

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Tuesday, 9th November, 1937.*

The Council met at 11 a.m., His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. E. J. WADDINGTON, C.M.G., O.B.E., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, (Acting) (Major W. Bain Gray, C.B.E.).

The Hon. the Attorney-General, (Mr. J. H. B. Nihill, K.C., M.C.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. M. B. Laing, District Commissioner, East Demerara.

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

The Hon. B. N. V. Wase-Bailey, Surgeon-General (Acting).

The Hon. L. G. Crease, Director of Education (Acting).

The Hon. H. P. Christiani, M.B.E., Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. H. G. Seaford, O.B.E., (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. W. S. Jones (Nominated Unofficial Member).

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 20th October, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

## REPORT ON GEOLOGY OF COASTAL DEPOSITS.

Mr. CHRISTIANI (Commissioner of Lands and Mines): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Council:—

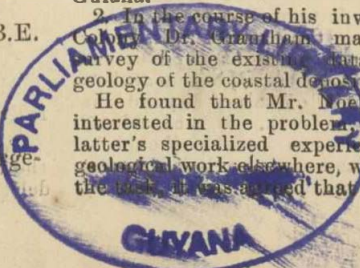
## MESSAGE No. 4.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to inform you that Government has had under consideration a proposal by the Director of Geological Surveys regarding the publication of a joint report by Dr. D. R. Grantham and Mr. R. F. Noel-Paton (a private consulting geologist) on the geology of the superficial and coastal deposits of British Guiana.

In the course of his investigations in the Colony, Dr. Grantham made a preliminary survey of the existing data in regard to the geology of the coastal deposits.

He found that Mr. Noel-Paton was equally interested in the problem, and in view of the latter's specialized experience in sub-surface geological work elsewhere, which fitted him for the task, it was agreed that they should colla-



borate in the preliminary investigation and that the report should, subject to proper authority being obtained, be printed as a Geological Survey bulletin.

3. The proposed report should be a most useful addition to the literature already published in regard to the geology of the Colony. It deals with a phase of the subject which has received little attention in the past and which may prove of considerable importance to the Colony.

4. The expenditure on publication cannot be met from the grant from the Colonial Development Fund for Geological Surveys, as the chief use of the report will be in directions other than that for which the grant was made, and it is proposed therefore to meet it from revenue.

The estimated cost is:—

(a) Salary Dr. Grantham for half month	...	...	.. \$ 168
(b) draughtsman 1½ months	...	...	.. 60
(c) temporary draughtsman to complete drawing of sections	...	...	.. 120
(d) printing of illustrations, etc.	...	...	.. 492
			<hr/>
			\$ 840

(a) and (b) have already been paid from Colonial Development funds which it is proposed to reimburse.

5. Accordingly I invite Council to sanction the provision, in the next schedule of additional provision, under Head XIII.—Lands and Mines Department, of the sum of \$840. A portion of this expenditure will be recovered on sales of copies of the report and will accrue to general revenue.

E. J. WADDINGTON,  
Officer Administering the Government.

16th October, 1937.

#### GRATUITIES TO RELATIVES OF DECEASED TEACHERS.

Mr. CREASE (Director of Education): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Council:—

##### MESSAGE No. 5.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the payment of a gratuity equivalent to one month's salary to the legal personal representative of any uncertificated teacher who dies whilst in the service after not less than one year's service; the award to be in the discretion of the Governor in Council.

2. It was formerly the practice to issue the pay of a deceased teacher till the end of the month in which death occurred, but no authority exists for payment of salary beyond the date of the teacher's death. It is considered preferable that the amount issuable should be a month's salary (and not the balance of a month's salary as formerly).

3. Authority already exists for the payment of gratuities to relatives of deceased certificated teachers.

E. J. WADDINGTON,  
Officer Administering the Government.

20th October, 1937.

#### PAPERS LAID.

The following documents were laid on the table:—

Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to consider the estimates of expenditure to be defrayed from revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

Report on the Main Surface Water Drainage of New Amsterdam.

Report to Government of the activities of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board for the period 1st March, 1937 to 31st August, 1937.

Report of the Registrar General for the year 1936. (*The Colonel Secretary*).

#### REPORT ON GEOLOGY OF COASTAL DEPOSITS.

Mr. CHRISTIANI gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 4 of the 16th October, 1937, this Council approves of a sum of \$840 being provided under Head XIII—Lands and Mines Department, in the next schedule of additional provision for the current year to meet expenditure in connection with the cost of printing a joint report by Dr D.R. Grantham and Mr. R.F. Noel-Paton on the geology of the superficial coastal deposits of British Guiana.

#### GRATUITIES TO RELATIVES OF DECEASED TEACHERS.

Mr. CREASE gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 5 of the 20th of October, 1937, this Council approves the payment of a gratuity equivalent to one month's salary to the legal personal representative of any uncertificated teacher who dies whilst in the service after not less than one year's service; the award to be in the discretion of the Governor in Council.

#### UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

##### AMENDMENT OF PENSIONS ORDINANCE.

Mr. ELEAZAR gave notice of the following motions:—

*Be it Resolved*—(a) That Regulation 17 of the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, be amended by deleting the words "in special cases" in the

first line, and also the word "twenty" be deleted and the word "fifteen" be inserted after the words "not less than" in the fourth line, also the words "two thirds" after the words "not exceeding" in the fifth line be deleted and the words "three fourths" be inserted.

(b) And further, that the words "two thirds" in the last line of Regulation 10 of the said Ordinance be deleted and that the words "three fourths" be inserted.

#### INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION SYSTEM.

THAT Government be respectfully requested to appoint a committee to enquire into the whole system of Elementary Education in the Colony.

#### LEASE OF BARTICA VILLAGE LANDS.

Mr. LEE gave notice of the following questions:—

1. What amount was collected by the Lands and Mines Department for lease from lands in the Bartica Village lands for the years 1935, 1936, and up to the 30th September, 1937?

2. By what authority Government collects these rents?

3. Is Government aware that the lands were made village lands by Order in Council dated 3rd April, 1905?

#### SEA DEFENCE LANDS IN LEGUAN.

1. What area of lands has been occupied in the year 1937 by the Sea Defence Board in the Island of Leguan? Is Government aware that by section 39 of the Sea Defence Ordinance Chapter 118 the lands have to be acquired in the manner stated in the said Ordinance?

#### DISMANTLING OF GROUYNE AT LEGUAN.

1. When was the greenheart groyne situated at Amsterdam, Leguan, dismantled, and by whose advice? What was done with the boards, planks, and timbers taken from the said groyne? Is Government aware that the dismantling of the said groyne was the cause of erosion of the foreshore? Will Government accept it as a future policy not to dismantle any groyne at all?

#### REMOVAL OF SAND FROM LEGUAN

##### FORESHORE.

2. Is Government aware that sand is being removed from the foreshore at Leguan and Wakenaam by the Public Works Department? If the answer is in the affirmative will Government cause same to be immediately discontinued? Will Government state from what part of the Islands of Leguan and Wakenaam was sand taken from the foreshore for the year 1935, 1936 and 1937?

3. Is Government aware that sand was taken from the foreshore at Maria's Pleasure and Amiesforte, Wakenaam, and that on account of such removal erosion has taken place and the foreshore has now to be made up by facine?

#### G.M.O.'S SALARY IN ENGLAND.

1. Was any Government Medical Officer in receipt of salary whilst in England before taking up his appointment in British Guiana? If the answer is in the affirmative, please state

the name, how much did he receive per month and the period during which he received the amount.

#### DUTY ON IMPORTED CONFECTIONERY.

1. What amount of revenue was collected on confectionery for the year 1936, and up to the 30th September, 1937, by the new taxation; show each separately.

2. Is Government aware that the new taxation is creating a hardship, and would Government amend the Tax Ordinance by admitting sugar used for the purpose of manufacturing confectionery free of duty and return the tax to its old scale for imported confectionery?

#### TAX ON COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

1. Is Government aware that commercial travellers are creating a hardship on our local agents by being permitted to trade without licence? Would Government remedy this wrong by imposing a tax on all commercial travellers making contracts for sale of goods in this Colony?

#### PETITIONS.

Mr. LEE laid on the table a petition from Daniel Toussaint, ex-police constable Nos. 2752 and 1996, and ex-ranger, experimental fields, Botanical Gardens, praying for a gratuity in recognition of his services for the last 11 years.

Mr. WOOLFORD laid on the table a petition from No. 65 ex-Private B.W.I. Regiment Charles Henry Cyrus, of Bagotville, West Bank, Demerara, praying for the grant of a compassionate allowance.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY.

##### B.G. RICE MARKETING BOARD.

Mr. LEE asked the following questions:—

1. Will Government state, in connection with the Balance Sheets of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board as at 29th February, 1936, to 31st August, 1936, and from 1st September, 1936 to 28th February, 1937;—

- (a) the names of the Sundry Debtors,
- (b) the amount due by each debtor,
- (c) what constituted the debt,
- (d) when were the debts contracted, and
- (e) when were they paid or to be paid?

2. Will Government give details, item by item, of the General Expenses as mentioned in the Report of the activities of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board for the periods ended 29th February, 1936, to 31st August, 1936; and for the period 1st September, 1936, to 28th February, 1937, and the details of the Travelling Expenses and Agency Expenses for the same periods?

- (a) For what purpose were these travelling expenses and agency expenses incurred?
- (b) by whom and when?

