

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 8th January, 1929.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR GORDON GUGGISBERG, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT:

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

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

The Hon. A. P. G. Austin (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

The Hon. F. Dias, (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. T. Millard, Colonial Treasurer.

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

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

The Hon. R. E. Brassington, (Senior Member for North-West Essequibo).

The Hon. R. V. Evan Woag, B.Sc., (Senior Member for South-East Essequibo).

Colonel the Hon. W. E. H. Bradburn, Inspector-General of Police.

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

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

The Hon. S. H. Bayley, Managing Director, Colonial Transport Department.

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

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

The Hon. N. Cannon (Senior Member for Georgetown).

Hon. H. C. Humphrys (Member for East Demerara).

The Hon. A. V. Crane, LL.B., (Lond) (Member for West Demerara).

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo, (Senior Member for Berbice).

The Hon. Percy C. Wight, (Junior Member for Georgetown).

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Junior Member for New Amsterdam).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Member for Georgetown).

The Hon. E. F. Fredericks, LL.B., (Junior Member for South-East Essequibo).

The Hon. A. E. Seeram (Member for Demerara).

The Hon. S. McD. DeFreitas, M.A., (Junior Member for North-West Essequibo).

The Hon. J. Smith (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. S. H. Seymour, A.M.I. Mech. E., (Nominated Unofficial Member).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Council on the 3rd January, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENT.**CROWN AGENTS' ADVANCES.**

Mr. MILLARD (Colonial Treasurer): I beg to communicate the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

MESSAGE No. 21 OF 1928.

Honourable Members
of the Legislative Council:

By Resolutions No. VII. and No. XLV. passed by the Combined Court on the 3rd of February, 1927, and 13th of July, 1927, respectively, authority has been given

for amounts aggregating \$6,399,920 which are to be raised on loan under the provisions of the Public Loan Ordinance, 1916, and any amending Ordinances, for defraying the cost of the Georgetown Improvement Schemes, and of the Drainage and Irrigation and Water Supply Schemes, being advanced from time to time either by the issue of Treasury Bills or at Bank rate varying as the circumstances may require.

It is estimated that at the 31st of December, 1928, the advances made by the Crown Agents for the Colonies will have amounted to \$9,696,000. The Crown Agents have reported that the Exchequer and Audit Department has raised the question of security, and they have asked to be furnished with a further authority for the issue of Treasury Bills in respect of the difference, i.e., \$3,296,080.

The advances which have been made by the Crown Agents include, as the Council is aware, not only expenditure in respect of loan works but also amounts required for financing the general commitments of the Colony; and I have the honour to invite the Council to pass the following Resolution in order to provide the Crown Agents with the requisite authority for these advances:—

“That this Council approves of the sums required by the Colony from time to time for the execution of works, the cost of which will be defrayed from loans to be raised, being advanced by the Crown Agents for the Colonies by the issue of Treasury Bills or at Bank rate varying as the circumstances may require, until such time as the necessary Loans have been raised.

Further, that this Council approves of any sums advanced by the Crown Agents for the purposes of financing the general commitments of the Colony being similarly advanced by the issue of Treasury Bills or at Bank rate varying as the circumstances may require, until such time as there are surplus funds from the Colony in the hands of the Crown Agents available for the purpose.”

F. G. GUGGISBERG,
Governor.

Government House,
Georgetown,
31st December, 1928.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Mr. MILLARD: I give notice that at the next meeting of this Council I shall move the following motion:—

That this Council approves of the sums required by the Colony from time to time for the execution of works the cost of which will be defrayed from loans to be raised, being advanced by the Crown Agents for the Colonies by the issue of Treasury Bills or at Bank rate varying as the circumstances may require, until such time as the necessary loans have been raised.

Further that this Council approves of any sums advanced by the Crown Agents for the purposes of financing the general commitments of the Colony being similarly advanced by the issue of Treasury Bills or at Bank rate varying as the circumstances may require until such time as there are surplus funds from the Colony in the hands of the Crown Agents available for the purpose.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICE.

Mr. CRANE: I give notice that when the Committee stage is reached on the Bill to make provision with respect to the discipline of Legal Practitioners I shall move the amendments indicated in the memorandum which I gave to the Clerk of the Council.

PETITION.

Mr. SEERAM laid on the table a petition from certain residents of Coverden and other villages on the East Bank, Demerara River, praying for an extension of the Georgetown-Coverden road.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

CUSTOMS DUTIES BILL.

Mr. AUSTIN: With your permission, sir, I should like to ask the Colonial Secretary whether he can see his way to postpone the third reading of the first Bill (i.e., Bill to fix a tariff of duties on goods imported into and exported from the Colony). My reason for making the request is to see if a little more time cannot be given to the mercantile community to go into this Bill and the various alterations it entails. As you know, a Bill of this description cannot be generally discussed until it

is read in the Court, and therefore the mercantile community had not an opportunity of discussing it before. A difficulty has arisen chiefly in connexion with the second schedule of the Bill. Goods arriving in the Colony, especially those referred to in that schedule, are very often packed together in the same cases. You may have four different classes of goods all bearing different rates of duty shipped on the same invoice and in the same case. The charges for freight, insurance, etc., would then have to be apportioned *pro rata* on these various kinds of goods. It is comparatively easy for firms in their own offices to sit down and work out these various *pro rata* rates, but when there is a heavy import of goods coming into the Colony and all these various firms converge on the Customs, I very much fear that there is going to be congestion at the Customs and this would lead to ill-feeling and hampering of the mercantile community. I therefore ask the Colonial Secretary to defer the third reading of this Bill in order that the firms in Water Street may confer with the Comptroller of Customs to see if the difficulty, which I fear, cannot be got over in some way or other.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. C. Douglas-Jones): In view of the remarks of the hon. member I would ask, with the permission of the Council, that this order be deferred.

Question put, and agreed to.

TAX BILL.

Mr. DIAS: Before the next item, which is the third reading of a Bill to impose certain taxes for the public use of the Colony, is taken I desire to ask permission that the Council go back into Committee, as I propose to ask permission to have inserted in one of the clauses on page 8 an item which seems to have been overlooked for some considerable time in the past.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and recommitted the Bill.

Mr. DIAS: I beg to move that on page 8 where it states "On every transfer of any scrip, stock, or shares," etc, between the words "any" and "scrip" the words "bond, debenture," be inserted. At the present moment, sir, an *ad valorem* stamp duty is affixed on the transfer of existing scrips. Quite recently the question was raised as to whether a bond or debenture fell within the category of stock or share and I think that it is time that these words be inserted.

Mr. WONG seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Council resumed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that "A Bill to impose certain taxes for the public use of the Colony" be now read a third time and passed.

Mr. MILLARD seconded.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

REPLY TO ANNUAL MESSAGE.

The PRESIDENT: We will now take the adjourned debate on the motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary "That the Council do resolve itself into Committee to consider the draft Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1929." I understand this is the occasion on which, in accordance with custom, hon. members will have an opportunity of giving their general views on subjects dealt with in the "Governor's Annual Message." As the Message on this occasion is probably of more than usual importance, owing to the fact that Government's policies have been laid down therein, it will be of great help to Government to hear hon. members' views on those policies and on any other matters, whether they may wish to criticise or to give helpful advice to the Government on the general

subjects dealt with in the policies.

Mr. CRANE: Sir, at this stage I would like to thank His Excellency the Governor—I use the term advisedly, because I am told that you do not sit here as Governor but as President of this Assembly—for his very able, lucid, and exhaustive Message which contains the policies which Government intends to pursue in the future. That Message, sir, is of very extraordinary value to this community because, unlike what was analogous to the Governor's Message in the past—the Annual Speech—it contains a definite statement of Government's policy which will be pursued and the execution of which Government will commence, and which will be carried to a finality as long as Government finds itself in power. Previous Annual Speeches had taken the course of merely recording what had transpired in the past and making prophecies of what will happen in the coming year. The ship of State in those days seems to have been tossed about on the deep ocean without a definite destination, without a definite policy at all. In the Governor's Message you have a definite policy as to Colonisation, Agriculture, Public Health, Finance, and a variety of other subjects definitely laid down, and we are assured that if at any future time any future Administrator were to diverge from the policies set out in this Message without due reason, it will be open to any member of the Council to inquire why there has been that departure from Government's set policies. It is therefore a matter of grave and great importance that a policy which is to be so fixed and so definite should be well and thoroughly discussed before it is put into execution. If it is going to be permanent then it should be well aired and well discussed, and members of this Council and the public should have the fullest opportunity of either supporting, criticising or helping that policy in some way or another.

I propose, sir, in the first instance, to address myself to Government's policy on Agriculture, because I can see that in Agriculture lies the solution of our present difficulties even more so—if I may be pardoned for saying so—than

Government's policy on Colonisation, for while Government's policy on Colonisation is absolutely necessary—as I read it,—it looks after populating the Colony in the future. Our immediate needs are to relieve the public of taxation, to resuscitate the Colony's finance, and to put this Colony within a very short period of time—I hope within my lifetime—on a strong financial footing. I conceive that that can only be done by an earnest policy on Agriculture being put into execution forthwith for the benefit and improvement of the state of affairs as existing at the present moment. That is the reason why I say that Agriculture, to my mind, comes first even before that important subject of Colonisation. The Governor said in his Message on the Colonisation Scheme that the first thing depends on the quality of the population which we have in this community, and he made it quite clear that that population has to be an agricultural population because British Guiana is an agricultural country.

If we are to avoid making mistakes in the future we ought to throw our minds back somewhat into the past. The people in this community, from my humble position here I claim, are not averse to the pursuit of agriculture at all. The people of this community have been forced by circumstances, possibly beyond the control even of Government, into the position in which they have found themselves, and it is very interesting to see what was the Governor's opinion of the inhabitants of this community as contained in his Message to agriculturists in the Colony published in the "Agricultural Journal." There the Governor made it quite clear—and I think the Governor struck the nail on the head—when he put first before the efforts of the people the Government's share in the work, that of preparing practical schemes for land settlement which will be available for them. That, sir, is striking the nail on the head. The people's share is to take advantage of the land settlement schemes. The people's share is to come after the Government's share. In the past Government has not performed

its share. Government has never provided any system or scheme of land settlement whereby land could be obtained under advantageous conditions which the people can take advantage of and perform their part of the contract.

The second and, in my opinion, most important part of the message contained in that Journal is the Governor's exhortation to the people of African descent. The question of race, sir, is one which the people of African descent dislike to raise, but in the scheme of colonial reconstruction when matters are being adjusted and each party's contribution to the Colony is being assessed, it is necessary to see and inquire what share that section of the Colony's population contribute to its well-being. I claim, sir, that the people of African descent have done their share as far as was possible under the circumstances. Before the Governor came to this Colony, sir, we read a very encouraging statement he made, something to this effect: "I have not yet lost faith in the quality of the black man," and the people from that statement were hopeful, and are still hopeful, that His Excellency the Governor will give them the one chance—a chance which they claim has not yet been given them—to make good in this community. When, therefore, this statement was published in the Journal everyone got a little alarmed and wondered if the Governor had lost the confidence which he had in them in London after so short a sojourn in the Colony. I and they hope not. The people ask only for the same opportunity, equal advantages, under this scheme of reconstruction to show what they have in them. When that statement was made, without malice, it was made on insufficient data. I took the precaution to inquire from a Government Department—the Department of Co-operative Credit Banks—what was the shareholding of the entire members of the banks over the Colony and I was told that it was something in the neighbourhood of 10,000. I enquired what proportion of that 10,000 comprised black and coloured people of African descent.

