one of the best things about me (Laughter). The Director told us there was no trade for parboiled rice.

Professor DASH: I refer the hon. Member to my report on my Canadian Mission.

Mr. CRANE: The Director made a verbal statement here long before his report was written and in that statement he made a promise of his written report. Did the Director get down with the authorities in Canada and endeavour to see whether he could obtain a preference for the rice for which he said there was a large market? I admit that with the Treaty still in force it was a difficult thing for any single official to accomplish. The hard-heads at Ottawa are far more business-like than to endeavour to change the Treaty in the middle of its currency. But what gain have we got out of Ottawa at this third grand assembly of which we were told so much this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I understood the hon. Member to say that any remarks he

proposed to make on the Ottawa Conference he would defer until to-morrow.

Mr. CRANE: Yes, sir. I was just going to round off the point by saying that we had three parleys and have obtained absolutely no advantage at either of those three parleys for rice. I feel that I commit no impropriety when I delay the House to repeat that this industry is of such importance as to justify your personal care and attention. I leave the question of rice and refer to the question of forestry. This question is a hardy annual and I do not propose to say much on it until we get down to the Estimates. While it is Government's desire to see some progress in this direction, it seems to me that Government is dodging the admission of failure of its forest policy. Government proposes to give the Forest Department a sum of money to fell, cut, saw and season timber. For what purpose?—to store and supply it to Government Departments and also to merchants for shipment. Have you ever heard anything like that? A Department whose premier business is to see that the forests are kept with suitable trees and protected against destruction is to abandon the business of growing and protecting the trees to go into competition with traders to fell, cut, saw and season timber for supply not only to Government Departments but to merchants themselves. This is a super-merchant Department. That is an absurd proposition, if I may say so with the greatest respect. Nobody wants a Government Department to supply timber to anybody else. Such seasoning of timber as may be carried out by that Department must be for experimental purposes for obtaining and disseminating information regarding our forest woods. When a Department is to be given a sum of \$25,000 to go into competition with commercial businesses it seems to me that it is a frank admission by Government that the Forest Department has abandoned its original avocation and has entered into competition with private persons. We are getting to the last stage, which is worse than the first. I dismiss the Forest Department with that brief reference to it. I shall never yield to anyone my view that the forest resources ought to be ascertained and kept on record so as to give information to anyone who may desire it, but I shall also never go the length of maintaining a Department to cut timber



and preserve and sell it as an ordinary timber merchant.

Your speech, sir, contains many other matters which could bear examination, but I do not propose to inflict myself any longer on the House. I desire, however, to make some passing remarks upon the proposal to throw upon the Missions the burden of maintaining their school buildings. You have acquired a knowledge of the condition of things in this Colony from the time of its settlement up to the present moment to make it unnecessary for me to say very much concerning the history of these schools. All that is necessary for me to say is that following the establishment of these schools by the various church bodies Government has recognised that it is its responsibility to maintain the buildings in the various parts of the country. When Government therefore spoke of giving a grant-in-aid it was reversing the position. Government was utilising the resources of those church bodies, and to withdraw the vote for the maintenance of these buildings at this moment is an unwise policy. I say "unwise" because I am fully aware of the circumstances of the people who are called upon now to maintain the churches and to whom alone the churches can look for the maintenance of the school buildings. Time was when the Combined Court, which has been superseded by this Council, was asked for a vote to pay the salaries of the clergy. The churches have been disendowed and this Council no longer votes large sums for salaries to the clergy. I understand that the annual vote for the clergy has not completely disappeared, but for all practical purposes it may be regarded as having disappeared. The people are now called upon to pay their own clergy and to maintain their own churches. I know sufficient of these churches to tell you, sir, that the people hardly keep the parson and the church in a condition in which a decent clergyman and a decent church ought to be kept. Those who are in charge of sustentation and other funds know what terrible times the parson has to make two ends meet in his church and to ask those same people who either cannot afford it or who would not—and I don't think the latter is the case—to start afresh in maintaining school buildings in order to enable Government to juggle with the existing education vote is to ask an

