

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Tuesday, 19th December, 1944.*

The Council met at 2 p.m. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon Lethem K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon James Lethem, K.C.M.G.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G.

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

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. E. F. Mc David, C.B.E.

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

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

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

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

The Hon. H. N. Critchlow (Nominated).

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

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

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

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

The Hon. J. B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

The Hon. J. W. Jackson, O.B.E. (Nominated).

The Hon. A. M. Edun (Nominated).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayer.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 15th December, 1944, as printed and circulated were taken as read and confirmed,

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### SUPPLY OF PENICILLIN

The PRESIDENT: Hon. Members of Council,—I am pleased to inform you that a limited supply of penicillin has been received in the Colony for use in research in tropical diseases under controlled hospital conditions, but treatment of urgent civilian cases is not excluded from the purposes of the grant.

2. A condition of the grant is that very strict control of issues, in order to prevent misapplication of the drug, shall be exercised by Government.

To comply with this condition the following technical Committee has been appointed to supervise releases:—

The Director of Medical Services, Chairman.

Dr. J. Glavina, Medical Superintendent, Public Hospital, Georgetown.

Dr. P. A. Clearkin, Government Bacteriologist and Pathologist.

Dr. E. M. Sharples, President, British Guiana Branch, British Medical Association.

Dr. S. C. Bettencourt-Gomes, Senior Physician, Public Hospital Georgetown, with Mr. C. H. Campbell, Government Pharmacist as Secretary.

#### D.D.T. EXPERIMENT.

I would like to announce to Members that I have received pleasing information as to the DDT experiment to be carried through in this colony. Five hundredweight of the preparation have left Britain and should arrive next month. Two specialists should be able to come, arriving early in the year and give six weeks to two months to the work. One is a Medical Entomologist in one of the African services and one is from the Department of Applied Entomology in the Imperial College of Science. As Members are aware, the costs are to be met under a Colonial Development research grant but certain incidental local expenditure will fall upon us. I am sure Members will be glad to know of this progress.

#### VISIT OF SIR FRANK STOCKDALE.

My second announcement is that I have received a letter from the Comptroller for Development and Welfare anticipating his arrival here early in January. Sir Frank Stockdale tells me that he wishes to give concentrated special attention to the Corentyne Development and Welfare scheme and proposes a special inspection visit over the Corentyne area with myself for this purpose. As I have told Members, I have Government Departments working on the plans now and I hope to have ready for this proposed inspection a good deal of matter including a special map now being prepared by the Consulting

Engineer. I am extraordinarily pleased that this matter is now making such progress since I left London.

Sir Frank Stockdale will also give special attention to the difficult East Demerara problem, as to which I have kept him fully informed.

Sir Frank Stockdale in his letter to me states that he hopes he will be able to finalise the chief drainage and irrigation proposals with me.

Members will appreciate that this visit of the Comptroller to which I have been looking forward so long, will mean that I and senior officers of Government will require to give very particular time to discussion of major things with him and it is particularly desirable that Legislative Council business for the time being be over, to free us for that purpose.

#### REQUEST FOR VISIT TO BRAZILIAN FRONTIER.

I have also had a very pressing request from the Brazilian Governor of the new territory on our frontier to meet him on the frontier and of course I cannot spare the time until Legislative Council business for the moment is complete.

#### LAND SETTLEMENT.

The despatch about land settlement which I mentioned recently in Council, is now completed and going forward. It urges that we proceed with action and suggests the lines of finance. An accompanying despatch puts forward the Vergenoegen project in concrete form. The financing of this, as is suggested, is that the cost of purchasing and reconditioning the land should be met from local funds—that would come to about \$219,000 (that is of course capital expenditure and not annually recurrent) — while the cost of laying out the whole area for land settlement should be financed under the Development and Welfare Act. The estimate for that is approximately \$280,000.

## ANNUALLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

Before asking the Treasurer to move into Committee, I would like to refer back to my remarks of last Friday particularly as to annually recurrent "Other Charges" liabilities. I have been carefully through the whole volume of the estimates and confess that I am not a little concerned. I said on Friday that we had to face up with our eyes open to the increasing costs of personnel, but it was a more important matter to keep a very careful eye on our "Other Charges" annually recurrent votes particularly with discrimination when some necessary expenditure is of an extraordinary or temporary capital nature and that this letter should be shown separately. I am unfortunately in the position of having been away from the Colony when the estimates were being prepared, or I should have been able to give earlier attention. I find, however, that I had issued a very definite minute last July, just before leaving, which—or most of it—went out as a special circular to heads of departments.

I may quote from it :—

"I think many departmental officers are completely forgetting that Treasury control was only lifted in September 1943 and that was done only after a good deal of hesitation on the part of the Colonial Office and the Imperial Treasury and on strong pressure from myself.....It is very clearly necessary for us to observe the greatest care before we commit ourselves to irrevocable recurrent liabilities such as will be very difficult to dispense with if we find the position changed say three or four years hence."

I said we had to give high priority to certain things, particularly war emergency and—again I quote:—

"Capital expenditure and again the reconditioning of buildings, roads, etc., stand in a different category: There are very real needs of capital expenditure, and the forced parsimony of the 1930's has left us with an immense amount to do in reconditioning. We are entitled to use reasonable sums of our surplus for these purposes:"

I then drew attention to the very big liability over salaries and the necessity to limit in other ways to keep within our powers. I again referred to the special case of Development and Welfare projects and I ended as follows:—

"The lesson of the above is that while we can reasonably make good provision for war emergency expenditure of all kinds, for capital expenditure within reason and for reconditioning of existing assets, we must call a halt now to rising expenditure on Government departments.

I confess in going through the estimates I have rather got the impression that this directive has had very little effect and there is a tendency lightheartedly to increase "Other Charges" annually recurrent votes, with the danger that these would be repeated in future years when the temporary need had passed. I, of course, have not had the opportunity personally to scrutinize the arguments put up.

I referred on Friday to one particular aspect where expenditure which is clearly of an extraordinary and temporary character has been included with annually recurrent charges and I explained to Members on Friday how I proposed to deal with this. In going through the estimates, I have marked a large number of items which I will have shown below the line so to speak as extraordinary expenditure. I may say that temporary War Bonuses will be one of them. That is an extraordinary charge to meet war conditions and is obviously reviewable. This procedure will automatically make it simpler for me and the Treasury and the Council next year to scrutinize very closely on what items and to what extent the expenditure should be renewed. That procedure is quite in order because it does not affect the total sum voted and with the support of Executive Council and, I feel sure, the concurrence of Members, the Treasurer and I will carry it out in due course before the volume is finally printed off.

As regards the substantial increase in a number of annually recurrent "Other Charges" votes, however, it is not practical for me to go through with a fine-tooth comb all these before the end of the year, but what I will do is the following: When issuing the necessary special warrants in January, the Treasurer and myself will limit the issue to such funds as are essential to carry on the business of the particular department until I have had a special opportunity to go in some detail into the reasons for increases. That is the best I can do in existing cases.

In pursuance of what I said on Friday and again to-day, I may later recommit three heads on which items have appeared, two of them as recurrent charges, and one of an extraordinary character which I do not agree should appear as annual charges or in fact on the departmental estimate at all. The first is Analyst, the second Customs, and the third Labour. This can be done at a later opportunity.

With regard to Legislative Council business, I should say here that I am advised by the Attorney-General that it is important to make progress with certain bills and these we propose to take at two o'clock to-morrow.

I will now ask the Colonial Treasurer to move into Committee in the usual way.

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ORDER OF THE DAY

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ESTIMATES, 1945

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that the Council resolve itself into Committee for the purpose of resuming consideration of the following motion:—

THAT this Council approves the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Rev-

enue during the year ending 31st December, 1945, which have been laid on the table.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Council in Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I have certain business to do and I ask the Deputy President to take the Chair for the moment. I shall be back.