The final report which the officer was good enough to give me was that of the 10,000 persons 6,338 were people of African descent. These were all people prosecuting agriculture, sir, and these are only in so far as members of the banks are concerned. There are others who do not belong to the banks and who are two or three times that number. That gives some index of the number of persons who are engaged in agriculture and it proves that it is not correct to say that they are averse to going in for the soil at all.

What has been the cause, therefore, of this failure to develop the country agriculturally? Without, sir, endeavouring to throw any blame on past Governments, one is bound to say that in the past the Government never had any policy but floundered about trusting to luck. Government has also floundered about and trusted to luck in respect of its agricultural policy in the past. During the incumbency of the late Professor Sir John Harrison we had a system under which a number of boys were trained every year in the science and practice of Agriculture. They were made to live together so that their thoughts should be so saturated with the scheme that they would become nothing else but agriculturists. They were made to live in a building which now forms part of Queen's College and were well-trained. The Director of Agriculture has been good enough to give me some figures relating to these boys. Since the scheme was inaugurated in 1905 there were 82 boys who had won bursaries. One-half of them pursued the course and 30 per cent. received certificates. Thirty per cent. of those 82 boys had the training in full and came out—let us call them—trained agriculturists. After those boys were trained where were they to turn, where were the settled farms, where was the financial assistance with which to put that training into practice? There was none; those boys were without money, without land. What was Government's system? Government's system seems to me to be like a body without a head,

That is the reason why agriculture never progressed in this Colony—because Government always started in the wrong way. In 1917 reward grants of \$150 were given to these lads. It came from a suggestion from this side of the House that they should be given some sort of aid to pursue their profession. That \$150 was nothing like sufficient to start them out in an agricultural life under conditions as obtain in this Colony. It was a waste of good money, as the scheme was no scheme but a bankruptcy of policy, and that is why this Colony has done nothing in so far as agriculture is concerned.

I should like to see such a scheme inaugurated as would turn all those young men—I am speaking of the bright, intelligent young men, the class who now go into Water Street as clerks or become chemists and druggists or sick-nurses and dispensers—or, at any rate, divert a fairly good number of them from the occupations which they endeavour to enter to agricultural pursuits. A good many of them have no occupation at all, because they cannot get it. I am certain, sir, as I am certain that I am standing here alive to-day, that if you had decent farms of 10 or 15 acres, with a decent house to live in and advances were made to them so that they could practise agriculture as well as animal husbandry and get to live on as much as they got in Water Street, you would get that intelligent class turning their endeavours to agriculture, because it is not that one thinks agriculture is beneath his practice at all. It may be, sir, a matter which you do not know, that in this community where it is said that the legal profession prevents a man from going in for the soil—which is not true—there is a large number of professional men, prosperous ones, who have their little estates and their little farms. I have been endeavouring to number them, but we have an eminent practitioner here who went as high as the Bench who had a flourishing farm on the East Coast, and even at the present time you have practitioners here, including your humble servant,

who have their little farms. Why should we throw away money earned by the practice of our profession on agriculture if we had no confidence in it? It is because we feel more independent when we see a few bags of produce leaving the farms and feel that we are contributing so much towards the production of the country. I make no hypothetical statement when I say if I could obtain the same income as I can from the legal profession I would prefer to pursue agriculture. As independent as the legal profession may be you still have masters, as far as the public are concerned but the successful farmer has no master. It would be invidious to call names but I see here a few members of this Council who have their own little farms and homesteads although they enjoy a far more independent position in other walks of life. There is no truth that the legal profession or any other prevents it. The more a man got into contact with business the more he saw that the foundation of all business and prosperity was production and that there was nothing in the world like production. The raw material must come from there. That must be the bulwark of the community, especially situated in the tropics as this Colony is.

That goes as far as the inclination of the people to agriculture is concerned, but, sir, there is another and more important question—the supply of land. No man can practise agriculture without land. You have remarked here about the little strips of land you have seen in the possession of the people as strips insufficient to support a man decently. That is one of the other obstacles to agriculture in this country. Go along the East Coast and see the legacies received from the days of slavery—legacies distributed into a hundred and one and so many parts in a township section and so many parts in a cultivation section. As time went on extra depths of those villages were obtained from the Crown and divided up into so many parts. The result is that a single individual holds so many

shares or little pieces in each depth of land. No modern agriculture can be pursued on that basis. A man lives at Buxton and has to walk nine miles to go to his farm aback. If he is to get to the last piece of his farm he takes several hours to get there and is tired and cannot do a good day's work. It seems that if the whole system is to be reconstructed that would have to be attended to. There would have to be a redistribution of land. Each man must have a plot sufficiently large to support himself and he must have a house on it. The community must not herd together into villages. Houses must be scattered over these farms from the sea-board right back to what is called the "Water Conservancy," nine or ten miles from the sea coast. If it is possible to have a redistribution of these lands in order to give a definite portion to each farmer he would produce far more than he does under the rough and ready method of something here and something a half-mile away, and so on, until he gets ten miles aback. That is the system which assisted in contributing to the existing *convulsed* state of affairs. Land must be given to the people. Look at Essequibo where the Dutch pioneers had made this country prosperous. All the estates have disappeared and they have resumed a state of primeval forest. Hog Island, a very fertile bit of country, is uninhabited. If on the whole of the Arabian Coast and the banks of the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers Government were to pursue a policy of giving 5, 10 or 15 acres of land to individuals with necessary financial assistance, soon we would find very flourishing farms in the possession of people on the banks of these rivers within easy reach of a shipping port. That, sir, deals with the question of land, which I hope Government will give some attention to—the necessity of putting within easy reach of these people sufficient land which they can develop with a certain amount of success.

What is the other cause of our backwardness? A session or two ago in this Legislature, sir, I ventured to suggest to your predecessor—and again I say it—that since the days of slavery the methods practised in agriculture have remained stationary. The cutlass and the fork are all the implements to-day which agriculturists use. I wish to ask the various business men I see here through you, sir, is it their idea of modern production that this country, if it is to compete with other countries in producing commodities for sale, must remain backward in methods and implements? No wonder those other countries are forging ahead with their modern tools and implements for planting, reaping, threshing, etc. Why, sir, it is clear that if one man pursues the rough-and-ready method of the cutlass and the fork in ploughing a half acre, the other man who employs the same time in ploughing 10 or 15 acres is able to cultivate 10 or 15 times as much as the other man with the cutlass and the fork and the cost of his production must be very much less. That being so, sir, we cannot compete in any way with those other countries with modern tools and implements. In the words of the ordinary planter "the thing does not pay." That is why you have a system that is destructive without being constructive.

I suggest to Government—much as I know Professor Dash is not in favour of it, but I am going to challenge his opinion and ask Government to consider it—the use of community ploughs. Professor Dash has said that community ploughs have failed elsewhere and they will fail in British Guiana. I do not believe it. I believe that if community ploughs are put in the districts under proper Government supervision—the Agricultural Instructors can see to the disposition of such ploughs—a farmer would be able to plough ten or twenty times more land than he now ploughs with the fork. In some cases there is absolutely no ploughing at all. I am not speaking of the rice industry with water saturated soil but in respect to

other soil where economic crops can be grown. The poor man is unable to buy a plough, which is an expensive item, but he needs one. What he wants is a plough held in community either by an Agricultural Bank in the district or some other means to enable him to plough his 10 or 15 acres which may be the average amount. I had the advantage, sir, in Canada and the United States, of seeing along the railway for miles and miles as far as the eye can see properly ploughed fields. How can you compete with people who pursue modern agriculture when we are still so backward? There can be no doubt that if we remain as we are, if our farm tools are the same, if our area of cultivation is restricted because of the methods we use, we cannot hope to make our living by it. That is what we are suffering from.

I ask leave to refer to a few lines written by that great pioneer Henry Ford in collaboration with Samuel Crowther in his book "My Life and Work":—

If a device would save in time just 10 per cent. or increase results 10 per cent. then its absence is always a 10 per cent. tax. If the time of a person is worth fifty cents an hour it is a ten per cent saving of five cents an hour. If the owner of a sky-scraper can increase his income 10 per cent. he would willingly pay half the increase just to know how. The reason why he owns a sky-scraper is that science has proved that certain materials used in a given way, can save space and increase rental incomes. A building thirty stories high needs no more ground space than one five stories high. Getting along with the old style architecture cost the five-storey man the income of twenty-five floors. Save ten steps a day for each of twelve thousand employees and you will have saved fifty miles of wasted motion and mis-spent energy.

And, sir he goes on in another chapter to show how during the War in Great Britain when shipping was scarce it was necessary to plough all the waste country, and ploughs and tractors were obtained from the United States and were driven by the women while the men were engaged at the Front, and every available spot of the country was ~~put under cultivation~~. It was done

with the plough and could not have been done by the hand. Perhaps we cannot do as much as Henry Ford says was done in Great Britain but surely we can modernise every branch of our industry, and we should modernise it in this respect. The larger sugar estates have been doing it, I believe, with a certain amount of success and have overcome many of the difficulties in getting the tractors over the drains and other obstacles. I believe much can be done and that is the reason why I support the proposal of the Director of Agriculture when he suggested last year that we should have an Agricultural Engineer whose duty would be to investigate the possibility of the use of mechanical tillage on our lands. After we have cleared our land and we have the population, and we have by mechanical tillage turned it up, what are we to do? I claim, sir, it is the duty of the Agricultural Department to discover what commodities can generally be grown in this Colony that are in demand in foreign markets. We must produce to sell to our neighbours and friends. That is the only way we can obtain wealth. The Agricultural Department has not done that in the past.

The new regime has existed for a year. It has contented itself with working out new grades of rice and things of that sort—high class work—but what we want is an exportable crop that can be generally produced on the coastlands, so that when we reap we reap in abundance under Government supervision. Unless we do that, if "A" plants corn, "B" provisions and "C" something else, we cannot have sufficient for export. That crop must be found by the Agricultural Department which must earn its living, which this Legislature is giving it by voting its supplies. If in three years that Department does not find it at all, and if I am here, I shall challenge that Department as having not earned its vote and not entitled to be retained. To use an analogy I shall, if I am permitted, impeach the Head of that Department for failing to perform his

duty during the next three years. All of this cannot be done without Government supervision. The people are poor and if Government are going to establish an Agricultural Bank they will have to supervise the work done with the money borrowed from that bank. Government's supervision will be necessary, and that supervision can be given without very much increase in the votes of the Agricultural Department by their Agricultural Instructors, who travel throughout the country without showing tangible agricultural production for the money which is being paid to them. Government supervision must be there; it must be seen that the money is properly spent. The producer must be made to export the best grade produce in order not to spoil the reputation of the country, as unfortunately was done in respect to other commodities in the past.

I need say nothing, sir, on the question of financial assistance because we have already been told that the Secretary of State has decided that as soon as possible a loan will be raised and arrangements made for financial assistance to agriculturists.