3. Has the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board an Exporter's Licence as required by Section 14 of Ordinance 17 of 1935?

4. If not will Government state by what enabling authority was the Board empowered to sell or make contracts for selling rice for export?

5. Is it a fact that Government was requested by the Colonial Office to separate the posts of Secretary to the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board and of Rice Grading Inspector?

(a) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government say when was this request communicated to this Government, and why was it not carried out?

(b) If the answer is in the negative, will Government immediately consider the advisability of separating these two posts as the duties of these posts sometimes conflict?

#### TEACHERS' FINE FUND.

1. What is the amount on hand with respect to the Fine Fund of Teachers? Has any money been spent out of this fund for the years 1935 and 1936, and if so, will Government give details of such expenditure showing for what purpose it was spent?

#### BALATA CONCESSIONS.

1. Has any application for balata concessions been refused by Government for (a) the year ending December, 1936, and (b) up to the 30th September, 1937? If the answer is in the affirmative for either period, will Government give reasons for such refusal?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Major Bain Gray) replied as follows:—

1. The information desired by the Honourable Member has been furnished by the Rice Marketing Board and is given in schedule 1 attached.

2. The information desired by the Honourable Member has been furnished by the Rice Marketing Board and is given in Schedules 2, 3, and 4 attached, respectively.

3. The answer is in the negative. As the Honourable Member is aware the Board itself is the licensing authority.

4. Government is informed by the Board that contracts concluded by the Board with purchasers abroad were on behalf of licenced exporters by whom and in whose names the rice was shipped.

5. When the dual post was created, the Secretary of State approved it as a temporary measure only, but later at the end of 1936 he stated that he had no objection to the combined post, provided there was no conflict of interest between the duties to be performed for Government and the Board. Further consideration will be given to the separation of the two posts when the Rice Committee has reported and a decision has been made as to the future of the Board.

SCHEDULE 1.

SCHEDULE 2.

SCHEDULE 3.

SCHEDULE 4.

See Minutes.

1. The amount to the credit of the Teachers' Fine Fund on 19th October, was \$33.58.

There was no expenditure from the Fund in 1935.

Expenditure in 1936 amounted to \$161.32 made up as follows:—

1936.			
June	9	Purchase of 1 copy Macmillan's "Planting and Gardening" for Education Department Teachers' Library ...\$	5 32
August	24	Amount paid to British Guiana Teachers' Association to assist in entertaining West Indian Teachers who attended the Education Conference held in this Colony in August, 1936 ...	150 00
October	17	Purchase of 1 copy of "Dietetics in Warm Climates" for Education Department Teachers' Library ...	6 00
			<hr/>
			\$ 161 32

1. (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Five applications have been refused.

In view of the depressed state of the balata industry and the possibility of a collapse entailing the abandonment of operations in the Colony, it was considered essential that steps that were being taken to effect improvement by limiting production should not be frustrated by any sudden increase in output. It was therefore decided that no further concessions should be issued for the present.

#### SENIOR MAGISTRATES.

Mr. JACOB asked the following questions:—

1. Who are the two Senior Magistrates and how are they classified?

2. Is it not the policy of Government that one Senior Magistrate should reside in Georgetown and the other at New Amsterdam?

3. Is Government aware that dissatisfaction exists over the trial of cases in the Magistrates' Courts, and that this dissatisfaction is due to the non-transference of Magistrates at regular intervals?

4. Will Government accept the principle to cause Magistrates to be removed from place to place every four or five years?

5. Is Government aware that dissatisfaction exists in regard to decisions given by unqualified Magistrates?

6. Whether the reply to No. 5 is in the affirmative or negative, will Government appoint, in the future, persons who are qualified in law to the several districts where there are Courts dispensing justice?

#### RICE EXPORT LICENCE.

1. In view of the undertaking given by Government on the 4th November, 1936, *vide* pages 196—200 of Hansard, that the item, Rice Grading Inspector, should be passed until the

question of the further functioning of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board is considered, will Government state how long the Board will continue to function after all parties have agreed that the Board cannot function satisfactorily?

2. Is Government aware that the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board intends to collect Licence duty for the year beginning 1st September, 1937, to 31st August, 1938, on 1st September, 1937?

3. In view of question No. 1, is it not desirable for Government to arrive at an early decision?

4. Will Government request the Board not to collect Licence Duty until a decision is arrived at by Government?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1. The two Stipendiary Magistrates now serving in the Senior Grade are Mr. A. V. Crane and Mr. D. E. Jackson and rank *inter se* according to their respective dates of appointment in the *Gazette*.

2. The answer is in the negative.

3. Government is not so aware.

4. The movements of Magistrates cannot be determined by any rigid principle, but interchanges are arranged as circumstances allow.

5. Government is not so aware.

6. Persons without a legal qualification of a professional nature are not now eligible for appointment as Stipendiary Magistrates, but it is impossible at present to extend this limitation to remote areas now under the jurisdiction of Travelling Magistrates.

1. The length of time during which the Rice Marketing Board will continue to function will depend upon the action that it is decided to take after consideration of the recommendations of the Committee now investigating the matter.

2. 3 and 4. See reply to question 1. Licence duties are being collected, but if as a result of the Committee's report it is decided that the Board will cease to exist before 31st August, 1938, it is proposed to provide in the draft legislation repealing the existing Ordinance under which the Board is established for a refund to exporters of a proportionate part of such licence fees as have been paid for the year 1st September, 1937, to 31st August, 1938.

#### PURE WATER PIPES AT UITVLUGT.

Dr. SINGH asked the following question:—

1. Now that pipes are available, will Government execute the works promised the residents, through the Commissioners for West Demerara and the ex-Director of Public Works, to instal pipes for the conveyance of Pure Water at Uitvlugt Front?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1. No alteration of the programme for pure water distribution can be made at present, but the position in this area will be taken into

consideration in the event of it being found possible later on to make additions to the programme.

There is no record of any promise on this subject having been made to the residents of Uitvlugt Front.

#### ESTIMATES, 1938.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: When the motion standing in my name was last before the Council a Select Committee was appointed to consider the Estimates for 1938. That Committee has now completed its consideration of the Estimates and presented its report which was laid on the table this morning. I therefore move:—

THAT, this Council do resolve itself into Committee to consider the estimates of expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1938, and the Report of the Select Committee appointed on 20th October, 1937, to consider the estimates of expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Council in Committee.

Mr. SEYMOUR: Sir, you will recall that before the adjournment of the last meeting I requested that I be allowed to make a few observations to-day in connection with your Speech and with regard to the Budget as a whole. I take it that I am in order, and I will proceed to do so subject to your ruling.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is in order in speaking on the Estimates generally.

Mr. SEYMOUR: I do not wish to keep this Council longer than is necessary, but I would ask hon. members to bear with me and hear what I have to say. It is really refreshing to know that after many years of deficits in our budget we will end this year with a surplus of practically \$600,000, and that there is a possibility of a similar surplus at the end of next year. That is what I call a prosperity boom in trade, but are we right in assuming that this prosperity boom will continue? It is imperative that we make a drive for immediate expansion and development if we are to achieve real prosperity for this country and its people.

It is now nine years since the Constitution was changed, and during that period we have had four Governors. There can be no continuity of policy in view of this constant change of leadership. To-day we are a Crown Colony and subject to the dictates of the Colonial Office. I think a Crown Colony may be likened to a limited liability company, but no commercial concern would change its managing director every two years. We have been marking time with acting Governors. We all realise the position of acting Governors; they can only mark time. I have a suggestion to make which I think every member of the Council will support, and it is that in future a Governor should not spend less than 10 years in the Colony. We should tell the Colonial Office that it is essential that there should be continuity of policy if this Colony is to achieve real prosperity. I am sorry to say that within recent years we have had white elephants placed before this Council instead of well considered development schemes. For instance I will mention the dredging canals in the Pomeroun. I quite agree with Mr. Case that surveys are needed, but the canals are useless because they are all overgrown. No less than \$300,000 has been wasted or thrown away in Essequibo, and nobody remains to accept or shoulder the responsibility for those financial catastrophes. The financial catastrophes of the past must give place to some form of sound development. If we are to have continuity of policy we must have continuity of leadership, and I suggest that strong representations should be made to the Colonial Office that it is imperative that in future a young, capable Governor be appointed for a period of not less than 10 years.

In dealing with the departmental activities I am afraid that it needs a good deal of sugar to take the bad taste out. I will try to deal with each head as it appears in your Address. The first item is Public Health. We have embarked on a policy of nutrition, but as the fundamental basis of nutrition is food it resolves itself into a question of the economic power of the people to purchase that food. Experiments and scientific data will not provide nutrition where there is poverty and distress, and I can assure you that poverty and distress exist on the Essequibo Coast. It will be of very little use, or no

use at all, investigating nutritional conditions unless economic conditions are also investigated. The people are not only unable to feed themselves but to clothe themselves. Employment and public health are synonymous, and I regret very much, sir, that in your Speech no reference whatever was made to plans to solve the unemployment problem, not only in Essequibo but in British Guiana as a whole.