His Excellency the President at this stage withdrew from the Chamber and the Deputy President (Mr. Woolford) took the Chair.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Before we actually get down to a detailed consideration of the items I just want to draw the attention of the Council to what I said before in connection with the salaries of Senior Professional Officers. In the case of Medical, the items shown with the various special salaries are those recommended by the Committee and adopted by the Government with the advice of Executive Council and sent forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with the Governor's recommendations. As I said in my Budget Statement, this is regarded as a convenient method of bringing the matter before the Council for consideration and, as His Excellency also said, the actual operation of these salaries cannot be given effect to until the Secretary of State for the Colonies has replied with his consent or sanction. These salaries have certain conditions attached to them, and those conditions are set out in the report of the O'Connor Committee. I hope hon. Members have read the report because some of these conditions are very important. For example, one of the recommendations is the surrender of private practice by Medical Officers in districts, but that surrender is at the option of Government and the Officers concerned. That is to say, an Officer

now in private practice desirous of retaining that condition of his office is entitled to do so and to claim the present salary scale, but if he wishes to come under the new salary scale then he is expected to come under the new conditions by which the fees are surrendered to public revenue. With that small explanation I ask that the Head be now put. Any further explanation will be given by the Director of Medical Services who is here to-day.

Dr. SINGH: I would like to say something under this head. I want to make one or two general observations before we go to the items proper. We know that one of the functions of the Medical Department is to direct and look after the health of the inhabitants of this country. It cares for the sick in its institutions and it also offers medical relief to the poor and needy. But the question asked by a great number of people is this: Is the Medical Service fulfilling all of its functions satisfactorily, especially where the rural areas are concerned? There is still overcrowding at the Georgetown Public Hospital and at the Out-Patients' Department, Georgetown. Most of those people are from the rural areas. Two or three decades ago they received medical assistance and first aid at the hospitals on the sugar plantations, but many of those plantations are now abandoned and the hospitals dismantled, and from the village chemists who are very few in number now and from the Medical Officers of the districts who are also few in number. Where there were two Medical Officers previously there is only one now and the districts have been made very much larger. On account of distance, the closing of the estate hospitals and the paucity of village chemists the country people at great personal inconvenience and at much expenditure come to the Georgetown Public Hospital in order to get some medical relief. But what do we find? There are between 150 and 200 patients to be treated by one Medical Officer every day at the Out-

Patients' Department, and he works there 4½ hours per day. As a result he is not able to devote two minutes to each patient, and during those 4½ hours that Medical Officer has to treat Police cases and deal with minor surgical cases, and there is a large number of repeat cases. Is it, therefore, possible for that Medical Officer to examine and prescribe for all those cases in a day as properly as it should be done? I was in charge of the Out-Patients' Department myself, but in those days there were not so many persons attending the Department. The result is that today the people are being treated in a perfunctory and slipshod manner. And, what is adding insult to injury is the appointment of a Junior Medical Officer to do the work. I remember that in my day only Senior Medical Officers were put in charge of the Out-Patients' Department, so that when they missed the bull's eye they were not very much out. They had experience and brought that to bear in their diagnosis and were never very far wrong. But junior men are brought into the Department now and, lacking experience, they are generally far from the bull's eye in their diagnosis. God knows how many people must have come to an untimely death as a result. That is the position to-day.

It is our duty to look after the men and women who have passed babyhood and adolescence and have come to the stage of manhood when they should be of some use to the country. It is our duty to look after the health of the men and women who have passed through all those stages. It is very satisfactory to know that we have in this Colony ante-natal and after care children welfare services, but we should look after the people who are the assets of the country. Those mostly on the sugar estates were looked after on the spot as those estates maintained hospitals to look after the residents. The estates are between the villages so the villagers were given first aid by the dispensers and there were two Medical



Officers in the districts where there is now one. There was no over-crowding in the three County Hospitals at Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Berbice, and Suddie, Essequibo. Only cases of emergency and surgical cases went to those hospitals in those days. As a boy I do remember coming from the country to Georgetown to be treated at the Out-Patients' Department and there was never any overcrowding. I feel sure that because there are no hospitals in the country districts as before, there is overcrowding at the Public Hospitals and the Out-Patients' Department. Georgetown is so heavily taxed that it is impossible for one Medical Officer to cope with the work

At the beginning of the 20th century in the year 1903 although the sugar industry was somewhat on the decline there were six estate hospitals on the West Bank Demerara, between Vreed-en-Hoop and Wales, and about seven on the West Coast, Demerara, between Vreed-en-Hoop and Vergen-oegen. What is the position now? There are two estate hospitals between Vreed-en-Hoop and Wales and three between Vreed-en-Hoop and Vergen-oegen. Naturally, the Government Medical Officer being stationed at Leonora, at the extreme end of his district it is impossible for people living at the Vreed-en-Hoop end to see him without some inconvenience. The Officer pays a visit to his district every other day and sometimes when patients go to him they find him gone on a visit to the other end of the district. Therefore the wisest thing for the people to do in such circumstances is to get some conveyance to bring them to Georgetown. I have three suggestions to make in order to overcome this difficulty. I really thought Government would have taken heed of the appeals made by Members of this Council year after year, but there seems to be some callousness on the part of Government where the lives of the people are concerned. Within the last nine or ten years, as hon. Members know, there have been fre-

quent changes in the holder of the post of Director of Medical Services. As soon as one is able to take up the threads he goes away and another takes his place. Therefore there is no continuity of policy. In the old days one got up to that position gradually. He joined the general service as a Medical Officer and worked in charge of hospitals in the districts before he rose to the position of Director of Medical Services. Such men were able to control the Service because they had an intimate knowledge of the Service. With all due respect to the present Director of Medical Services, he is a stranger to this country and does not know how the Service is run and has to be advised.

By whom is the Director of Medical Services advised? I am suggesting that there should be someone to advise the Director of Medical Services as in the case of the Public Works Department where the question of £.s.d. is concerned. There it has been thought fit to appoint an Advisory Board. Similar Boards have been appointed for the Education Department and the Department of Agriculture, but in the case of the Medical Department where the lives of the people are concerned that is not done. My suggestion is, that in order to overcome this over-crowding at the Public Hospital some arrangement should be made between the Sugar Producers' Association and Government whereby Government would take over those estate hospitals that are in existence at the present time, equip them and run them for the benefit of the people living in the rural areas. The Sugar Producers' Association keep very good books and Government can get at the average expenditure per year for a period of ten years involved in running those hospitals. That will be a very happy medium and an expenditure that will serve a very useful and necessary purpose. I am suggesting that as a broad principle which may be discussed. It may be looked into to see if there is the possibility of acquiring

those estate hospitals for cases of emergency. Five of these small country hospitals may be equipped—two for medical cases, two for surgical cases and one for midwifery—as the erection of new ones is impossible on account of the difficulty in getting building materials. Then the other question of dispensaries comes in. There is no question of erecting a new building. A cottage can be hired and converted into a dispensary as has been done in Georgetown. In George Street, Government hired a building which is being used as the No. 2 Dispensary and something similar can be done in the country districts. A cottage could be hired at \$12 per month and stocked with medicines.

The CHAIRMAN: What do you suggest should be done in Georgetown to relieve the overcrowding—an additional officer?

Dr. SINGH: I say that if the estate hospitals were taken over by Government the people who now come to Georgetown would be looked after at those hospitals. Today people come to the Georgetown Hospital for treatment for colic. Such people could be treated in the country by a dispenser. Cases of emergency requiring surgical treatment would come to Georgetown, as was done in the past when sugar was at its peak.

I suggest that a senior Medical Officer should be put in charge of the Out-Patients' Department. In view of his wide experience such an officer would not fall short in his diagnosis. I was six years in the Medical Service, and for the first two years I was attached to the various Wards, so that when I was sent to a district I was able to do the work. In those days Government Medical Officers got all-round training, and there are senior Medical Officers in the Service now who should be able to advise the Director of Medical Services.