On the question of Colonisation I have very little to say, agreeing as I do with most of the Governor's Message on that score. There are, however, one or two comments I desire to make on that policy, and that is: whilst nobody at the present moment knows the extent of the cultivable land in the North West District, what we need have is a very careful look out for locating those settlements in such a position that when they begin to produce they can easily communicate with the shipping port which the country affords. The second matter in respect to Colonisation to which I desire to refer is extremely important. It is the statement of the Governor that the first two hundred families will be selected entirely from East Indians or East Indian creoles and the third hundred from people of African descent. Sir, that statement is a very important statement to the people of

African descent in this community. There never was, and there is not at the moment, and I hope there will never be, any bad feeling between those two communities mentioned, but the people of African descent claim—and this feature of the Governor's Colonisation Scheme is discussed very widely—that if the Governor rightly preaches the gospel of industry as practised by that leader of revered memory, Booker T. Washington of America, the gospel of industry should not be preached alone but an opportunity for material salvation should be given to the people of African descent. Government should provide the conditions under which Booker T. Washington raised his people to the standard to which the Governor has referred in other places. Government should afford the people the same opportunity and unless the people are afforded that same opportunity they would not be given the same chance which the American people of African descent had in attaining the stage which they have in the United States. The people claim that if this Colonisation Scheme is to proceed in settling batches of 300 families the most that should be done is that the first hundred may be East Indians, but the second hundred should be families of African descent. They claim that if you were to start with 200 East Indian families and keep them for the last the money might never reach so far and they might never be established, and they would not be given the opportunity which His Excellency desires to give to people of African descent in this community. The thing should be done, sir, on the basis of equality. In this case I do not know how much per cent. of advantage is being given to one section over the other. I am sure there must be some reason and there is no intention to give undue preference to one section over another, but I would like to draw the Governor's attention to this fact that if the first 200 families are restricted to East Indians the people of African descent must suffer a very severe disadvantage. The only way to test if there is anything in the black

man is to give him an opportunity. He has not been given an opportunity. Now, that this policy is to be embarked upon, the people of African descent who are fit and chosen by Government for these farms should be given an equal opportunity with our very useful East Indian people.

The PRESIDENT: I may inform the hon. member, and put his mind at ease that on the strong recommendation of the Director of Agriculture that has already been changed.

Mr. CRANE: I thank you, sir. The very last thing I desire to refer to on the Colonisation Scheme is the question of the repatriation of the colonists. Sir, one of the most absurd features of what was known here as the Nunan-Luckhoo Scheme was that it was a colonisation scheme with a repatriation clause. I have heard of a labour scheme with a repatriation clause. If we are to convert our waste lands into thriving homesteads, must we after ten years provide means for the people to abandon those prosperous farms, leaving them to relapse into waste lands and go back to India? I observe in his Colonisation Scheme that while His Excellency says that Government takes no responsibility for repatriation it nevertheless provides cheap passages for the people's return to their native land. I submit most respectfully that we should not afford any opportunity for repatriation except the opportunity that every free man has to move about. But to encourage repatriation in the strictest degree might lead to the wrecking of this very excellent scheme. I do not think—although it does not go as far as the Nunan-Luckhoo Scheme—with due deference to its author, this scheme ought to afford any opportunity for colonists to abandon their farms and go back home. That is all I desire to say on Colonisation. I wish this scheme the fullest success, and I hope to live and enjoy some of the benefits this Colony must obtain from its success.

I, however, want to see the Agricultural Scheme given first attention. I

believe that if a full force drive is given to the Agricultural Scheme in three or four years' time you will find increased production which will assist Government in getting out of their present financial difficulties by affording avenues for increased revenue.

The other portion of His Excellency's Message is the question of Transportation which I will divide into two parts: transportation on the coastlands and transportation in the interior. You very properly pointed out that on the coast we have three means of communication, by sea, by road and by rail. The sea is there and does not need repair. God gave it to us, but the disadvantage is that in front of our coast there are a number of flats which necessitate crafts going very far out. It is a waste of time and not a pleasant journey. Many took that journey in the days when we had a steamship service between here and New Amsterdam. It is an extremely rough passage. Therefore it seems that means of communication could not be utilised to any very great extent on account of these flats on our coast.

As regards the roads and railway these things grew. They were not put there exactly the same time. Your Excellency with your wide experience will find the systems existing in the Colony were not put there designedly. One followed the other and eventually you find that you cannot abandon either one. As regards the road from Kitty to Rosignol much as we appreciate that it enables people to compete with the railway and affords a second line of communication between Georgetown and New Amsterdam, it would be hopeless to talk of neglecting either road or railway. On each side of this railway between Kitty and Rosignol, with the exception of the estates, you have villages. A large number of people live there and use the road. You could see what will happen to their property if the road were to be abandoned. Their property would deteriorate in value as they would be deprived of their main

means of communication with the city and industry would suffer greatly.

What would be the result of abandoning the railway? A very bold Administrator might say "I will put motor traffic on the road and abandon the railway." Here again there are practical difficulties. We have incurred an expenditure of perpetual annuities. I notice that Government in the Estimates have made provision for purchasing, as suggested in this Colony, these permanent annuities, and the profit which falls to the Crown Agents would be saved. But that commitment remains. Unless we have somewhere else to put the rail—I am not sufficient expert to say that—to serve an industry it might be considered justifiable to lay it in a special locality of production and leave the road to serve there alone—the railway could not be abandoned. At the present moment we have an earthen road not even macadamised and if Government remove the railway the road would be left for motor traffic. It would mean, however, that two or three times the present traffic on the East Coast road would pass over it and the question of improving the road would arise. I notice it is foreshadowed in the Governor's Annual Message that something has to be done. I hope that something beneficial to this Colony will be done, but I claim it is my humble duty to urge respectfully that at the present moment neither one of those two means of communication should be abandoned unless for the strongest and very best reasons. To abandon the railway and not put anything else, the railway will not be earning anything to pay the annuities and we will have to pay it from other sources. It would be impossible to abandon the railway. I leave this point with the few comments I have made entirely in Your Excellency's hands, knowing that when you have an opportunity of going there you will see how much that road means to the community residing there.

The West Coast is in a different position. As representative of that part of

the Colony I should be the last person to have the desire of seeing the West Coast railway entirely closed, but I think the Board which is providing that means of transportation can work out a scheme whereby the trains could be run less frequently and so save a portion of the money which is being spent in fuel at the present moment. I urge on that Board never to recommend to Your Excellency the total abandonment of that railway. About fourteen years ago—I think it was in 1914—during the regime of Sir Walter Eger-ton, we extended that railway from Greenwich Park to Parika. I hope Government would not turn back on a policy so recent as that. It is a definite scheme of development which the Government carried out, but it may be possible, and I believe it is possible, to run those trains very much less than they are run at the moment. Four or five times a day is really excessive for the population to which the railway caters. With just a morning and an evening service a very great benefit will still be given the public at no very exorbitant expense. I do exhort Government not to abandon the railway, in which event the question of paving the road will arise by reason of motor traffic.

The other feature of the Transportation Policy is that in respect to the interior. I notice very much has not been said of developing the interior by means of roads. I would not say railway, because as the result of Mr. Leggate's report Government have definitely abandoned the idea of the construction of a Government railway to the interior. I do not know whether it is Government's view that we should confine for the moment our attention to the coastlands. That is a policy which is postponed. I still think that easy communication may be established between Georgetown and Potaro, then across the Mazaruni country to Turesi or to one of those places above the falls. That is the policy which has been foreshadowed by Mr. Leggate in his report, and I was hoping that Government would give effect to it and thus

provide for those hardy fellows, who practised agriculture on the coastlands but could not obtain a reasonable living and had perforce to resort to the interior to chase diamonds, a means of safe transport. The loss of life in the interior has been appalling. Now and then you hear of 15, 20 or 25 souls lost. Such a policy of Government as outlined in the Leggate report, I claim, would save a good many of the hardy manhood of this country. I would ask Government, even if they do not intend at this stage to pursue their interior communication policy, at least to provide some sort of easy and safe communication with those places of activity which exist at the present moment.

The last comments I desire to make, sir, are on the Budget Statement. I notice that in paragraph 18 of the Colonial Secretary's Budget Statement, which was made a motion which is now before this House, he states: "during past years estimates of revenue have been placed at figures for which there was little or no justification, or were perhaps due to a too sanguine view that the spending power of the community had increased." I am glad to hear that, sir, and I am extremely proud to observe that Government has changed its policy. Those estimates of revenue were estimates of revenue prepared by Government officials. The elected members had no means of preparing estimates of revenue; the data of everything were locked away in the archives of some Department. These estimates are always prepared by Government and it is extremely interesting to note that Government has undergone a change of heart. I would not pursue it very much further, sir, because it finally ends up on the thorny question of recrimination, which is undesirable at this point of our history, but these things, nevertheless, are not things that can be done by the Electives at all.

So far as the raising of revenue is concerned Government propose to introduce the Income Tax. It is perhaps regrettable that the recommendations of the Income Tax Commit-

tee have not been printed and put before the House before this matter is discussed. I daresay an opportunity will be given members of this Council to discuss the proposals in detail when the Bill comes before the Legislature. At the present moment all we know is that Government desire to impose this tax. It is a proper tax but we cannot help discussing the incidence of that tax or what its introduction would mean to the country. I have no doubt that when the Bill comes before the Council we will be afforded that opportunity of discussing it. With Government Departments being kept rigidly within their votes, savings under one head not to be used up under another head, we can only expect that this new regime will commence and end with a surplus annually instead of a deficit. Had Government's financial policy in the past been what it now is, a great deal of these deficits which have piled up might have been saved. With an Administrator with your views, sir, I am sure you have been disgusted to find the large amount of unauthorised money which has been already spent that you have to do with. I have come to the end of what I intended to say and I regret taking up so much time. but I hope that the importance of the subjects discussed justifies my attitude. I hope, too, that before these permanent policies are commenced they would be open to full discussion and debate, as I know that every endeavour made by Government in the pursuance of these policies would be for the success and development of this country generally.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Like the last speaker I also desire to congratulate the Governor on his exposition of Government's policies, and in doing so I wish to make a statement—as we lawyers always do—that whatever I say in connexion with this Message will be subject to the following quotations from paragraph 50 of the Message: "Before the principles and methods which are to be adopted in carrying out that policy are laid down, a thorough investigation will be made in 1929" and

again in paragraph 73 "I have issued instructions that no vacant appointments either on the Fixed or Unfixed Establishments, even although provided for in the Estimates, will be filled until the investigation is concluded." Whatever remarks I may make will be subject to those provisos, if I may so call them.

With these remarks I desire to address myself to the question of Government's Educational Policy. This community desires to congratulate you, sir, on the exposition of your educational policy, because, like yourself, the whole community has been "scandalised" by the system of education which has obtained in the Colony all these years, but which they were helpless to prevent because Government would not permit them. There is no doubt, sir—and all educationists would agree—that children should be taught to use their hands as well as their heads, and that in the primary schools—I am speaking of that section particularly—book learning, as we say, and technical instruction should be combined; but this has hitherto been disregarded in any policy of education which has been adopted and which has found favour with Government for all these years. But, sir, it is in respect to paragraph 51 that I experience some difficulty. It reads:

Whatever may be the nature of the reforms, however, one thing is clear: there must be a reduction of Government expenditure on primary schools. The question is not one of choice but of actual necessity. the Colony cannot bear the present cost of these schools, I deeply regret the necessity for taking a step backward, but my regret is tempered by the knowledge that the present system of education is inadequate to meet the needs of the country, and by my confidence that a new system can be devised which will cost less and give better results.