With regard to drainage I fully appreciate the keen interest of the Director of Public Works in his survey work throughout the Colony. I find in the present Director of Public Works a man who is keen and willing to try to solve the very large problems we have here, but there are parts of this country where data is not necessarily required. For instance at Anna Regina—I speak from personal observation extending over a period of 18 years—the drainage is only impeded by the sea channel being blocked. It is not a question of data there or of levels. In the dry season the mud comes along and blocks the channel, and when the rainy season starts the water cannot force its way through the channel. All that is required there is a pump, and later in Committee I propose to move that a sum of money be voted for the purpose of utilising one of the derelict pumps in the Colony at Anna Regina. Large sums of money are to be spent on drainage in other parts of the Colony, but in Essequibo we must wait until data is available. In Select Committee I stated last week that the scheme of agistment at La Belle Alliance was threatened to be thrown out under the cloak that we have to get this necessary data. It was threatened to be thrown out by certain members of the Board of Agriculture to whom it was referred. Certain persons on the Board know every bit of the Colony. I do not believe any cattle have been lost in the agistment area at La Belle Alliance. It is the finest pasture on the whole of the Essequibo Coast. Yet we are told that we have not the necessary data. As an engineer I fully appreciate that it is necessary to have levels in respect of large tracts of land, such as the area between Walton Hall and Charity, where there are no drainage trenches whatever, no sea outlets, no kokers but simply a dam at Walton Hall which has been destroyed

by cattle. I however quite agree that the survey work should be extended as far as possible for future reference.

I will now deal with agriculture, and with my own side—rice. I can assure you, sir, that most of us who have been actually employed in the growing, purchase and milling of rice for several years in this country are heartily sick, sore and sorry. Since 1924 when I started to grow rice I have not received a single cent. of help from Government. We have had commissions, committees and lip service, but not the slightest notice has been taken by Government of any recommendations that have been made from time to time. I gave evidence before a Commission in this chamber which made certain recommendations as regards mechanisation of the industry, but nothing has been done. I am also a member of the Rice Committee which was appointed some time ago, but we are no nearer a solution of the problem than when we started. We have tried artificial control of prices but the fundamental basis of reducing the cost of production by discarding the ox plough and other factors has been left to drift along. We talk about turning out a fine quality of rice but the very basis of rice production is the provision of a proper place where the padi could be properly dried and stored. No help has been given the industry towards the introduction of mechanisation. In the sister Colonies assistance is given to provide rice machines. My voice has been as one crying in the wilderness. I appeal to Government to take immediate action and not worry about the Committee's recommendations. Government should seek the views of those who do know something about the job. The Department of Agriculture should work in co-operation with those people and Government should put up the necessary funds. We will continue to mark time unless we join the wash of modern progress. Fully 50 cents per day could be saved by mechanisation in the field and properly equipped factories. It is impossible to compete in the world's market with rice produced by present methods. When I speak of mechanisation to various people, including some Government officials, I am told that it will create unemployment. Some of them are intellectual people, splendid politicians, and a large number of professors,

know-alls who surround us. They all know; we know not, and so we go merrily along.

Pln. Anna Regina *cum annexis* had about 1,200 acres of land under rice cultivation in 1933; to-day there are about 700 acres under rice. Around 1933 Government expended \$14,000 out of unemployment relief funds to drain the lands there in order that the people might extend their cultivation. There was much land put under rice cultivation but there has been a gradual reduction of the acreage under rice on the Essequibo Coast; in fact all over the Colony. I know there has been a reduction of 30 per cent. in the cultivation of rice in the Colony since 1933. That has not necessarily been brought about by the lack of mechanisation but has been accelerated by the drop in the world's prices, yet Government has not seen fit to investigate the heavy decline in the industry from the agricultural angle. I earnestly appeal to Government to take immediate steps to go fully into this matter and give the Department of Agriculture the funds necessary to make an early start in Essequibo, which is to-day entirely dependent upon rice, and which lends itself to mechanisation. It is obvious that the bringing back into cultivation of 25,000 acres of rice land must increase employment and the revenue of the Colony.

For some unknown reason British Guiana seldom appears in the limelight as regards agriculture as do some of our sister Colonies. In this country one thing we can grow is cassava, but we have allowed British Honduras to get in while we get out. Private enterprise there has been encouraged to erect a cassava starch factory called the Empire Starch Products, Ltd. of Canada. I have myself tried growing cassava, but with what result? No market. I would also like to emphasise that we do not know how to dry copra here, but in far off British Honduras I read that the Government there is assisting the coconut producers to experiment with copra kiln dryers of the type used in Malaya.

In Jamaica a company has been formed called the Starch Producers Co., with a capital of £100,000, to produce refined tapioca starch, commercial laundry starch, nitro starch for making explosives, and

cassava flour and meal. The company expects to produce 10,000 tons in the first year and intends to make a bid for a share of the world's markets which are at present supplied mainly by Java and Brazil. A tobacco development scheme has also been launched in Jamaica consequent on the appointment of a Government tobacco expert. The Government has provided a subvention to the growers of 7d. per lb. of unmanufactured tobacco to cover the cost of cultivation. A further 3d. per lb. has been set aside to meet the cost of processing, packing and marketing. During the current season 120 acres have been put under tobacco by Government aided growers. The Government has also provided £2,000 for a fermenting, grading and packing house which has been erected near Kingston. They are also trying honey and have appointed an instructor at £350 a year to teach the people of Jamaica to produce honey. Annato, which is used for colouring cheese, is also grown in Jamaica and exported to New Zealand.

In Trinidad it is interesting to note that tonca beans have been developed. Experimental planting was done several years ago in areas on estates where conditions were not suitable to cocoa, and the bean has now obtained a definite footing as an important minor product of Trinidad, the exports having rapidly increased from 85 lbs., valued at £8 in 1926 to 92,719 lbs., valued at £31,000 in 1936. I will admit that a large quantity of the beans comes from Venezuela, but about 6 per cent. of the exports now comes from Trinidad itself. After reading that I sent for 2,000 lbs. of the beans and planted them. They are at present one foot high. If we had tried the cultivation of these beans 10 years ago when Trinidad was doing so we would have been in the picture now. I blame this Government for lack of policy, but what is the bogey that controls that lack of policy? I say cane sugar. We have had the sugar complex in us and it still exists. Sugar is quite capable of looking after itself. In London the powers that be see to that. There is no one who has supported and will continue to support sugar more than I, but when we read of those things taking place in other Colonies within a few miles of us it does make solemn reading to those who live here.

I have had long chats with the Director

of Agriculture and we are going to endeavour to try the cultivation of corn in Essequibo. Something has to be done, and we are going to give it a fair and square trial. The sugar interests have assured us that if we can grow sufficient corn they would be prepared to use it for cattle food on their estates. It is very difficult for a man of my disposition to endeavour to get something out of the soil when capital is not available to do so. In other parts of the world industry is fostered, not necessarily by free gifts. There is no cheap money available in this Colony. You cannot develop a country on six months' loans at the Banks; you must have long-term loans if you are going to make anything out of agriculture. In developing corn we will require kiln driers, vermin proof bins, elevators and fumigation. That will mean assistance. I am going to wait and see. I am pushing the scheme as far as I can and only awaiting the final decision from the sugar interests before I go around in Essequibo and ask the people to join me in producing corn. I trust we will not get the usual sympathetic pill from Government.

I listened last week with a great deal of interest to the various speakers who spoke on the subject of the coffee industry. When I came to the Colony there were many fine coffee estates held by small peasant farmers. To-day they have practically disappeared. It was a very important minor industry which has now fallen on evil days and is threatened with extinction. I think every effort should be made by those directly concerned with coffee to find a solution of the problem, and any suggestion made for the resuscitation of the industry should commend itself to Government. I have visited the Pomeroon district and tried to encourage the farmers to continue, but that was purely lip service. I sincerely trust—and I know that other members of the Council have the subject at heart—that something may arise in the near future for this industry which has meant so much to the peasant farmers.

I will now pass on to Public Works Extraordinary. I wholeheartedly congratulate Government on its provision of a quarter of a million dollars under this head. It has gladdened the hearts of many men in Demerara and Berbice but has saddened the hearts of the people in Essequibo.



I do not think Government has for one moment thought of the people in Essequibo. Of the total of a quarter of a million dollars to be voted only \$4,000 has been allocated for work in Essequibo where public works provide the only source of employment other than rice. On the other hand I observe that \$5,000 is to be spent in providing offices for the Forest Department. There is no doubt that Government has closed the door to Essequibo and is giving us a final burial by giving us \$4,000. If you will visit the Suddie Hospital with me, sir, I will show you that the eastern side and the northern end are 80 per cent. rotten. The sanitary arrangements are a disgrace. The County Inspector's house is 99½ per cent. rotten. The junior clerks' office is just holding together. The Postmaster's quarters at Anna Regina are just above water level during heavy rain; the water practically touches the sills. These are conditions which should not exist in a country where we talk about the social side. No one seems to care. These things must be known to Government because I take it that there are responsible engineers in Essequibo whose duty it is to report such conditions to Government. If they do not then they are not doing their duty. I am going to appeal to Government again this morning to open the door to Essequibo and to help the artisans there who are unemployed. When public works are to be undertaken, is it fair to think of two Counties only? The road to Charity is a quagmire in the rainy season and is almost impassable for vehicular traffic of any sort. I appeal to Government to do something about it.

I will now deal with my own constituency. During the debate on the Budget my hon. friend on my left (Mr. Jacob) covered a good deal of ground, and I was exercised in mind as to what constituency I represent. (laughter). May I suggest that in future the hon. member be referred to as "the hon. member for nowhere?" (laughter). However, I was very pleased to hear the hon. member say that he had travelled four times recently to the North West District after covering the ground in Essequibo. I do not think he has travelled in Essequibo, but he has travelled to the North West District.