Mr. CRITCHLOW: I strongly support the remarks of the hon. Member. Last Saturday I was at No. 78

village where people gathered from Crabwood creek. They said they had not seen a doctor for several days, and they asked that Government should either use the hospital at Skeldon or establish a dispensary in the district, because they were too far from New Amsterdam. I hope Government will do something in the matter.

Mr. EDUN: If I had spoken like the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh) it might have been said that I was an extremist, and that I would say anything, but here is a medical man, as qualified as many other medical men in this Colony, speaking his mind about the Medical Service we have today. I have in my notes this statement, a trite statement:

“This Department, in my considered opinion, is suffering from chronic administrative indigestion, and I think this Council should take the opportunity to give it a dose of salts.”

I do not know whether it is the rigidity of the mind of medical men that is responsible for it, but why, as the hon. Member has suggested, can't an Advisory Committee be appointed to give this Department a push in the right direction? I am sure that those technical men would object to interference by laymen, but I think the time has come when this Department ought to be run in the interest of the inhabitants of this country as against the interests of the personnel who receive their salaries. I have travelled very much in the country districts and I see absolutely no improvement in the health of the people. I am sure that unless something is done deterioration will set in further and further.

Let me give an instance. Government Medical Officers in the districts cannot cope with the number of patients who require their services. Apart from that, people are expected to pay exorbitant fees in order to secure salaried men's services. I consider that an administrative anomaly.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I may remind the hon. Member that if the proposals put forward by the Governor in Council are approved by this Council and the Secretary of State, the charging of fees may, to a great extent, be abolished. It is true that it is not proposed to bully officers to accept the new scale. It would not be possible, but all those who accept the new scale will forego private fees which will go to Government instead of to the officer. That may in some measure meet the hon. Member's point

Mr. EDUN: I have seen a tendency to try out the new system in one or two districts, and I think I ought to commend the Department on the experiment. But let us examine the estimate carefully. The total expenditure is put down at \$1,088,983, an increase of \$170,951. What is the revenue? A mere \$80,000. I maintain that all fees charged by G.M.O.'s should go into the coffers of the Government, but Government tells me that it will have to wait until G.M.O.'s retire on pension for the present system to outlive itself. I think Government should make a straight cut through the system, and say that from now on all the fees received from patients must be paid into the Medical Department. I was thinking whether Government should not adopt a system whereby a G.M.O. would receive an honorarium for improvement in the health of the inhabitants in his district. Such a system could be worked on statistics.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: We have just abandoned payment by results in one Department. I hope it will not be introduced in another. I refer to the Education Department.

The CHAIRMAN: In Scotland there is a saying "No cure, no pay."

Mr. EDUN: We should get service for the money we pay. As a newspaperman I have heard complaints and grievances at the Public Hospital,

from doctors down to the cooks. Although attempts have been made to harmonize the system of administration in the hospitals there is even now no good relationship between the subordinates and those above them.

I do not wish to take up the time of the Council, otherwise I would paint a very gloomy picture about health conditions so far as sanitation is concerned. I have said over and over in this Council that there is a kind of partiality exercised by the Administration against certain districts. There is one kind of public health administration in the Village Districts and another on the sugar estates. On the sugar estates public health is carried on, not by the Medical Administration but by the sugar companies themselves. The hospitals are private property, and there is absolutely no legal connection between the G.M.O. who visits those hospitals, and the management of the estates. The G.M.O. simply pays courtesy visits. At no time can he order brandy or an injection for a patient and the management would supply it.

There is what I would call a concerted attempt on the part of the sugar companies to get rid of the estate hospitals. I agree that they should get rid of them because, after all, health is not the concern of the sugar companies, except to get more work out of the workers. The sugar proprietors have not that long-range view—at least they do not act upon it. I think the time has come when a scheme should be put forward by the Medical Department for the control of these estate hospitals, on the ground that the sugar companies cannot maintain them up to the standard of the public hospitals at New Amsterdam, Bartica and Mabaruma. Things are happening in estate hospitals today which are nauseating. Perhaps Your Excellency has read the interesting book, *The Coolie*, which describes the conditions existing in those hospitals today. Perhaps the D.M.S. would say: "Why should I worry? It



would only put more work on my staff," but that would not be the attitude we should expect from officers who are paid to help us with their expert knowledge.

Let me go a little further into the administration of public health and give some facts about the Anti-Aedes Campaign. I do not like to introduce the racial element here again, but it faces us so conspicuously everywhere we turn that it is enough to make one's heart sick. If you look into the personnel of the Anti-Aedes or Yellow Fever Service you will find that there are two Supervisors—men who were overseers on sugar estates. One of them is well known in this Colony on account of his connection with labour disputes. Even in this service you will find nepotism—the employment of cousins—and if there is anything rotten in British Guiana that campaign is, on account of victimization and chicanery, and we are spending \$8,100 more on this service. Perhaps the time will come when we will have to have a small inquiry into this service.

I do not suggest that health should be measured by money, but when we pay handsomely we expect a type of officers to show not only that they are rigid in their mentality, but to show better health conditions, and that the people on the sugar estates are living under better sanitary conditions. Those abominable rooms ought to be repaired. Something should be done by the Department to make them fit for human habitation, but this Department is not concerned at all. As a member of the Central Board of Health I have seen the way the Board is working. Perhaps the law is rigid, and is not conducive to progress at all. In spite of all this expenditure there is no progress, no better administration at the hospitals and facilities for the subordinate employees, the nurses and porters. I went through the whole thing and told them that as the Man-Power Citizens' Association has no right as a trade union to present them, I could do nothing

for them. There is a trade union within the Yellow Fever Service, a subordinate trade union, but as soon as the secretary of that union was promoted as Chief Inspector he "scuttled" his comrades. There is a tendency to divide and give them a little promotion. The Yellow Fever Service stinks in the nostrils of the employees—those who have not the favour of the two Supervisors. I will not say anything more.

Mr. JACOB: I listened with great interest to the remarks of the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh). I think he has made out a strong case for the Medical Department to answer. Speaking broadly, I am not at all satisfied that this Department is being properly administered. I hope my friend the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) is not going to take strong exception to those remarks as he did on a previous occasion. This Department is asking this Council to vote \$1,088,983 for 1945. Last year we voted \$915,584. The total emoluments of the Fixed Establishment, the administrative side, for this year is \$243,515, or \$42,153 more than for last year. But the figures are more alarming when you compare the expenditure in 1943 on the Fixed Establishment. It was then \$157,557, and for 1945 it is to be \$85,958 more. I am alarmed at that increase, but if I were satisfied that the Department was being properly administered, and that the public was getting value for all this money, I would be the first to agree to it. In fact I would go further and agree that something more should be voted for the improvement of the health of the people of the Colony. I am not at all satisfied.

The hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo referred to the frequent changes of the Head of the Department. It is most unfortunate that we have to have strangers, so to speak, coming to this Colony, and by the time they learn—and they take a long time to learn because they have to go around and pick

up the threads—and you begin to criticize them you are told “The officer has just come; give him a chance.” We have had too many changes recently, and I am not satisfied that the taxpayers are getting value for the money spent. I am not blaming the officers so much, but I do blame the system, this Crown Colony system which has been the bane if not the curse of the Colonial Empire. An officer is sent to a Colony, and if he likes the place he is asking for more money, and if he does not like the place he is looking for promotion elsewhere. It is all a question of wealth all the time, not a question of service.