Not only myself, but the community as well, is gravely concerned over Your Excellency's view as expressed in that paragraph, because it seems to foreshadow the restriction of what is now known as the literary education which the children should receive. If that

assumption is correct, then one can only say that narrow vocational training is far too limited. What use is there in training a boy to use tools in wood-work or metal if his taste is not cultivated to appreciate fine designs. Such a class of boy may grow up to be a social danger to the community. What we would like is to preserve and improve upon the present system of education. By all means let technical instruction be given in our primary schools, and in our secondary schools (for the matter of that, but, sir, I venture to assert—and I think I am in good company—that the school is no place for vocational education of any sort. All education should not be vocational, although all vocations ought to be educational, and therefore, sir, if I am not mistaken Your Excellency's policy is to circumscribe the "literary" by making the "technical" predominate over it, then we will have nothing at all to complain of in Your Excellency's system of education, because the Colony has long felt that the children were not trained along correct lines, that their education was not carried on on correct lines, but we were powerless to prevent what obtained. Your Excellency made the astounding remark also that there is no money to carry on the education of the children as at present. Well, sir, there is no doubt that a good deal of the money spent on primary education never reached the children at all. That should be prevented, if possible. All the money put down for education should eventually find its way to the children. All the money spent in such things as shows could be curtailed, but in education, as is in most things and perhaps above all things, economy might entail expense.

I know of no other branch of human affairs that is higher than the question of education. Wise distribution and not saving is true economy. A boy should be given a general education and be allowed to turn to whatever vocation he likes in life. If in the school opportunity is given to train the hands as well as the brain the child would

turn to what interests it most and there would be no trouble in seeing the bend of the child even in the primary school, therefore it is not necessary to attempt anything like vocational training in the school. All that is necessary is to train the child to think and to use its hands and you will soon find out what it is adapted to, what it is inclined towards or has a tendency to go after. It is not correct to say that the present education system is responsible for not having more people turning to the soil. In practice what has driven the people from the soil—that is to say the rising generation for several decades now—is not because of their training in the school but sheer economic necessity. If those who say that the people do not like agriculture saw what I have seen, they would know that months of labour by families have been wasted through droughts and floods. I do not believe—and I will be very much surprised to find otherwise—there is a single child on the coastlands, whether of East Indian, African or European descent, who does not know everything that can be known as to the plants which can be grown here on the coastlands at least. I therefore desire to ask Government to consider, when Government comes to make investigation, the remarks which I have made in connexion with this educational policy.

I have had the pleasure—some people think that it is a displeasure, but to me it is a very great pleasure—to be among the ranks of the school teachers of this Colony, and therefore I am speaking as one with authority. There is one thing which I cannot pass on without mentioning. It may be very distasteful to certain members of the community but it is my duty to the whole Colony and to this Council. It is with regard to the decentralisation of education which Your Excellency desires should be in years to come amongst the Local Authorities. All I know up to now of the Village Councils—Local Authorities as they are called—is that they are miniature Councils in themselves. Except Your Excellency

wishes to raise up new ones, I do not think from my experience, having been born and bred in a village community and having had the pleasure of being Chairman of the Council of one of the largest villages in the Colony, there is a single one competent to govern education. And if there must be decentralisation of education well I do not know that those pioneers who carried it on up to the present should not be amongst the persons who should have some hand in the matter instead of the Local Authorities, whoever might comprise them.

I shall now pass on to the question of the Irrigation and Drainage of the Coastlands and Water Supply. Government seems to pat itself on the back when one reads:

In the Essequibo District the new canal from the Pomeroon River has been dredged a further 2½ miles this year and is now completed, making a total length of 4½ miles. The drainage and irrigation schemes are progressing satisfactorily. The Control Boards are now functioning for the completed schemes on the East and West Coast Demerara, Essequibo and Corentyne Coasts.

The PRESIDENT: What paragraph?

Mr. ELEAZAR: The Governor's Message, paragraph 86. These Boards, sir, are functioning anything but satisfactorily. There is a sharp conflict between the Boards and the communities as to the success or otherwise of the schemes, and I am not sure that in every case the communities come in second. It seems to me from my angle of vision that the communities are more often than not ahead. It therefore devolves upon Government to make a close investigation into these particulars and satisfy itself as to whether these schemes are functioning as Government thinks they are, and when that is done it may be found that I have not diagnosed the case properly. I see "ten public and one private artesian wells have been completed during the year, the total now sunk being 27 public and 4 private wells." The matter of sinking wells seems to be very laudable

and very desirable and something that was necessary for some considerable time, but I wonder if Government has any idea that a great number of these wells are not functioning properly. Sir, when these wells were sunk they started to give a very encouraging flow indeed, but in a good many of them the flow has considerably diminished and I look forward to the day when there will be no flow at all. That is not satisfactory at all. There must be some cause. I am not an engineer, but I judge from the result of what I see—and I do not think you can beat that.

The drainage of the coastlands at the present moment to the resident population of the Colony is one of the most urgent needs, if not the most urgent need. Government certainly is well on the way with regard to the drainage schemes. It remains for Government to complete these drainage schemes, and I think Government should address itself to the completion of these schemes. I make bold to say that if these schemes are completed the country will be flooded with all the produce that you are now asking for. I say without fear of contradiction that the floods have been the cause of ridding the coastlands of most of the valuable crops. I remember the time when coffee and cocoa were flourishing crops on the East Coast. I also remember the time when the free negroes who came out of slavery never worked on the sugar estates at all with the result that East Indian labour had to be introduced. They grew coffee and cocoa, and, I am told, cotton. I came into existence just a little bit too late to see cotton in its glory, but I saw coffee and cocoa. But periodical floods, one every year for certain and two in some years, are the cause of the demolition on the coastlands of these flourishing crops. To-morrow the people would resort to these crops if they were assured of a drainage and irrigation scheme.

While these crops are flooded out, drowned out and dried out, other places have developed their crops and hold the market now, and it would be diffi-

cult to compete and overtake them, but we can if our drainage is made anything like perfect. I am therefore pressing on Government not to content itself with the feeling or belief that all is well with this drainage question. It is the life and death of the country at the present time. While the people are planting their 100 acres in the North West District what are you going to give them to eat—not only rice? The people on the East Coast can supply all you want for these people that you are going to bring in. We say the drainage is the chief obstruction. The drainage is what has been operating against the pursuit of agriculture on the coastlands, which is the only part of the Colony peopled to any extent. When the number of the population is taken into consideration this Colony can produce commensurate with the population if the people had any assurance of getting returns for their labour. Up to the present time agriculture in this country is a mere gamble. Everybody is not born a gambler and when a man goes and puts his all in the game of agriculture he expects to get returns. To see a thing is bad at the beginning and to plunge into it is only the act of a fool. One man may be a fool but the whole community would be wise.

The question of Finance I am leaving to the senior hon. member of the constituency which I represent (Mr. Woolford) to deal with—he is the master mind on that question—rather than that I should trespass and come out second. I shall, however, make a passing remark on finance. From my point of view I appreciate, and certainly endorse, all that Government has propounded under that head. I do not know, sir, that I need make any remarks with regard to new appointments as I am sure that Government will take care of that. Your Excellency has foreshadowed what my opinion is on that question, when you state in paragraph 73 that even though the amount for the appointment of an officer in any Department has been voted you will not permit that appointment to be made until you have investigated it. Well, sir,

there are two Departments which can bear very strong investigation in this respect: I refer to the Education Department and the Agricultural Department. As regards the Education Department I cannot see why a fourth person to be called a Deputy, or anything else, is wanted. For what we are getting now I would not say it is over-staffed, but the work can be distributed. Distribution and not addition is economy. I think the Department can bear distribution and there is no need for addition.

As regards the Agricultural Department I am very sceptical because the Deputy was asked for four months after the Director had been in the Colony. I venture to say that up to then the Director had not seen Berbice. It is only a theory he had in mind which he wanted to work out. He has not changed his view but is only holding on to what he propounded in the first instance and is not willing to let it alone. I can safely leave it in Your Excellency's hands. I expect that Your Excellency is going to experience lots of difficulties, but, sir, no man produces great things unless he makes great mistakes. You are going to make mistakes but we are going to give you credit for them, because we are satisfied that general good intention is of great force in the government of mankind. He that is willing is not injured. If placed in Your Excellency's hands we are injured we are contented. We do not want a fourth Deputy or any kind of Inspector more than we have schools, more than we have children. In a short time it was found necessary to dismiss the men whom Professor Harrison had trained. I cannot conceive the necessity of sending away most of those men. I cannot see the necessity for a Deputy Director of Agriculture. You are going to investigate the matter, sir, and I leave it entirely in your hands. With these remarks I can confidently take my seat and congratulate Government on the policies contained in the pages of the Message here. Though you have not found it necessary to apply the gag, sir,

I hope I did not merit it. I am glad you did not find it necessary to apply it, though I feel I had done nothing to deserve it. (Laughter).

Mr. SEYMOUR: As regards Colonisation I think the whole community is behind Government. The solution, we all know, requires mutual co-operation not only among the members of the Council but among all classes of the community whether they be rice-millers, lawyers, doctors or workers. It is a step, there is no doubt, in the right direction. To go ahead in this Colony we must produce and colonisation is rather a factor to lessen our burden. In a Colony like this it is absolutely necessary to make sure that we have drainage. I am rather convinced that we have not solved our drainage problem. In Essequibo to-day we have got channels which are blocked and cannot possibly be deepened under existing conditions. That can be solved. I think if we have such a thing as a dredger which can deepen in hard clay we would find possibly the land saved from inundation. That is about Essequibo. I do not know very much about other parts of the Colony, but from what I see on the East Coast riding around, it seems not different. That is a factor which must be tackled before we can think of settling people on the land. The hon. Member for New Amsterdam spoke about the Boards. I am pleased to tell Government that the Boards of Essequibo are functioning successfully. What is wanted is a mutual feeling to go ahead. There has been in the past too much petty jealousy, too much invidious feeling. We all want to be bosses. There can be only one boss and the sooner the people realise that the better. We in Essequibo realise that our forging ahead and going ahead lay in solid hard work and co-operation. Let us try and endeavour to pave the way by mutual co-operation and work.

With regard to Education I am very glad to say that I have a knowledge of the subject having started out in life as a teacher. I am very glad indeed to see Government has seen that we were

wrong. Primary education in country schools is a farce—a farce in every sense of the word. I have been into schools and tried to find out from every Fifth Standard boy if he can use the ordinary two-foot rule correctly. Not one boy passed the test of doing a little ordinary survey work with it, such as laying out a garden plot, taking correct measurements of a box and laying out constructional work. Furthermore, there has been much talk about Messrs. Wilson and Snell going to Onderneeming and making the statement that the boys got better training there than in the primary schools. It is perfectly correct. I have been to Onderneeming and seen the education meted out there. The boys are there taught what is essential in life. They got in the early morning scholastic training and afterwards went to the farm. What more a boy wants? If he wants to go to a superior school why should not his parents do that. If people feel it is infra dig for their boys to work, why not pay and let them go to a secondary or higher school? The system of education that obtains at Onderneeming is excellent, but there is one fault for which I blame Government. When a boy leaves the institution, I think, he is put under the sacred care of the Salvation Army. They are very good in their own way, but it is up to Government to superintend and watch that boy's career. He should be put on a sugar estate where he would get a fair deal and a start-off in life, or found some other employment. The Salvation Army cannot teach the boy to be a man by their training, therefore I think Government should follow up these boys and put them on the land or anywhere where they can be under control for two or three years after leaving the institution.

