

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 27th August, 1940.

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

PRESENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. L. D. Cleare, Director of Agriculture, Acting.

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

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

PRESENTATIONS.

The President made the following presentations:—

(a) the Imperial Service Medal—Mr. Alexander Benjamin Thomas.

(b) The Royal Humane Society's testimonial on Parchment—Mr. Alexander Munroe.

Addressing the recipients in turn the President said:—

Mr. Thomas,—By command of His Majesty the King I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Medal of the Imperial Service Order as a reward for long, loyal and faithful service.

Mr. Munroe,—I have much pleasure in handing you the certificate of the Royal Humane Society on parchment in recognition of your gallant act in saving a comrade from drowning.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd August, 1940, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

RE ORGANIZATION OF P.W.D.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. G. D. Owen): I am the bearer of the following message from the Governor to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 25.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,
Some months ago a small Committee was appointed to consider the desirability of re-organizing the Public Works Department. The

Committee has not yet completed its deliberations, but in an interim report which has been submitted the Committee expresses the view that the present arrangement under which Mr. Case is Director of Public Works and Sea Defences with personal responsibility for matters affecting Sea Defences, drainage and irrigation, but only nominal responsibility for all the other matters within the purview of the Department, has not proved satisfactory in practice.

This arrangement was adopted in 1936, when the Department's annual estimates for 1937 were under consideration, on the condition that it would be continued for a period of 2 years, the object being to retain the services of Mr. Case because of his expert knowledge of the Colony's sea defences and drainage problems at a time when sea defences in particular were giving cause for considerable anxiety.

2. The Committee reports that Mr. Case feels that he has neither the time nor the necessary experience to undertake the responsibility for the normal functions of the Department with respect to roads, buildings, etc., and for its routine administration. It considers, however, that it is essential that Mr. Case's most valuable services should be retained, but that he should be placed in a position which would enable him to devote the whole of his time to problems connected with sea defences, drainage, irrigation, and harbour and river improvements—more so in view of the prospect of considerable expenditure in this direction in the near future.

3. The Committee recommends *inter alia* :—

- (a) that the Department should be placed under the charge of a Director of Public Works who should be an officer of experience capable of effecting the re-organization of, and assuming full responsibility for, the administration of the department in all its functions; and that the Secretary of State should be requested to select and appoint such an officer at a salary of \$5,760 (£1,200) per annum, provided on the Civil List;
- (b) that Mr. Case be appointed Consulting Engineer in respect of the special services aforementioned at his present salary; the appointment to be on agreement for a fixed period with the option of renewal;
- (c) that Mr. Case be provided with separate office accommodation and a separate staff as detailed below :—
 - 1 Executive Engineer.
 - 1 Engineer-Surveyor.
 - 4 Surveyors.
 - 1 Hydrographic Surveyor.
 - 1 Assistant Hydrographer.
 - 1 Engineering Draughtsman.
 - 1 Drawing Office Assistant.
 - 1 Typist-Clerk.
 - 1 Messenger.

Mr. Case would in effect become the Consulting Engineer of the Government in regard to all works of the character indicated, which would be carried out by the Public Works Department under his supervision as Consulting Engineer. He would work in close co-operation with the Director of Public Works but would at all times have direct access to the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Case has been con-

sulted in regard to these proposals and he has expressed his willingness to accept appointment under the conditions stated.

4. With the exception of the Engineering Draughtsman and Messenger, the staff for the Consulting Engineer's Office is already available in the Public Works Department; and office accommodation can be provided at little cost. It should be possible to obtain the services of an Engineering Draughtsman at a salary of about £500 to £600 per annum.

5. The initial cost of these proposals, including the necessary provision for the travelling of the Director, is estimated at £1,880 per annum. The Council is invited to approve of the immediate adoption of the recommendations and to undertake to provide an additional £500 on supplementary estimate to cover their cost for the remaining four months of the current year.

6. The question of staffing the Public Works section of the Department is still engaging the attention of Government, and a further report from the Committee is awaited.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

23rd August, 1940.

PAPERS LAID.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. G. D. Owen), laid on the table the following report :—

Report of the Commissioners of Income Tax for the year 1939.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

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

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make special provision for the payment of a pension to Sir Frank Arthur Stockdale in respect of his service in the Colony.

A Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Poor Relief Ordinance, Chapter 90, by increasing the number of Poor Law Commissioners and by increasing the number which shall form a quorum at any meeting of the said Commissioners.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF P.W.D.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motion :—

That this Council approves of the immediate adoption of the proposals in connection with

the re-organization of the Public Works Department contained in Governor's Message No. 25 of the 23rd August, 1940, and undertakes to provide the necessary funds to give effect to them.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF PENSIONERS.

Mr. JACOB asked and the COLONIAL

SECRETARY laid over replies to the following questions :—

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

A. 1. The number of Pensioners re-employed by Government on 1st April, 1940, was 23 and the particulars asked are as follows :—

Name of Pensioner.	Date of re-employment.	Department.	Capacity.	Salary per mensem.
Cruickshank, J. G. ...	17. 1.35	Colonial Secretary's Office	Superintendent of Archives	\$ 60 00
Veecock, Miss S. C. ...	1.12.32	do.	Clerk, Central Stationery Store	50 00
Williamson, R.	11. 6.37	Militia	Arms Cleaner, Local Forces, Armoury	28 00
Chase, R.	1. 4.39	do.	do.	20 00
Christian, H. P.	7.11.39	Customs	Officer in Charge, Supplies Control Branch	80 00
Williams, S. A.	1.11.39	Education	Guide-Lecturer to Primary School, B.G. Museum.	30 00
Smith, C.	18. 2.39	Public Works	Day Watchman	50c. a day
Parsley, C. H.	1. 9.39	do.	Assistant Engineer	\$160 on scale \$1,920 x 120— \$2,400.
Isaacs, O. W.	1. 8.29	Post Office	Postal Agent, Sisters	\$ 17 50
Hendricks, D. O. ...	1. 1.32	do.	Postal Agent, Met-en-Meerzorg	15 00
Smart, J. D. M.	20. 6.34	do.	Postal Agent, Eversham	17 00
Lampkin, R. J.	9. 7.28	do.	Postal Agent, Agricola	12 00
Luke, N. B. ...	1. 6.29	do.	Postal Agent, No. 50, Oorentyne	8 00
Belmonte, C. G. C. ...	1. 6.33	Labour and Local Government (B'ce).	Class II. Officer	111 00
Fredericks, R.	1. 9.32	do.	Revenue Runner, and helps in the adjustment of scales and weights (part time only).	8 33
Broodhagen, S. H. ...	1. 2.29	Labour and Local Government (West Demerara).	Revenue Runner and Poor Law Enquirer.	34 67
Waite, J.	1. 1.32	do.	Boothand and Postal Agent	20 50
Cameron, I. N.	1. 1.39	Magistrates	Supernumerar, Constable	15 00
Klaus, C. ...	1. 1.39	do.	do.	15 00
Douglas, Capt C. E. ...	15.11.39	Rice Marketing Board	Officer in Charge, Rice Bond	80 00
Muss, J. R.	7. 6.38	Commissioners of Currency	Currency Officer	\$2 50 a day.
King, A. E.	10. 1.40	do.	do.	Normally 2 of these pensioners would be employed for about 30 days in the course of a year.
Solomon, H. H. ...	9.12.39	do.	do.	

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

A. 2. Only in cases where it is found that it is in the public interest to re-employ them.

CENTRAL RICE MILL.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT asked and the COLONIAL SECRETARY laid over replies to the following questions :—

Q. 1. Does Government intend to adopt the recommendation of the Royal Commission for

the erection of a Central Rice Mill on the Essequibo Coast?

Q. 2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative, when does Government propose to commence such erection?

A. 1 and 2. The hon. Member presumably refers to the proposal initiated by this Government and supported by the Royal Commission for the establishment of a Central Rice Mill on the Essequibo Coast.

It was Government's intention to proceed with the establishment of this mill so soon as certain technical details, on which expert advice has been sought in England, had been settled, and as soon as satisfactory arrangements for the financing of the scheme have been completed. As the hon. Member is aware,

however, it will no longer be possible at the present time to obtain assistance from the Colonial Development Fund. In the altered circumstances arising out of the war there is not now the same urgency for the establishment of the mill as there was previously. Nevertheless the final proposals are being forwarded to the Secretary of State.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS.

Q. 3. Is Government of opinion that the present time calls for assistance to the farming community of this Colony more so than at any other time?

Q. 4. If so, can Government explain their attitude in issuing legal process at the present moment for the recovery of loans, e.g., the Flood Loan in the Pomeroun District, made several years ago?

Q. 5. Is Government of the opinion that the recent dry season has caused hardship to the farming community of the Colony?

Q. 6. If the answer to No. 5 is in the affirmative, does Government think that legal action against farmers for recovery of loans made by Government *per se* or through the Co-operative Banks would relieve the hardship?

Q. 7. Does Government think that while they are advocating a policy of growing more food within the Colony, legal action against those members of the community largely affected by such a policy would tend to encourage or support such a policy?

Q. 8. When judgment is obtained by either Government or the Co-operative Banks for an indebtedness to either of them, is it proposed to proceed to execution?

Q. 9. Has Government ever given any assistance to the farming community of this Colony? If so, what?

Q. 10. Has Government ever encouraged peasant farming? If so, in what way or ways?

A. 3 to 10. The Government has undertaken extensive measures for the assistance of farmers with a view to the encouragement of production in connection with the Colony's war effort. Seeds and material have been supplied free in many cases, arrangements made for improving drainage, additional lands made available, and measures for the control of marketing established, by which guaranteed prices have been assured to rice growers. Measures for the better organisation of marketing of provision crops are now before the Council, loans to growers under the Rice Growers Loan Ordinance, Chapter 155, have also been authorised up to a total of \$150,000.

The measures taken against particular individuals in the Pomeroun are on an entirely different footing, and have reference to loans made in 1934. These measures have only been resorted to in one or two individual cases, after numerous warnings, and in response to deliberate attempts to evade repayment and discourage repayment by others. It must be clearly understood that no encouragement can be given to the idea that money borrowed from Government to assist farming production need not be repaid, if only the delay in repayment can be sufficiently extended. Many of the Pomeroun farmers have repaid their loans. The proceedings taken have been limited to one case where

Government was satisfied that failure to repay was due to deliberate evasion and not to inability.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Q. 1. Has Government any record of the number of unemployed persons in the Colony?

Q. 2. If the answer to Number One is in the negative, has Government at any time made an effort to ascertain the number of persons unemployed in the Colony?

Q. 3. If the answer to Number One is in the affirmative, what is the number?

Q. 4. If the answer to Number One is in the negative, will Government endeavour by registration or otherwise to ascertain the number of persons so unemployed?

A. 1, 2, 3 and 4. There is no accurate record of the number of unemployed persons in the Colony and there is no machinery for obtaining the necessary information.

In England the national system of compulsory unemployment insurance is the main source of statistical data concerning unemployment in that country. As there is no unemployment insurance in the Colony, compulsory or otherwise, reliable figures of the number of unemployed persons cannot be obtained.

IMMIGRATION FUND.

Q. 1. Is there in existence an immigration fund as provided for under Section 27 of the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 208?

Q. 2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative, is the said fund in credit?

Q. 3. If the said fund is in credit, what is the amount standing at the credit of the said fund?

A. 1, 2 and 3. The balance at credit of the Immigration Fund at 31st December, 1939, was \$345,905 (see paragraph 17 of the Colonial Treasurer's Report for 1939).

Q. 4. For what purpose is it intended to use the amount at credit of the said fund?

A. 4. The fund is being retained for the purpose of defraying the expenses of providing free or assisted passages for those Indian immigrants entitled thereto in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 of the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 208. The amount which will be necessary for this purpose cannot be determined.

Q. 5. Could not the sum so standing at the credit of the said fund or a considerable portion of it be utilised for other purposes?

A. 5. The answer is in the negative.

Q. 6. Are not the purposes or the majority of them for which the said fund was created now obsolete?

A. 6. Yes, but the demands which may arise under repatriation may well exceed the amount remaining in the fund.

Q. 7. If the answer to No. 6 is in the affirmative, is Government prepared to introduce legislation authorising the utilisation of the said fund for other purposes? If not, why not?

A. 7. See answer to Questions 4 and 5.

LOANS TO FARMERS.