Mr. JACOB: A point of correction, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: You can make the correction later if you wish. You can only interrupt a speaker on a point of order.

Mr. SEYMOUR: I have travelled a great deal. There is nothing like travelling; it broadens one's mind and does a lot of good. It makes us realise that there are other people who do their bit without ostentation or trumpets, and I commend further travelling. I stand here to-day and really feel red. I can point a finger of scorn at Government about the conditions existing in Essequibo to-day. We have had a Commission which investigated conditions on the Coast. Schemes have been put forward and thrown aside without the slightest investigation by Government. There are depressed areas in every part of the world, and Governments throughout the world have put their shoulders to the wheel in their endeavour to bring about some form of economic restoration of those areas, but nothing is done here. As far as I can see we will continue to drift. It is the duty of this Government to impress upon the Imperial Government the need for financial assistance. It should be brought to the notice of the Imperial Government that it is its duty to do something to help this Crown Colony. I would be failing in my duty if I did not warn Government that something must be done and done quickly, otherwise I fear that there will be unrest and its aftermath. It is not too late for Government to take counsel, but it may be too late. It is the duty of Government to delve whole-heartedly and sympathetically into the conditions which exist in Essequibo. It must not be a policy of drift but a policy of statesmanship which obviously is so lacking. I have endeavoured to clarify the position as it has existed during the last nine years, and I hope what I have said this morning will be placed before the new Governor together with your past year's experience, sir.

I have a suggestion to make before I take my seat. I suggest the creation of a Standing Board of Economic Development which would in itself provide a continuity of economic policy whether one Governor came and another went. By that means Government would have some foundation to build on in dealing with the various

problems which have arisen and will arise in the future.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Council in Committee.

GOVERNOR.

Mr. ELEAZAR: This head has been allowed to pass for many years without any comment for, I am sure, very obvious reasons, except on one solitary occasion when some people sought to increase the first item, an effort which Mr. Amery was for once wise enough to check. It is the only good thing he has done for this Colony besides robbing us of our Constitution. (laughter). I think this is a very opportune time to draw attention to what we expect for the expenditure under this head. £5,000 per annum is a very decent sum of money indeed to pay a Governor. Just a few years ago the Governor-General of Canada, Australia and South Africa received £10,000 each per annum. Each one of those countries is a thousand times more prosperous than this country, yet the Governor-General receives only twice as much as we have been paying the Governor in this country. I know that we have not been permitted—we are not permitted now—to interfere with this vote; we have to pay the piper but we are not permitted to call the tune. Surely if we are paying for classical music we have to grumble if we are only getting jazz. (laughter). We ought to get more from a Governor who gets £5,000 per annum than merely sitting with his arms folded, and when matters are brought to his notice he tells the country "My Advisers say that cannot be done," or "There is no money." I think the duty of a Governor involves much more than that, especially in view of the decent salary we are paying. I think it is time that we reduce this unnecessary cost. I am saying this after very mature and careful consideration: that we have been pursuing, and successive Governments have pursued a course of political immorality. For example, when we almost crush out the masses of this country with taxation, only to provide high salaries, big pensions and lump sum bonuses for officials of the higher ranks we cannot conceive of a grosser system of immorality than that. The taxation of this country is the highest conceivable, and the people can bear no more of it. When

Government is out for retrenchment it can only think of policemen, postmasters and other people of the lower ranks. Retrenchment of that sort is only reducing the standard of living in the community, demoralising the community. Government has been riding its hobby horse, sugar, until the poor brute's legs are weary.

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD: They are still carrying him.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Yes, sugar with all its fault is still carrying this Government. But was I not here when the Imperial Government allowed German bounty-fed beet sugar to almost wipe out sugar in this country? What has become of the sugar estates which existed between Belair and Buxton? They were twelve in number, but to-day there are only two or three remaining. In the Berbice River district there were six; to-day there is only one. In Essequibo there were 35, but to-day there is not a single one. Isn't that sufficient retrenchment of sugar? Now we have restricted the production of sugar on a quota basis while people are out of employment. The cry is that there is no money, and Essequibo must be abandoned. All Government cares about is that we should provide princely salaries, iniquitous lump sum bonuses and big pensions for the "big bugs." We must have a full stop placed on that system of administration. We have had Governors in the past, with few exceptions, who would not do a little bit of original thinking. I regret to say that Government has had people, some from abroad and others creoles, who have taken it into their heads to pander to Government in these matters. The Governor leaves the work to the heads of departments all the time, and we have all the evils attendant on conduct of that kind from the heads of departments. The hon. member for Western Essequibo (Mr. Seymour) likened Government to a limited liability company. If we take that analogy there is this about it: that a Governor will have to get the confidence of this House as well as the confidence of the buyers, because the House pays him his salary and the buyers help him to earn it. What are we doing here? We have a manager who does not care a hang about the buyers as long as he can get a law that squeezes them and as long he can say "We

have collected so much for the first nine months of the year." Anybody can do that; Mussolini can do nothing more. We want the country developed and developed from the top. If there is to be retrenchment let Government show the example by retrenching from the top and not from the bottom. It is the business of the Governor to probe into the working of the various departments and find out who is who. If that were done we would not have so much rank nepotism as exists to-day. I speak with authority when I make that statement.

No country in the world can prosper if its government has to begin again every year. Every two years we have to begin *de novo* because we have a new Governor. Patience is virtue and a very great virtue, but Government must realise that it is not inexhaustible. Because the people are law abiding and loyal Government must not think there is nothing behind it. Some time ago a newspaper suggested that we should sell the North West District. At another time it was suggested that this Colony should be annexed to the United States. It was not disloyalty but exasperation. So long as I live I hope the day will never come when the people of this Colony will have any other than the British Government, but their patience is not inexhaustible. We find the Mother Country entering into competition with our sugar. Only a few years ago no less than £36,000,000 was voted in England to subsidise the beet sugar industry, in spite of the fact that the experts had reported that it could not be established successfully from an economic point of view. The money was voted in the interest of the workers at Home while £5,000,000 would have enabled the West Indies to flood the British market with sugar. The people in England were looking after their own, but what are we doing here? Absolutely nothing except taxing the people.

When the Constitution of this Colony was raped nine years ago we were told that the very first thing Government would do would be to establish a firm financial system. Has any attempt been made yet in that direction? At a time when nearly every country in the world is spending money to educate its inhabitants to develop its resources, what is British Guiana doing to develop its resources? All these things

I lay at the door of the Governor. Except in a few cases, we have not got what we should expect in return for the £5,000 per annum paid to the Governor. I know we have not the power even if we have the desire to reduce it. Let the salary remain, but let the Governor who is going to receive it do what we expect from him. We expect the Governor to have some constructive policy and to show it, not in words or on paper but in action. The late Sir Gordon Guggisberg on his arrival here began to break down in order to build up. He did break down; unfortunately he did not live to build up. It is a fact that the evil a man does lives after him; the good is interred with his bones. I realise that this country wants a leader who is going to recognise and realise that there is such a thing as morality even in politics, and who will understand that when policies are carried out to the advantage of a few and the detriment of many it is immoral and wrong, and who will have the moral courage to right them. We have had too much of Governors who depended upon heads of departments who are only men. You will have the new Governor asking the Director of Agriculture to grow bananas and the Director will tell him about Panama disease. (laughter).

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the hon. member will speak on those subjects under the relative heads.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I agree with you, sir. All I will say now is that when we contemplate the large amount we have been contributing and will continue to contribute to the salary of the Governor I think it is not out of place for us to state what we expect of the Governor. I wish to emphasise the fact: that Government and the new Governor must look to their laurels in this respect. The cost of administration in this Colony is too high, and no attempt is being made to reduce it, except at the expense of the under-dog. It is wrong, immoral and bad political policy.

Mr. LEE: I do not see any provision in the Estimates for paying the Governor's passage from London.

THE CHAIRMAN: The passage of the Governor is paid from Imperial funds and not colonial funds.

Mr. LEE: Is the passage of his *aide de camp* also paid from Imperial funds?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD: I have listened carefully to the remarks of the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar), but I am not quite certain about his points. I am not quite sure whether he feels that the Governor of this Colony is being paid too high a salary, or that the Governors of the past were incapable of filling the position. If he meant the former I disagree with him entirely. If I am not mistaken I think it was this Council that asked to be allowed to revert to the higher scale of salary. It was felt that the extra £1,000, could be spent to very much greater advantage by having a man who was capable of filling the post of Governor. I agree with that view. This, is my opinion, is one of the most difficult colonies in the world to govern. We have to produce articles for export in competition with the neighbouring colonies where conditions are very much better than they are here. They have not the same difficulties to contend with as we have in this Colony, and I think rather than a lower salary I would pay as much to a Governor coming here as to the Governor-General of Canada, because I feel that although he has to govern a country of less population and importance his difficulties here are tenfold as compared with those of the Governor-General of Canada.

If the hon. member suggests that the Governors we got in the past were unable to fill the post I am inclined to agree with him in certain respects, but certainly not all. I have known of Governors who were extraordinarily able men, but the gravamen of our complaint is that our Governors do not remain long enough to carry any projects into effect. It is not the type of man so much or the salary, but the way in which we are treated by the Imperial Government in taking our Governors away as soon as they have begun to grasp things. That is the source of our complaint. A £1,000 more spent is neither here nor there; if we get a good man we would get it back.