As regards mechanical equipment I endorse all that the hon. Member for West Demerara has said. If we are going to plough as we did 400 years ago it is needless thinking of competing with countries where mechanical ploughing is done. Whether community owned or not it is essential that we have it. I have demonstrated with it in

threshing machines. I am the only man on the Essequibo Coast to do so and I am so glad to say very successfully. Artesian wells have been touched on. What is exercising my mind is that they are not going to be as successful as one hopes for. They have entailed very large expenditure and one would hope they would last for a considerably long time. We are yet to prove the efficiency of artesian wells as compared with the expenditure. It is a very bad policy to put down wells to run only for five or ten years. I think Government should be very careful in pursuing their policy of boring artesian wells until they are absolutely sure that the work is going to be permanent and that some benefit is going to be derived from it.

I would like to make a few remarks with reference to the Hon. Colonial Secretary's Budget Speech in connexion with the rice industry. Considerable publicity has been given to this matter in the Press, and I trust the same publicity will be also given to what I propose saying this morning, to clear up what would appear to be an injustice to millers as a whole. I think it is a matter of great congratulation to both the rice producer and miller that through unaided persistency in hard work, the export trade has increased 50 per cent. over that for 1927, and will be a record year, but I fail to see in what respect this expansion separates the grower and miller, or indicates that the rice growers are not financially better off, or that their spending powers should be reflected in our revenue returns.

I do not think that the position between grower and miller is clearly understood. Let me explain. The grower sells his padi to the miller, the basis of price being arrived at—I speak about Essequibo—by the ruling market prices by the large millers. Now let us examine the value of clean rice compared with a bag of padi. The value of one pound of rice f.o.b. steamer last year works out at 2½c. per pound. Padi is bought at \$1.92 by the millers. Manufacturing costs are: 2 bags,

padi \$3.84; manufacturing, labour, fuel, etc., 50c.; bags, sewing and marking, 23c.; freight to Georgetown 4c.; insurance, 16c.; and agent's landing fees and commission, 30c. making a total of \$5.07. The value of the bag of rice of 180 pounds at 2.75c. per pound, \$4.95; loss to millers (paying at 8s. per bag) 12 cents. To this, depreciation, insurance on machinery and buildings, loss on bags and padi, vermin, etc., must be added. Fortunately the Essequibo rice producers are turning out a good grade rice, which has allowed their paying the growers 8 shillings and \$2 per bag.

I would now like to give you the cost of production of one bag of padi relative to the grower. The weeding, ploughing, planting and reaping of one acre of padi lands cost \$21.92, and land rent \$4, making a total of \$25.92. A minimum return of 18 bags per acre should be obtained, which would leave a profit of \$4.64 per acre at the rate of \$1.92 per bag of padi, should the grower employ outside labour. It will therefore be seen that rice production must be by families, and under the present very ancient methods the cost of production must be necessarily high, and the grower cannot produce a bag of padi economically under \$1.92 per bag. Yet the average export price for 1928 was far below such a figure. The spending powers of the East Indian, I am glad to say, are directed mostly either to the Post Office Savings Bank or a hole in the floor of his home, and would not to any great extent be reflected in extra Customs returns. The diamond industry has played the major part in the depression in Water Street and elsewhere.

I am in agreement with Government in the investigation of the rice industry being desirable, and on all hands proprietors will welcome and assist Government not only to probe the welfare of the grower, but to analyse the future development of this important industry along mechanical lines, the thesis on which I hope to lay before Government early this year. However, why single out one industry which is

paying its way? There is undoubtedly room for investigation all round, especially country rum-shop and shopkeepers, and I am including lawyers with the amazing petty litigation which takes place in this Colony and takes away the hard-earned money of the toilers.

The Council adjourned for luncheon.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I desire to join my brother Electives in congratulating the Governor for the able Message he has delivered to this Assembly, and to state that, as far as I am concerned, I am quite prepared to do all I can to cooperate with Government in any measure brought forward for the good of the community. I have no desire, sir, to go through this voluminous Annual Message which has been addressed to this Council. The several points have been already touched upon by the previous speakers and there is nothing to be gained by repeating them, but I do wish to make one or two passing remarks on certain points in this address in order to bring to the notice of the Government certain inconveniences which the New Amsterdam public are at present undergoing.

I take firstly, sir, the point dealing with transportation. I do not know whether it is the desire of Government to discontinue the running of the railway service between Rosignol and Mahaica, but this I should like to point out. At the present time the New Amsterdam public are suffering serious inconvenience on account of the rapid silting up of the New Amsterdam harbour. I have already spoken on this subject to some of the officers of Government, and beyond extending the New Amsterdam steamer stelling nothing has been done to remedy the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. I do say, sir, it is a matter which will have to be gone into carefully and which will necessitate the expenditure of a large sum of money, but, sir, when you consider the importance of New Amsterdam and the County of Berbice you will see that there is some reason for the advocacy to have the harbour improved so as to permit

of the getting in and out of ocean-going steamers. New Amsterdam and Berbice contribute 40 per cent. of the sugar exports of this Colony, and on that account alone are deserving of some consideration at the hands of this Government. There was a time, sir, when large ocean-going steamers plied between England and New Amsterdam, but at the present time we are cut off from such communication. The harbour is silting up with great rapidity and the merchants in particular are suffering very much indeed. There is a great deal of anxiety among the mercantile community on this important subject. Your Excellency's predecessor in office had been approached in connexion with the harbour question and we got some relief in the extension of the steamer stelling. I know this problem would involve a large expenditure of money but at the same time I ask you, sir, to bear this problem in mind when looking through the problems which confront you.

I may take this opportunity, as you have not yet visited the Ancient County, of extending to you, sir, a very hearty welcome to that town. The people of Berbice are looking forward with a great deal of eagerness to the Governor's visit to that County, and some of them are greatly disappointed at not seeing Your Excellency up to the present time, but I have assured them that it is not due to backwardness on your part or to want of sympathy for the people but to stress of work. I can see from the Message that you have taken a great deal of time and made a thorough examination into the very serious problems confronting you, and I do hope, sir, you will bring to bear that very wide and varied experience you have gained in other parts on the solution of these problems of the Colony that will make for the prosperity and contentment of the people.

Looking through the Message, as far as the principle of Colonisation is concerned I am heartily in agreement with the terms and policy laid down by Government on this very important question. In respect to agricultural pur-

suit some reference has been made to the question of East Indian labour in the Colony. Well, it must be said to the credit of these people that it was by dint of hard work, perseverance and energy they have been able to accumulate whatever wealth they possess, to build up the sugar industry, and by their own magnificent initiative to become the pioneers of the rice industry which is to-day a boon and blessing to the Colony. These achievements are evidence as to the value of East Indians as colonists and I do hope that every care will be taken to secure to these parts immigrants from that desirable class of people. There is no doubt that British Guiana offers facilities for East Indian settlement. They are by nature agriculturists and I feel sure that upon the proper carrying out of this Colonisation Scheme there is every hope that East Indians would be induced and attracted to this Colony to settle down and enjoy the benefits of British rule. There can be no question, sir, that in the past East Indians have not received that amount of recognition which should have been received by them at the hands of the Government. I am not blaming your predecessors in office, but what I do say is that if sufficient care had been taken in the past to secure the permanent residence of these people instead of repatriating them to India, if sufficient inducements had been offered them to keep them here, you would have had a larger number in our midst than you have to-day. Sir, these people had to toil, and very hard too, in the making of the rice industry without any Government help, and I am exceedingly pleased to note the remarks of the hon. Colonial Secretary that every care will be taken to see that these rice farmers are not exploited by unscrupulous rice-millers. It is urged that what should be also done by Government is to have a proper price fixed, as is done in the case of sugar, in order to give this desirable class of rice-growers the necessary protection.

In respect to the Public Health Policy, I am in agreement with you,

sir, that much is required to be done, and we must do all we can to conserve the infant life of this Colony and to reduce the terrible death-rate which takes away annually so many who should ultimately add to the economic potentiality of the residential population. There can be no doubt about it that one of the principal causes of this sad state of affairs is mal-nutrition and improper sustenance due in a large measure to the poverty of the people. I am not actively connected with the Baby Saving League or the Infant Welfare League but I have something to do with the Anti-tuberculosis Society now carried on in New Amsterdam. I do hope, sir, you will do all you can to see that proper care and attention are given to the children—the new-born babies—so that they may grow up to be healthy men and women and be of service to this community. I desire also to ask Government to see to it that Government Medical Officers resident in the country districts are made more useful by way of propaganda work. These men are paid by the Government of the Colony and it is only right and necessary that they should move among the people, delivering addresses on health matters and doing some propaganda work in order to dispel a great deal of ignorance which exists among the people. And I do hope that the Governor will address himself to this particular phase of this question.

With regard to the Education Policy, the first part of paragraph 45 of the Message clearly illustrates what should be done and I am in hearty agreement with the sentiment expressed therein. "Government's Education Policy is based on the reasonable assumption that the object of education is not to enable boys and girls to pass examinations but to become good citizens and lead useful lives after leaving school." That is very important indeed, and it should go forth to the public and the teachers that it is very desirable that in the formation of the character of the children everything possible should be done to mould their little minds in such a way that they become good and use-

ful citizens. It must be remembered—and perhaps the Education Committee may bear that constantly in mind—that the children in the schools are not there for the education of the mind only but for character-training. They are there for training in all the virtues that go to make good citizens—citizens worthy of our great Empire, which never had greater need for trained characters than in these dark and troublous times. I wish to emphasize in respect of these remarks that in my own County we are endeavouring to address gatherings of school children in order to teach them the right principles they should adopt. We have suffered a great deal in the past. I hope that this is the opening of a new era. I know, sir, you have come to the Colony with your knowledge and experience to help as it were "a lame dog over the stile." Taken from retirement you have come forward to shoulder your part and I, on my part, and my people promise our full cooperation, loyalty and support. I hope you will be blessed with health and strength to carry out the arduous duties before you.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Perhaps as an agriculturist it would not be out of place if I address a few remarks on this occasion. I have listened with great attention this morning to the speech of the hon. Member for West Demerara (Mr. Crane). There can be no doubt about it that the hon. member has read extensively on the subject of agriculture. But, sir, agriculture is a very hard taskmaster, and it is not by books alone that you can teach agriculture. My experience—and it is an experience running now well-nigh to forty-one years—is that quite a number of the men who entered the sugar industry came from Agricultural Colleges and were the least successful. Far from it, however, is it my intention to depreciate educational methods in any department of work in this Colony. Education is necessary if the country is to progress, but theory and book knowledge are things that the practical agriculturist or the practical man in anything has a great contempt for. Your Excellency's Message is

especially welcome to me because it has given me that ray of hope on a subject that I had almost forgotten—that the Government of this Colony had an agricultural policy. You have given us more than a ray of hope, you have laid down your policy, and the key-note of that policy is hard work. I have heard a lot said, and I have read a lot, in regard to farming. Well, I venture to say something about farming, and the mistakes in the past with regard to farming in this Colony whether it be cane-farming, the growing of cocoa, or the growing of coconuts or anything else. The pitfall into which the individual farmer had fallen, disaster being the ultimate end, was his taking more land than he could cultivate with his family. The hon. Member for West Demerara fixes the extent of the acreage of the farm he should have at something like 10 or 15 acres.