Q. 1. Did not Government receive a letter dated the 28th day of February, 1940, from G.

Vibart Wight *inter alia* enquiring whether the following Ordinances are still in force, viz:—

- (a) The Agricultural Relief Ordinance, Chapter 152.
 (b) The Rice Growers Loans Ordinance, Chapter 155.
 (c) Produce Protection Ordinance, Chapter 157.

A. 1. Yes.

Q. 2. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative, has Government replied to same yet?

A. 2. See reply to No. 4.

Q. 3. Was a further letter dated the 27th day of May, 1940, addressed to Government reminding them of the letter of the 28th February, 1940, referred to in No. 1, received by them?

A. 3. Yes.

Q. 4. If the answer to No. 3 is in the affirmative, has Government replied to same yet?

A. 4. The hon. Member's communications referred mainly to Government's policy regarding the Pomeroun Flood Relief Loans of 1934, and particularly to action taken against a certain person for repayment of an amount due to Government. A reply on these points was sent to the hon. Member on 3rd June.

Q. 5. If the answers to Nos. 2 and 4 are in the affirmative, on what dates were the replies forwarded?

A. 5. See reply to No. 4.

Q. 6. What amounts, if any, have been advanced in accordance with the terms of Section 2 of the Rice Growers Loans Ordinance, Chapter 155?

A. 6. When all arrangements have been completed a statement of amounts advanced in connection with Government's decision referred to in No. 7 will be presented to Legislative Council.

Q. 7. Has Government decided to make use of the provisions of the Rice Growers Loans Ordinance, Chapter 155, for the purpose of making loans to Rice Growers or otherwise?

A. 7. Yes. The hon. Member's attention is invited to Government's decision in this matter as announced in the Press on 19th July, 1940.

Q. 8. If the answer to No. 7 is in the affirmative, was the said decision arrived at by Government before or after receipt by Government of the letter referred to in No. 1 hereof?

A. 8. The decision was reached after consideration of recommendations received from the Rice Marketing Advisory Board on behalf of the industry.

Q. 9. If the answer to No. 7 is in the negative, why not?

Q. 10. Please give the date of the decision mentioned in No. 8 hereof.

A. 9 and 10. See reply to No. 7.

LOCAL SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Q. 1. Does Government propose to enact legislation for the recovery of the sum of \$191,438.07 referred to on page 36 of the Report of the Colonial Treasurer for the year 1939 as a contingent liability by the sugar producers in the Colony for the repayment of advances for expenditure on improvements?

A. 1. No. The Colonial Development and Welfare Act recently enacted by Parliament provides for the remission *inter alia* of the li-

bility of this Colony to repay to the United Kingdom Exchequer the sum of \$191,438 advanced to Sugar Estates for unemployment relief works to which the hon. Member refers.

Q. 2. If the answer to Question 1 is in the affirmative, when does Government propose to enact the necessary legislation?

Q. 3. If the answer to Question 1 is in the negative, why not?

A. 2 and 3. See reply to Question 1.

Q. 4. Does Government propose to enact legislation for the control of the sugar industry in the Colony similar to that enacted in the United Kingdom for the control of major industries thereof?

A. 4. No. The conditions which have made it necessary to control major industries in the United Kingdom do not exist in regard to the sugar industry in this Colony although, as the hon. Member is no doubt aware, the whole of the sugar available for export from this and other Colonies is being disposed of under arrangements made by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Q. 5. If the answer to Question 4 is in the affirmative, when will such legislation be enacted?

Q. 6. If the answer to Question 5 is in the negative, why not?

A. 5 and 6. See reply to Question 4.

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1940.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Before I move that the Council go into Committee to consider the First Schedule of Additional Provision for 1940, there are just one or two remarks I would like to make. First of all, hon. Members have received a list of "moves-in" which I will take when the time comes. At the moment I will deal only with the Schedule as printed. It will be observed that the total amounts to \$668,000, but five items account for \$576,000 of that total and many of the smaller items are re-votes. The five largest items are as follows:—

(1) On page 2, under Head "Medical" the sum of \$30,000 is required for the purchase of reserves of quinine. Government has been advised that it is desirable to lay in a reserve stock of quinine during the war, and this money is required for that purpose.

(2) On page 4, under Head "Transport and Harbours" the sum of \$83,040 is required in connection with replacements and renewals for the West Coast Railway.

(3) On page 7, under Head "Colonial Emergency Measures" the sum of \$36,800 is required for extraordinary expenditure in connection with the war. The manner in which it is proposed to allocate it is given in the "Remarks" column.

(4) There is the sum of \$250,000 already authorised by this Council in connection with Reconditioning Works—drainage, roads and buildings. These three items are shown at the foot of page 7 and the top of page 8.

(5) On page 8, the sum of \$176,492 is required for the payment of temporary war bonus. That is also to give effect to a resolution which has been already passed by this Council.

With regard to the items to be moved in, I will make comments when the proper time comes. I move that the Council go into Committee to consider the Schedule.

Mr. SEAFORD seconded.

Mr. JACOB: Before the Council goes into Committee I would like to raise two matters—Agricultural Loan Banks' Facilities, and the Rice Industry.

THE PRESIDENT: Is the hon. Member presuming that a motion to go into Committee gives him the right to raise any question?

Mr. JACOB: I think, sir, it is more appropriate to raise it under a general head rather than under a specific head.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no general head!

Mr. JACOB: The motion for the adoption of this Supplementary Estimate.

THE PRESIDENT: The motion is that the Council go into Committee.

Mr. JACOB: I think, I rose before that motion was put.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think the hon. Member can consider the motion to go into Committee as a motion on which any subject whatever can be raised.

Mr. JACOB: My point is, sir, it has been the practice to speak generally on a motion before the Council goes into Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: These particular points are not included in the motion which is before the Council.

Mr. JACOB: I do not say so!

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think the hon. Member says he wishes to speak about Agricultural Loan Banks. Is that correct? If that is so, I may mention that I am going to move in an item under Head III—Agriculture—for loans to Co-operative Credit Banks.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the hon. Member may wait until the precise subject arises in Committee and then deal with it.

Mr. JACOB: I have always been a stickler for principles. I have always known that when a motion to go into Committee is before this Council Members have the privilege to speak on it. It was done up to the last Session.

THE PRESIDENT: The motion is that this Council go into Committee. The hon. Member has an opportunity to speak on it during the course of the debate.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Council in Committee.

During the discussion in Committee Mr. Woolford and Dr. Singh entered the Chamber and took their seats.

AGRICULTURE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under this Head I beg to move in three items—

(a) Item 25—"Loans to Co-operative Credit Banks—\$1,000." That vote is asked for to make provision for the necessary increase to the loans granted to Co-operative Credit Banks.

(b) Item 27—"Government Produce Depôt - \$4,960." This is to enable Government to start a Produce Depôt. It is proposed that the Depôt should be under the control of the Department of Agriculture. It would enable persons who have been encouraged to grow more food to find an outlet for their produce. Of that sum of \$4,960 only \$960 is required for operating expense; \$4,000 is required for use as a revolving fund to enable the Depôt to purchase goods. Later on under another Head the Council will be asked to approve of an amount of \$5,500 for the erection of the depôt.

(c) Item 26—"Transport Expenses of Mr. T. Bell, Agricultural Superintendent

—\$13 64." Mr. Bell arrived here during last year, but the voucher was somewhat late in arriving in the Colony.

I move that these three items be inserted in the First Schedule under Head III—Agriculture.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to raise the question of agricultural loans. I have written this Government several letters dating from April in connection with the creation of proper and adequate credit facilities so as to assist agriculture generally, and I am sorry to say that while something has been attempted and something is being done at the moment I anticipate that the results will be far from satisfactory. I recall approaching you, sir, in the matter and you were good enough to authorize that \$150,000 be allocated towards a particular scheme. Since then I have heard that up to the present that scheme has not found favour with those whom it was intended to help, and I would like to urge that the matter be thoroughly investigated so that the facilities available would be accepted and you would get the co-operation of those whose co-operation is required. I cannot understand, hon. Members of this Council during the last 20 or 30 years have been clamouring for the creation of certain facilities—call them what you like, banks or co-operative societies, or anything—and except through the co-operative societies which are functioning in a small way I do not know to what extent help is given to agricultural producers. Some bold forward policy should be adopted if it is intended to exploit the agricultural resources of this Colony. I think Jamaica has set a very good example in this direction, and provided all the details are known some such policy should be adopted here, otherwise the idea of growing more food—

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you give us the details of the Jamaica proposals?

Mr. JACOB: I have not been able to get them. I think if this Government investigates that matter properly it should be able to get them from Jamaica. I am not saying that the Jamaica scheme should be adopted *en bloc*. I think a working principle should be brought forward here and worked for the benefit of agriculturists here.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is that working principle?

Mr. JACOB: To assist the producer by way of loans at a low rate of interest under proper safeguards. I am positive that several industries which are in a parlous condition and those connected with them, if helped in the proper way, would prosper. It is very difficult for any hon. Member of this Council to rise from his seat and put forward a scheme. I am not attempting to do that at all. I am attempting to put the onus on Government that has the power to govern to do these things and see that they are properly carried out. I am going to refer to the Rice Industry in a few moments and, Your Excellency, it must be realized by now that since those who had been helping that industry financially have withdrawn or suspended their help in various ways the industry has been going down. If then, facilities are not given by Government or by those who are advising Government, would the industry prosper? But as you have taken away the facilities and the right of the people who have been helping the industry, so to speak, and you are doing nothing yourselves, as the figures I am going to quote will show, would the industry progress? What I want to suggest is the giving of agricultural loans or the establishing of loan banks or credit societies. I think, sir, if these things are approached from the right direction and the co-operation of the producer is received, agriculture in this Colony would be put on a sound basis.

Relative to the rice industry I had asked a series of questions, and at the annual session of this Council I referred to certain schemes. I referred to the scheme now in operation by Government—the Rice Marketing Board—and my speech was reported in Hansard of 22nd November, 1939, at page 91. I stated then:

As regards the Estimates, I can place no reliance upon the estimates of the Department of Agriculture. I have been told recently that the export of rice for 1940 would be about 30,000 tons as compared with 14,000 tons this year. I am giving these figures because I propose later on to refer to them. If in 1932 the exports of rice were 29,000 tons valued at \$36.40 per ton, and in 1938 the exports were reduced to 12,888 tons valued at \$44.70 per ton—the time when there was this control—and this year the exports would not be more than 14,000 tons, it is beyond my comprehension to

understand how in 1940 the exports would be about 30,000 tons....

I have read that extensively word for word as printed in the debates to show that I have been making these points in this Council Chamber for the last five years but very little notice has been paid to my remarks, with the result that the industry finds itself in a parlous condition. When I was returning from England to this Colony in November last, I looked up my agents in Trinidad and was told that the present Chairman of the Rice Marketing Board and the Secretary of that Board were in Trinidad arranging to sell Trinidad all the rice she would require to purchase as from 1940. The consumption of rice in Trinidad is between 18,000 and 20,000 tons a year. In that year, 1939, the rice exports to Trinidad from this Colony did not even amount to 10,000 tons. I took the trouble to see the Comptroller of Customs over there on the advice of my agents, and I said to him in the course of our conversation: "If the Government of British Guiana supported by the hon. Colonial Treasurer can come over here and make arrangements which I know can never be carried out, then I suggest to you to make a binding arrangement and hold the British Guiana Government responsible." I was told then that 10,000 tons of Rice had already been bought, and I expressed the fear then that British Guiana would not be able to supply the 10,000 tons as per contract. Before I left Trinidad I told them further that I would never be a party to one Government making an arrangement with another Government which cannot be carried out. When I stated here that there was inefficiency in abundance and general incapability in the Civil Service of this Colony, one or two hon. Members thought it a gross libel. Is it not a gross libel for the principal officers of this Colony to go to a sister Colony and make arrangement which cannot be carried out? What else can it be termed? Someone who thinks he knows all about the rice industry goes to Trinidad and tells the Government there that we can do what we cannot do. The contract was made and, I think, the Rice Marketing Board is finding it extremely difficult to carry out the terms of that contract in the supplying of that 10,000 tons only. I understand that the Board had to purchase 20,000 bags of rice from Barbados for re-exportation to Trinidad a month or so ago.