I am afraid that the hon. member does not know certain facts as well as he knows his stories. I know his stories very well;

we have heard them a few times. (laughter). When he told us that sugar in this country is being crushed out of existence and that so many estates have been abandoned he has forgotten that to-day we are making nearly double the amount of sugar we could make 20 years ago, and that in 1935 we made 196,000 tons of sugar, the highest amount ever made in this country. I do not think it is fair to say that sugar is being crushed out of existence. As everyone who has studied conditions in the country knows, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Amery, who is one of the greatest Imperialists we have ever had. The hon. member said we had nothing to thank him for.

The Committee adjourned at 12.30 p.m. until 2 p.m. for the luncheon recess.

2 p.m.—

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD (resuming): When the Committee adjourned I was endeavouring to correct the impression that one of the best Secretaries of State had done nothing for the Colonies. The hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) is not quite aware of what he is doing up to this day and all he has been doing for the Colonies in his various capacities, because he has not been in the limelight at all from that point of view. I know the hon. member is always honest in his opinions and his convictions, although I cannot agree that he is always correct in them.

I do not think there have been many Governors of this Colony who have had what may be called an arm-chair existence. There may have been one or two but I am sure the majority of them have been, latterly at least, very hard workers. As I have said before, I feel that what we suffer from is the lack of continuity of policy, because our Governors are taken from us before they are able to carry out the works which they consider necessary. I know it is difficult to arrange the matter of promotion, but at the same time no Governor can do much for the Colony unless he has been here for four or five years. I think that is our real grievance; not so much with the man or the salary. I do not think any member would disagree with the salary if the Governor could remain here for the full period in order to carry out the works he considers should be done.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not like to interrupt a member when he is addressing the Council, even though he is going wrong. I did not overlook the fact that we are exporting more sugar in quantity now than we did years ago, but that is due to mechanisation which has resulted in throwing the labourer out of employment. That is where the Colony has suffered—not in the number of tons of sugar exported. The hon. member has forgotten that point. The reduction of the areas under sugar cultivation has caused a certain amount of unemployment. That was the point I was endeavouring to make.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. member will find that there has not been a reduction of the acreage under cultivation.

Mr. ELEAZAR: No reduction, when there were previously 35 estates in Essequebo?

Mr. SEAFORD: There has been increased cultivation in other places.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I should like to make a few observations on this vote. Prior to the change of the Constitution in 1928 all salaries payable under the Civil List had by law to be submitted to the Legislature for confirmation or otherwise every five years, as distinct from the salaries of other public officers which were, as now, voted for every year. The Civil List was voted on what I may term a block vote, *i.e.*, the entire revenues of the Colony, from Crown Lands being surrendered or pledged to support the Civil List and thus enable the Government to pay whatever sums were found to be necessary. This arrangement continued in existence for a period of five years only. During that time no alterations could be made in the salary of any officer even on first appointment. When the change of the Constitution came into force a new Civil List Ordinance was enacted, which is now Chapter 52. That Ordinance, so far as the salary of the Governor is concerned, was amended by Ordinance 43 of 1930. The salary of the Governor at that time was £4,500, with a furnished residence and a duty allowance of £1,500. Hon. members will note on reference to Ordinance 43 of 1930, that in addition to a furnished residence the Governor receives £3,500, a duty allowance of £500 and £1,000 for

contingencies, his total emoluments being £5,000.

Apart altogether from the salary of the Governor but generally with respect to the salaries payable under the Civil List Establishment generally, I propose to submit what I consider should be the proper view to be taken with regard to those appointments and the salaries they carry with them. It is true that the Governor of the Colony has the right to pay out those amounts that appear in the schedule to the Ordinance "from and out of those revenues without any further or other order or formality." I am quoting from the last few words of section 4 of Chapter 52, but I question the right of the Governor of the Colony, when a vacancy arises, to fill any appointment on the Civil List without obtaining in some form or another the sanction of this Legislature so far as the salary is concerned. It appears to me, that having regard to the fact that at least two appointments have been made within the last year or two—perhaps I would be more correct in saying one—one at least satisfying the principle I am contending for—without any opportunity being given to this Council to say whether that office should bear the salary appearing on the Civil List, the time has arrived when this Council should take some action. Whilst it is not within the privilege of members of this Council to increase an item on the Civil List it is, I contend, entirely within their province to reduce it. I will give an instance. The Commissioner of Lands and Mines has recently been appointed—I presume at the same salary as his predecessor—and in the case I have in mind at the present moment, His Majesty's Attorney-General of this Colony has been appointed at a salary of £1,400, but if you look at the schedule of the Civil List you will find that the Attorney-General's salary goes from £1,400 to £1,600 by annual increments of £50. In whatever way you look at it, whether it is the salary of the Governor, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General or any other principal officer, I contend that when an appointment of that kind becomes vacant either on the death or transfer of an officer, this Council should have the right to determine the particular salary that should be offered when the vacancy has arisen, and it is a violation, if I may

say so, of the principle under which the Civil List Establishment is ordered in this Colony, to say that the officer has been appointed at salary X. It becomes exceedingly awkward when an appointment like that takes place and the officer is so informed by letter, if this Council in its entire prerogative, as I contend at this moment, at a later date reduces that item.

I mention that because members have spoken about Governors and their recollection of Governors. I do not propose to inform the public of my acquaintance with Governors; it is a long and intimate one, but I do know of a Governor—and I am speaking perhaps as a lawyer ought to speak with particular reference to the subject under discussion—who prior to the change of Constitution regretted very exceedingly that he could not appoint without the sanction of the then Combined Court, at a salary then named but higher than that fixed by the Civil List, to the position of Colonial Treasurer an officer whose name had been mentioned to him by the Secretary of State. I see other members who were members of the old Combined Court looking at me approvingly. He said it was one of the greatest regrets he had as Governor, that he could not make that appointment without consulting the Legislature. In the same way that a Governor might express his regret and disappointment that he had not the authority to appoint an officer under the old Combined Court system, which was the Civil List system, so I claim that the privilege of this Council is being invaded in that heads of departments whose names are on the Civil List are appointed without the salaries being first either considered or approved by this Council. I should like to know, in the circumstances, whether my view of the law is right, because I cannot conceive that the Civil List is or was intended to be a permanent Ordinance in this Colony when it is nowhere else. The Civil List Establishment of the Crown in England is subject to review; it comes up periodically for examination and alteration. Are we to understand that so long as this Civil List exists in the form in which it does it is to have a permanent existence in this Colony in the way in which I am thinking? In other words, the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) has deplored the fact that this Colony pays the Governor so hand-

some a salary. It may be that if a vote were taken there would be some members who would like to increase it, and there may be others who would like to reduce it. I would like to know whether the Secretary of State has the right, or has such control over the finances of this Colony that he can without any sanction, or without any reference whatever to the Executive Council of this Colony or to the Legislature, appoint any officer to a post on the Civil List Establishment without the approval of anyone in the Legislature of the Colony. I have known Governors who have consulted individuals in this Colony, not only as to the fitness for appointment to office of a particular person, but the salary at which it should be carried out. If that system had any merit in it at all it would still continue to have that quality if it were continued in other cases, but for some reason or other there does appear to be an absence of policy in regard to these high executive appointments.

I will give an example. If I had been asked to assist in the appointment of the present holder of the post of Commissioner of Lands and Mines, and at the existing salary, I should have given my unhesitating approval, but there may be others, myself included, who may have thought that the opportunity had arisen for some alteration to be made in the nature of the duties which that officer at present performs, and we might have taken the opportunity of suggesting that the salary of the office should be reduced on the retirement of the particular officer, retaining the same salary in his case owing to his long years of service and his unquestionable fitness for office, but that the general policy of the Government in relation to the Department might be revised later on, and the salary of the head of the Department reduced just in the same way as the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) has hinted that the salary of the Governor should be made at a lower figure at some future time. I do not agree with him for the reasons given by the hon. member for Georgetown North (Mr. F. J. Seaford). I know of no Governorship of any colony in these parts which is more difficult. I know of no colony which presents the problems this Colony does, and I know of no colony where the Governor has perforce to work so very hard indeed, as in this one, and

when you consider that the salaries of the Governors of Jamaica and Trinidad are larger than that payable to the Governor of this Colony I think you will find on comparison that this should not be so, the duties performed by the Governor here being far heavier in this Colony than in any other of the Colonies I have named.

Apart altogether from the question of salaries it may be a very good thing, as a Governor once said, to have an elastic Civil List. I agree, but it would not be exactly fair to an officer, having taken up his appointment at salary X, to be told that his salary would now be £800. I know very well that an item on the Civil List is not open to reduction at the present moment except at the instance of the Governor. There may be occasions when the Colony wishes to show its disapproval of the action of the Colonial Office in transferring a Governor, who has had experience and has made an impression on the community, to another Colony by way of promotion. Why can't we say we will pay that officer £2,000 more, just in the same way we would like to say on occasions we do not want a man at all at the present salary, and we think, having regard to our present circumstances, we would like to make it £4,000. In every British colony there are bodies of persons who are consulted about important appointments, and I wish I could think that during your time here, sir, you will initiate such a policy. It would be an excellent thing for the Colony. After all we have nothing to fear from the Colonial Office. The Minister who is Colonial Secretary to-day may not be Colonial Secretary to-morrow. When we speak of the Colonial Office we speak of the permanent officials, and eventually Parliament, and therefore we speak more or less of officials who should have a permanent interest in the affairs of the people.