Well, sir, if farming is to be a success in this Colony it must start on the basis of an acreage that the farmer and his family can cultivate. I am not taking into account any additional small acreage that he can keep stock on. Jesse Collings, the English statesman, suggested three acres and a cow. The moment a farmer takes more land than he and his family can cultivate what does he do? He joins the roll of employers and starts to employ people to work for him with most disastrous results. The people that he eventually gets to work for him he has to pay "through the nose," or double what the ordinary sugar estate pays, even if that is considered by some people to be an unfair wage. And what is the result?—failure and abandonment of his farm. One acre properly cultivated brings more prosperity than three acres not properly cultivated. There is a false pride in this Colony in regard to the ownership of land. The idea is that your prosperity and worth to the community are estimated in the number of acres you possess. "A" possesses three acres and because "B" possesses fifteen acres he is a far more important man. I say, sir, any colonisa-

tion scheme or land settlement scheme that starts out on the basis of giving families more land than they can properly cultivate will end in disaster. I may be wrong, but it is my opinion—an opinion formed by many years of experience.

The hon. Member for West Demerara laid great stress on the necessity for communal co-operation in regard to the tillage of the land. Now that is no new thing. If the hon. member pays a visit to any sugar estate he will see what is being done by the sugar man in regard to mechanical tillage. I had the honour on the 7th May, 1925, in the old Legislature to move a motion in regard to the establishment of an Agricultural Bank and there is set out very clearly the necessity for mechanical tillage in the villages as well as on the estates of the wealthier corporations or individuals. The motion reads:

Whereas it is generally recognised that upon the profitable prosecution of agricultural industries the Colony's future rests, both with regard to the sufficiency of its revenues and the well-being of its inhabitants;

And whereas if the Colony's agricultural industries are to survive and progress in the face of competition and the low prices ruling, it is imperative that improvement must promptly be effected in the various processes employed both in field and factory involving the installation and employment of up-to-date appliances for tillage and manufacture;

And whereas urgent need is felt, more especially in the case of small estates (the acreage of which collectively comprises no inconsiderable portion of the area under cane cultivation in the colony) for improvement in equipment not only in cultivation and manufacture, but also in other respects possessing an important bearing on the comfort, health and general well-being of labourers engaged in the sugar industry, as for example, the construction of light railways to provide people with easy passage to and from the fields, the erection of mosquito-proof dwellings as a protection against malaria, and the sinking of artesian wells to secure a pure drinking water supply;

And whereas need is also acutely felt for assistance to foster the rice, coconut and coffee industries;

And whereas with the prices of most of the colony's agricultural products maintaining a low level, the initial cost of the needed improvements, save in a very few cases, is prohibitive except under loan system associated with easy payment at a low rate of interest;

Be it Resolved—That this Court recommends to the Government that a fund be raised and utilised to aid and foster local agriculture under a system of loans repayable in ten annual instalments, at low interest for the purpose of providing such improvements as may be desirable, considering the special needs of each individual enterprise.

It is clearly set out in that motion what we need. There can be no doubt about it that we are—and I include the sugar industry—not as progressive as we might be. We are very far in the background when compared with other countries—and tropical countries at that. It has been urged that the people of this Colony and the Government and the Europeans have not done their duty in the past. If we are to progress in the future we must delve very deeply into the past, we must see where the failures were and go into them thoroughly before we initiate any new works and improvements. It is urged that in this Colony—I am speaking now as a creole, as one whose family has had an association of nearly a century with it—we have no able men, we produce none, we are unprogressive and we are behind hand. My answer is “Go to Dutch Guiana, go to French Guiana, and compare what has and is being done by the Dutchmen and the Frenchmen there in regard to what has been done by the creoles and Englishmen here. You will find that this Colony is immeasurably ahead of those Colonies. Have we any reason to be ashamed? I say no. We ought, however, to have done better. But what has kept back this place in the past? Unhealthy environments were too much for us. It kept us back in the past and is still keeping us back. It is spelt in one word “Malaria.” It is health. It is exceedingly gratifying to every member of this Council and to the people of this Colony that you are determined, sir, to put sanitation and

health problems in the forefront of your battle in regard to increasing the population of this Colony by bringing people in, whether it is from India or anywhere else.

After making all allowances for our failures and after clapping ourselves on the back for what we have done as compared with the other two Colonies, the fact remains that we do not work sufficiently here. It is very easy to say nice things to people. It is very easy to tell them they are very hard-working, but the best friend of the people is not the friend who does not bring before them their faults and does not let them look them squarely in the face. I was very much struck some time ago with the figures given in respect to Hawaii in 1925. With a population of only 27,000 people more than this Colony it produced 600,000 tons of sugar, many millions of cases of pine apples, rubber and other things. But what was the factor that made it? Not the divers population, a population comprising six or seven different nationalities brought from the East and from the West. What was the factor that made it? The answer may be capital; but capital without labour is of no use. It is work. The people there work five days out of the six days of the week. Work was the main factor. The prosperity of the sugar industry there was not due to the population only but to the magnificent system of irrigation and up-to-date machinery. We have got to do a lot to set our house in order besides bringing people into this Colony. We have, if possible, to do something to materially help our staple industry, sugar. It may be urged—I am speaking as a sugar-planter and my vision cannot get outside the pale of sugar—that sugar has kept back this Colony, but, sir, let those who wish to destroy the sugar industry pause until they can build up another. Do not destroy one industry before you can adequately replace it. I am ashamed to say I have not travelled about our Colony as much as I ought to have done, but from forty years' experience I ven-

ture to say that it is the coastal belt and the rivers from which we are going to get our wealth in the future. I say so in all humility. We have got as fertile a soil as can be had in the West Indies and can produce anything that they can. Our coastlands are eminently suited for the production of sugar, coconuts and rice, and our rivers for cocoa and coffee. The late Sir John Harrison once said that a million tons of sugar could be produced here annually. There is also much room for increased rice cultivation. Your Excellency has not been long in putting your finger on what is wanted—co-operation. Sugar and rice can thrive and prosper here without harming each other. As a matter of fact British Guiana is capable of producing anything that can be grown in the West Indies. With all our capital, with all the advantages we have of a fertile soil, the one thing that we need in addition to co-operation is to work harder. Whether it is in sport or in business it is the man who works hardest that succeeds. We are not going to succeed if on every occasion we have to be spoon-fed by Government.

The people have stated in the past, and rightly too, that their lands were not drained and irrigated. Government have spent large sums of money in this direction in the past, but, I regret to say, a good deal of it was mis-spent. Pumping stations have been installed under Government supervision that cost a good deal more than similar ones installed by businessmen. The nominated hon. Member for North-West Essequibo has touched on the drainage in Essequibo not being in a satisfactory position. I will be failing in my duty if I do not again draw the attention of Government to the fact that all is not well with the drainage in Essequibo. I have just returned from Essequibo where I saw the trenches of the villages that surround Anna Regina, of which the Government owns two sections, filled up to the parapets with the most filthy, stagnant water to be seen anywhere. Can the Government expect anybody to settle on land that is imperfectly drained or not drained at all? And what is

the cause of this? The cause is that the Government in the past spent a large sum of money in keeping out the sea, and is now faced with the problem of getting the water off the land. Eighty or ninety years ago we had a line of pumping plants along the Coast but on account of the erosion of the foreshore we had no need of them. Experienced farmers will tell you, sir, that the vagaries of the sea here are very extraordinary. The northern end of the Essequibo is at present one big mud-bank. I have pleaded with Government time after time to spend more money and put down pumping plants on that Coast, but, I regret to say, up to the present not one has been installed. They have put the cart before the horse. That is only a part of the difficult task that you and your Government have before you, and there can be no doubt about it that, as the other speakers said, a definite policy is now laid down in Your Excellency's Message.

One thing I am certain of: a period has been put to Government extravagance, and during the next three years if Your Excellency's administration accomplishes nothing else it will be this. It will be a great accomplishment. I am certain that under your leadership we are going to have the budget balanced. There again the Elective Section of the Court is not to blame. I have in the old Court moved a motion twice that the Budget statement should be taken before the estimates of expenditure, and it was thrown out by the Government vote. It is now brought forward by Government. We are now on the right track. We can cut our cloth according to our pocket. While I have every hope that we will go forward in the production of rice, sugar, coffee, coconut and every other agricultural commodity, that will be very little help if we do not set our house in order in respect to expenditure. There is plenty of room still for more cuts in the Government Service, but it is very difficult; it is almost as difficult as to remove a mountain as to reduce the personnel of the Government Service in this Colony. I do not blame

the officials: each man wants the best, but the woeful extravagance of Government in the past is one of the many things that kept us back. At last after forty or fifty years a period has been put to that, and it will be ability combined with economy that will be the guiding star of the administration of the Colony from now onward.

As regards Finance, I see we are to have an Income Tax. Well, sir, an Income Tax is a very good thing where there are incomes to be taxed. (Laughter). One good thing about it, however, is that Government officials will pay a very large part of what will be collected. Perhaps now that officials have to pay Income Tax they will look closer into expenditure. Before taking my seat I repeat that to me this Message is not only welcome and long overdue but it is a message of hope that we are at last taking a turn in the right direction and that prosperity and sound administration will result. You will have the support, I am sure, sir, of every member of this House and the support of the people of this Colony in carrying out the policies. If you can only instil into the minds of the people the dignity of labour and that agriculture is the greatest of all professions and it is there that the wealth of this country lies, I am sure a great deal will be accomplished. Let no one fool you, sir, tilling the soil in this Colony is distasteful to most of the people. That is, however, not peculiar to British Guiana, as no less a person than Mr. Lloyd George in a great speech made two or three years ago in England deplored the tendency of the young men in the villages to get away from the soil in order to rush into the cities and towns. Georgetown produces no wealth; our wealth is produced on the East and West Coasts and in the County of Berbice. They produce the crops that give the steamers and wharf labourers work in taking away the produce. The whole task of the Government lies in bringing home to the people that in doing as Your Excellency says, work harder, their condition will be improved. Every-

thing possible must be done to make them obtain a living from the soil but to spoon-feed them will not help matters. Work is the thing that brings success to a man, hard work and work all the time.

Mr. DIAS: I desire to contribute my solo to this very interesting debate which has taken place to-day. In doing so it may appear that some words in that solo are rather hard, but I have come to a period of my life when I believe that plain talk does a lot of good when well intended and honestly meant. The times for frills and adornments have long gone past, and I think that in these trying days of the Colony's history we have all got to understand that and to convey the exact meaning of what one has in his mind in respect of people, who seem to deserve to have it conveyed to them in the plainest language possible, is the very best means of establishing a feeling which will ultimately redound to the good of the entire community. I have heard a lot about work and it reminds me of a speech, delivered by a coloured Clergyman of the United States in the Town Hall at which I was present, in which he commented on the word "LUCK" and stated that so many people believe in luck and will be heard to say, "If I had luck I would not get this or that." But he told them how the word "Luck" is spelt in the United States, and I think he shocked the audience quite a bit when he told them it was spelt "WORK." These words have impressed me so much that I often repeat that story when the opportunity arises, and I am prepared to do so again now, feeling that there is every justification for doing so.

I am in agreement with the hon. Member for North-West Essequébo when he said that there was a disinclination on the part of the people here to take to the soil. There may be good reasons in their minds for taking up that attitude. Perhaps it may be the question of drainage and irrigation which arises from time to time, in respect of which there is so much talk and,

I believe, loss in one way or another, but I think those who have discussed the matter, if not with the older heads with the younger men of the present generation, are bound to come to the conclusion that the young man of to-day has a distinct aversion to agriculture. I have myself discussed the question with them. No one wants that; every one wants to become a clerk, to enter the Government Service, or to be in some office or other. No one avails himself of the opportunity of getting a piece of land and developing it in some way or other. I have had young men coming to me in an endeavour to get a situation in the Government Service. I discussed with them the question of getting employment elsewhere but they would say "My education unfits me for that." "Why not go into the Commercial Service" I would advise, to which they would reply "They do not want me. I must go into the Government Service." That has been the drawback in this Colony and I am sure hon. members will bear me out in this respect. On occasions members must have had appeals from young men of the Colony to help them to go to the United States of America. "I want to go;" they would say, "I cannot get work here. I would do anything there that I would not do here." That is the false pride with which you find many of them imbued. That is the unfortunate position in which this Colony finds itself.