Immediately on my return to this Colony, accompanied by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) the next day I interviewed both the hon. Colonial Secretary and the hon. Colonial Treasurer two hon. Members of this Council and responsible officers of Government. We both pointed out to them that they were making a serious blunder, as while the scheme might be well designed it was not being operated in a proper way by those whom Government proposed to operate it. We also pointed out that if in 1939 the exports of rice would be only 14,000 or 15,000 tons—as a matter of fact the actual figure was 12,500 tons—how could it be expected that we would get 30,000 tons for export in 1940. The hon. Colonial Treasurer laughed at us. He said to us: "What do you know about it? We have calculated the stocks. We have got estimates supplied by the Department of Agriculture. We have got the figures here. At least 30,000 tons of rice will be available for export after making adequate provision for consumption in the Colony and for no Spring crop." I stated those facts in this Council and they were never disputed. I think, however, some attempt will be made to dispute them now. I went further and asked them to give us details. I said to them: "If you pretend to know so much about this industry, tell us where you are going to export this rice from? Give us the figures month by month?" The figures were never supplied, although we have asked privately and in written question form. I asked the questions in March and what replies did I get? This Government refuses to answer when it finds itself in a difficult position. I strongly protest against that. If we are to be representatives of the people here, we should be afforded every facility if information is required. We are never given proper information in respect of the rice industry, and I strongly protest against that. The questions were answered thus:

A7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. The hon. Member's attention is invited to the report of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board published in the *Gazette* of 22nd June, 1940, in accordance with the provisions of the Defence (Rice Control) Regulations, 1939. The Report contains statistics of the original estimate of supplies, exports stocks, prospective supplies and commitments as at 31st March, 1940.

I submit with all confidence that if those responsible were to have gone into them and

prepared the figures carefully they would never have blundered. I want to suggest with all confidence that those responsible for the replies to those questions are definitely incompetent to do so. I make the specific charge that the Rice Marketing Board is being run by incompetent persons. The present Chairman should never have been there, unless Government wanted to ruin the industry as it is doing now. This Government, I am not too sure about it, made a promise to the whole West Indies that we can produce rice to supply them. I say that this Government cannot supply rice to the West Indies who buy 30,000 to 40,000 tons per annum. Here we have an industry, which has been built up by the life blood of certain people, being ruined by incompetent, inefficient and incapable Civil Servants. It is time that something be said about it and Government be made to realize that it is bringing the people connected with the industry only distress, starvation and privation of every kind. It is time that Government realizes that. If I speak with some heat it is because I feel very strongly about it. I am laying the specific charge that the Rice Marketing Board is not capable of running the industry and should be remodelled and reorganised. I have asked for the attendance of members of the Board, and I do not know when it will be supplied. I have, however, a suspicion that the majority of the members are too busy over their own affairs to attend the meetings of the Board. This brings me to the point, that on these Boards you want men who are willing to work and not names only. The names which adorn these Boards do look well on paper, but the owners have not the time to attend to the functions of the Boards and do hardly attend the meetings. I know that when I was on the Rice Marketing Board Advisory Committee a certain member, who I understand has resigned now, hardly attended any of the meetings. Though regulations have been made that when you do not attend three consecutive meetings your seat must be declared vacant, that member was kept on the Board with the object of bolstering up the policy of Government which is ruining the country. I am not going to stop talking about this rice industry until and unless it begins to improve.

I had asked for certain figures and they

were not supplied me, but I am going to supply them to this Council so that the debate will be self-contained. I am giving the exports of rice from 1913 to 1939 and the tonnage and value per ton in dollars, so that it can be seen how the industry is progressing under the fatherly guidance of this Government. The figures are as follows:—

YEAR.	TONS.	VALUE PER TON IN DOLLARS.
1913	7,710	8 66
1914	7,462	68.7
1915	9,057	70.9
1916	13,268	75
1917	14,367	59
1918	8,018	106.6
1919	6,943	137
1920	8,085	139.08
1921	3,027	94.2
1922	8,791	69.6
1923	3,971	68.9
1924	4,470	69.9
1925	6,918	75.7
1926	2,914	75
1927	11,497	62.9
1928	18,083	61
1929	14,091	62
1930	22,480	49.5
1931	23,632	44.8
1932	28,541	41.2
1933	29,120	36.4
1934	14,700	39.6
1935	10,565	44.7
1936	20,559	39.4
1937	18,795	41.7
1938	12,888	44.7
1939	12,503	46.6

While I had estimated in November of last year that the exports for 1939 would have been 15,000 tons, the actual figures were only 12,503 tons. Some of that rice, owing to the introduction of the new control measures, came forward to this year and the result then is that if 15,000 tons be exported this year—I do not figure that more than that will be exported—it would not be the actual amount because of the large carry over from last year to this year. I anticipate further and predict—there are letters on Government files and on the files of the Rice Marketing Board to the effect—that the exports for 1941 will not be what the exports for 1940 are going to be. Maybe I am wrong again, as I am always wrong in the estimation of Government about the rice industry. If Government goes carefully into the matter it will be found that the predictions I have given for the last seven years have been absolutely correct. What are we going to do, continue in this way? When control came in we had an export trade of 29,000 tons, but it is now approximately 15,000 tons. That is the way the industry has been helped. That is the way it is en-

couraged. Government, however, seems satisfied that everything is going on well.

In my questions I referred to the balance sheet in the Rice Marketing Board's report. I have queried the figures of the balance sheet and have asked for an amplification of the Auditors' report. I wish it to be understood—whether it is believed or not and whether Government pays any attention or not to what I am saying that the report which has been printed in the *Official Gazette* is not worth the paper it is written on. If the balance sheet is gone into carefully it would be found that the profit shown there is not correct and that the figures have been juggled. I have been making balance sheets for 20 years and claim to have the knowledge of reading a balance sheet. I think the gentlemen responsible for this balance sheet know that. The balance sheet is not "full and fair." It is not properly drawn up and does not exhibit a true and correct view of the finances of that Board. The balance sheet to be issued in September will confirm to the utmost what I am saying here. There again that may be disputed, but when the time comes it will be seen that it is so. When I ask for statistics, I am told to look at the balance sheet and the Board's reports. The statistics given there are not worth anything. Figures are not given showing how the exports have declined, and therefore do not give a true indication of the state of the industry. The reports and figures are not worth anything in my opinion, and I do suggest to this Government to look into this matter. Government has been blundering over it for the last seven years, and I ask Government to stop that blundering. It is true that a Rice Producers' Advisory Committee was appointed, but I think that was done in order to let some people feel that Government is willing to help the industry. Has Government taken the advice of that Committee? Yes, it has taken some of the advice up to the present and, I submit with all confidence, that is because Government has been forced to do so.

I was appointed a member of that Committee. I never do wish to be associated with anything that is going to be a failure, and against my better judgment I accepted the appointment. My appointment was to advise Government and the Rice Market

ing Board on matters affecting the rice industry generally. When I enquired how this advice will be communicated, how the Board will be informed of our advice and what will be the connecting link, I was told in another letter, not directly from the Colonial Secretary's Office but from the Chairman of the Rice Marketing Board—I am still awaiting the letter from the Colonial Secretary's Office—"You are appointed to make representations to the Rice Marketing Board." I cannot understand the ways of Government. The people who are directly interested and are well informed—the majority of them at least are to make representations to a Board that is not properly informed and has no intimate knowledge of the industry and absolutely no intimate knowledge of business. It is true there are certain exceptions on the Board, and I wish to make that perfectly clear. The Committee recommended that at least four members of the Board should be removed but instead of doing that, I understand, the personnel of the Board is to be increased. Government will never accept defeat and will never be corrected. I protest against that procedure. If this thing was not causing distress among large numbers of people, ruining some of them, sending some of them to the bankruptcy court I would say nothing, but there is too much at stake and Government must revise its methods. Until and unless that is done I will continue to criticize Government most strongly in connection with the rice industry.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I have heard those figures quoted by the hon. Member so often, that I think I should give another side of the picture in order to show what is responsible for the lowering of the export trade between 1933 and 1939. I do not think much time will be taken up in doing so. The memory of hon. Members of this Council is not so bad that they do not remember the calamity which befell this country in 1933. I make bold to say that between 1933 and 1939 we have only had two successful crops throughout the Colony. I anticipate also that the crop for next year will fall far below the mark, as in the County of Berbice one half of the crop is lost through want of water. The export trade started to drop because there was not sufficient rice in the Colony. I do not know that we ever had more rice stocks

in this Colony at any time than we could sell. I think we have sold all.

Mr. JACOB: I rise to a point of correction. My hon friend has misunderstood my argument. My argument is that we do not produce more rice.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I quite understand the hon. Member's argument, but the point I am making is that at no time have we produced more rice than we can sell. We have always had a market for our rice, and the export trade was controlled by the merchants for a considerable number of years until last year when direct control was placed in the hands of the Rice Marketing Board as an emergency measure. The point I desire to stress is that it is not control that has ruined the industry. I wish Government will realize and appreciate that it is lack of protective measures that has ruined the industry. Rice farmers have been unable to obtain financial assistance for the growing of their crops, and Government is very wise in deciding to render them such assistance in so far as the reaping of their crop is concerned, because I do not see how anyone can be expected to invest in or make any loan to crops which are not protected or insured against annual floods and droughts. I think the first thing Government should do is to protect crops from annual floods and droughts, and after that Government could think of establishing co-operative societies, or loan banks or agricultural loan banks. I feel certain that under the hazardous conditions rice is being grown in this Colony, if an agricultural loan bank is established there will not be sufficient funds to carry on the bank for two years, as the loans made to growers cannot be repaid early owing to these conditions. As I have pointed out we only had two successful crops during a period of seven years: what would have happened if there was such a co-operative system of lending money in operation? Government would have had to lend them money during that period without the certainty of repayment for the next twenty years.

I think it is known to hon. Members of this Council that a definite step has been taken so far as drainage and irrigation are concerned. As I have said here during last week, extensive surveys have been made and plans prepared and in due course, I

hope, schemes will be submitted for the different areas. When that is done I think Government may then consider the giving of financial assistance to farmers through the establishment of agricultural loan banks. Farmers then will have to seek markets to sell their products. I hope it will be seen from what I have stated, that it is not due to control measures by the Rice Marketing Board or to any emergency measure that the rice export trade has dropped.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: We have listened to one of the usual speeches coming from the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) on the rice industry, and like on many other occasions the tune is the same. I must confess again that I have not been able to follow the logic of his argument. The hon. Member started off by accusing Government of ruining the rice industry and gave a long list of figures, as he has done so many times in the past, on the exports of rice. He then went on to accuse the Rice Marketing Board of several wrong things, and the sum total of all he has said is that Government is ruining the rice industry. If the hon. Member divorces from his mind the question of the production of rice and that of the marketing of rice and tries to base his argument—reasoned argument—separately on those two premises, perhaps I and many other hon. Members would be able to follow him. His tune is the same and will be the same always until he sits down and carefully studies the two subjects separately—and, perhaps, it would be better if he does that before raising further questions in the Council on the rice industry.

As I understand the functions of the Rice Marketing Board, until recently it attended only to the export trade but recently it is attending to the export as well as domestic trade in rice, but like the hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peer Bacchus) I have never heard that as a result of the Rice Marketing Board functioning we had rice in this country which we could neither sell locally nor export and in that way the industry was injured. If the hon. Member wants to criticize the Rice Marketing Board by all means do so, but do not make a bald statement accusing Government of ruining the industry. To take the activities of the Rice Marketing Board, which deals with marketing, as the basis of his argument is to start off on

wrong premises. I would like to ask him quite definitely—and I hope Government will one of these days ask him the same question—in what way is the Rice Marketing Board ruining the industry and in what way is the Rice Marketing Board not functioning properly? If the rice that is produced in this Colony is not finding already market either abroad or in this Colony as a result of the activities of the Rice Marketing Board, the hon. Member would have a point on which to argue, and I would sit down and listen to him very carefully. If he wants to talk about increasing the production of rice or improving the quality, I am also with him.

I appeal to the hon. Member to separate these two phases of the matter in his criticism of the Rice Marketing Board. He should put forward argument in so far as production is concerned and another in so far as export is concerned, but to come here and attempt to raise arguments accusing Government of ruining the industry and to produce figures which do not bear on the point at all, I can only characterize, with all due deference to the hon. Member, as so much waste of time. I have no desire to prolong the argument, and I only ask as I have done before that the hon. Member should base his argument on those two points separately. It is true that I may be a little bit too dense, but I cannot agree with him, when he attempts to fix the responsibility for the production of rice on a Board which is only responsible for the marketing end of the industry.

I am not quite sure as to what is the procedure in so far as the consideration of these supplementary estimates are concerned. There are two of them before us. I notice for the first time a list is to be "moved in." I do not know if we would deal with these two estimates together. I raise that point now because I would like to know what is the procedure as there are one or two questions I would like to ask either on the original estimates or on the "moves in."