I am going to quote from a report in order to substantiate what I say about wealth. I am not satisfied that the Colony is getting service for the money it is spending. I recommended last year that an Advisory Committee should be appointed to control this Department, a Committee composed of Members of this Council who have responsibility to the taxpayers and to the electors in general. It has been found expedient to appoint three Advisory Committees which were referred to by the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo, with respect to Agriculture, Education and Public Works. Those Committees are new and I do not expect them to do everything in the best possible form, but I do expect that this Advisory Committee composed of Members of this Council will better administer this Medical Department when you have over \$1,000,000 involved in its expenditure and the Colony's expenditure is \$12,000,000. I think it is time that more effective control be exercised over a Department of this kind where the health and living conditions of the whole Colony are concerned.

I am going to refer first of all to this report on the salaries of the Administrative, Professional and Technical Officers in the Public Service (exclusive of the Classified Clerical Service) shown as Legislative Council Paper No. 20 of

1944. I happen to be a member of that Committee. Paragraph 28 on page 5 of this report referring to Private Practice reads as follows:—

28. The right to Private Practice is restricted to certain District Medical Officers. The Committee agrees that the salaries of Government Medical Officers should be fixed on the basis that the whole of the officer's time is at the disposal of Government and recommends that at the discretion of Government, and at the option of officers now serving, the right to Private Practice should be withdrawn and the fees therefrom paid into Revenue. If the officers decide to retain the right to Private Practice their conditions of service will remain unchanged.

I agreed to that paragraph in this report. This is the broad principle but the details certainly want working out. And so I say, if for nothing else but that paragraph alone this Government ought to appoint this Advisory Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: To a point of order! I will remind the hon. Member that not only he agrees but Government also agrees with that paragraph.

Mr. JACOB: But I am saying that Government must do the next best thing and that is to appoint the Committee and not leave it to the Director of Medical Services who was a member of the Committee and is here today but may be away tomorrow. I do not blame him. It is the system. I do not want it to be understood that I am personal in my remarks at all. The Director of Medical Services has been here for some time. He was on this Committee and stressed this particular point and I do agree with him entirely, but I am not satisfied that by withdrawing Private Practice the Government Medical Officers will be able to attend to the people in large districts in the way I would like them to do. Certain regulations will have to be made and these Officers told exactly what they must do and what they must not do. That

alone is far too much for the Director of Medical Services alone to carry out. I think an Advisory Board or Committee is the proper thing to look after that particular matter. But that is not all. There is the question of housing and sanitation. These the Medical Officers do not attend to. They plead that they have other things to do, and so I say this Advisory Committee should be appointed without any delay. I do not understand why an Advisory Committee for the Medical Department was not appointed at the same time as the Advisory Committees for the Public Works, Agriculture and Education Departments were appointed. Government has been asked and mention made of it in this Council Chamber and outside this Chamber and, I think, privately to His Excellency the Governor. On that point alone, I think, we have made out a case that the system of work of these medical practitioners throughout the Colony should be changed and an Advisory Committee will be better able to control the whole Medical Service.

With regard to the question of self it is not wholly applicable to this Department and, I must say, I did not observe the present Head of the Department or the Acting Head who sat on the Committee while he was away pressing forward personal claims. I cannot say that, but I think the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Dias, and I, as members of the Committee, made the following note on the report of the Committee—and I repeat it so that it will remain on the record of the debates of this Council :—

“It appears peculiar to me that this Committee should have had in its personnel only one Nominated Member and one Elected Member of the Legislative Council.

I am not surprised at the decisions arrived at, but I had hoped that in the final stage of the work of the Committee a little less personal interest would have been exhibited.”

That was signed by C. R. Jacob and the hon. Nominated Member wrote

“I agree with Mr. Jacob” and that was signed by Francis Dias. As I say, it is clear to me,—100 per cent. clear,—that the major object of the whole Colonial Service, especially the professional and technical men who are sent out here from time to time by the Colonial Office, is to remain as short as possible in any of the Colonies, look for promotion and go away as quickly as possible to some other part and back to England. The time has come when this Legislative Council should denounce that attitude in no uncertain manner and get our own men to be responsible for the policy and the carrying out of that policy so that the Colony could benefit. I see the Deputy President is smiling.

The CHAIRMAN (Deputy President): Do you really think your remarks are relevant to the item?

Mr. JACOB: I do. We are discussing the policy of the Medical Department. I can quite understand, sir, it is so new to most of the hon. Members of Council who have grown so old and accustomed to the old ideas that they will not agree to a radical change. We are a first class Colony. You have advocated that. We have become a first class Colony and if I may digress a moment—

The CHAIRMAN: Although I do not desire to interrupt the hon. Member I must appeal to him if he thinks the remarks he is making are relevant to the item under discussion. We are going to have a general discussion; His Excellency has promised that. Can the hon. Member not wait until then? Up to the last few remarks are quite relevant when discussing the policy of making appointments.

Mr. JACOB: We have the Civil List Establishment on this first page!

The CHAIRMAN: But we are not discussing that. That is excluded.

Mr. JACOB: I do not know why this figure is not changed now. That is another question I would like to raise. I think it is fundamentally wrong. We are passing on the Estimates a figure that is totally incorrect. I cannot understand why the Chair is allowing this incorrect estimate to pass. The amount by law for the Director of Medical Services, I think, is changed. I think all the figures are in the Fixed Establishment column.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: On several occasions since these Heads have been before the Council I have explained that the items on the Civil List will be amended in the printed copy to conform with the Schedule to the Civil List Ordinance just passed. The items we are discussing are the items to be voted by this Council and not those provided by law, especially those in the Civil List Ordinance, and the total of each Head which is noted in the minutes of the meeting is the total this Council is asked to vote. Those are the figures we are now considering. Therefore a correction of the printed Estimates is always necessary.

Mr. JACOB: I beg to disagree with that submission. We have got to put in these Estimates at the end of the year or at some stage the total provided for by law as the total passed by this Council and, therefore, there must be an appropriation account to show what has been passed to be paid. I am afraid I cannot agree with the statement just made by the hon. the Colonial Treasurer. Whether it is passed by law or not this Council has to give formal approval of the Estimates—the Civil List and the Annually Recurrent and Other Charges. That is as clear as noon-day so far as I am aware. When the Appropriation Bill is put up we are not going to be told “Oh, no; you have to exclude the amount provided for by law.” Certainly not, and I want to make a pro-

test at this stage. I have been misled very often by the present holder of the Chair and the Financial Expert of Government—grossly misled over and over,—and I do ask hon. Members, especially those in authority, not to endeavour to mislead the Council and particularly your humble servant. That is a deliberate attempt to mislead me. I maintain we have a perfect right to criticize the Civil List now, and the explanation that has been given I do not accept and I maintain my opinion.

I was going to say, the amount to be voted on the Fixed Establishment is so much in excess of the amount expended in 1943 and the amount voted in 1944 that I make this strong comment that the taxpayers and the Colony are not getting value for all this money. That is as regards the personal emoluments of the Fixed Establishment and all the Government Medical Officers. I want to say something about the sanitary control by some of these Officers. For instance, two Health Officers, 3 County Sanitary Inspectors and other Junior Officers regarding Health and Housing—the hon. the Sixth Nominated Member referred to the fact that there are different rules and regulations governing sanitary control and housing in this Colony— one set of regulations governing the Country and Village Districts and another set governing other areas which are termed “Private Property.” I have referred to this matter here on several occasions. I have written to the Department concerned and to the Secretariat in my capacity as a Member of this Council and also in my capacity as President of a Trade Union the members of which have complained most bitterly of the insanitary condition of the places, and I can get absolutely no redress. The Secretariat sits quietly. I am not referring to the present Colonial Secretary. Recently we have grown so tired that we decline to write further, and I am going to ask if no



one has any responsibility in this Colony except for the payment of money and the receiving of money.