It is not for want of failures that some people are endeavouring to have their spare dollars invested in agriculture. I have not had an agricultural training and yet I was induced to invest £1,000 in a coffee estate, but at the end of twelve months I had sustained a loss of £270 by keeping that estate. I have disposed of it because I could not go on with it. I decided to adopt the old saying: "Shoemaker stick to your last." That was, however, not sufficient warning for me because in later years I invested all I had in sugar and to-day all that I have is what is represented on a bit of paper. Not that I do not believe in it, but I think that

agriculture to produce satisfactory results must have the attention of the person on the spot. Those of us who have other work to do may perhaps think twice before investing money in that way. No one more than I welcome this idea of developing the agricultural advantages of this Colony. I am positive that if Your Excellency is not getting the entire support of the community now in a short while, as soon as your efforts begin to bear fruit, you will be more than compensated for your efforts.

I desire to touch somewhat on Education, though I know to some it will be a distasteful subject, but in that connexion we must face things as they stand. It is just as well that the community as a whole should know what was the expenditure on elementary education in 1911-12, and what it is to-day. And I venture to submit that on consideration of these figures it would be seen that the cost of primary education has been sapping the community. Just about the time I refer to, 1911-12, the vote passed by the old Combined Court was \$120,000 or thereabout. Sixteen years afterwards that vote was increased to \$370,000. It went up three times as much, and yet the population did not increase. And I venture to say that on comparison with Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica, those figures are far in excess of these other places which are wealthier and in a better financial position than we are. There was a member of the old Combined Court, Mr. Thorne, a coloured gentleman, who was himself the Principal of a Secondary School, and in that year 1911 when discussing the message from the Secretary of State on a certain important matter—it was the coming of a new Governor,—he dealt with the question of the salary of that Governor and introduced the question of education. With your permission, sir, I will read a brief account of his address on that subject:

The future Governor would be confronted with another big problem, the problem of education. That to his mind laid at the roof of many evils of this country. He would have to see that the education of the masses must be of such a kind as to make them useful citizens of this colony. They did not

want an education that would give them swell-headities and make them refuse to do that which they ought to do, but an education which would make them practical citizens able to turn their hands to useful work. Nobody who had considered the large sums of money spent on education for the last fifty years in this colony could honestly say that the colony had obtained anything like an adequate return for the money spent. If in the future they were to spend money in educating the masses of the people they must see that the education would be a practical advantage to them. No sentiment must be allowed.

What was said then could be said with equal truth to-day. Although we are spending three times as much on primary education as we spent at that time there is not a single member of this community who can say he is satisfied that the Colony is receiving good return for the money spent on education. (Mr. Eleazar: Hear, hear). We see the children ourselves. They are not in any better position than they were sixteen years ago. You see them leaving school in the afternoon and hear them using filthy language on the streets. Surely that is not training. Is the school training or the moral home training bad? Something is deficient. And now that it becomes public property—after all I am only reiterating what Mr. Thorne said sixteen years ago in this House—I hope that parents and schoolmasters will see that whatever money the State is spending on education is well spent and the children derive the full benefit which it is intended should be conveyed to them.

Just at this point, sir, I should like to make some passing reference to the question of expenditure. I have heard hon. members speaking on the expenditure of the Colony and the extravagance of Government. Well, sir, I think there are faults on both sides. I say so because I contributed along with other Electives to incurring expenditure which perhaps might better have been saved. A glance at these Estimates shows me scores of items which can be traced entirely to the Electives, items which to-day would never get on the Estimates; but that is the lot of the Elective, he has to serve his constituency and has in-

curred it. Government alone should not be saddled with the blame. I do admit that there are items which to the Electives did not appear to be justified, but in that direction Government as Government is not wholly to blame because very often you had Heads of Departments who said "I cannot do without this; if I do not get it I cannot guarantee I can carry on," and things of that sort. Addresses of that kind very often terrified Electives into believing that to oppose the vote, asked for would cause injury to some Department. It has been attempted to saddle Government alone with blame for the heavy expenditure but it is not correct, because the Electives, perhaps in a smaller degree, are nevertheless equally liable for a good deal of the expenditure which still appears on the Estimates and will appear for some time to come.

I do not know whether it would be proper for me at this stage to make reference to some items on the Estimates, which I would like to draw Government's attention to, but I would like you to consider them from the point of view of effecting economies later on. I wish to make certain suggestions to Government and would like to be informed if I may do so now.

The PRESIDENT: You are quite in order.

Mr. DIAS: Page 7, Customs Department—It is very unfortunate, sir, that within the past few months it is noticed that there have been several leakages in that Department, leakages resulting from dishonest importers defrauding the Government in several instances of just revenue. If one traces the position in that matter I think you would find the Government is lacking in not having on the staff some competent person to deal with the examination of imported dry goods stuff. Government did adopt a policy some time ago of engaging such a person. I know of one or two instances where clerks from the best houses in the City were engaged but for some reason or other some of those clerks returned and others opened up their own business. To-day the position is that Government

has not a competent person to examine dry goods and the bulk of frauds committed through the Customs is in respect to dry goods. There is this, however, I would like to say: if it is decided upon to have such an officer, I would suggest that applications be publicly called for and treated confidentially.

On page 19, Co-operative Societies Department—I question very much whether this Department renders any public service at all. The expenditure is only \$6,300 a year but, if the view I take from the information I have gathered is correct, that sum can be more profitably employed in other directions. It may be that when the Agricultural Loan Bank is started Government will see the advisability of abolishing this Department and the present Co-operative Loan Banks in connection with it. I do not believe from what I have heard there is sufficient work for a Department of this nature. It is really not serving the purpose for which it was intended.

I next turn to a Department in which the learned Attorney General is interested. I have not given him notice of what I intend proposing. I refer to pages 22 and 28 of the Estimates—the Registry Department and the Official Receiver's Department, respectively. After considering the existence of these two Departments and the work which they are engaged in doing I have come to the conclusion that I am justified in suggesting to Government the amalgamation of these two Departments. Their duties are purely of a legal nature. So much of the work, in fact nearly all of the work, done in one has to pass through the other, and it seems to me that a combination of these two offices would serve the public equally as well and would result in economy to the Government. As Your Excellency would appreciate, these are Departments with which I have been in touch daily over thirty years. I have watched them and have come to the irresistible conclusion that they can be worked together as one with some little modification in respect to the Heads. You must have your Registrar and I think there should be with him a

Deputy Registrar, both of them being professional men. One has always been so and the other one ought to be. Both being professional men one can be Registrar, Official Receiver and Public Trustee all in one and the other his Deputy. I have taken an interest in the matter because in respect to the present Public Trustee Office I was responsible for its creation. The Colony never had one before and when I introduced the motion in the now defunct Court of Policy for the introduction of a law establishing the office of Public Trustee I met with opposition from every quarter—opposition from the Government and from the Judges themselves. By putting much energy and determination into what I was doing I was able to convince Government that I was right and the Ordinance was passed and the office created. I venture to say it has been of public benefit to this Colony.

I am sorry the Surgeon General is not in the Colony, and if it was possible for him to be here before these Estimates were gone through I would reserve what I have to say about this Department. I submit this point for Government's consideration. Page 42 of the Estimates—Medical Department. It seems to me that we should not have the Public Hospital situated in Thomas Street and the Surgeon General's Office in another place at the Law Courts. I venture to suggest that the establishment of the Surgeon General's Office in the compound of the Public Hospital would be more in keeping with what is required of his office. From my office, situated opposite the Law Courts, I see the hospital doctors paying visits to the Surgeon General. If a messenger has to deliver a letter he has to travel from the hospital to the Law Courts, whereas if this office is established in the compound of the hospital—where I think there is ample room for it—I have every belief that the moral effect would be of benefit to every one concerned, and if brought about an office would be available to Government for use by some other Department.

These are for the moment all the items of a general nature that I find myself in a position to submit to Government for

its consideration. I do not, however, in so doing attempt to suggest that my view is the correct one at all. I am merely advancing it by way of assistance to Government to enable it to effect economy without impairing the efficiency of the Service. I do so with every degree of sincerity and desire to say that whatever part of my suggestions, if any, meets with the favour of Government I would be fully compensated.

Mr. FREDERICKS: May it please Your Excellency, I did not intend to join in this debate because it seemed at this stage that things should be allowed to proceed and what should be done is to join in and as far as possible accelerate the speed of it. Much has been said, but for my part and my section there are two things in the Governor's Annual Message that are of special importance to me—the questions of Education and Agriculture. On the question of Agriculture there is one sub-head in Your Excellency's Message 35 (1): "The policy of the Agricultural Department is to develop agricultural production on the owner-farmer system to the utmost possible extent." No one would be prouder than I to see the owner-farmer system of agriculture established in this country. There are no people who have got grander resolutions than the people to whom I happen to belong, and the owner-farmer system is the only system that would teach "work" in its true meaning. We have our little plots but with the owner-farmer system a man would have his four or five acres plot, a little house and children around him, everybody doing something on that farm. Everybody would learn to work. At the present time that is impossible. Of course, there has gone forth the very hard expression of the people's disinclination to the soil. It is a very hard expression and is an expression I, for my part, do not allow to pass. It lacks coherent reason. It is an expression without having regard to all the facts that precede disinclination to labour. For example, take either one of the East Coast townships. The division of these lands,—I think the hon. Member for West Demerara referred to it—would have to

be cancelled. The township and other lands would have to be re-divided. If a man has children and has his farm seven miles away from his home those children having to go to school he cannot get them to work every day on the farm. I grew up in these village communities. I have picked coffee in the month of August when still at school, and thousands of other village boys have done it.

What seems to me necessary is that we have the owner-farmer system in which each home is a farm, a self-contained farm, because what is apparent at the present time is that one worker has to provide for too many people. That is the trouble in the country. But you cannot condemn that without looking at what caused it. For my part I am sure that my people would work as hard as any other people. We want to be independent and we ask you, sir, to give us an opportunity, give us a chance. I read Your Excellency's Message to the agriculturists: "If the people of African descent in British Guiana do not want to be left behind they will have to wake up to the fact that the vocation of farming is just as honourable as that of a lawyer, doctor or clerk." It has brought to my mind a happy instance of American life in '65 during the Civil War. A negro was made Colour-Sergeant of a regiment and when the flag was given to him he reported "I will bring it back or give God the reason why." Every negro if given a man's chance would report a man's conclusion. What I do say this afternoon is—and, Your Excellency, do not let anybody tell you anything else—the people of African descent in this Colony are going to work as hard as they can to uphold the Colony's position and to bring about better conditions. Nobody would be better fitted. They have been able and are willing to work. It must not be forgotten too—the hon. Member for West Demerara this morning referred to the number of people of African descent having shares in the Agricultural Loan Banks—that the people who extract wealth from the bowels of the earth—your gold and diamonds—produce all the balata shipped

from here, and the wood-cutters of this Colony are all of the same descent. We shall work and all we ask for is a man's chance in these agricultural developments. One cannot say too much as so much has already been said, but if there is anything I know as a negro living in this Colony it is that the people, whom I form part of, are willing to work, anxious to work, and I hope Government will give them the chance they desire: then they will win your approval in their determination to make good. There may be some misunderstanding and I want to say here, for my own people particularly, that the man who has a lawyer son and a doctor son is the successful farmer. The best advice to give my people is "Work your farms, save your money, accumulate wealth, and your sons will be whatever circumstances will allow."