THE CHAIRMAN: We are taking item by item.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I propose to deal with them in the usual way. When we come to the Head under

which an item is to be moved in, I will say so. The reason for printing the second list is that we had the Schedule ready for introduction in the Council when a number of items presented themselves. These have been printed as a second list of "Moves in." When the time comes each item will be inserted under the proper Head.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am not attempting to criticize the new procedure of giving two lists. I rather welcome it. I have become so accustomed to Government bringing forward these "moves in" at the last moment, and on some occasions Government got away with the goods through Members either not seeing or knowing what was being passed. This, however, is a definite improvement, as the items are going to be taken in the order arranged. I shall know how to deal with them when the time comes.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I think I should be given the opportunity of saying a few words in reply to the hon. Member for North Western District. The hon. Member has said nothing new. I have listened to his long list of exports from 1913 and I have heard the explanation of the Director of Agriculture on the subject in this Council on several occasions. This Council was convinced to such an extent that in 1938 it actually decided to recommend to Government that the Rice Marketing Board be abolished, but only a few months after this Council was forced to rescind that decision at the request of many persons in the rice industry who had come to the conclusion that the Board had to be retained in order to save the industry. I remember that debate because the hon. Member had an opportunity then to prevent the Board from being resuscitated. He did not do so, but agreed that the Board had to come back to save the industry.

I am very grateful to the hon. Member for having at last told the Council where the incapability and inefficiency lay. In his last motion when he also spoke at length it seemed that the Civil Service generally was incapable and inefficient. Well we know now that it is the Colonial Treasurer who is incapable, and I am happy to be in that position and I leave it to others to judge.

I shall give a little personal history of the matter. The hon. Member came to me in November last, when he had returned to this Colony rather riding on the crest of a wave of prosperity having acquired abroad a technique in co-operation, and offered to lend his co-operation to the Government of this Colony in connection with the rice industry. The terms on which he was willing to give that co-operation were that he should be made a member of the Rice Marketing Board and that certain provisions should be made by which he would be paid.

Mr. JACOB: I object to that very strongly. I never made that suggestion at all. I made the broad suggestion that on all these Boards the members should be paid. I am surprised that the hon. Colonial Treasurer is referring to a private conversation I had with him as regards a general principle. I do maintain that you will not get proper service from members of Boards unless they are paid. The suggestion was not of a personal nature at all.

Mr. McDAVID: I repeat that one of the conditions of his co-operation with the Rice Marketing Board was that he should be paid as a member of that Board. I was not prepared to accept that condition. The second occasion on which the hon. Member wanted to co-operate with the Board was when he approached the Board stating that he would stop his opposition to the Board if he were allowed to carry out certain extensive blending operations. That is a very profitable business. Here again, the Board could not lend itself to that kind of co-operation. I merely mentioned that *en passant* because the speech of the hon. Member was rather personal. If he is inclined to charge me with incompetence I bring to the notice of the Council what he means and intends by co-operation.

The one complaint he really made in his speech was that the Board made incorrect estimates. Is it not remarkable that the hon. Member has been able to speak at length on the production of rice during the last few months without once mentioning the drought, when as a matter of fact we have just had the worst drought anyone here can remember? We have had a drought which lasted a longer time and was much more severe in its effects than either the 1913 or 1925 drought.

The hon. Member referred to a conversation he had with me and the hon. Colonial Secretary with regard to our estimation as to the amount of rice available for export. At the time that interview took place, I had in my hand a memorandum which was submitted by me on behalf of this Government to the Government of Trinidad. The figures in that memorandum are reproduced in the printed report of the Rice Marketing Board. If the hon. Member had an opportunity of looking at it, he would have seen that the estimate of 30,000 tons being available for export was based entirely on the inclusion of a prospective yield from the Spring crop of 15,000 tons. I readily admit that 15,000 tons was a very large amount to be expected from the Spring crop. The Spring crop normally yields six to seven thousand tons, but the reason for putting 15,000 tons was that at the time the Rice Marketing Board knew that His Excellency Sir John Waddington, who was very keenly interested, was doing all in his power with the support of the Director of Agriculture to obtain a largely increased yield from the Spring crop. As hon. Members know, that Spring crop by reason of the drought failed, and I do not think more than ten or fifteen tons of rice was secured from that crop. If you deduct 15,000 from the figures which I was supposed to have given the hon. Member, the result is only 15,000 tons.

I will pass on to the Trinidad matter. I went to Trinidad with the Secretary of the Board and arranged between the two Governments that this Colony would supply 10,000 tons up to September 30th, 1940. There was ample evidence that that supply could be met at the time. The prices obtained in Trinidad were extremely good, and I want to quote some of them. The price which Trinidad paid for B.G. rice is \$5.10 per bag for No. 1 and \$4.35 per bag for No. 2. The average price paid in Trinidad by Trinidad merchants for Indian long grain rice, which is comparable quality, between November, 1939, and May, 1940, was \$3 per bag, and between May, 1940, and August, 1940, \$4.15 per bag; that is exclusive of duty. In Trinidad during that period, our B.G. rice was being sold at a maximum prescribed retail price of four cents per pint for No. 1 and three and a half cents for No. 2, whereas the Indian long grain rice was sold at the

lower figure of three cents per pint between November, 1939, and May, 1940, and three and a half cents between May and August, 1940. These are facts the hon. Member can verify by reference to the *Official Gazettes* of Trinidad. That position put Trinidad in some difficulty for they realized that they were paying British Guiana a premium for their rice. It was their desire, however, to be assured of a supply during the War as they could not be quite sure what would have happened during those last few months, and so they were quite willing to pay this Colony an enhanced price. These increased prices have gone to the benefit of the industry in this Colony, and as a result, the growers have got a better price than they would have got otherwise. It is very strange that I am blamed in this Colony for making a bad bargain, whereas I am told that if I go back to Trinidad the gentlemen over there would throw me out for having in some mysterious manner persuaded them to pay more for B.G. Rice than they would have paid for Indian rice. The Trinidad Government were willing to give an enhanced price because they felt they should encourage this Colony to produce more rice and ensure their supply. What has happened is that there has been this drought. The hon. Member used the word "predict" in his speech, and I have heard it said that he predicted the drought. (Laughter). The Rice Marketing Board had not that foresight—

Mr. JACOB: When I arrived in November a drought was on and I mentioned to you that you had to make provision for the drought. You made it perfectly clear that from the figures, which you had and which I would like to see the original, it could be done. I am sorry the hon. Member for Essequibo River is not here. That is the impression formed by the hon. Member and myself.

Mr. McDAVID: The hon. Member is always forming wrong impressions. I was quoting to him from a document, a copy of the memorandum signed by myself and the Secretary.

Mr. JACOB: Let me correct you again. It was not a memorandum signed by yourself. You said it was the Department's figures when I questioned the figures. I referred to it on the 22nd November as

shown from the debates, and no explanation was ever given at all.

Mr. McDAVID: I can offer an explanation of that. Those hon. Members who were present at that debate know that the hon. Member took care to speak in the Council after I had spoken. I waited for quite a long time, but the hon. Member did not speak first and so I had no opportunity to reply to the hon. Member. If the hon. Member refers to Hansard he would be able to verify that.

Mr. JACOB: I submit with all confidence that you could never have replied.

Mr. McDAVID: I shall not be very much longer. In November the hon. Member for Berbice River, who has as much experience of weather as the hon. Member for North Western District, was foreseeing and predicting that rain was bound to come. He made a speech in which he said: "Have you not seen signs of rain?" Unfortunately the prayers of the hon. Member for North Western District were heard and not those of the hon. Member for Berbice River, and so we had this result.

The doubts and suspicion which the hon. Member seeks to have cast on the Board's Balance Sheet, signed by the leading firm of Chartered Accountants of this Colony, are unfortunate. I myself claim to be an accountant and to know what is a proper balance sheet. I have prepared and signed many balance sheets. In this particular instance I took the care to advise Government, as the Rice Marketing Board was a trading concern, that it was essential that a chartered accountant should be appointed Auditor in order to make quite sure when the balance sheet was published with his certificate it would be accepted. Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Graham and Company took the very greatest care in their audit, and before that balance sheet was signed by Mr. Heald, the senior partner of the firm, he spent more than two hours with me going through every phase of it. Every asset was gone through, including depreciation and valuation of stocks which are the normal things which any Auditor would look at before signing a balance sheet. Whether it is a full and fair balance sheet is an absurd question. The use of the words "full and fair" merely applies to Companies' balance sheets because

of the form of certificate laid down in the Statutes. It does not say that when auditors sign any form of certificate it is necessary to say that the balance sheet is "full and fair." The balance sheet of the Board is signed by a firm of chartered accountants, and they made a full check before it was signed.

I do not think there is very much more I need add. I maintain that the Board since the 1st December has been of very great advantage to the industry. If we had not made this Trinidad bargain the price in this Colony would have dropped to such a figure that the unfortunate growers would have got very little or nothing for their rice. The hon. Member does not understand that under war conditions normal methods of trade cannot continue. When in Trinidad I found that the Trinidad merchants were prepared to buy an enormous quantity of Indian rice so that by the time this Colony's rice got on the market we would have got very little or nothing for it. I know that the majority of the growers feel as I do in respect of the Rice Marketing Board's control.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) has read out a set of figures which he desires to be placed on record. He blames the Board for being responsible for the reduction in the exports of rice, and I also gather that he considers that the Board is causing distress to growers in some way or another, but I may point out that at the end of 1938 there were 62,033 acres under rice cultivation and at the end of 1939 there were 72,132 acres under rice cultivation. I would ask hon. Members to consider for themselves whether that is any indication that the growers have no confidence in the Board. Surely it is the reverse.

Mr. JACOB: Is this Government going to deny that there have been complaints from the Rice Producers' Advisory Committee as well as from the growers of rice who said plainly that they were not satisfied and as a result were not going to plant in large quantities? I would like to get a straight answer to the question as to whether the 20,000 bags were purchased from Barbados at a profit or a loss. I am sorry that personalities have been brought

into this debate. The hon. Colonial Treasurer stated that I wanted to become a member of the Rice Marketing Board because I wanted pay. Will he deny this fact? I asked why Mr. E. M. Walcott was appointed a member of the Board when he was interested in the industry and the result was that Mr. Walcott came off the Board. That was the reason why I suggested that I should be a member of the Board. I have told several persons including members of the Rice Producers' Advisory Committee that I will not be associated with the Board unless its policy is definitely changed. I have mentioned it to the hon. Colonial Secretary as well that unless the policy is changed to increasing the production of rice I will not be associated with such a Board. The theory that you cannot sell British Guiana rice is absolutely wrong. You can sell any quantity of rice, but the complaint has always been that rice is not being produced by the control of the export trade. If the price is suitable and the control is different, rice would be produced. It has been stated clearly in the Press by certain supporters of the Board that lots of people are benefiting by the Board, but I say that the majority of growers are not. The price of padi having been fixed at \$1.20 per bag is not a great inducement. I would like to inform hon. Members that padi was sold in Essequibo last year at \$1.80 per bag before control came in.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: At one time the price of padi was commanded by certain millers and was being sold there at 80 cents per bag. You must give both sides of the picture.

Mr. JACOB: I will admit that a ring was formed in Essequibo, but it did not last long and afterwards padi was sold at 80 cents per bag.

THE CHAIRMAN: Was that the average price?

Mr. JACOB: No, the average price for the whole Colony would have been over a dollar. This is war time and the prices of all products have gone up considerably, but do not let it go forth that since the Board came in the price of padi has increased. It is not so.

THE CHAIRMAN: From your own showing it seems to be so.

Mr. JACOB: We agree to differ on that point. If the Board ceases production will automatically go up. What is responsible for this drop?

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Adverse weather conditions!

Mr. JACOB: If that is going to be put forward, I may refer hon. Members to the sugar industry and ask why that was not affected by the weather to any great extent.

Mr. SEAFORD: I think there is a reduction this year of at least 20 per cent. owing to the dry weather.

Mr. JACOB: I am not referring to one particular year. I have given a series of years. After 1932, when the exports reached 28,000 tons, and 1933, when the exports went up to 29,000 tons, drought and other conditions have been responsible to some extent for the figures going down during the last seven years. 15,000 tons is therefore a very conservative estimate. It is for the other side to say that the industry is doing very well and that Government's help is of the right type. My point is that it is unfortunate that this kind of control has not resulted in increased production. There are thousands of people wanting work and cannot get any. Thousands of people are willing to plant but owing to the various conditions prevailing no one would help them to do so. That is a problem which Government has to consider.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: To a point of correction. The figures I gave show that 10,000 acres more were under rice cultivation at the end of 1939.