impossibility. I ask Government not to consider that decision as final and to see whether some other cannot be arrived at. Suppose the religious authorities find it impossible to maintain the school buildings who are going to suffer?—the children of the people who are forced to go to school and to remain for several hours a day in a dilapidated, insanitary building. The parsons are not going to suffer but the children of the people. Many of these buildings are at present unfit as places of instruction even with the small vote now given by Government expended on them. Are you going to drive these religious authorities further to abandon the care of the buildings and still carry on schools in them? Government should come forward frankly and choose a certain number of schools in the city and say "These are the schools which we are going to keep and no more" instead of resorting to the patchwork policy of saying "We will keep all the schools but keep them in a low sanitary condition, and otherwise defective for the purposes for which they exist." Personally, I stand for Government schools. Government's inability to provide them urge me to submit to the present state of things. Government should take courage in both hands and say "We will give so many schools," and if new schools cannot be built Government should extend those schools and limit the number in Georgetown. But to adopt the other expedient of depriving the governing bodies of the money which ought to be spent in maintaining the present buildings is a wrong policy. It is wrong because Government by its conduct has acquired by prescription the duty of maintaining these school buildings, and it is unfair and unjust at this moment to abandon that liability when those affected have not the means to assume it. I hope, sir, that you have not finally decided the question and that you will find some other means of dealing with it.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: All I desire to say is in relation to the remarks of the hon. Member in regard to the sugar industry. I would like to ask the hon. Member if any of the rice millers in this Colony grow rice themselves. We have one in this assembly. I ask that hon. Member—I believe he owns some land—why doesn't he go in for growing rice. The hon. Member for Demerara River would like the sugar planter to be also a rice miller.

The two things would be incompatible. I am not against rice and I have always done what I can to encourage the industry. The moment the sugar planter attempts to cultivate rice on a large scale along with sugar, however, there would be an outcry from the small growers (the East Indians) that the sugar planter is competing against them. Is there a single owner of a rice estate who grows rice himself? (Mr. Crane: Yes). I should like to hear his name and to hear how many acres he cultivates himself. Don't let us twist or obscure the issue. Advancing money to grow rice is not growing rice by either the miller or the owner of an estate. I ask the hon. Member in fairness to the sugar industry to name any estate which does not offer every opportunity to the people to grow rice. The estates give them the land at a nominal rent, the necessary water to irrigate the land, and drain the land free of cost. The cultivation of rice by a company or a single individual with a large capital has been tried already. It was tried at the Abary where a very large sum of American capital was expended on that estate. The latest machinery in sowing the padi and threshing it, and everything else, were embarked upon. I was surprised to hear what I term not only the indictment of the sugar planters but the censure on their lack of business acumen.

**THE PRESIDENT:** I do not want to interrupt the hon. Member, but he is travelling a little from the point. We are dealing with the policy. Remarks on the policy are entirely in order with respect to this debate. That is the question we are discussing and not whether the sugar planters have failed from their duty.

**Mr. BRASSINGTON:** The reason why I got on my feet was to point out that if the remarks of the hon. Member were allowed to pass, without somebody connected with the sugar industry giving the other side of the case, they would do the sugar industry a great amount of harm and certainly not improve the relations between rice-growers and the sugar planters. I have often heard in this House that the sugar planters are the drawback to the prosperity of the Colony. The sugar planter is antiquated from the hon. Member's point of view. I have repeatedly said, and I say it again: Don't

destroy the sugar industry until you can build up another. I am associated with a company that exports about 10 per cent. of the rice exported and I do everything to forward the rice industry, but I would never attempt to compete with the East Indian in the growing of rice. The hon. Member has given us a panacea for every ill from which this Colony suffers. Let him put his money in rice (Laughter).