We are too inclined to take things for granted. We ought in a matter of this kind to be very firm and point out that if something occurs which is not to our liking—not a matter of grave policy—we propose to take up a certain position. It is not fair, on the ground of promotion only, to transfer a Governor of the calibre of Sir Geoffry Northcote to another colony just as he was enunciating policies, just as those policies were or were not

being considered by the community feasible or otherwise. Was it fair to him and to this Colony that we should be deprived of the services of a man like him? I am not in any way depreciating the value of his predecessor. We were deprived of the very valuable services of Sir Edward Denham, and Jamaica was only able to take him and men like him because of the salary. The Governor is not here and perhaps we may discuss it with less indelicacy. The point I am making is that this Civil List is fast becoming a permanent enactment. We might well remove it from the Statute Book in order to get a ruling on the permanence it has. What right has the Secretary of State so to control our revenues and the privileges of this Council that where we have an Ordinance which provides, in the case of the Attorney-General, for emoluments from £1,400 to £1,600, he can reduce them without the sanction and approval of this Council? It means this: that if we allow such a state of things to continue, just as in the case of the Governor, if we allow this flexibility to remain unchallenged we may find that we have an officer who is not fit to perform the duties. We have had them before, and the only way to stop them is to so limit the possibility. In other words I am asking that some pronouncement should be made whereby the Civil List should come up for review every three or five years as hitherto was done. So long as the officers enjoy the status they do in this Colony they are public servants, and I would like in a good many cases to have the power to increase the emoluments, not only of heads of departments but of other officers. We cannot increase emoluments; we are told it is outside of our privilege, and yet we are told that under the Civil List we are not able to reduce them. It is an impossible position, and I do hope that the Attorney-General may be able at some time or another to examine the situation of the Colony in relation to its revenues and the privileges of this Council in regard to votes.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I have listened to the speech of the hon. member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) with considerable interest, both general and personal. (laughter). As regards the interesting argument which he has put forward in respect of the position as it affects the elasticity or rigidity of the

Civil List Establishment, I wonder whether he has not overlooked the Ordinance which was passed in this Council in 1935—Ordinance 7. Personally I have always regarded that Ordinance with a good deal of personal displeasure (laughter), but it is a fact that in 1935 this Council in its wisdom saw fit to pass an Ordinance which states:—

“Notwithstanding the provisions of section three of the Principal Ordinance His Majesty and the Governor on behalf of His Majesty shall be deemed to have and always to have had power and authority when appointing an officer to any office mentioned in the Schedule to the Principal Ordinance to fix and cause to be paid to him a salary at a less amount than the amount set forth in the said Schedule.”

It is true that if one looks at the Schedule the Attorney-General would appear to start at £1,400 and go on by successive stages to £1,600, but power was given to the Governor on a new appointment to cause to be fixed a salary at a less amount than that mentioned in the Schedule, and that power—whether wisely or not I will not pursue for the moment—(laughter), was exercised when the opportunity occurred just over a year ago. I think that disposes of the specific point put forward by my hon. friend. I know that his argument goes a little further than that, but if he will pardon me I do not mean to pursue that side of what I might call his constitutional argument this afternoon. I think that is a matter that probably requires a good deal of consideration and study, and I do not think I should detain the Council to go into that matter at length on this occasion.

Mr. LEE: It has given me great pleasure to listen to the hon. member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) defending the privilege of this Council. He has asked that in future the privilege of approving of the salaries of officers appointed on the Civil List be given to this Council, and in support of that I say it is the right of every member of this Council to know what salary an officer would receive when appointed to a post on the Civil List. I ask that that principle be definitely laid down.

Mr. JACOB: The question has been raised this morning of the duties and responsibilities of the Governor. When I look around the chamber this afternoon and see no less than six elected members' seats

vacant I am inclined to suggest that their absence has some significance, in view of the request of certain members that the business of the Council should be postponed until the arrival of the new Governor. I do not think any useful purpose will be gained by rushing the business of the Council, particularly the Estimates. Rather I think it would have been far better for the new Governor to have listened to the arguments which will be raised during the consideration of the Estimates. The new Governor is on the high seas; I think he will arrive at Barbados to-morrow, and this Council is proceeding with the Estimates for next year in his absence. We cabled on the subject but he quite rightly replied that he was not prepared to interfere until he actually assumed duty. We expected no better reply, but we thought this Government would have shown us some kind of consideration and deferred the Estimates until Sir Wilfrid Jackson arrived. It is the policy of this Government to rush things as much as possible. Those of us who cannot seek private interviews prefer to say what we have to say in open Council, so that we can be judged accurately or otherwise, and I think it would have come with better grace from Government if the consideration of the Estimates had been deferred. When we make legitimate requests which would lead to the progress and advancement of the country they are invariably turned down.

The question of morality and immorality was raised this morning. I am not prepared to go into that, but I do urge on Government to consider merit and ability and not mere flattery. I do not think we are marking time; I think we are going backwards, and whether the Governor's salary is £4,000 or £6,000 it makes very little difference. I would add another £1,000 to the Governor's salary, but I would expect real conscientious work and real statesmanship. I make the definite statement that the Governor's salary should be increased in order to improve the status of the Colony, but it can only be increased when we balance our budget and see prosperity ahead.

I wish to make a final plea. I think the Estimates could be deferred and other business of the Council might be taken, so that when the new Governor comes he



would listen to what we have to say on the Estimates. I do urge with all sincerity that the estimates of the Department of Agriculture be deferred. I was promised at the last special session of the Council that something definite would be done to improve the production of various articles and to find work for the unemployed. I see no indication of any policy of real agricultural development, which is so sorely needed. Some years ago the sugar estates could not get sufficient labour; now they cannot employ all the labour available. The situation has become very serious. A warning was issued this morning by my hon. friend on my right. (Mr. Seymour). I do not know that warnings of that kind do any good. I am not going to issue any warning, but I make a plea that something be done because people here cannot fight with hungry stomachs and empty hands.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** What head of the Estimates is the hon. member discussing?

**Mr. JACOB:** I am discussing questions of policy; (laughter), whether it would not be the best thing for the new Governor to be present when the estimates of the Department of Agriculture are being considered. I make the definite statement that I think the majority of the elected members will agree that that vote should be deferred. During the last ten years we have had four Governors who have spent an average of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years here, and before they were able to decide on any definite policy they were promoted to some other colony. It would therefore be better for the new Governor to learn from us who are in touch with the people of this country, to hear our views and weigh them. No useful purpose will be served by proceeding with the Estimates, particularly those of the Department of Agriculture, until the Governor arrives.

**Mr. F. J. SEAFORD:** I would like to know whether any desire has been expressed to Government by the elected members that consideration of the Estimates be postponed until the new Governor arrives?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The wish was expressed by four elected members in the form of a telegram sent to the new Governor asking him to issue instructions to postpone consideration of the Estimates. As the hon. member for North

Western District (Mr. Jacob) indicated, the Governor replied that he could not intervene in the administration of the Colony until he arrived. My recollection is that the four members attached their names to the telegram.

**Mr. SEAFORD:** I am entirely against postponing any of the estimates. The quicker we get through them the better.

**Mr. ELEAZAR:** I desire to protest very strongly against being included among the "we" who made the request to Government. How can four members make a request and talk about "we"? I could not agree to such a thing because there was nothing in it. I want to tell those members who are responsible for it that that is why we have Crown Colony Government to-day. The majority of us did not know that the others were asking for a Commission, and the Colonial Office was only waiting for a chance to come down on the Constitution. If we had been consulted we would not have asked for that Commission. The Colony was suffering from economic stagnation and not from any constitutional ills, but those—all wise people asked for what they did not want and got what we have now. (laughter). Some of them have joined the great majority; I hope their souls are resting in peace.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** It is only necessary for me to add that as hon. members know, it is of great importance that the Estimates should be passed as early as possible so that they can be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval, and it is not in the public interest that they should be delayed.

#### LEGISLATURE.

Item (a)—2 Official Reporters and Librarians (\$960 by \$60 to \$1,476)—\$1,980.

**Mr. LEE:** I would like to enquire from Government whether these two officers have been selected?

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The position is that one Official Reporter has been selected and appointed. The second one has been selected but not yet appointed.

**Mr. JACOB:** I think the backwardness

of this Colony is due to the constitution of this Council, and the sooner it is reformed the better for all concerned. I am going to make the definite statement that certain members are occupying seats here who are not legally qualified to retain their seats in this Council. While there is no provision under the existing Constitution whereby steps can be taken, particularly with respect to Government nominees, I think the time has arrived when some definite action should be taken by Government.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I rise to a point of order. It is a breach of privilege to question the right of a member to sit in the Legislature on the ground of qualification, and I ask you, sir, to say whether I am right. A member's qualification has to be examined by a Committee. A member can make a motion if he likes, but I question the right of any hon. member to challenge the right of another member to sit here because of lack of qualification. The hon. member said "legal qualification." It comes to this: that the Council is imperfectly constituted. The member is not making merely a personal attack, but is charging other members with a breach of privilege. I suggest to the hon. member that he withdraw the statement and never make it again.

THE CHAIRMAN: I could not hear what the hon. member said, but I take it that he did not mean to question the legal status of any member of this Council. If he did he must withdraw the statement.