We have complained that there is gross discrimination. Officers are discriminating daily and when complaints are made to the Department itself it says your letter is not properly couched and declines to answer, and when you threaten to take the matter to the Secretariat they say "You can go to hell as far as we are concerned," I have grown tired of this farce that is being perpetrated here year by year every time I come to this Council. I am wondering what redress we have got, what redress I have as a representative of the people who elect me, though they may be few in numbers. What redress has an ordinary individual got? — none at all. These Officers simply go on doing as they like; they are protected by the Department, protected by the Secretariat; they get their pay at the end of every month and their pension when they retire and leave the Colony. No one seems to tell them anything. The time is coming when they will have to account to somebody, and I do hope that the time is not far off when these Officers will realize that they are the servants of the taxpayers.

If you go to certain places particularly those called "Private Property" you would find that living conditions there are very intolerable. At certain places, particularly now that the rain is falling, the people have nowhere to sleep at times and when the places are temporarily flooded the situation can be better imagined than described. The Government Public Health Department has absolutely no responsibility. The Secretariat has no responsibility too, and I enter the strongest possible protest against these Officers acting in that way and the public obtaining absolutely no benefit. The time has come when there must be an Advisory Committee to go into this matter—not a committee composed of hand-picked men but one of representatives of this Council who represent all inter-

ests and not a particular section representing a particular interest only. And so while the Department may pride itself in the fact that health conditions are very good in British Guiana, the death rate being low, the birth rate high and the population is increasing at a tremendous rate, there can be better living conditions in this Colony which will make the birth rate far higher and the death rate far lower than at present and instead of having 300,000 people we will have over 500,000 people with the climate that we have and the improved mode of living of the ordinary people.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like just to make a few remarks for the benefit of the hon. Member (Mr. Jacob). Firstly it will be of interest to this Council, no doubt, to know that His Excellency has already introduced in Executive Council the question of the appointment of an Advisory Committee for the Medical Department. There are a good many difficulties which will have to be considered, but hon. Members who are pressing for the setting up of this Committee should know that His Excellency has it very much in view and that the subject has already come up in Executive Council. I think it is only fair that hon. Members should know that.

As regards the remarks of the hon. Member for North-Western District concerning the O'Connor Committee, I feel it would be very unfair to the Heads of Departments who sat with him on that Committee to allow his allegation of self-interest on their behalf to go without some comment thereon. There is nothing easier than to get up in this Council and impute lack of integrity and evil intentions in everybody who the hon. Member considers is not carrying out his duty. I welcome criticism, but I think the hon. Member's criticisms would carry more weight in this Council if he would not impute bad intentions behind them. Actually those Officers who were serving with him on the Committee wrote a very strong let-



ter of protest, and they had no opportunity of seeing the remarks of the hon. Member who wrote them after the Committee's report was concluded and signed. They did not see the remarks otherwise they would have said something about them. This is a paragraph in a very strong letter they wrote to me:

"We wish to deny absolutely and unequivocally that our recommendations were inspired by any motive whatever other than the promotion of the welfare of the Service and the interest of the Colony as a whole."

Knowing the Officers, I personally accept that with absolutely full belief. The hon. Member in passing referred to the Colonial Empire and the Officers who are sent to this country under the Unified Service Scheme or under any scheme. I think the hon. Member is entirely unfair in just saying that these Officers come here to get as much as they can and then get promotion elsewhere. As we know, no Officer is likely to refuse promotion. The majority of these Officers come here and while they are here give of their best because if they do not their chance of getting on in the Service would be poor. As a Member of the Unified Service and a Member of the Colonial Service I strongly protest against the imputation of the last speaker, and I would tell the last speaker that I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that the motives imputed to these Officers are the motives he would use were he in their places.

Mr. JACOB: I endeavoured to absolve the Head of this Department, while speaking, of any personal interest. I think I made that specifically clear.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member did not absolve the other Officers.

Mr. JACOB: I am coming to that. It would be interesting to know when that letter of protest was written.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will give the date!

The CHAIRMAN: We cannot have a discussion on that. The hon. Member made certain allegations and the hon. Colonial Secretary answered them.

Mr. JACOB: Not correctly.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The date is 28th September, 1944.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow any further discussion on that.

Mr. JACOB: I rise to a point of correction! I submit that the majority, if not all the Government Officers, submitted another report to the Governor and the Governor returned both reports and asked that they be merged into one so that one report was submitted. It is quite clear and I think the hon. the First Nominated Member would agree, that the Committee was divided, the Officials being on one side and the Deputy Colonial Treasurer who was Chairman, the hon. First Nominated Member and myself on the other side. Two reports went in to Government and I would like the hon. Colonial Secretary to say if that is not correct.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is correct.

Mr. JACOB: Therefore when the hon. Member submitted that statement he studiously omitted that. It is distinctly clear that the Government men had private meetings by themselves and we were not even invited. I thought it was bad taste. It was grossly unfair to us, the other members of the Committee. There were only two representatives of the public on that Committee, but those Officers got together and wanted to force on us a report they thought acceptable to Government. That tends to show that this criticism is justifiable and well intentioned. I do not say all the Officers, but the majority of them.—

The CHAIRMAN: There are two questions arising as the result of the hon. Member's speech. First of all, his reference to Civil Servants who took part in the Committee's report, and his general remarks about the Members of the Unified Service. He said, in effect, that without exception every Member of the Service who came to this Colony seemed imbued with the idea to stay as long as he desired and make as much use of the Service as he could for his personal benefit and then leave without the Colony benefiting from the service given. I think the hon. Colonial Secretary as Head of the Government Service is entitled to protect those officers. I think we ought to proceed with the consideration of the Estimates.

Mr. JACKSON: Sir, I was going to remark and I do so now that the Medical Service is one of the most important services over which the Government of this Colony exercises control. I would like to say that the amount of money applied for should not be measured in terms of the revenue to be collected. The service is a utility one for the benefit of the people of this Colony, and I would further add that a comparison between the present cost of that service and the cost, as the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh) said, in the 19th century is ludicrous indeed. Those were the days when cab horses did the work of conveying doctors from place to place; today the motor car is being used and the service to a certain extent cannot but be more efficient in these times than in the past.

I should like to refer especially to the remarks made by the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo with regard to the difficulty of the work of the Medical Officer on the West Coast Demerara. He referred specially to the time when there were two Government Medical Officers running the district. I go further and say there were three Medical Officers running that district. It is true that the grinding

sugar estates have been reduced from 19 to 2 at the present time, and that each of those 19 estates had a hospital which served the purpose of looking after the medical treatment of those who lived and worked on those estates. At the present time the Medical Officer in charge of that district has to travel over 20 miles in order to attend his patients in the district. Reference was made by the hon. Member to the fact that the Medical Officer goes one day to one portion of his district and the next day to the other section, but he omitted to mention that on each day he attends to between 50 and 100 patients at his home before he leaves on his visit to his district. In my opinion the district is certainly too large for one Medical Officer, especially when we take into account that there are other services beyond the mere medical attendance. I refer to the Infant Welfare and Maternity League, the Ante-natal Clinics and so on. The present officer performs his duties to the best of his ability, and no one can deny that the attention he pays to the district is perhaps 100 per cent.

With reference to the over-crowding of the Georgetown Hospital, I think the problem could be solved if Government could find it convenient to provide cottage hospitals in certain districts. It is true that in the past there were many registered chemists and druggists who in their own way rendered first aid and helped to make the conditions less difficult. There are very few of them now in the districts, and I would be very glad if Government would consider very carefully the need for assistance in that direction.

There is one other matter about which I have a great deal of concern, and that is with respect to the Infant Welfare Clinics. Everything is being done at the present time to assist mothers in the care of their infants, but the incidence of filaria is very pronounced in the rural districts, and I think an attempt is being made to

get this Government to supply mosquito netting at a cheap rate so that mothers may be able to protect their children from attack by mosquitoes.

Mr. ROTH: The hon. Member was not here at Friday evening's session when the Colonial Treasurer moved an addition to the estimate of a sum of \$1,200 for that purpose.