**Mr. CRANE:** Not a single Member can accuse me of having condemned the sugar planters in any possible direction. What I suggested was that they might come in for the purpose of extending the industry. I am not responsible for whether the hon. Member is antiquated or modern.

**Mr. MILLARD:** Before the debate goes any further I should like to touch on two points made by the hon. Member for Demerara River. One was the question of the Colony's credit. He referred to the conditions under which the Colony's loan of 1929 was raised as tending to show that the Colony's credit at that time was at a lower level than it had been formerly. The hon. Member has reminded us, and perhaps warned us, that a strong point with him is his memory. I would like to remind him that in connection with the Budget of 1930, I gave this Council certain data regarding the loans raised in the year 1929 on the very same point which has been now raised by the hon. Member, and I cited two or three loans raised by Dominion Governments and the London County Council, the rates of interest and the prices in illustration of the fact that the terms obtained by this Colony based on the value of money then ruling were as favourable as were being obtained by any first-class Trustee Stock at that time. I do not wish to labour this point but think I should mention that fact in view of the question having been raised again now. The question of the appropriation of funds to assist this Colony in balancing its Budget commitments in the coming year and avoid as far as possible borrowing to that end is a matter that has received consideration in this Council, but I should like to deal just with the one point which has been emphasised by the hon. Member. The hon. Member said of the funds mentioned in His Excellency's speech the three Transport Funds were

provided for specific purposes and should not be touched or utilised at the present time of difficulties. I would just like to put one or two points to the hon. Member. These reserve or replacement funds were provided to average the cost of capital requirements. The existence of these funds in the Colony's books suggests security in that regard, but that security is not a fact. The hon. Member will remember that when the ship "Tarpon" was purchased the Colony had funds to meet part of the cost of the ship. The replacement fund provision had been made on a depreciation calculation to replace the original second-hand cost of the ship which was considerably smaller than the cost of the "Tarpon." When the Colony purchased the "Tarpon," not having at that particular time to appropriate the current fund for that purpose, it charged the whole cost of the "Tarpon" to that replacement fund. The replacement fund was adequate provision and the charge of a large portion of it had no relationship to that provision. Further, those funds have not received contributions for several years, and the important consideration in connection with the appropriation of those funds is that we are helping ourselves with the funds to meet our difficulty on the Budget. I suggest to the hon. Member that in the present circumstances it is reasonable that these inadequate reserve funds should be appropriated and that the Colony should proceed when convenient to build depreciation and reserve funds on an adequate basis. The hon. Member has suggested that retrenchment should go further. I have no doubt that he has suggestions of specific forms of retrenchment in mind and will suggest them in detail as he has done in other directions. I do not know whether hon. Members have considered the cost of some of these retrenchments, and the financial risks taken must be assumed to have been deliberately taken in making those retrenchments. For the supervision of the collection of State moneys, I contend, we have placed ourselves in a dangerous position. I do not say we have done so on the whole front but on a considerable portion of the front, and in District Administration we have various activities represented in connection with State properties and State moneys that on inves-

tigation may be found to be inadequately staffed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: My colleague, the Colonial Treasurer, has dealt with the question of the funds, also with the loan of 1929 and the financial position at that time. I think we were extremely fortunate at that time to raise a loan of the magnitude we did at that rate of interest. The Treasurer also dealt with the question of retrenchment. I again repeat, and I am not ashamed to repeat it, that the effort made by this Administration during the past five or six years in the direction of economy in saving, in redundant officers and in other ways, is a record of which any Administration may be proud. With respect to the statement that loans had been granted and may be granted in future over a period of years, and which will be redeemable in a given number of years, statements in respect of those loans will appear in the Estimates and can be followed by hon. Members. They are now in the Estimates with the conditions attached to them and can be followed by any Member.