Mr. JACOB: I am not questioning the legal status of members present here to-day, I am questioning the general principle. I made the point that I know there is no legal provision whereby anyone can see that nominees of Government are properly and strictly qualified, and I am suggesting that some provision ought to be made in the same way as the hon. member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) raised the question of the privilege of this Council in having the right to say at what salary a person should be appointed to a post on the Civil List. On similar ground I raised the point that the question of membership of the Council should be gone into, and suggested that there should be some definite ruling as to what steps should be taken to see that this Council is properly constituted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member suggesting that the Council is not properly constituted? If he is making that suggestion he must withdraw it.

Mr. JACOB: I have suggested that at the moment the Council is not properly constituted. I am suggesting that there is no adequate provision to question the membership here, particularly of Government nominees, and I am suggesting and merely opening the question that notice should be taken of it, because it is going to be attacked. The point is this—

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD: May I ask that the note of the Official Reporter be recorded so that we may know exactly what the hon. member did say. His explanation does not bear out what he actually said.

Mr. JACOB: I am inclined to think that certain members have the right to question the honesty of every other member while other members have not that right at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member continue with any argument he has on this sub-head?

Mr. JACOB: With regard to the appointment of two Official Reporters I understand from the reply given by the Colonial Secretary that one reporter has been appointed while the other has not been actually appointed yet. I observe that the vote for this year is \$2,520 while the estimate for next year is \$1,980. Last year we had one person performing the duties of Official Reporter, and it was found that he was unable to cope with the amount of work and had to get assistance now and then. The question was raised whether it would not be in the best interest of all concerned to appoint two reporters, and Government has seen fit to make provision for the appointment of two reporters at the same salary. I think it is highly undesirable to have two officers working without one being senior to the other. Apart from that I think the rate of pay is very small indeed. We had one reporter receiving \$2,520 and now we are going to have two receiving \$1,980.

I think I am correct in saying that for the past eight or nine months there has

been only one person performing the duties and being paid at the rate of \$960 per annum. That is not quite fair to the officer concerned. From my point of view, and in the general interest of all concerned, it is not fair, it is not right or reasonable to expect one person to do the work which it has been decided that two should do, and which one used to do and not very well, and to do it for seven months for not half of the salary of the previous officer. Here you have someone doing the work and doing it efficiently for the last eight or nine months at a salary of \$80 per month, while the previous holder of the post was paid a salary of \$190 per month. I am inclined to ask if this is the policy of Government when vacancies occur and local candidates are appointed? I do not know very much about newspaper work, but I do not think a reporter on any responsible newspaper doing similar work is paid \$960 per annum. I think such a reporter would be paid not less than \$1,200 per annum, and I do urge on Government to re-consider this matter in fairness to the officers concerned. I may say that I have not discussed the matter with the officer or with anybody, but I think in justice to the officer his salary should be increased, and he should be given something for the extra work that he has been doing for the past seven or eight months.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** This question was carefully considered. One aspect that was gone into was that it was necessary to get occasional assistance for the Official Reporter. It was therefore considered that it would be better to have two men working regularly so that the work could be comfortably undertaken and the necessity of employing temporary assistance obviated.

With regard to the question of seniority between the two officers, that really does not arise, because they will work under the Clerk of the Council who is responsible, of course, for the general work of the Council as a whole. The proposal is to appoint the second reporter this year.

With regard to the rate of salary it does seem to be a reasonable market rate for the work to be done. There has been no lack of candidates, and it is considered

that the arrangements made will be for the convenience and final despatch of the work of the Council.

**MR. WOOLFORD:** I would like Government to give effect to the wishes of the majority of the Select Committee in relation to the proposed appointment of a certain candidate. For more than one reason his appointment was desirable. He has been rejected on the ground of blood pressure. I think that is a feeble excuse for not appointing a man to a post like this, and I know there is a vast difference in the medical opinion on the subject. The facts are that the proposed appointee who was selected is a very fit man physically, and I understand that he is quite competent. For a man to lose an appointment because he has a letter from Government stating that he is not eligible for appointment on the ground that he has blood pressure is a very feeble excuse. He is a first-class athlete and has applied for insurance in this Colony. I have the opinion of a medical man whom I certainly regard as an expert, as to his fitness. I therefore think his claims are very considerable, and I do hope Government will exercise its discretion by giving him the appointment. After all the appointment is on probation, and in the circumstances I think his appointment should take effect.

**MR. F. J. SEAFORD:** I would like to endorse the remarks made by the hon. member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford). I am sorry I was not present at the Select Committee at the time this matter was discussed. I happen to know that the individual concerned is a very good athlete and is a brother of one of the leading fast bowlers of the Colony. We know that medical men sometimes make mistakes, and I ask that the matter be re-considered.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** This matter was very carefully considered indeed. There are regulations dealing with appointments to the Service which provide that candidates must pass a medical test, and in this case the prospective candidate was informed that his application would be favourably received provided he was passed as medically fit. He was examined not once but three times by a Medical Board, and the finding of the Board was confirmed

by the Surgeon-General. He was therefore informed that under the regulations governing appointments to the public Service, which obviously are in the public interest, there was no possibility of appointing him in the circumstances.

Item put, and agreed to.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** I beg to move the insertion of an item "b—Duty allowance to officer performing the duties of Clerk to the Legislative Council—\$240." Provision is actually made in the estimates of the Colonial Secretary's office for this item, but the Select Committee thought it would be more appropriate to show it under this head.

Item put, and agreed to.

Item 2—Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Allowance of Members of the Councils whilst engaged on the business of the Councils, \$600.

**Mr. LEE:** In 1936 the expenditure under this item was \$250, but in 1937 it rose to \$600. In the estimates for 1928 I observe that only elected members received subsistence allowances. Do I understand from this item that every member of this Council is entitled to subsistence allowance? If Government has paid members other than elected members out of this vote it has committed a wrong. Elected members preach but do not practise what they preach. (laughter). They all preach that we should balance the budget, and in the face of that they ask Government to vote money for their subsistence allowance. No elected member should receive subsistence allowance from the people in view of the fact that we cannot balance our budget. I move the deletion of the item and ask that Government members be allowed to vote as they please.

**Mr. JACOB:** Last year I raised the same question, and I think the previous year also. I do not think the time has arrived when this Colony should pay members of this Council, but I am inclined to think the time is fast approaching, and it is only then we will get real practical advice from elected members. Until that time arrives I do not think the Council should vote any money to elected or nominated members for travelling. Facility is given every member to travel

on the trains and steamers, but I cannot be a party to giving members subsistence allowances. In view of the financial position of the country Government would be well advised to delete this item. I would like to know how much of the amount is spent on travelling and how much on subsistence. Just now when I suggested the postponement of the Estimates my friend the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) questioned the use of the word "we." I wonder if I should have said "I?" I cannot forgive my hon. friend because unless he suggests something it is worth nothing. That is how the business of this Council is conducted.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Will the hon. member confine himself to the item he is talking about?

**Mr. JACOB:** I am confining myself to the item "Travelling." I am within my right, I respectfully submit, to cover the ground in speaking on this item.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The hon. member is only entitled to deal with travelling and not questions arising out of the expenditure on travelling of hon. members.

**Mr. JACOB:** I repeat that I do not think it is right or proper for Government to pay members whilst engaged on the business of the Council.

**Mr. SEYMOUR:** We are certainly getting into high finance when we have hon. members talking about \$600 to balance the budget. I do not think they realise that we are a Crown Colony, and I am not exercising my mind about balancing the budget because it will be a very long time before we will be financial. The shoe pinches me because I am one of the country members. The man in town has no sympathy with the man in the country. I shall take this allowance so long as it is given to me. Perhaps if the item is increased to \$1,000 I shall be able to balance my budget. (laughter).

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** Government cannot agree to the deletion of this item. It is perfectly fair and normal that the out-of-pocket expenses of members who attend the Council should be refunded. The amount is governed by regulations and is on the same basis as drawn by heads of

departments. If any further details are wanted the Colonial Treasurer will supply them. All unofficial members are entitled to this allowance.

The Committee divided and there voted:—

*For*—Messrs. Jones, H. G. Seaford, Jackson, Seymour, King, Walcott, Eleazar, Christiani, Crease, Case, Laing, De Aguiar, D'Andrade, F. J. Seaford, McDavid, Woolford, Dias, Dr. Singh, Dr. Wase-Bailey, Professor Dash, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—22.

*Against*—Messrs. Lee and Jacob—2.

Item agreed to.

Item 4 Registration and Election Expenses, \$300.

Mr. LEE: At the last session I made representations to Government with respect to the appointment of Commissioners of Oaths for the purpose of swearing voters in the districts, and Government promised to go into the matter and that it would appoint postmasters and N.C.O's as Commissioners of Oaths in the various districts. I am afraid that Government has failed in its promise and has caused a great deal of inconvenience. The postmaster at Wakenaam was appointed a Commissioner of Oaths but the N.C.O. was not. When the postmaster went on leave his successor was not appointed a Commissioner of Oaths, with the result that the voters' forms were sworn to before the postmaster who was not a Commissioner of Oaths. Can Government say that those forms are in order? The matter should have been brought to Government's notice by the District Commissioner.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL: My recollection is that some months ago all postmasters were given Commissions for this purpose, and I think what may have happened in the particular case is that some officer of the Post Office was promoted to the rank of postmaster from a subordinate position, and was not in possession of a Commission when he went to the district. I think that may be the case, because I advised that although a general Commission could not be issued there was no objection to Commissions being drawn up to the effect that any

employee of the Post Office can hold a Commission for this purpose when acting in the capacity of a postmaster. That being so, the hon. member will agree with me that there was a real endeavour on the part of Government to carry out the undertaking which was given that postmasters in the country districts should act as Commissioners of Oaths. The particular difficulties which have arisen are capable of very speedy and easy adjustment.