Mr. JACKSON: I was here on Friday evening. I wish that the amount was doubled, but small as it is it has my support. I would certainly support any amount provided for that purpose, because I know it would be money well spent. I have no desire to speak at length because I do not like lengthy speeches, but I do submit that all that has been said of the Medical Department adversely is not correct, and that the medical men who labour in the interest of humanity are not imbued with the desire to secure wealth. I think there are numbers of cases in which medical men forego their fees when they attend poor people. I do not think our commercial men do the like when they sell their goods to poor people who cannot afford to pay. I do not know whether the element of wealth may not better be introduced in the case of those who serve their own interests commercially, and I do certainly protest against any attempt that is made to stigmatize the medical officers of the Colony by saying that they are imbued with motives of self-interest in carrying out the duties of their office.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I do not recall a single occasion when this Council was in session to consider the annual estimates, that this Department has not been under fire. The reason for that is not far to seek. The Department is an important one, and what is more, within the last 10 years or so the annual expenditure has been rising continuously. It seems to me that the main trouble, or the dissatisfaction such as exists at the moment, is because

Government has never — not within recent times and not within my knowledge—made any public announcement of its health policy. To my mind what we have been trying to do here is to tinker with the subject as we go along, and it is most unfortunate that in tinkering with such an important matter we have been increasing the annual expenditure under this vote. I recall very distinctly that not many years ago some attempt was made, and a branch of this Department was introduced in the form of a Public Health Department. The object of that Department is to prevent, as far as possible, the introduction of disease and generally to educate the people in the prevention of disease. That did not last very long; it lasted a few years only, and what is worse, the money spent under that head gradually found its way to what I would describe as the cure rather than the preventive side. So it came about that we reverted to the position as exists today. I think that if Government were confronted with the accusation that there has been no declaration of its policy that would be true, and I think it would be extremely difficult for that charge to be answered.

If our expenditure on hospitals is going up it seems to me that that is something we cannot avoid. The people of the Colony have grown hospital minded. Our Medical Officers—and I refer particularly to our specialist officers in the medical branch of the Service—are certainly doing good work, and like every business man, if your goods are good your customers will come. But I think the most important thing is that people no longer look upon a hospital as a prison, and they know that when they go there they will get satisfactory treatment. I have not risen merely to lodge a complaint against the administration of any particular hospital in this Colony, although I have reason to believe that there are some complaints in that direction. I know that there is over-crowding in the

hospitals, congestion at the Out-Patients Department, lack of medical officers and so on, but I do not think those are conditions which we can remedy merely by standing in this Council and making speeches. We must first of all find the medical officers, the accommodation and the equipment, and of course I realize the difficulties in that connection. What I am concerned about is that, although I speak as a layman, I do not think we approach the subject from the right angle, and it is only on that ground I have risen to make a few remarks.

We have with us now the malaria work that is going on, and I believe that the reports which have come in from time to time have been exceedingly valuable. We also have the Anti-Aedes Campaign, the expenditure on which has risen considerably from year to year. I recall the day when that work was started with a part grant, and partly with Colony expenditure. I have seen a steady growth in that expenditure without any satisfactory explanation or report. I do not refer to the report of the Medical Officers concerned on the number of mosquitoes removed from a particular area, or the number of gutters cleaned during the period. The kind of report I would like to see is an expression of opinion from the proper Officers concerned as to the progress that has been made, and as to the solution that is expected to be found. That is the kind of report I would like to see.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think the hon. Member is absolutely right. The officer has put up a most admirable review of the year's work, and if the hon. Member has not had a copy he should have, and I will see that he gets one.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I know the report the Colonial Secretary has referred to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Dr. Bevier's report,

Mr. de AGUIAR: In the course of my remarks I said I was not referring to the report of the officer concerned as to the work that has been done. That is not the kind of report I am thinking of at all. This campaign is costing this Colony quite a lot of money, and it seems to me that it is going to be with us for all time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not like to interrupt. The report has not only got statistics but conclusions, and there is no man in British Guiana more qualified to write that report, and no more informative report will be published by Government. Dr. Bevier is an absolute expert on the subject. Speaking from memory I think he has reached the conclusion that as a result of his work there is no chance any more of an epidemic of yellow fever in Georgetown.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I know the report the Colonial Secretary is referring to, and the nature of it. I know Dr. Bevier came very near to saying that, but I do not think he actually said that there is no immediate fear of an epidemic of yellow fever. If Government considers that report sufficient it is a matter for Government, but it certainly does not agree with the type of report I am thinking of. I think that report came from the Medical Officer in charge of the work. I am tempted to ask a question: If we are getting very near to that conclusion will Government make an announcement as regards the continuance of the work in the future? Is it going to remain an annual charge on our budget?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member ought to remember that in another place that subject came up for discussion, and he shared with others the view that the work should go on. It is a fact that he ought to know—that application has been made for a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I see that the Colonial Secretary is permitted to say

more than I am permitted to say of what I know in another place. It is perhaps on account of that knowledge that I am making the observations. I again say that I am aware of the point he has just made, but still that does not cover the point I am trying to make. If I am permitted to proceed—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: As soon as a reply to the application has been received the usual *communiqué* will be issued to the Press.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I think I had better leave the Campaign alone, because if I continue I may delve into details which I have no desire to do. I may say that I hope when the time comes for a *communiqué* or any Government announcement in so far as the Campaign is concerned, opportunity will be taken to make a general announcement of Government's health policy as a whole. If it is at all possible and not too much to expect, I would like to see these estimates divided into two parts—one section which perhaps would deal with the preventive side, and another section dealing with the curative side. I make that request most seriously, because I think it is only in that way the ordinary layman like myself would be able to follow any progress that is being made in that direction. One hon. Member referred to the health statistics of the Colony, but it would not be sufficient indication in my opinion—if my opinion is worth anything—as to the progress we are making in that direction, nor would it give me or the public at large satisfaction with the amount of money being spent annually for the upkeep of this service. I realize that in order to adopt the suggestion I have made it would be necessary for explanatory notes to be prepared in order to show where certain services overlap. I have no doubt that that would not be a sufficient excuse for such a suggestion not finding favour with Government.

There is one other general complaint I would like to make in connection with this head, and that is that I hope that as we have to continue for the present to tinker in this form—and by this form I refer to what appears to me to be the amalgamation of the two services—I sincerely hope that if and when there is any proposal for the extension of any particular service, either on the preventive side or on the curative side, very great care would be taken to see that there is proper co-ordination of those services. It seems to me that the two things could very well go together, and in that way we may hope to save some money, but looking through these estimates I do not think that is being done. For example I do not think that our sanitary inspectors are working together, with the people working on the Malaria or Yellow Fever Campaign. I do not think there is any co-ordination of those services. I see them every day in the street—men walking about with long poles with mirrors at the ends, looking at roofs and gutters. I do not know what they do. I understand that their numbers are increasing every day. I can speak from personal experience. In my own case I had a gutter running one way and I was told to put it the other way. When I did that I was told to go to the other end and push it up because—

Mr. SEAFORD: Is the hon. Member suggesting that the Municipal sanitary inspectors should co-operate with the Government sanitary inspectors?

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am referring to sanitary inspectors under this head.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I think the point is that sanitary inspectors in Georgetown are under Municipal control. There is no sanitary inspector under this head in the City.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am referring to sanitary inspectors and Yellow Fever inspectors.



The COLONIAL TREASURER: Sanitary inspectors under this head do not work in Georgetown.