When it comes to Education that is an important matter. Twenty-four years ago I deprecated the education system in the primary schools of this Colony, and I know a little about it. Your Excellency, on the education policy in paragraph 49 of your Message it says "and to develop a personal character that will fit them to take a valuable share in the management of civic affairs." I leave out civic affairs. There is no objection to work by the masses of this Colony, but Booker T. Washington, who is held up so well to the world as a character and whom the world should appreciate, succeeded because the people he led had a respect for work no matter what that work was. Your Excellency would find that the great bane of this community is that it has always fooled itself into believing that the only people who should work on the farm are the people of my section. People when talking about farming do not seem to understand it is not one section of the community but the whole people that must give farmers. The American negro went to work side by side with the most enlightened people in the world. That cannot be stated in application to this Colony. The dignity of work in this Colony is not appreciated. Circumstances made it that the enlightened people who

brought us here were masters. We did not see them as they really were. We have a false conception and the Education Department must initiate the right propaganda. Let the people know that it does not matter what it is, the only salvation for them is work. We did believe at one time that the pen was the best thing for our boys and girls. But where did we get that idea from? Reason must prevail. Because we saw the people who taught us were doing it. We have not yet got the sense of the value of a shilling. We are coming to it. We will get there or give God the reason why.

I think it was the hon. Nominated Member for North-West Essequibo who said Messrs. Wilson and Snell were right when they said that Underneeming gave the best training, as there the boys learnt to work with hands and head. Yes, I will be glad if it were so. I would like to see the boys coming from there valuable citizens and not wastrels and vagabonds. I think the best policy the Education Department can adopt, or whoever is going to have the oversight of the education policy, is that if a session at school is to last three hours nothing less than one and a half hours must be spent in teaching these young people how to dig with a hoe and weed with a cutlass. What is the only thing to make you a man? Work, work, work with fingers weary and worn. And I say without fear of contradiction that wherever there is any aversion to work in this Colony on the part of my people it is not only because of a false conception of the dignity of labour but it is because of circumstances for which no one is responsible. The great burden of the Education Department in this Colony under the new policy of agricultural advancement would be to get teachers. There are different ways of teaching. You can teach by lectures or by example. I gave ten years in North Carolina fostering its educational possibilities, and I look to British Guiana to produce people of African descent who would go to school in the manner Government would propose, not to read books only but to read books and master husbandry. There are hundreds and

hundreds of girls if they had an opportunity to learn to rear chickens properly and do a thousand other things appertaining to the farm would not be strays in your streets. Whatever may be the educational policy do not overlook my viewpoint. There would be some people who show a disinclination to work on the land. It is because they have a false conception of the dignity of labour which they have learned from the so-called enlightened people but which a little bit of sensible instruction from the right quarter will do much to dispel. That being dispelled the people of my section will prove to be—what Your Excellency hopes and what I am sure every elected member, every nominated member and every Government member hope—producers, and as producers add to the wealth of British Guiana in the near future. When we have shown our desire to produce then Government's duty comes in to provide the means of distribution, because production without the means of distribution will hamper trade but production with the means of distribution will aid progression.

Mr. CANNON: Your Excellency, I do not propose to take up much of the time of the Council. There is one point, I am sorry to say, which was not touched on by any of the speakers, and that is the cause of our lamentable financial condition. I wish, sir, merely to confine my remarks to that particular portion of your Message, and in doing so, sir, I wish to compare the finances of this Colony with a deep-seated abscess. We have during the last session of this Court passed certain duties. The Government I would not say tinkered with them because I think they endeavoured to make the best of a bad bargain. I wish, however, to say that the mere giving effect to what might appear to some as a relief to certain sections of the community does not remove the evil. You have to get down to bed-rock, to the root of it. I feel, sir, that the only remedy is for Government to carefully consider this question of the Reciprocity Treaty that has been inflicted on this Colony. I wish to say, sir, that a year ago I obtained certain information—cer-

tain figures—from the Customs Department which satisfied me that until something is done our finances will never right themselves, regardless of whatever Your Excellency may endeavour to suggest. It has been said that this Colony has always budgeted for a loss. That is not so. Up to the last year in which the old Court guided the destinies of this Colony we endeavoured to cover our expenditure by revenue. Those of us who were not at all satisfied with the figures submitted to us felt that the object would not be achieved but on the face of it we did our duty and budgeted for our expenditure. What has been the result? Your Excellency has told us that you have cut down expenditure by eliminating certain items this year amounting to—I do not know the exact figure—a sum in the vicinity of a couple hundred thousand dollars. We have therefore been asked to budget for a deficit of another couple hundred thousand dollars. What does that mean? It means that all our labours last year were of no avail. We are losing revenue by this difference in duties levied by the Customs Department. It is the only source of revenue that this Colony can depend on to meet its expenditure. Government have thought fit to relieve the people of this Colony of any revenue from their forests. They have decided by means of the creation of a Board for the Harbour to relieve the people also from the benefits to be derived in that direction. I say, sir, that is wrong; but until something is done to right what I say in respect to the difference in duties, things will never be any better.

I should like to refer you, sir, to a motion which I made last year when that matter was threshed out. I pointed out then that while I am cognisant of the fact that it is impossible, unless by mutual consent, to put a termination to that Reciprocity Treaty and that nothing can be done until the time expires, I thought it can be modified and very extensively modified too. When that document was discussed in this Assembly it was never anticipated that we would have a state of affairs

existing as to-day. I therefore throw it out as a warning to Your Excellency and this Assembly. It is my humble opinion that until this matter is seriously tackled there will be no chance whatever, no possibility of restoring to this Colony what it enjoyed before this Treaty came into existence. I have been a member of this Legislature for seventeen years and the day was when we balanced our budgets, but from the day we embarked on this matter of reciprocity we have gone down and to-day we are almost in a state of bankruptcy. Unless something is done, some agreement is arrived at with the parties with whom we have entered into the agreement, there will be no help for the Colony. I join in all the good things that have been said about Your Excellency's speech. I heartily endorse them all. I am not an agriculturist, but all I say, sir, is "Beware of the soil; it has ruined many people in this Colony and will ruin many more," though my friend across the table has said this Colony can grow anything.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I rise to a point of correction. I did not; I said this Colony can grow anything that the West Indies can grow. I would be very ignorant to say this Colony can grow anything.

Mr. CANNON: On the question of Education I am in agreement with all that Your Excellency has suggested, and possibly if it were left to me I would be more drastic in the recommendations put forward to this Council. I heartily agree with the Hon. Mr. Dias when he gave us the figures showing how that Department has grown during the last eleven or twelve years. It is now new to us. We all appreciated it. I also agree with him that the Electives are largely responsible for its growth. I wish to ask Your Excellency to consider seriously what I have said to-day in connexion with Finance, and when we get in Committee of Ways and Means I shall touch on my pet hobby, the Forestry Department.

Mr. AUSTIN: I am sorry I cannot altogether agree with what the hon. Senior Member for Georgetown said in regard to reciprocity. It is quite true that we are still struggling with our financial problems, but at the same time I feel that if it had not been for that reciprocity the Colony would have been dead and buried many years ago. It would have ceased to struggle. The reciprocity we have received from Canada stimulated to a large extent the reciprocity we have received from Great Britain and what we have received from Great Britain stimulated Canada. We have benefited both ways. I cannot agree that our financial position to-day is due to our Reciprocity Agreement.

As regards Your Excellency's Message, as I am now speaking, I may say I am very glad indeed to see that you have laid down as part of the policy of Government the establishment of a Reserve Fund, and also to see it is proposed to hedge it round in such a way that it is practically impossible for us to reach it. I hope Government will be absolutely firm on this point of a Reserve Fund. I consider it one of the most important things in any business, and more so in any Government, to have a substantial Reserve Fund, because it not only enhances credit but it shows solidity. It is always useful in any business or in any Government.

May I be permitted to make a suggestion in respect to Government's Policies. It is with regard to Public Works. I would like Government to consider whether public construction works cannot to a great extent in the future be put out to contract. It is generally agreed in the Colony—I do not say it is correct—that whenever any work is performed by the Public Works Department it always cost very much more than it would otherwise have done. I submit respectfully it is quite unfair to the Public Works Department and to the public that such an impression should exist, but it does exist. Therefore I suggest that it might be tried to put out more of the work to contract than has hitherto been done. It may be argued to some

extent that there may not be contractors in the Colony at present capable of carrying out such work, but my experience is that if it becomes a policy of Government that these works should be done by contract you will find contractors would be forthcoming. If there is no party capable in the Colony it would only be a matter of time when contractors will come to the Colony because it would be worth their while. I respectfully submit the point to Government for consideration.

Another point is in connexion with Your Excellency's Colonisation Scheme. It is when it comes to laying out these communities what you propose to do? The hon. Member for West Demerara rightly said he hoped that the husbandry of cattle would accompany the husbandry of crops. I quite agree with him that it should. When it comes to laying out these communities I hope very great care will be taken to see that cattle have taken their proper position with regard to crops, otherwise you will get the same abuses occurring as are occurring in other parts of the Colony now. It would be quite hopeless to talk of health and of drainage if you allow cattle to roam free over the place treading down and destroying everything. The condition of some of our villages and some parts of our coastlands may be attributed to the fact that there is absolutely no control over the way cattle are allowed to wander about. If these communities are established it would be equally necessary to bring the other existing communities under some sort of control so that cattle would not be allowed to interfere with the legitimate interests of other villagers. I congratulate Your Excellency on the very useful and comprehensive address you have been pleased to deliver to us, and I can assure you, sir, that I on my part will do all I can to make the various policies you have enunciated a success, and I am quite sure all the other hon. members will also.

Mr. WONG: I did not intend to add to the very long debate on this very

important subject and would not do so now except for the reference that has been made by the last two speakers in regard to the disadvantages of the Canadian Reciprocity and the British Empire Preference. If I may venture to say so, sir, I believe that there has been some misunderstanding in the matter. The British Empire Preference and the Canadian Reciprocity have been blamed to-day, and attempts have been made before to blame them, for the lack of development and general stagnation of this Colony. My own opinion is, and I think it is fairly obvious when a little thought is given to the subject, that the fault lies in the very high Customs tariff that is employed at the present time. In most countries, so far as I am aware, the Customs duties vary around 10 and 15 per cent. and the Empire Preference amounts to one-half. That means in effect that these countries are giving a preference of 7 up to 7½ per cent. In our case the general tariff is 40 per cent. and as a consequence we have to give British Empire goods a matter of 20 per cent., which we cannot really afford. The time, however, will no doubt come when our Customs tariff will be reduced and in that regard I personally am hoping for a good deal from the introduction and development of Income Tax. When that time comes and we reduce our Customs tariff to a decent figure these arguments that are employed against Empire Preference and Canadian Reciprocity will no longer hold water. I respectfully submit to this House it is not fair to blame the principle of Empire Preference and Canadian Reciprocity for the present stagnation of this Colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If there are no other speakers on the debate it is proposed that we adjourn now to eleven o'clock to-morrow when Your Excellency will sum up the debate. I therefore move, sir, that the Council now adjourn to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The Council was adjourned accordingly.