I am glad that the hon. Member gave me an opportunity to make a statement with regard to the Pure Water Supply Scheme. Perhaps a more appropriate opportunity will occur when we come to deal with the Estimates, but I may reply to the remarks of the hon. Member at the present time. The position, I think, is generally known. Out of loan funds these wells are sunk. The wells failed and the design was altered, which added to the cost, and more money was raised by loan to meet that cost. Still that did not overcome the difficulty we were experiencing in the failure of the wells themselves, due to corrosion of the strainers which had been in use. It was not until we experimented with a strainer made of re-inforced concrete and put that into the Belfield well, which was the first in which it was tried, and there it has proved successful. We know that water will not affect cement. We have experimented in that direction and so far we have no reason to believe, unless something unforeseen happens, that the wells will silt up. I think we can say at all events, as far as it is humanly possible, that the wells which have been reconditioned with a strainer of non-corro-

sive substance will last for an indefinite time. The hon. Member referred to the question of water distribution and said there was no difficulty in laying pipes. Of course, there is no difficulty in laying pipes; the great difficulty is to find a pipe that would also stand the corrosive nature of the water. An interesting feature is that we have distributed the water from the Bagotville well in three directions, in one, towards Goed Fortuin, over a distance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and at the end of that pipe line there is still a head of water sufficiently strong to raise that water into a tank 6ft. or 7ft. above ground level. From that point we hope to distribute the water another mile or so, or a distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the well. That is no mean accomplishment. We find that we can distribute the water even further than that at no great cost. We have a grant of £10,000 from the Colonial Development Fund for water distribution, and that will be spent in connection with the sum of \$24,000 for the reconditioning of wells. Loan funds are exhausted and we had to include in our Budget that £5,000 for the reconditioning of wells, and I hope that sum will appear annually on the Estimates and remain long enough to enable us to put down extra wells most urgently needed. The position in regard to the Consulting Engineers is that the agreement with them will be terminated from the end of this year. Government does not require their services any longer and has made arrangements to terminate them. The organisation for sinking these wells under the direction of the Public Works Department was varied, I think, in the year 1929 when a Resident Engineer was appointed who was directly responsible to the Consulting Engineers for the control and sinking of the wells. That organisation has been maintained up to the present time, but Government considers it is no longer necessary to continue the services of the Consulting Engineers. The organisation will now be under an engineer who is competent to sink wells and recondition them, and control of that organisation will again revert to the Director of Public Works. Government admits that the sinking of these wells has been a very expensive experiment, but I think I can safely say that the Members who formed the Committee which dealt with the subject are now satisfied that, as the result of the large sum of money which has been spent, we have now

information which will enable us to continue the programme of wells that are necessary, to recondition the wells at very much less cost than was originally spent on them, and also that we are now able to use material which will not corrode and will, we hope, prevent them from failing.

There is no intention that the sum of \$25,000 to be devoted to the cutting and seasoning of timber should put Government in any way into competition with private enterprise. The hon. Member for Demerara River was talking with his tongue in his cheek because he knows perfectly well that the great difficulty is that the firms interested in the sawmills have not the capital available to lay down large quantities of timber to be seasoned. They themselves would be the first to admit that their great difficulty is that they have not the capital to saw timber, stack and leave it long enough to be adequately seasoned, and then sell it as seasoned timber. This is an attempt to begin to lay down a stock of seasoned timber. We hope that the sum of money will be sufficient to lay down a considerable stock of a variety of timbers which we now know are regarded as a valuable substitute for some of the timbers at present in use. We also hope this will enable the sawmills to take the timber over from Government and to lay down sufficient timber of their own to season it. If we can in carrying out this operation supply the Director of Public Works and the Transport Department it is because of the difficulty of obtaining seasoned timber. This suggestion to cut, stack and cure timber will be one of the most useful and progressive steps taken in this country for a long while.

Motion put, and agreed to.

The Council accordingly went into Committee to consider the Estimate of expenditure for the year 1933.

#### COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I ask that this head be held over. Certain information as regards promotions in the Secretariat has not been received. When that information is available the page relating to this Department will be reprinted and circulated.

Agreed to.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. FREDERICKS: In view of the questions by the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar), who is not present, I ask that the votes for the Berbice District be deferred.

Agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In regard to the salaries of the District Commissioner, East Coast Demerara, and the District Commissioner, West Coast Demerara, when the Scheme was inaugurated last year the rates of salary were those that the officers then got, except that the Commissioner for the West Coast Demerara District, who was a Police Officer, was placed on a scale of pay equal to what he got as a Police Officer. The position has been considered and it has been decided to place these officers on the incremental scale. Until we had a little more experience of the system to say whether it would operate successfully or what the position was going to be, and the amount of work entailed, it was not possible to fix a definite scale. The scale now fixed on the East Coast Demerara, is on the basis of £550 to £750 and in the case of the West Coast Demerara £500 to £600, and the officers are now on these rates of pay.

Mr. CRANE: How does the salary correspond with the report of the Committee?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I have not examined that, but I believe it is below what was recommended by the Committee.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I do not say that these Commissioners are not worthy of the increases proposed, but my recollection is that there was a distinct promise that there would be no increase of salaries.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There has been no increase of the salaries but an increment to which they are entitled.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member's remark is quite pertinent.

Government is not in favour of any increase to any officer at all but there are special circumstances in regard to these particular officers. The Commissioner on the West Coast Demerara was a Police Officer. Promotion fell to him just after he became Commissioner and the pay he will get now he would have got as a Police Officer. He is getting something less because he is not getting an allowance for a motor car or medical attendance. I think the Council will agree that is only fair. He has not gained anything but would have lost by taking this post. He shows that he can fill the post and it is only fair that he should get the pay he would have got under the circumstances. Had the other Commissioner remained as Clerk of the Council he would have got the increment he is getting now.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Without that explanation I would have been unaware of the position. From what I have heard it does not seem that the Scheme is as good as was expected.

Mr. CRANE: I do not want to offer any criticism of the personnel of this Scheme. But the Commissioner of the Rupununi District is a retired officer, and I would like to know whether he is drawing pension in addition to the salary of this office.

Mr. SEAFORD: I ask that some information be given at the same time as regards the tolls of the Rupununi Cattle Trail.

Mr. MULLIN (Commissioner of Lands and Mines): The holder of this office is not a pensioner. He was formerly a Government Surveyor and later District Commissioner. He resigned of his own accord to go into the diamond fields and has now rejoined the Service on the Non-pensionable Establishment.

Mr. CRANE: Has he commenced his service *de novo* or will his previous service count for pension and lump sum?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: This officer Government considers to be the most suitable person at the present time to act as Commissioner of the District. It is a district which in the past, perhaps, has not been so closely administered as it might have been or was desirable simply

on the ground of expense. Activities are opening up there and I hope they will open up in future to a much greater extent than at present. It is certainly a district which we should bring under this Scheme. The personal emoluments of the officer now employed there are £500 a year but he is not on the Pensionable Establishment. With regard to the question of the tolls, the agreement with the Rupununi Company was that Government would contribute \$10,000 a year for the maintenance of the trail. That was the sum given to the contractors. An arrangement was then come to by which the Company undertook to look after the trail themselves on a reduction of the subsidy by \$2,000 a year. It was found that Government was asking the Rupununi Company to do too much, therefore a new arrangement was come to last year by which the trail from Kurupukari southwards is maintained by the Company for which they receive \$1,500 a year. From Kurupukari to Katama the trail is maintained by Government under the Commissioner. Cattle passing over this portion of the trail pay a toll of \$1.50 per head and it is anticipated that at least 5,000 cattle will be brought over the trail this year.

Mr. FREDERICKS: Other Commissioners went to their districts with their salary. In this case the salary is created for the officer. I do not see where there is economy at all.

Mr. MULLIN: This officer was drawing a salary of \$2,400 a year in my Department and he was appointed Commissioner at the same rate. That was his substantive salary as a Surveyor and if he were still in the Department he would have continued to draw that salary.

#### AUDIT OFFICE.

The votes of the Audit Office were deferred.