Mr. EDUN: There are sanitary inspectors at Vreed-en-Hoop and Yellow Fever and Malaria inspectors too.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I wish to remind the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) that I am speaking of the Medical Department, and my remarks are not confined to the City of Georgetown.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member referred specifically to the City of Georgetown.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I said I saw them in Georgetown. There is one further point I wish to make. I want to invite the attention of the Head of the Department to the rise in the Transport and Travelling expenses. That item has become a bugbear to me particularly, because in every Department it seems to be rising continuously. There may be some satisfactory explanation, but the fact remains that the item amounts to over \$40,000 for this Department. That is a very large sum, and something ought to be done to control the travelling expenses of these officers. Do Medical Officers in the districts draw special commuted travelling allowances and at the same time enjoy the right to private practice? Am I to understand that if a Medical Officer is stationed, say at Bagotville, and his district extends to Wales, where he has to visit the estate hospital and incidentally attend a few private patients on the way, he is also entitled to draw an allowance for such travelling? I would like that particular matter to be gone into because our health services are being extended, and I agree that in some cases it involves additional travelling by some Medical Officers. If it is at all possible I would like some explanation to be given. It is because of these things that Members like myself offer criticisms on the expenditure of this Department

which is rising. Under certain heads to which I will refer I am inclined to think that the figures were put down—I am sorry to have to say it—because we have a lot of money. That idea has gone abroad—let us put down \$50,000 more here and \$25,000 more there.

At this stage the Council resumed and adjourned until 8.30 p.m.

#### NIGHT SESSION

8.30 P.M.—

The Council resumed, the President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon Lethem, K.C.M.G., presiding.

Hon. J. A. Luckhoo K.C., (Nominated) and Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River) attended.

The Council resolved itself into Committee for the purpose of resuming consideration of the Estimates for 1945.

#### MEDICAL.

Discussion on Head XVII—Medical—was resumed and the Chairman called on the Director of Medical Services (Dr. Hetherington) to comment on any question raised by Members.

Dr. HETHERINGTON (Director of Medical Services): Your Excellency, one hon. Member said this afternoon that my Department was suffering from indigestion and he proposed to administer a dose of salts. I do not propose to waste time in discussing the propriety of treating it with salts, as before the session is over, I am afraid we will be suffering from mental indigestion. The whole field of the Medical Department was covered in such a way that if I attempt to answer everything said I would be suffering from seasickness. I propose to deal briefly with certain questions which

were specifically raised, and the first one was in regard to the vote for Travelling Expenses.

From this Vote we pay the following monthly allowances based principally on the mileage travelled by Officers, named in every case, on the certificate of the Officers that the mileage was solely on Government business. Such mileage is scrutinized by the Head of the Department. Under that come the Director of Medical Services, the Deputy Director of Medical Services, the Health Officers, the Medical Superintendent of the Tuberculosis Hospital, the Port Health Officer, the School Medical Officer, the Government Medical Officer of Wakenaam and Leguan and the County Sanitary Inspectors. The District Medical Officers are paid their travelling allowance at a flat rate of \$36 per month, no matter how much travelling they do. That mileage is based on the assumption that 200 miles are travelled on Government business and the rest of the mileage is considered to be travelled on private practice. Some of these Officers travel up to 800 miles per month. Since petrol has become expensive and tyres difficult to obtain, they are complaining quite bitterly that they are doing a lot of Government mileage at their own expense.

Another suggestion was that Government should outline a policy in regard to its Public Health programme. That is a most extraordinarily difficult proposition, because Public Health work consists of a series of problems each requiring individual solution. Hon. Members may be aware that early in the year we sent a nurse over to Chacachacare, Trinidad, for training in the detection of leprosy. This nurse is now carrying out a leprosy survey of the schools. The examination of 4,000 school children has resulted in the detection of fourteen cases of leprosy amongst those children, and there are a number of other cases she has diagnosed but not yet confirmed. I

mention leprosy because there is an individual problem involved which no general policy will cover. In the case of those school children we have them under treatment. They are non-infectious and we anticipate they will not become infectious. We think that by so doing we have probably removed fourteen potential sources of infection from the population. We take further steps by going into the homes that those children come from and examining the family contacts to see if we can find the source of their infection, and by so doing we may remove further possible source of infection from the population. That is an individual problem, and that is the way we tackle it.

Tuberculosis, malnutrition, infant welfare are all problems each of which must be faced as an individual problem, so that when we are asked to state a general policy as regards Public Health work it is most difficult to do so. I may say that Public Health policy as such is not so much a matter of the Medical Department as it is of the Central Board of Health which is adviser to His Excellency on matters of Public Health and which we work very closely with, and the Deputy Director of Medical Services is the Chief Executive Officer of the Board. There were some very well informed criticisms, I think, of the Medical Service which is being given in the country districts. We have felt for some time that improvement is possible, and we visualize a unification of the Service, as you will see by the proposal to do away with Private Practice in the country districts and have the Medical Services given by whole time officers. If that fact is in evidence, financial considerations will certainly not to the same extent affect the way in which the patient is handled.

With respect to the service given in the Estate Hospitals, there are 21 such hospitals. These can never in

my opinion be expected to reach the standard of service which will be given in the main Government hospitals. It will be absurd to attempt to have them do so. It will mean duplication of staff and duplication of equipment which will be uneconomical. We cannot supply for instance, Mr. Grierson for every estate hospital nor supply other specialists and, in my opinion, the solution will be to establish a close *liaison*, so that an estate hospital will act as a filter and filter out the cases it is capable of handling. It can handle many cases quite efficiently and such cases should not be sent to the main Government hospitals but maintained in the estate hospital; cases which require special investigation or special treatment should be passed on to the main hospitals which are equipped to deal with that type of cases. In the Estimates hon. Members will see it is proposed to obtain three properly constructed ambulances of which two are to be attached to the Georgetown Hospital. If we are going to improve the Service we certainly must have a good ambulance service. It seems to me that if there are cases at the main hospitals suitable for estate hospitals we may remove them by our ambulances and at the same time they can bring from the estate hospitals cases that require treatment in the main hospitals. If this works out as I visualize, we will, I hope, take care of a patient from the time he is seen by a Government Medical Officer at his home to the time he is sent home cured. I take it that when a Government Medical Officer sees a patient in his home and his case requires hospitalization, we should provide the necessary transport. At the present time when the Government Medical Officer says a case must go to hospital and the patient has no money to hire a car to take him to hospital, that is just too bad. That, to my way of thinking, is the solution for the problem of the country districts.

I do not know there is anything else I wish to say particularly. It was suggested by one speaker that in respect of the Anti-Aedes Campaign in the choice of the personnel there was discrimination. I do not think there was discrimination. I cannot think there was discrimination. I have never come across a case, and I do not know a case, in which it is not so easy to make a charge of discrimination when the choice is based on the acceptance of the efficiency of the candidate. It is a thing impossible to disprove and I can only say I know of no such case.

The CHAIRMAN: We may proceed now with the Estimates. I would like to say I appreciate the manner in which the case has been put up by the Director. It was very clear and easy to follow. On page 36 I have one question to ask. You have item (23)—“Temporary Clerical Assistance.” Have you any explanation to offer?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Perhaps I had better answer that. If Your Excellency turn to Appendix K at page 53 where the Colonial Establishment is set out, it would be seen that part of the Medical Clerical staff is comprised of substitutes for Officers who are on secondment. The salaries of those Officers, who are on secondment but are actually permanent holders of offices, are not included in the item.

The CHAIRMAN: Seconded for what?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Primarily military service. At the foot of that page (53) the list of secondments is set out, and the highest number is for military duties. Of 39 Officers who have been seconded for war services 27 are on military service and the remainder is spread over Commodity Control Organisation, Censor, Naval Control Service, Yellow Fever Service, Social Welfare Organisation, Queen's College, Comptroller for Development and Welfare and Police (Traffic Officer)

The CHAIRMAN: It corresponds to an explanation of substitution for Officers on leave or military service. It may be shown as Extraordinary Service. As a temporary war measure it can be done that way. Thank you for the explanation, as nothing was given in the text.