Mr. JACOB: I shall have an opportunity to reply to those figures some time in next year.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am very loathe to enter any debate on this rice industry because when this industry first came into vogue I was against Government interfering with it, but the people who were clamouring for it were the people connected with it. When they thought they wanted it they found they did not want it at all. Government would not listen to them until this Board was appointed, and I say without fear of contradiction that with the present constitution of the

Board and how the Board is being run, it is of immense benefit to the growers. They say so all over the country and it cannot be questioned. I wonder if the hon. Member understands or knows what is going on among the people who he says, he is protecting? Mr. "A" who was never a grower before, but is in good financial position says he is going to plant rice and engages eight or nine hands: he gets a certain number of bags of padi and divides that among his hands, who are represented as growers and who go to the Board and say they want ten bags each for home consumption. On the other hand Mr. "B," who is and has always been a grower, also plants rice assisted by members of his family and gets a certain number of bags of padi. He gets as a single grower ten bags from the Board as against Mr. "A" with eight or nine times ten. Mr. "A" sells that to the shops around and as a result these shops do not get their supply from the Board until he and others like him have sold out. Those are the people, who are continually shouting and pushing forward other people to shout and who call themselves growers. For a Member of this Council who knows anything about the country to stand here and say that the Board is incompetent and to accuse the members of the Board of being responsible for the reduction in production, while I give the hon. Member a little credit for being honest, I say he does not know what he is talking about. Let him go around and speak with the people and he will see that they are very much better off as a result of the functioning of the Board. We have no control over floods and drought.

Incidentally the hon. Member tried to bring in the sugar industry. That industry stands on a different footing. If the hon. Member take a walk to Berbice and go a few miles out of New Amsterdam, he would see the most flourishing crop of canes I have ever seen in this country. What is the cause of that? That was planted in the midst of the drought, but it cost from my point of view thousands of dollars. They went on the hard ground with their tractors and ploughed it; they dug large canals and drains and flooded the land with water obtained from the creek before they planted. What if the rice growers have to wait on the mercy of the Lord and it does not come as quickly as they expect,

who are they going to blame? If these people were growing rice under similar conditions as the other people grow their canes, they would not have so much to complain about. If there is anybody to blame it is not the Board. I do not know that the Board is required to produce rice. It has to deal with the protection of the rice industry so that the growers may get the major benefit from it and not the people who want to have the monopoly to sell rice and take the major portion of the profit for themselves at the expense of the unfortunate growers. Those persons who are saying all over the country that they are supporting the rice industry, but they are really supporting the people who want to sell rice and not the rice industry. The people who make the industry with their life blood get nothing out of it.

I hope this is the last occasion for the balance of the year that the hon. Member will worry this Council about this rice question. At sometimes it becomes a little nauseating. I have never given Your Excellency so much credit for having patience as I did this morning. The debate drifted from Agriculture to the personnel and capacity of the Rice Marketing Board which was certainly not the question at issue, as I understood it when my hon. friend started to speak. I looked at Your Excellency and saw that you did not make a stir in the matter and so I took the current as it was going. I am glad you did, because the hon. Colonial Treasurer gave a very good account of himself and certainly gave food for thought to my hon. friend, who got "a Roland for an Oliver."

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I do not intend to prolong the debate at any length. The hon. Member for North Western District made reference to Essequebo and stated that the price of padi there was \$1.80 per bag. He, however, forgot to give the weight, as the weight of a bag varies. He also forgot to tell this Council that at the same time padi was being sold around October at 80 cents per bag according to weight and according to the milling house to which the padi was sent. It is difficult to understand the hon. Member for North Western District. One would expect him in criticizing the industry to put forward some proposal to remedy the wrongs which he visualizes, and the distress which he envisages, for which he seeks to

place the responsibility on Government. It seems according to his argument so difficult whether to place the cause for the ruin of the industry to the activities of the Rice Marketing Board or to the personnel of the Rice Marketing Board. One has heard that, perhaps, were he a member of the Rice Marketing Board, the rice industry would have been placed on its legs and not only would it be flourishing in every direction but there would be no necessity for a fixation of price. Does the hon. Member realize that fixation of prices is a form of protection to an industry? Does he realize that the fixation of price is what will benefit the producer? Is the hon. Member advocating here the claims of other persons who may or may not be interested in the rice industry?

The only thing I would like to see, if it were possible and feasible, is that the price given to the producer for his padi be increased. That is the only thing, I think, we are concerned about. How does the hon. Member suggest the Rice Marketing Board can increase production? Has he stated how it can be done, whether by increasing the price to the producer or by letting loose a lot of rapacious middlemen? The speculators go and purchase padi at the lowest price possible from the poor grower and then sell to the consumer at enhanced prices. Who makes the profit, not the persons interested in the industry? The hon. Member should no doubt have some practical experience of the rice industry. Can he tell this Council what suffering the tenants and producers of the rice industry have endured in the past and still do endure? Can he tell this Council how many complaints he has made with regard to the rental of ricelands and the agistment fees for pasturage?

Mr. JACOB: I must rise and interrupt the hon. Member. I think he is supporting my contention.

THE CHAIRMAN: Then why do you object?

Mr. JACOB: I think he is on a wrong theme.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is perfectly entitled to say what he is saying.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: The theme I am

on may not be appreciated by the hon. Member for North Western District.

Mr. JACOB: The hon. Member is imputing ulterior motives to me. My contention is that the Board is all right but it is not properly constituted. I am not against control, but I am against the method of control employed. The method adopted by Government will not rectify things. I think I have made that abundantly clear.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: The hon. Member says he is not against control but he is against the method of control in vogue. Perhaps, he would let us know what method of control he would suggest. Does he want the abolition of the Rice Marketing Board? Has the Rice Producers Advisory Committee suggested or recommended the abolition of the Rice Marketing Board? The hon. Member is a member of that Committee and can there put forward all forms of control. I have no desire to take up any more of the Council's time, but would ask the hon. Member for North Western District when he is putting forward any suggestion or argument with regard to the rice industry to do so on behalf of the producers who are the principal parties concerned with the industry and not on behalf of anyone else.

The Committee adjourned for the luncheon recess until 2 p.m.

2 p.m.—

The Committee resumed.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am going to begin by expressing a certain amount of disappointment. In moving in item 27 the Colonial Secretary did not give the Council the benefit of Government's investigation into the matter. The Council is asked to approve of an expenditure of \$4,960 for the establishment of a Provision Depot in Georgetown, particulars of which are clearly set out, and later on a further sum of \$5,500 for buildings. It is a new measure and I had hoped that in moving in the item the Colonial Secretary would have given the Council an indication of Government's intention in the matter. It seems to me that if it is Government's desire to assist the peasant farmers of this country by establishing a Provision Depot in Georgetown for the purpose of marketing

their produce this Council might be informed how Government arrived at that decision, and what it is hoped to gain by it from the farmers' point of view. I may tell Government right away that it is my opinion that this money will be wasted in the same way as was done in the case of similar projects which were undertaken before. Government has attempted on more than one occasion in the past to assist peasant farmers by marketing their produce, and I have no desire to go into the various things that occurred at that time, except to say that whatever scheme was produced here with that object has failed. With that experience before us it seems to me that unless Government has discovered something new whereby the farmers can be assisted by a produce depôt this is not the time for us to embark on this expenditure of money. Government is going to start off with a building for \$5,500. It may well be that if the scheme fails within six months, as my friend says it is bound to fail, and I agree with him, Government might be able to use that building for some other purpose, but the Council should be informed if that is contemplated.

A more serious aspect of the matter is the question of advances. I heard the hon. Colonial Secretary speak very glibly this morning about advances. How is it going to be done? I think the Council ought to be informed. If there are going to be advances on crops I say again it is going to be a waste of money. If there are going to be advances on the produce actually in the possession of the Depôt or the Board itself, then I sincerely hope the whole matter has been very carefully considered, because there is such a thing as fluctuation of prices, over-production of commodities, and articles perishing, especially vegetables. I am rather inclined to think that this \$4,960 will revolve itself into mid-air before the farmers Government hopes to assist will receive any assistance at all. I repeat that in putting this proposal before the Council it was the duty of Government to take the Council into its confidence. I presume the matter was very carefully considered, and the Council should have been told either in a sessional paper or in a report of some kind who is to be at the head of this depôt. I do not think I am betraying any confidence if I state that I enquired of a member of the

Advisory Board of Agriculture whether he knew anything about it, and the reply I got was that it was just passed on for information. I divulge no secret in stating that, because I was told that in conversation. That was the reply I got. I can only conclude from that, that the Advisory Board of Agriculture did not even consider the proposal.

Mr. SEAFORD: I happen to be a member of the Board and I can say that the matter was brought up by the acting Director of Agriculture and discussed by the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I accept the hon. Member's explanation, but I am telling the Council what was told to me by a member of the Board of Agriculture, because I was at pains to make some enquiry into the matter. I wanted to offer some criticism on it, and if I was satisfied that the matter was carefully considered and Government was acting on what I considered correct premises then my criticisms would not be made. In the absence of any announcement from the Colonial Secretary, or any sessional paper on the subject, it is my duty to utter a word of warning or criticism, because it is my view that this money is going to be wasted. The hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) says that the matter was considered by the Board. If that is so then I should be only too pleased to hear some Member on the Government side say something about the scheme, and perhaps if that can satisfy me I would have nothing more to say.

THE CHAIRMAN: I quite agree with the hon. Member that the Council has had very little information about the scheme. If the Director of Agriculture or the Colonial Secretary proposes to give any further explanation it would be better if we had it now.

Mr. CLEARE (Director of Agriculture, Acting): Government decided, as a result of the Grow More Food campaign, that the obvious thing was to provide some means of the farmers being able to dispose of their crops. After very careful consideration it was decided to start another Produce Depot. We quite realized that there had been failures on two previous occasions, but in spite of that we thought that at this particular time it was desirable, and after

going into the matter very thoroughly we decided that there was a possibility of a depot not proving a failure this time. We have selected for it a very good officer who has had some previous experience in this direction, and the idea is to purchase farmers' produce and sell it to wholesale dealers. The depot does not propose to go into the retail business as on previous occasions. That business would be done by the normal agents who handle such produce in the market in the ordinary way. It is merely to provide a certain outlet for farmers' produce and to give prices which we feel would benefit the farmer more than those he is getting now. At the same time we hope to be able to fix retail prices which would be somewhat less than those obtaining in the market at the present time. It is quite realized that farmers are getting very low prices. For instance farmers now get 20 cents per dozen for their pineapples which are being sold in the market at from 3 to 6 cents each. We feel that we can give the farmers much better prices than they are getting now and still secure reasonable prices to the public.

Mr. JACOB: Before I speak on this particular point I should like to get a reply to one or two points I raised in the general debate regarding the figures of production which the Colonial Treasurer said he had when I discussed the rice question with him. The Treasurer made two very damaging statements here this morning. He denied that the figures I gave were incorrect, and accused me of trying to secure employment with the Government. I am not worrying with the second one now; I hope to say something about it later on. I would like to be supplied with the original statistics supplied by the Department of Agriculture to the Rice Marketing Board or to certain members of the Board, showing how the figures were obtained before the sales were made to Trinidad and other places. I think a very big principle is involved, and should not like to be accused here of making untrue or misleading statements. I was accused this morning of doing that. The matter was recorded in Hansard and this debate will also be recorded there, and we will have an opportunity of doing something more about it later on.

I was very glad to hear my friend, the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr.

DeAguiar) agreeing with me on the matter of the Produce Depot. Let me make it perfectly clear that a depot properly managed and properly controlled ought to afford relief to the farmers, but as I visualize it this scheme is going to enter into competition with the general traders throughout the Colony. I understand that the farmers of the North West District are to be catered for in this scheme particularly.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has no reference specially to the farmers in the North West.