#### TREASURY.

Mr. SEAFORD: Item 1 (p)—1 Fifth Class Clerk, \$666—seems to be a new item.

Mr. MILLARD: With the alteration in the collection of Income Tax a considerable increase was occasioned in the number of assessments and when the last Budget

was before the Council I asked that provision be made for additional staff at a round sum in order to give me time to make a careful selection of the officers necessary, who were to be appointed from the Service if possible. This clerk has been selected from the staff of another Department at the salary of a Fifth Class Clerk and he is eligible for an increment, and the round sum of \$2,400, which appears below for additional staff, is cancelled.

#### FOREST DEPARTMENT.

Mr. CANNON: I do not intend to take any part in the discussion of any of these items. As long as the Mother Country is going to provide the difference I have no objection, but I ask that my vote be recorded against the items under this particular head.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests): I can make some explanation regarding these estimates this year. There is a note against item 1 (b) that it is proposed that one of the officers should undergo a course of training at the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princess Risborough, and that the Secretary of State has invited an application to the Colonial Development Fund Advisory Committee for a sum to cover the expenses of the course plus the half salary of the officer while training. This dovetails to some extent with the \$25,000 which is to be used in getting Colony woods in a seasoned condition which will enable them to compete with woods imported into this Colony and woods which are exported to England and other countries. Tests of our timbers are being made at Princess Risborough and they show considerable promise of getting these woods on the English market. Crabwood has been favourably reported upon. The application to have it tested was supported by certain aircraft interests who have been independently testing wood sent to them by us for trial for air spruce. We have therefore an authoritative recommendation from the Forest Research Laboratory that crabwood would be a good substitute for certain purposes. We are in the rather fortunate position that only one other Colony has had four of its woods tested already, and it has been and is now under present circumstances the considered opinion of those interested in England, who are best able to judge the

timber trade, that the Colonies which have forest resources ought to have some officers who have been trained in that particular work to act as *liaison*, so that they will be in a position to know the intricacies of the timber trade in England. The course has been instituted and commenced at the end of October at Princess Risborough, and this Colony was asked to provide an officer for that course as a result of their tests and also as the result to the timber trade in England of the valuations which have been done out here. The Secretary of State also considers that the opportunity at present is very favourable to get Empire woods on the market with the 1s. per cubic foot preference. Those who are interested in England consider that not only is it necessary to have some officer in each Colony who is trained to act as *liaison* but it is also essential that there should be an assurance of continuity of supply in the future if the trade is to be interested. This Colony is in a better position than most because we have always concentrated and adopted as our policy the valuation of the forest to find out what we have to sell before we started to sell. One of the two Assistant Conservators of Forests has been detailed to take this course. It is not proposed to spend the \$25,000 in competition with the timber merchants in any way. It is proposed now, as a result of the preliminary work which we have been doing in the seasoning of our local woods, to produce on a large scale both for Government and for private individuals local woods which will take the place of present imported timbers. We are not going to sell house framings in competition with

local firms, but we are going in for providing and showing that we have woods which, when seasoned, will take the place of pitch-pine and ordinary New York boards. At the same time we will have stacks of those woods so that when people want supplies they will get them in the Colony, which hitherto they have not been able to do. There is no question of our competing with local grantholders or people who hold wood-cutting licences. We are getting all our logs from above the falls on the rivers which nobody attempted before, and are not attempting to compete with anybody in any way.

Mr. GONSALVES: Is this officer in the Service?

Mr. WOOD: The officer is in the Service. He was on leave and could undertake the first course at the time. I consider it was to the advantage of the Colony to have the officer take the course because he was available on the spot. The first course was in October, it was possible for the officer to attend, and it was also suitable for the officer to do so. The next course will not commence until the end of February. I thought it was desirable if we are going to try and solve our own problems to get on the officer with the first course. It was also important that he should do so because I wanted him to be at Princess Risborough when our woods were undergoing the tests.

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