Mr. LEE: Government should accept recommendations by elected members of respectable persons for appointment as Commissioners.

Item put, and agreed to.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Mr. LEE: I move that consideration of the items under this head be deferred until the new Governor arrives.

Mr. ELEAZAR: It does not appear as if that motion will be seconded. There is so much to be said under this head, because I do not think this Department has any programme. It has been under re-organisation at least as long as professors have been in this Colony, and every year we see the vote mounting up. Despite what the hon. member for Georgetown North (Mr. F. J. Seaford) is going to say, that this is the best department in the whole Service, we are not getting value for this money, and I cannot see any reason why we are continually adding to it. One of the points made by the Commissioners who raped the Constitution of this Colony in 1928 was that there was no live Department of Agriculture, and one should be inaugurated, one of its functions being to find new industries.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) has moved that the whole head be deferred. I would like to know whether the hon. member agrees with that suggestion.

Mr. ELEAZAR: No, sir. I do not think anybody would.

Motion put, and lost.

Mr. ELEAZAR: This Department has been increasing its expenditure from year to year. The Commissioners said the Department should be re-organised, and

that its primary duty should be to find new industries. We have not had one new industry, yet the expenditure on the Department has risen tenfold. For instance there was a great deal of discussion here as to whether there should be a Plant Breeder at all. At any rate we assented, and now we want an assistant Plant Breeder. Only a few months ago one of those experts asked a man "What sort of grass is that?" The man replied "That is not grass, sir, it is rice." This Department wants probing into. Why hasn't the Department asked Government to get someone versed in the curing and preparation of tobacco? There is no intention to assist the small man to become anything more than a hewer of wood and a drawer of water. Tobacco is a paying proposition the world over; we can grow it here, yet we were told that the Department was re-organised especially with the view of finding new industries. Sir Edward Denham was induced to plant ground nuts in one of the worst parts of the Colony and a great amount of money was spent in applying manure. I have no faith in this Department, and I cannot have, because I happen to know that some of the things which it is said cannot be grown here are growing wild here. We have fibres here which can make any quantity of twine for bags, but they are not being cultivated.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I would like to remind hon. members of one point and that is that a motion has been tabled dealing with the Rice Marketing Board, and while I have no wish whatsoever to suggest that members should abstain from stating what is necessary in regard to the estimates in connection with that matter, I would like to draw attention to the fact that opportunity will be offered when that motion is being debated to deal thoroughly with that matter.

**Mr. LEE:** I would ask that consideration of the item with regard to the Rice Grading Inspector be deferred until the report of the Rice Committee has been laid before the Council. In the course of the debate in this Council on November 4, 1936, the Chairman said:—

"As hon. members are aware, I am calling a meeting next Tuesday of the leading people directly interested in the rice industry, and one of the terms of reference to be discussed at that meeting is whether in the opinion of the industry the Rice Marketing Board should con-

tinue to function. I suggest to hon. members that they should be best advised to leave any question of the continued existence of the Rice Marketing Board over until after that meeting has been held. Nothing is to be gained by continuing the discussion at the present time. As the Nominated Member has pointed out, so long as there is a Rice Marketing Board it is necessary to have a grading staff, so I suggest that they should pass this item for the time being. If subsequently for any reason Government comes to the conclusion that the Rice Marketing Board must be disbanded the whole question will have to be further considered."

That was the promise held out to this Council last year, and I am appealing to Government in the interest of the industry that the item with respect to the Rice Grading Inspector be deferred until my motion is being discussed, and the report of the Rice Committee is before the Council.

I would like to know whether the British Guiana Civil Service List published in January this year is a true record of the salaries and emoluments drawn by officers in the Civil Service? If that is so I will point out to Government that there are certain items under this head which are deceiving to members of this Council and the public. For instance, in the Estimates there is an item (24)—House Allowances to Agricultural Instructors in charge of Berbice and the East Coast, Demerara, and Agricultural Superintendent, West Demerara, \$672. In the Civil Service List there is no mention of house allowances in the case of Agricultural Superintendents. I would like to know by what authority has provision been made in the Estimates for a house allowance for the Agricultural Superintendent in West Demerara? Is the officer under contract; was he appointed on the condition that he would get a free house?

**Mr. JACOB:** Comparing the total estimate of the Department for next year with what it was ten years ago, I find that the figures are \$116,890 for 1938 as against \$92,126 in 1928, an increase of \$24,764 in ten years. The increase is greater when the approved estimate for this year is compared with that of 1927. In 1927 the total vote was \$84,446 as compared with \$118,861 in 1937, an increase of \$34,415 in ten years. The Department has had all the money necessary to make it what it should be, but what do we find to-day?

Every agricultural industry, except sugar, has gone down. Figures will show that very clearly. I will deal with rice first. This morning my friend on my right (Mr. Seymour) made the point that rice production has decreased owing to the fact that values have decreased. The price of rice having dropped, he blamed the Rice Marketing Board in a half-hearted manner. The Board came into existence in 1932 and the crop was reaped for export in 1933. I think the year 1933 should be eliminated from the activities of the Board. I have referred to the Administration Report of the Director of Agriculture for 1936 in which I find that the exports of rice in 1931 amounted to 23,632 tons valued \$1,060,339; 1932, 28,541 tons valued \$1,187,871; 1933, 29,120 tons valued \$1,062,470. The total exports of rice for the three years 1931-1933, prior to the activities of the Rice Marketing Board, were 81,293 tons valued \$3,310,680, an average of \$44.72 per ton. The exports in 1934 were 14,700 tons valued \$583,090; 1935, 10,565 tons valued \$473,086; 1936, 20,559 tons valued \$810,318. The total exports for the three years were 45,824 tons valued \$1,866,494, an average of \$40.74 per ton. It must be taken now once for all that the values of rice have not declined during the last three or four years and therefore it is not correct to say that the fall in prices has been responsible for the decrease in production and export.

The rice industry is passing through the greatest crisis, and I do think certain members of this Council must really feel that they are responsible for keeping the industry down to the extent it has been. I am told that the industry is being helped; yes, it is being helped down to chaos very well indeed. Last year Sir Geoffrey Northcote summoned those interested in the rice industry to a meeting in the Assembly Rooms and got their opinion as to whether the Rice Marketing Board should continue or not. Members of the Executive Council attended and the consensus of opinion—in fact 100 per cent. opinion was that the Board should be disbanded, but a few people thought that some other organisation should be set up. Suddenly there were certain manipulations which I do not care to mention here, but eventually a Committee was appointed. It is now about one year, and the Committee is

still arguing the same thing over and over again. When the report is issued what will be the result? Practically nothing. When certain of us appeal to other elected members to take some firm united action we are told that we must take the lead. That is how the rice industry, the second largest of the Colony, is being successfully ruined by this Government, aided by certain interests and certain people. I cannot help making that statement. Certain institutions not only in this Colony but in London have helped the sugar industry up, but have helped the rice industry down. The two industries should work hand-in-hand. The rice industry is complementary to the sugar industry, and it is only right that one should help the other. That was indicated when the rice industry was started 30 years ago.

The exports of sugar increased from 119,346 tons in 1931 to 176,505 tons in 1936 while the exports of rice dropped from 23,632 tons in 1931 to 20,559 tons in 1936; yet the sugar planters tell us that they are aiding the rice industry. Certainly, they are helping it down. With regard to farmers' canes, I observe from the report that the output of farmers' sugar increased from 1,631 tons in 1931 to 4,115 tons in 1936. Of course that is help; that is helping the sugar industry at the expense of the rice industry, because it is felt that the rice industry may one day be a rival to the sugar industry. The fear of the sugar planters that the rice industry will challenge the sugar industry is unjustifiable, because the rice industry cannot employ all the labour available. I have some very good friends who are engaged in the sugar industry and I am myself engaged in the rice industry, but I cannot understand the idea of killing the rice industry with the idea that the sugar industry should not be challenged in any way. I know that some members will get up and say that the sugar industry has nothing to fear, but I know something about it. I have had something to do with the sugar industry for nearly 25 years, and while that fear is far too great it is not the fear of all concerned. It is time that the rice industry is not helped down. It is said that the mills of God grind slowly but exceedingly well. I would ask some members to bear that in mind.

Mr. H. G. SEAFORD: I think the saying is that the mills of God grind slowly but exceedingly small.

Mr. JACOB: The County of Essequibo has no sugar estate at the present time, and the rice industry there is in a very poor state. In fact that was one of the reasons why it was suggested that there should be no sugar industry in Essequibo. I represent a portion of the County of Essequibo, and I think I have the right to refer to the whole County. I have the right to refer to the whole Colony for that matter. I would like to be informed what

section of the country nominated members speak on behalf of, or whether they speak on behalf of their individual interests. I think we are all agreed on the question of rice to-day. Whether the industry remains or not I have discharged my duty, but I have fought against fearful odds. The rice industry was built up by the East Indians of this Colony under most distressing conditions. I remember only too well the days of the indentured labourers on the sugar estates.

The Council resumed and adjourned until the following day at 10.30 o'clock.