Mr. JACOB: I particularly refrained from entering into this matter at all until it was brought to my notice some time ago. I do not believe in mixing business with representation. I wish the scheme every success. I hope it will be properly managed and controlled, and that the money will not be lost, but when the money is actually lost the responsibility will have to be placed somewhere. I do not think the taxpayers can afford to lose £1,000 in a scheme like this, for, as has been predicted by the previous speaker, I feel that the money will be lost. I do not think there is a Government officer who is able to compete with the traders in the Stabroek Market or in Georgetown. The example of pineapples was mentioned, but I would point out that in the case of a perishable article like that you may get a shilling or a penny each. Those things have to be very carefully considered, and the officers of Government have to make up their minds not to look at the clock, not to go to work at a particular time and close their business at a particular time. They must not expect to leave the depot at 4 o'clock. Businessmen do not work like that. Any sensible businessman has to work very long hours, and has to work at night when the necessity arises. I hate to have to say it, but I do not think this scheme will work. I wish it success. I trust it will be another example to make the officers of Government realize that they have to co-operate with the people of the Colony. I do not know whose co-operation is being sought in this matter. I do not know whether the farmers approve of the scheme. From what I have been able to gather the farmers are not kindly disposed towards the scheme. Maybe some people will benefit and are kindly disposed towards it, but I do not think the scheme has been properly planned

THE CHAIRMAN: I should like to put in a word to make one or two points clear which I do not think are clearly understood yet. Perhaps the Director did not tell the whole story. Government has been at great pains to try to increase production, to increase the growth particularly of ground provisions and foodstuffs generally apart from rice which is already being taken under complete control. We have been at great pains to increase the production of other crops. A necessary corollary to that campaign, if it is to succeed at all, was to give some assistance, some guarantee, if possible, of the marketing of those crops. It has been experienced in the past that wherever there is a glut in the market there has been a tremendous fluctuation of prices, and the object of this scheme is to guarantee to the grower as far as possible not high prices but stable prices, and also to exercise a steadying influence on the prices to the consumer as well. That can only be done if we have control of some considerable proportion of supplies. It is quite possible that there may be some loss. There may or may not be; it all depends on how it works. But if there is it would be in the same category as subsidies on production which are being given, for instance, in the United Kingdom, to ensure and encourage greater production, and also as far as possible to secure stable markets for what is produced. There is, inevitably, an element of risk in it which, if it were not for war conditions, Government would not care to undertake, but in these war conditions, when the encouragement of increased production is a matter of such vital interest, it is considered justifiable to take some small risk in attempting this scheme.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am in entire agreement with the desire of Government to increase production of ground provisions and to assist the farmers in marketing their produce. I have always been in agreement with that view, and I do not know what was the principle on which the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) said I agreed with him. I have always expressed that view and I am still of the same opinion, but I am not so optimistic as the Director of Agriculture appears to be over the scheme which, in my opinion, is only half-baked, and very half-baked too. From the very few remarks he made I at once discovered a gap,

and unfortunately it is a very wide gap indeed. It borders on what I may term semi-control instead of full control when he states that one of the primary functions of the depôt will be to purchase farmers' produce, presumably at a given price, and in turn sell it, presumably at a higher price, to the wholesalers, who will in turn sell it to the consumers, again at a higher price presumably. You can see at once that a wide gap is being opened for what is commonly called in commercial circles "selling over the fence." That is just where the scheme will fail.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member mean that it will result in increased prices to the consumer?

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Not particularly. If the main idea behind it is to ensure the farmer a reasonable price for his produce—

THE CHAIRMAN: And a stable market.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I was not dealing with the cost to the consumer; I was leaving that aspect of the matter to some other Member who thinks more kindly of the consumer. I was looking at it from the commercial side. There will be no control. The only control that will exist or appears to exist is as regards the price to the producer. I know from my own experience that if you offer a producer \$2 for a bag of potatoes and you in turn sell it to a wholesaler for \$2.20, and he in turn sells it to the consumer for \$2.40 the depôt will find itself in this unfortunate position: that instead of selling a bag of potatoes to the depôt for \$2 the producer would go around and sell it for \$2.20 wherever he could find a market. That is just where this scheme is going to fall down, and that is why I referred to it as a half-baked scheme. I would agree with Government if it could do something to make the scheme water-tight.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please do so.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: It would be a long story. I would probably bring in the rice matter again. (laughter). I cannot produce a scheme as a conjurer produces a rabbit from his sleeve. Government will admit that there is a gap in the scheme,

and that alone will account for its failure. If Government wants to help the farmers it must produce an entire scheme or none at all. At this rate not only will the scheme be a failure but perhaps it may be the means of reducing the production which Government is so anxious to increase.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the weakness I cannot follow.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The weakness is that the depot will be without any produce.

THE CHAIRMAN: That means that the produce will be handled by the ordinary agents.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: It is not as simple as that; I wish it was. I know from my own experience that it is a distinct weakness. I hope you are right and I am wrong, but I think you will find that it is a distinct weakness in this scheme, and that before long it will fail. I am not going to say anything more than that. I welcome the gesture on the part of Government to help those people, but I do not think this method of dealing with it will give them the assistance Government wishes to give them. It means that Government is throwing away another \$10,000.

Mr. JACKSON: I was about to rise a little while ago to mention what Your Excellency has stated—that the scheme is really a part of the campaign to grow more food. I visualize that there must be a surplus of products when this campaign gets into full swing, and there will be the usual glut in the market that occurs under ordinary circumstances, but if farmers are urged to produce more food the natural consequence is that efforts should be made to enable them to dispose of their products at reasonable prices. I do not think Government objects to criticism. Criticism well directed must do some good, and if there are obstacles in the way of success I am quite sure Government would be pleased to receive the advice which the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) is able and, I think, willing to give. I think that a depot of this kind, carefully managed and supported by those who are representatives of the people, will succeed. It has

been stated that a member of the Department of Agriculture who has had wide experience in these matters will be appointed as the agent for this depot, and those of us who went into the scheme carefully, as was done at a meeting of the Advisory Board of Agriculture, are confident that with the experience of this agent the scheme will be a great success if its aims and objects were properly put before the people. There is no denying the fact that the people need encouragement, and if we tell them to increase their cultivation and try to produce more foodstuffs it is incumbent on us to help them to dispose of their produce.

I do not entertain the fear which has been expressed by the hon. Member for Central Demerara, that the scheme will fail. He speaks of an imaginary gap in the scheme. As a matter of fact he has not got the scheme in detail, and I think the details should be worked out and every opportunity taken to prevent what may be regarded as leaks in the scheme. I sincerely hope that the efforts made by Government through the Board of Agriculture for the benefit of the people will be supported. I believe it is the intention of the Advisory Board of Agriculture to get the various village districts interested in the scheme, and whatever can be done by the officers of the District Administration who move about the people, will be done to ensure the success of the scheme. I think it is a noble venture, and Government ought to be congratulated on taking the step for the benefit of the people.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am tired of hearing vain hopes being expressed in this Council, and while I congratulate Government on its sincerity in trying to do something for the farmers, I am astounded to learn that this experienced individual is a man whose experience has been nothing but failure. We have had two examples, one in Georgetown and the other in New Amsterdam, where this individual was primarily concerned. The idea of a depot in New Amsterdam was practically brought forward by him, and when it was pointed out to him that it would be a failure he got the farmers together and they voted for it. There are people producing the same foodstuffs all over the country, but the depot cannot by any stretch of the imagination buy from every farmer. What will be the

position of those farmers whose produce the depot will not buy? Are they going to remain with their produce on their hands? Aren't they going to sell their stuff for a cent or a penny cheaper so as to get it off their hands? That is what happened in the case of the previous depots in Georgetown and New Amsterdam. I told the people in New Amsterdam that they were throwing away money but they decided to give it a trial for three months. I told them that they would give it up after one month. They lost all their money, and when they sold out after three months they still owed money. This scheme cannot work because the depot will have to compete against the growers themselves. Government can control a commodity like rice but not the varied commodities which the provision farmers grow. I think Government could assist the farmers when the market is gutted by introducing a system of canning or by converting their cassava into flour. A scheme of that kind one might be inclined to try, or the establishment of a piggery. What depot could prevent the price of pine apples going up to a shilling or going down to 3 or 4 cents if there was a glut?

Only this morning I spoke to a farmer on the train about water melons which are plentiful in the country now. He told me that he had brought down 200 of them from the Corentyne, and he would do that twice a week. If that man sold 200 melons to the depot and another man came with a further supply which was also bought, what would the first man do with his second lot if the depot could not buy them? Would he carry them back or would he not sell them elsewhere at a cheaper price? After all they are perishable fruit. I am delighted to tell Your Excellency that last Saturday I visited the New Amsterdam plot and I felt I could remain there the whole night, I was so pleased. I saw more ground provisions there than I had seen all the years I have been there, but that would not induce me to ask Government to establish a depot there, because what would the depot do with the produce coming from the Berbice river and the Corentyne coast? It is not that I do not want to see Government doing something to help the farmers, but I would like to see something done in the right direction, not something that has been tried and failed. A single failure

should not prevent Government from making a second trial, but if the conditions are the same I see no reason why a third trial should be made.

THE CHAIRMAN: The conditions are not the same.

Mr. ELEAZAR: War time only tends to increase prices. When I asked Government to give a fillip to the Grow More Food campaign I had in mind that when foodstuffs from abroad, such as flour, were not available in large quantities we would have substitutes to supply local needs and possibly to send some out, but I never conceived the idea of establishing a depôt. If there will be any means of exporting some of the produce then by all means have the depôt. That would mean that the depôt would only buy the very best, but that is not the idea. Are the retailers so foolish that they will only buy from the wholesale dealers to whom Government proposes to sell? Will they not go to the ordinary man who produces the articles and buy them at 2 or 3 cents cheaper? The depôt will be a failure from the start. I speak from experience. Government likes to fail in lots of things, and when a Government officer puts an idea forward Government does not like to turn it down. Can Government afford to put a highly paid officer at the depôt to look after the produce? Will his salary not be included in the cost of the scheme?

In the light of what transpired in Georgetown on the previous occasion under exactly similar conditions, and in the light of what happened in Berbice with funds I helped to raise, I assure Government that on an examination of the records of those depôts (the books are there or ought to be there) it would be seen that this scheme is doomed to failure. Mr. Gall would have been able to give Government his experience if he were here. I am as sincere as anybody else in my opinion that farmers should be able to live on the proceeds of their farms, but I would be doing a grave wrong if I did not tell Government that this scheme cannot succeed. If Government desires to help the farmers there are other ways in which that can be done. A market abroad should be found for tannias and eddoes, and other things which can be exported.

THE CHAIRMAN: Not at these prices.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot make any other suggestion. A thing I have always wished to see is some of our rice converted into flour. When the East Indians were brought from India they ground rice into flour. Two women did the grinding, one with a round stone, and the other with a flat stone. I do not know if that device is still used. If the people were encouraged to convert their rice and corn into flour an experiment of that kind would not cost very much, but in the light of past experience I say this project is bound to fail. I am asking Government in all sincerity not to spend this money on a depôt, but to go again into consultation and find some other means of assisting the farmers. In this direction Government is courting failure because it cannot succeed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: All the speakers have referred to the last Vegetable Products Depôt and its failure. It is hoped to benefit by the mistakes made at that time. There were several mistakes. First of all the depôt was badly situated. It is now proposed that this building should be just east of the Government stelling and near the Stabroek Market. The old depôt carried on a retail trade; this depôt will not do that. A retail trade requires a larger staff, and the old depôt had a delivery staff. It is not proposed to indulge in retail business, at least at the beginning. Again there were very unfortunate practices carried on by the dealers which will now be nipped in the bud at the start. If by any chance some money is lost in this project it is necessary; while encouraging people to grow more food Government must assist them to dispose of it.

I understood the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) to say that the growers would dispose of their produce themselves and would ignore the depôt. If they are able to get better prices elsewhere then the depôt is having the desired effect. The hon. Member also referred to a glut in the market because everybody would be growing larger quantities. I do not know if he is a member of the Allotment Committee in Berbice, but I hope he is doing in Berbice what the Allotment Committee in Georgetown is doing, and that is to encourage people to grow a larger variety of vegetables. When the allotment scheme was started

at Bel Air Park everyone planted black eye peas, cassava and plantains, but the latest report received relates to the planting of onions and tomatoes which were not produced before. I think if that encouragement was given in Berbice the results would be so successful that it would be possible to dispose of those articles through the new depôt.

The hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) referred to a gap in the scheme. I am sorry he is not here now to explain what that particular gap is. Perhaps he was afraid that in trying to maintain reasonable prices for the farmers the retail prices would rise and the people's food would cost more. If that is the point which he is fearful about it may be necessary for the Control Committee to consider the fixing of retail prices.

Mr. SEAFORD: The point made by the Colonial Secretary was also considered by the Advisory Board of Agriculture. One of the chief reasons for wanting to go ahead with this scheme was because we were given figures which showed that the producer was not getting the benefit of his labour. Instances were given in which producers were being paid 1d for 15 bouchers which were brought to town by so-called sharps who were making about 300 per cent. on the transaction. We felt it was not fair to encourage people to produce more foodstuffs and leave them in the hands of people who were robbing them right and left. The depôt will be the means, I hope, of relieving the glut in the market. The stuff will be better handled and in that way a glut would not have such a bad effect as it has to-day. It was also felt that as Government was persuading people to grow more food it ought to try to help them to dispose of their produce and protect them from people into whose hands they seem to get. There are some people who do not know what to do with their produce. If Government does lose by the scheme it is an attempt which it ought to make. It is a good investment because it will help the grower who needs protection more than anyone else. That is the reason why it was supported by the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am sorry I cannot say I hope the scheme will succeed. I am very

sincere in my pity for Members who think that when I speak I do not know what I am talking about. I have gone into the farms myself and I see nothing to-day that I did not see when I was a boy. What I am saying is that unless the depôt can purchase everybody's produce it is going to compete against those from whom it cannot buy, and it cannot make profit in that way. It is bound to fail. That is as short as I can put it.

THE CHAIRMAN: There has been a good deal said about this scheme, and everybody admits that something should be done to help the farmer. Some people think that the scheme cannot possibly succeed; others think that under favourable conditions it may succeed, and that at any rate it will help to stabilize prices. We cannot tell which opinion is right unless we try it. It is not a very large sum involved—a matter of about \$4,000 to help production during the war. By the time that sum is exhausted we ought to know where we are. A similar arrangement has, relatively speaking, succeeded in a neighbouring Colony for a good number of years, but I do not like to take it for granted that what has succeeded there must necessarily succeed here.

Items 25, 26 and 27 put, and agreed to.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in under Head VI, Colonial Secretary's Office, item 4—Stationery for Central Stationery Store, \$2,000, and item 5—Miscellaneous, \$120. With regard to stationery hon. Members are aware that that item has gone up tremendously in price since the outbreak of war, and as regards item 5 a good many more letters have to be posted by air mail owing to war conditions.

Items put, and agreed to.

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to be informed by Government if any steps are being taken to supply the shortage of timber that exists now. I think it is well known that the Imperial Government will require large quantities of timber, and the British West Indies and British Guiana particularly should be great sources of

supply. I do not know whether the Conservator of Forests has seen the West India Committee "Circular," of May 2, in which there is an article on page 108 headed "Timber Shortage—Opportunity for the West Indies." I think it is well known that we have tremendous resources here, and I should like this Government to do all it possibly can to develop our timber resources so that we can find employment for lots of people who cannot find employment now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member any specific suggestion to make? I would be very glad to have it.

Mr. JACOB: These are not easy matters, I admit, but they should be constantly kept before the minds of those responsible, and opportunity taken to supply the requirements abroad. I understood at one time that we could not sell timbers. I think there is a market now, and steps should be taken to get hold of that market and supply it. If the market is there, as I believe it is, and efforts are made to develop our timber industry, I think private enterprise would be willing to co-operate. At any rate there is a great opportunity now for this Colony to make arrangements with the Imperial Government to supply at least some of the timbers that will be wanted.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests): The shortage of timber to which the hon. Member refers is due to the closing of the Baltic and the White Sea which provided soft woods which do not exist in this Colony. I hate repeating this everytime the hon. Member twits me about forestry. As regards the heavy constructional timbers, the hardwoods or timbers of the principal local trades, we are and have been actively trying to expand our market ever since the war broke out. A very considerable proportion of our exports used to go to Holland, and that market has been shut down completely, but in spite of that I think the hon. Member will find that at the end of the year, or probably at the end of the year when the figures for the end of the year are published, that our exports of greenheart have risen very considerably above the average.

We have also taken another matter in hand which I do not wish to talk too much

about. It is perfectly well known that we are working to capacity on the shipment to the United Kingdom of certain forms of manufactured wallaba wood, and we are working to capacity on orders for specific quantities, plus any surplus which we are able to produce. So much so that with the co-operation of the trade itself and the producers we are definitely establishing a little sort of training school to train some people to be able to make that particular form of manufacture.

Mr. JACOB: That is exactly what I was saying. I understood you to say that you are working to capacity. I do not know what that really means. Can't we increase our capacity?

Mr. WOOD: When we increase our capacity and we have orders to fill we will still be working to capacity. It means producing all we possibly can produce.

Mr. JACOB: What is the difficulty? Haven't we got the labour? The timber is here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Trained labour.

Mr. JACOB: I hope that will not be a great hindrance. We have the labour and the market.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member knows perfectly well that a great many people will not do that sort of work.

Mr. JACOB: I am sorry I have to disagree.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may disagree as much as you like but experience proves that.

Mr. JACOB: If people are trained and are given the opportunity I am sure they would work. I have met many people who are anxious to work but the question of labour requires a little more attention. I trust that we will exploit our timber resources more. We have been doing quite a lot for the Forest Department, and I have always had the impression—maybe I am wrong; I am told I am usually wrong—that we are not getting full value from the services of these experts. I think it is absolutely necessary to get hold of the people and train them if it is labour we want.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in under Head XI—Industrial School—item 4—Fuel and light, \$60, and item 5—Clothing and bedding, \$100. These additional amounts are required in view of the increase in prices resulting from the war.

Items put, and agreed to.

LABOUR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in under Head XII—Labour and Local Government.—item 7—House rent, \$60 to provide quarters for the officer of this Department stationed at Bartica. The existing quarters are not habitable. I also move in item 4—Revenue protection, \$700, to meet the increased price of an outboard motor ordered before the war.

Items put and agreed to.

Mr. JACOB: With regard to the item "3 Inspectors of Labour" I think there was some provision in the Estimate for an Industrial Adviser.

THE CHAIRMAN: He will be here next month.

Mr. JACOB: In addition we have three Inspectors of Labour. I think Government has sufficient statistics now to be able to say whether we have so many thousands of people who can be put on a particular job.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not know what is the hon Member's point. That is an item which has already been approved.

Mr. JACOB: I want to take this opportunity to suggest how the services of these Inspectors should be utilized. For instance we were told just now that we cannot get people to do a particular kind of work. I suggest that a census should be taken of people who would like to do a particular kind of work.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you mean that they should be asked what kind of work they would like to do?

Mr. JACOB: Yes, sir, I think that would be a step in the right direction. There are people who would adapt them-

selves to certain conditions. I am told that a start could be made in that way to utilize the services of these Inspectors of Labour. Some people might want to go into the interior and do forestry work, while others might want to remain in the rice-fields.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you mean that when they say they would like to remain in the rice fields we should let them remain?

Mr. JACOB: Yes, sir. I think if arrangements were made to encourage people to remain in their particular jobs it would go a long way towards solving our unemployment problem.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words they should keep on doing what they are doing. I note the hon. Member's suggestion. He is always complaining that proposals made by Government are not properly worked out. I must say that the suggestion he has just made does need a great deal more working out. (laughter).

LAW OFFICERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under Head XIV.—Law Officers—I beg to move in item "e"—Crown Counsel, \$120; item "f"—Messenger, \$7, and item 3—Fees to counsel for prosecuting at Criminal Sessions, \$300. There was no Law Officer available to prosecute at the July session in Barbice.

Items put, and agreed to.

MEDICAL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under Head XVI.—Medical—I beg to move in item 4—Vaccination fees \$120; item 6—Post mortem examinations, \$500; item 7—Notification of infectious diseases \$225; item 9—Water transport N.W.D., Bartica and Lower Mazaruni, \$180, and item 10—Furniture, \$300. Notes of explanation are given in the remarks columns.

Items put, and agreed to.

MEDICAL—BACTERIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under this Head I beg to move in item 2 (i) Subsistence allowances, \$25; item 3—Instru-

ments, supplies, etc., \$70, and item 4—Electric current, \$200.

Items put, and agreed to.

MEDICAL—HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under Head XIX—Medical—Hospitals and Dispensaries—I beg to move in item 3—Dietary, \$15,000; item 7—Drugs and medical appliances, \$6,500; item 8—Sanitary, fuel and light, \$3,000; item 11—Butchery, \$200; item 14—Bakery, \$200; item 16—Water transport, \$500; item 20—Rent of buildings, \$20; item 23—Passages, \$1,500; item 28—Purchase of equipment for Tuberculosis Hospital, \$2,546; item 30—Renewals and additions to electric power plant, Leprosy Hospital, \$1,100, and item 31—Purchase and equipment of ambulance and equipment, Berbice, \$40.

Items put, and agreed to.

MEDICAL—GOVERNMENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under this Head I beg to move in under sub-head 2—Transport and travelling—(a) Travelling allowances, \$300; (c) Transport of goods, \$200. There has been an addition of 15 per cent. on travelling allowances.

Items put, and agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under Head XXIII.—Miscellaneous—I beg to move in item 1—Telegrams, \$2,500. This further provision is necessary in view of the increased number of telegrams due to the war. I also move in item 30—Contribution towards establishment of sailors' club and canteen, \$240. This is a new item. There is in the Estimates under Head XXIII, item 25, a sum of \$150 as a contribution towards the expenses of the Naval Entertainment Committee in entertaining sailors in the fighting services. It is not likely that we will have any naval visitors, but we have a large number of sailors of the mercantile marine from a large number of ships in the harbour, and it is felt that something should be done to help them. A Committee has been formed and it is proposed to rent a

room which will serve as a meeting place for these sailors, a sort of club-house and canteen. This Committee has approached Government to find out whether in the first year at any rate Government will assist by providing the necessary money to pay one year's rental of \$240 for this club-house. Hon. Members are asked to approve of this item. The Committee hopes that later on the club will be self-supporting. There are places in the City for these sailors to go to, but it is hoped to provide a better type of place for them to meet.

MR. AUSTIN: I am wondering whether Government could not see its way to give something additional. This \$240 will provide very little assistance to the sailors coming to our port. After all Government is receiving a large amount of revenue which it did not expect from ships coming in ballast and taking out bauxite. There are in the river now about 12 steamers, and at one time there were as many as 14. The sailors have little or nothing to do and frequently come ashore. A good sailor is a sailor wherever he goes. Whatever Government gives will be thrown away unless we get the co-operation of the Port Authorities and the Police. The water guard do not seem to be carrying out their duties as a water guard, and the captains of the ships complain about the boats which go alongside and bring the sailors ashore as guests of certain houses in the city. The captains cannot stop it; it is difficult for them to stop it, but the Police can and should stop it. Sailors get leave to come ashore and as a result of the attraction of the boats they very often do so against their inclinations. I think something should be done to encourage the sailors to remain on board their ship despite the advances made by people in the City to induce them to come ashore and spend their money. I am asking Your Excellency to give that phase of the matter some consideration. There is great danger of these men being left in the Colony in ill-health.

THE CHAIRMAN: As regards the hon. Member's suggestion of an increase of Government's contribution, I may say that it is the contribution for which the Committee asked. I have great sympathy with this proposal. The men of the mercantile marine are facing great hardships in our

interest, and I should be very glad to consider the matter again if it proves to be necessary. I hope, of course, that the scheme will receive support from all those concerned, and especially the shipping firms concerned. Provided that is so, and it proves to be necessary, I personally should be very ready to consider a further measure of assistance if it is necessary, provided the club is established on a satisfactory basis. I hope it will be possible to get the club established on a satisfactory footing, and I personally would like to take any measure necessary to secure that.

As regards the other matter of control of the river I will have inquiries made to see whether anything can be done. I am not in a position to make any statement on that matter without inquiry.

Items put, and agreed to.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in under this Head item 1—Public Officers and Lump Sum awards, \$24,000. This excess is required to meet the large number of retirements.

Item put, and agreed to.

POLICE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in under Police, sub head 1—Personal emoluments, Unfixed Establishment, item (12)—4 Warrant Officers, \$49.17. This small item is required to meet a slight increase of salary to Warrant Officer Riding Instructor Frisby. It is proposed to extend his period of service in the Colony for another two years and to give him a slight increase of salary.

On page 5 of the list of "moves-in" there are several items making provision for an increase in the strength of the Police Force by 20 men. I think hon. Members will realize that the war has caused a great deal of extra work to fall on the Police Force, both as regards police and military duties, and it is necessary to increase the strength by 20 men, as set out in these items. The total is \$6,226 for five months of this year, and provision will have to be made on next year's estimate for a larger sum than that.

Then there is sub-head 36—Purchase of a patrol waggon, \$1,670. Later on hon. Members will be asked to approve of a sum of money for the erection of a police station at Williamsburg, and it will be necessary to attach the patrol waggon to that station.

Items put, and agreed to.

POOR.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under Head XXIX—Poor—I beg to move in several items on page 5. Under sub-head 4—Dietary.—there is an item of \$5,000 due to the increased prices of foodstuffs. Then there is item 10—Breakfast and afternoon tea to Nursing Staff, Alms House, \$300. The next item is sub-head 12—Poor, Georgetown, \$10,848. This is made up as follows: \$3,000 due to an increase in the number of paupers and the decision to increase doles by 25 per cent. owing to the rise in living standards; \$7,000 required to provide for relief of poor, applications for poor relief having been steadily on the increase, and \$848 for an increased number of mid-day meals to the unemployed. A Committee which sat not long ago recommended the payment of a minimum grant of \$1 per month to the poor in country districts. At present it is something like 36 cents. These recommendations of the Committee amount to \$5,000 for four months, and next year a larger sum will be asked for.

Items put, and agreed to.

POST OFFICE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in under Post Office, sub head 2 Transport and travelling—item (a) Travelling allowances, \$800; (c) Transport of goods, \$170, and sub-head 5 Conveyance of mails, \$26,739. The increase of \$800 for travelling allowances is due to the increase in the rate for car hire, interchange of postmasters on promotion, and increased visits of the Inspector of Post Offices. The increase in the vote for the conveyance of mails is due to increased air mail postages and high exchange rates, but will be more than counter-balanced by receipts from the sale of stamps. There is also an item of \$578 under Miscellaneous to cover the cost of printing the Post Office Guide, Manuals, and incidental

expenses of the Department to the end of the year.

Items put, and agreed to.

PRISONS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in under Head XXXIII—Prisons—sub-head 1—Personal emoluments—Unfixed Establishment—item 3—Casual Warders, \$963. This amount is required for six additional Warders taken on during June owing to the increased number of prisoners.

Item put, and agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Under Public Works Department I beg to move in item 17 (a)—Accountant (\$2,640 x \$120 to \$3,120)—\$960, and (b)—Paymaster (Class I Clerk) (\$1,716 x \$96 to \$2,004)—\$1,200. A Committee has been considering the re-organisation of the Public Works Department, and a Message was laid on the table this morning in regard to that Department. One of the most urgent requirements, in the opinion of the Committee, is that an Accountant should be appointed at a higher salary than that of the previous clerk who did the accounting work of the Department, and also that there should be a Paymaster. I move the insertion of these items.

Mr. JACOB: I object to the creation of this new post. I do not think the appointment of a Paymaster in the Public Works Department is going to improve the situation at all. I think something else ought to be done.

THE CHAIRMAN: The appointment of a Paymaster is only one of the reforms proposed. There is much more—a fundamental re-organization is in contemplation.

Mr. JACOB: I have a painful duty here. I have selected certain Departments and I have gone carefully into their working. I am satisfied when I get up here and criticize that I know what I am talking about. I have criticized the Public Works Department year in and year out, and I have spoken to the Director. We agreed on the fundamental principles, and I must say that my criticisms in no way

reflect on the Director of Public Works, but the Department as a whole is rotten to the core. Some of my remarks here are not taken in the spirit in which they are made. There could not be a worse Department in the Service, and no appointment of a Paymaster will improve it. I feel strongly on the matter because taxpayers' money is wasted and the Colony gets no benefit from the money spent on public works. I have a case in point on which I hope to satisfy Government and one or two Members of the Council.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The advantage of having a Paymaster is that he would relieve the District Engineers of a great deal of routine work and enable them to devote more time to supervision, and I think when that is possible one of the difficulties referred to by the hon. Member will be overcome. The District Engineers will be able to see that the works are properly carried out.

Mr. SEAFORD: I welcome this appointment. Year after year I have asked Government to appoint a Paymaster so as to relieve the District Engineers of paying. Two days every week are occupied by the District Engineers in paying, with the result that they cannot look after their work properly. Although there may be other things in the Department that are wrong I feel that this is a step in the right direction, because it will afford the Engineers full time to look after the work which they should be doing.

Mr. ELEAZAR: This Department has at last made it possible for everybody to understand the reason why it was designated the "Public Waste Department" some years ago. To check that waste the Department is asking for a Paymaster.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Hon. Members were consulted about these two items some time ago. There is a much larger item to be dealt with later on. It is not felt that by the appointment of a Paymaster all the troubles of the Department will be overcome. The larger issue will be dealt with later.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot understand why this document was sent around at all. I did not reply to it because I did not intend to reply. Things are going so badly with the Department that it is con-

sidering the appointment of a Cost Accountant, whatever that means. I cannot understand Government having a Department as old as the hills, spending money all these years and suddenly waking up to the fact that it needs a Cost Accountant and a Paymaster. Is the Paymaster to go all over the Colony to pay people working on the roads? I do not know what is the job of the Cost Accountant. All the Cost Accountants in the world could not bring back a certain gentleman who was on his way to Palestine or some such place when thousands of dollars could not be accounted for. Every day one hears of goods having been paid for which had never been received, and in some cases, never ordered. Is this Paymaster going to check that, or is he going to pay only for things received? Government very often appoints a Committee to recommend what it wants to carry out, and in the middle of the investigations of the Committee we are told to appoint Mr. "So and 'o". The hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) is sometimes inclined to kill a mosquito on a man's forehead with a sledge hammer, but there is something in what he says sometimes in spite of the violence he brings to bear on these matters. We do not know the personnel of this Committee or when it was appointed. I do not blame the Heads of Departments. They are very clever men, and if they do not take their opportunity now to get as many officers in their Department before Crown Colony Government gets the "kybosh" it would be their fault. This is their time and they are taking their opportunity, but I do not like the way in which it is done.

Mr. JACKSON: It is extremely difficult to understand some people. Strictures have been made against the Public Works Department from time to time. We have been told over and over again that works are under-estimated for and cost more after they are executed. When Government makes an attempt to remedy that state of affairs complained of by hon. Members Government is criticized for doing what any reasonable person would do. The proposed re-organization of the Department has been brought about because of complaints made from time to time against the Department, and if Government feels that the appointment of an Accountant and a Paymaster will remedy the situation I think the proposal should be hailed with

delight. For goodness sake don't say that the Department is rotten, and when efforts are made to put it right criticize those efforts.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The post of Accountant has been referred to as a new post. It is not a new post; it is a slight increase in the salary of the existing post. There is only one additional post, that of Paymaster.

Mr. ELEAZAR: You are increasing the salary of the Accountant and the same man will do the work.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not the same man.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Then Government was wrong to the other man. Government is extravagant. There is no question about that, and some of the Departments are overstuffed. It is not fair to say that all Heads of Departments are incompetent. I know some Heads of Departments who are specialists in their own line, but that cannot be said of all the members of their Departments. When a man is found to be incompetent he should be fired. The Public Works Department is top heavy already, and very little supervision is required. When remarks such as those just made by the Hon. Mr. Jackson are uttered one is likely to become irritable. I am told that when Government says something Government has a monopoly of wisdom. That is Crown Colony government. I understand. I am not going to sit here and swallow that when I know that Government is always wrong. (laughter).

Mr. JACOB: My friend has waxed a little warm. I do not know what is the object of that at this stage. When my motion with regard to the Civil Service was debated I never charged the whole Civil Service with being incompetent. I excluded certain members. Certain hon. Members will not read the papers put before them, but simply make all sorts of statements. My friend says that he should have a consistent policy. I hope he will continue. My remedy might be wrong but I maintain it is consistent. Perhaps we will be informed of the personnel of the Committee that made these recommendations. My complaint against the Public Works Department is that it investigates

its own troubles. That is my impression. Whenever I make a complaint an officer of the Department is sent to investigate it, and the principle has been established here that Government is never wrong. One officer goes to inspect the work of another officer. What can we expect? That is a fundamental principle—

THE CHAIRMAN: What is a fundamental principle?

Mr. JACOB: That investigation should be conducted from outside.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is one of the points of the Colonial Secretary—that in minor matters, the Head of the Department must make investigation.

Mr. JACOB: No one objects to the Head of a Department being on a Committee of investigation.

THE CHAIRMAN: No member of the Department was on the Committee at all. It was a Committee of the Executive Council.

Mr. JACOB: We have made complaints and got no redress. Perhaps you will tell us who are the members of the Committee. I did not see the personnel of the Committee published.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Committee has not completed its report yet, and hon. Members were informed when those two items were communicated to them that an interim report had been submitted.

Mr. JACOB: Haven't we the right to know the personnel of the Committee?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a Committee appointed by the Executive Council.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think the Committee comprises Mr. Dias, the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. Seaford and Mr. Austin.

THE CHAIRMAN: Four members of the Executive Council

Mr. JACOB: It is no use adding to the burden. I am not saying anything more.

Mr. SEAFORD: I wish to say this: that I think it is essential that Members

should remember that at the present moment Government has taken over the reconstruction of drainage works at a cost of \$360,000, and the Committee thought it was essential that proper supervision of the works should be maintained, and that there should be proper supervision of the expenditure of such a large sum of money. The Committee felt that the Department was not in a fit position to carry on the works and control the expenditure, and it was felt that the works should not be undertaken unless there was proper supervision and control.

THE CHAIRMAN: The same question with regard to this Department will be debated again in connection with the much more fundamental re-organization which is proposed, and as 26 or 27 Members of the Council have expressed agreement with this measure I think they are justified in getting on with it.

Items put, and agreed to.

SEA DEFENCES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in under Sea Defences, sub head 3—New construction and replacement works—item (ii)—New type sea wall, \$20,000. Considerable erosion has taken place on the foreshore at Blankenburg and L'Union, and it is estimated that \$35,000 will have to be spent on permanent sea defence works there. For this year only \$20,000 of that sum will be required.

Item put, and agreed to.

SUPREME COURT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that item 15—Passages of Mr. Justice Fretz and family, \$39.60 be carried out at \$67.02.

Item put, and agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in item 1—Net deficiency \$18,000. An additional \$9,000 is required this year in connection with the reconstruction of the Best groyne, and a similar sum for the reconstruction of the Fort groyne. Work on those two groynes has been carried out more expeditiously than was anticipated at the beginning of the year, and it would be

very unwise to cease work now. This amount would have been asked for next year, but Members are asked to vote it this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hon Members are aware that certain very important work is about to be done on the Demerara river with a view to expediting transport, and it is very desirable to finish these groynes.

Item put, and agreed to.

TREASURY—INCOME TAX OFFICE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move in sub-head 3—Refunds of income tax \$7,000.

Item put, and agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS—EXTRAORDINARY.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I invite the Council's attention to the items on page 7 of the list of "moves-in." Among the items is one of \$34,500 for the erection of a police station at Williamsburg, Corentyne, and \$6,000 for the erection of Magistrate's quarters. It is considered that there should be an increase in the strength of the police force in that district, and in the place of the present police station at Albion it is proposed to erect a larger building somewhere in the neighbourhood of Williamsburg where there will be quarters for the Officers and men. Police Officers will not be stationed there but will pay periodical visits for some weeks. It is also intended that the additional Magistrate should also be stationed in that locality. Hon. Members are asked to vote these two items to enable the work to be started at an early date.

Under sub-head 45—Medical Department—there is an item of \$16,674 for the completion of the Tuberculosis Hospital. Hon. Members have seen from the Message laid to-day that the Public Works Department has not been functioning satisfactorily, and it is proposed to reorganize that Department. The reason for having to ask for this increased sum is because the estimate of the work was not very satisfactory.

THE CHAIRMAN: It was very bad.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The estimate of the work was bad, for while the sum of \$78,096 has been provided by the Colonial Development Committee for the erection of buildings at the Best, the whole sum has been spent and several buildings have not yet been put up. To complete the work in a satisfactory manner the rather large sum of \$68,847 is required, but it is quite impossible for the Colony to provide that sum of money now, and hon. Members agreed recently that we should not apply to the Colonial Development Committee again for an additional amount. It is therefore proposed to spend this sum of \$16,674 to put up a few more buildings and make the existing buildings serviceable. It will not be possible to station a medical officer there as originally intended. An officer will have to visit the Hospital from Georgetown. Of course the prices of material have gone up, but in spite of that it is difficult to explain the necessity for this large excess.

At this stage the Council resumed and adjourned until the following day at 10.30 a.m.