*Item (14)—28 Medical Officers (\$2, 880 by \$120 to \$3,840 by \$120 to \$4,800), \$9,240.*

Dr. SINGH: In Finance Committee when the report on increased salaries of Administrative, Professional and Technical Officers in the Public Service was being considered, I made the observation that in all the branches Officers will receive their maximum salary in 5, 7, 8, or 12 years, but in the case of Medical Officers they will reach their maximum in 16 years. I thought it an oversight and I made an appeal to the hon. the Colonial Treasurer that I considered 16 years too long and asked if it could not be reduced to 12 years, either by making an incremental change or devising some other means whereby the duration would not be 16 years, because I felt that before the maximum was reached some of the men would be perhaps near the retiring age. I was in the Medical Service and spent six years in it. I would have reached my maximum salary in eight years, and in those six years I received extra emoluments by acting in several districts. I think this new scheme will be a hardship. The men who are in the Service now will be better off under the old scheme, as after a certain number of years they will be practising in the districts and receiving extra emoluments. The whole question is, that after an officer has reached the maximum of the lower grade the question of a bar comes in. Those men who have completed 10 years' service will go on to the higher grade, but those who have done 9 years and 10 months, or 9 years and 11 months, or even 9 years 11 months and 29 days will be debarred. I think that is a hardship.

The other point is, that in order to overcome this bar Medical Officers must have some extra qualification. It is not conceivable that in these five years of war in which it is so difficult for men to obtain leave in order to pursue studies, Medical Officers will be able to cross that bar. At the present time I hardly think the Director of Medical Services will agree to any members of the service obtaining leave to go and study.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like to correct the hon. Member. As regards Medical Officers, the proposal is only officers who have taken a post-graduate course leading to a higher degree in Public Health or other post-graduate study (to be approved in each individual case) will be eligible to proceed beyond the bar in the scale fixed at \$3,840. In introducing the new grade of salary, the Committee recommends that this bar should not be applied against officers who have more than 10 years' service.

Dr. SINGH: There are men in the Service with 5, 7, 8 years' experience who, when they joined the Service, were never told there would be a bar, and you can hardly expect those men to agree to it. Some may be eager to go and take up the extra qualification but, I am afraid, the longest period that is granted them now is five months' leave. What I suggest is that for the Medical Officers in the Service now there should be no bar; it should only be applicable to the newly appointed men. After the war they can be facilitated to study and obtain the extra qualification. I leave it to the Council to consider. It is a hardship on those medical men who have joined the Service with the idea to remain for a number of years and get the facility of Private Practice. It is a very good scheme, but you must consider those men who have joined the Service without any knowledge that a change may be made in the terms of their appointment.



*Item (7)—Medical Superintendent, Mental Hospital, \$4,800.*

Mr. EDUN: I see here in the Notes to page 36 that the Medical Superintendent, Mental Hospital, receives free residence. The position is this: Supposing a complaint comes to me as a Member of this Council against an Officer and I take up that complaint with the Director of Medical Services, and the Director tells me he does not feel there is any merit in the complaint, what will be my position? It does appear that the only alternative I have is to air the matter in this honourable Council. As a newspaperman very many complaints have come to me in so far as the administration of the Mental Hospital is concerned. Perhaps, I can give you two instances of irregularities. I may do so in the form of questions. Does this Medical Superintendent take in boarders? Do certain women inmates serve as domestics to those boarders? If I were to take up the time of the Council in narrating the complaints made to me, I would not be able to finish this evening. I want to send a man to Your Excellency; if Your Excellency would tell me that you would afford that man your protection, in order to bring these irregularities to your notice. If I get that assurance I would not say one word more on the administration of the Mental Hospital.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you say there are certain irregularities you want to bring to my notice?

Mr. EDUN: Yes, sir, I would send a man to you if you would give him your protection.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you talking of an ordinary member of the public?

Mr. EDUN: He is not a Civil Servant, but a member of the public working with Government.

The CHAIRMAN: Is he working at the hospital.

Mr. EDUN: Not at the hospital.

The CHAIRMAN: It is difficult for me to say what I will do. I am agreeable to receive the information from you direct or from your informant. Either is agreeable to me.

Mr. EDUN: Very well, sir, I will do that.

*Item (12)—Health Officer Tuberculosis (\$4,320 by \$120 to \$4,800) \$4,510.*

Mr. EDUN: I see here "Health Officer Tuberculosis." What is the difference, may I ask, between "Medical Superintendent" and "Health Officer?" Does it mean that this Officer is not a medical practitioner? I am at a loss to know why there is this difference.

The CHAIRMAN: I expect the Director of Medical Services will be able to answer that. Perhaps, I might ask him now.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: The Medical Superintendent at the Best Hospital and the Health Officer Tuberculosis is one and the same person. It is a dual post.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is asking why he is called Health Officer.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: Because he conducts clinics in Georgetown and visits people suffering from Tuberculosis in their homes and does other health work in regard to Tuberculosis.

The CHAIRMAN: We may say it is a wider title than that of Superintendent of the institution who does little or nothing outside unless referred to it, whereas the Health Officer does general duties.

Mr. EDUN: What I am particularly concerned about is the qualification of the Officer. If the Director of Medical Services is satisfied then I am satisfied, but I am not satisfied with



the administration of the Best Hospital at all, I want to bring to your attention this one salient fact. The hon. Member for Central Demerara in his speech this afternoon made a very important observation, that there is no programme or policy in so far as health conditions are concerned with the Medical Department. Maybe it proves what I took up with the Director of Medical Services—the question of planting banana trees in the Best Hospital compound. He treated it as if it was nothing much, just a trifling matter, but it showed how the wind blows. I was told definitely by the Sugar Companies that it is against sanitary laws for sugar workers to plant around their houses banana suckers, greens, shrubs like boulangers, tomatoes etc. The Medical Department agreed with that expert opinion, that there should be no planting around the houses. I was taken in because the experts are there and I believe what they say. I am to accept their opinion, but on the other hand banana suckers are being planted within the compound of a sanatorium, and the Director of Medical Services tells me it does not create any health hazard. That is something I am not prepared to swallow. But, sir, has it anything to do with economic conditions? Are the bananas to be grown there in order to support that institution? Here I see the Health Officer, who is there in charge of that institution, has done something against Sanitation and the Head of the Department is not courageous enough to tell him that he has done wrong. I have this much to say, the hon. Colonial Secretary went there and thought it was wrong to plant banana suckers within that compound.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not remember saying so; I do not recollect that. I have certainly been there, and I may tell this Council that I am most favourably impressed with the administration of the institution.

Mr. EDUN: Very well, sir. There must be a determining factor—what is health and what is not. If a thing is

not good for the sugar estates it cannot be good for the Best Hospital. I would not have taken up the time of the Council, but I do not know to whom I can go in order to get this matter determined.

The CHAIRMAN: I am interested to hear it and I will ask the Director to explain when you are finished.

Mr. EDUN: I wish to relate a very painful incident which shows that the Medical Superintendent is not co-operating with his subordinates. There has been an incident in which a common gateman, a porter, was threatened with a kick on his buttock. I took the matter up with the Director of Medical Services through the trade union, but the Director took the line of least resistance. He said: "Well, your Union is not recognized by the Department; send the man to me." I knew that would have happened to the poor man. Let that Medical Superintendent try it again. I have given him a chance. We cannot afford to have at the head of the administration of a sanatorium a man who would lose his temper in that way. We should have an officer in whom we can have confidence. That kind of thing I do not stand for, and I shall continue to waste the time of the Council to air these grievances if I cannot get the Head of the Department to tell me something.

Further than that, would Your Excellency believe it when I tell you that the same Medical Superintendent had men cleaning cesspits barefooted when the Regulations say that they must be given shoes or yachtings? That kind of thing we in British Guiana will not stand. I do not want to bring in racial questions here but I know the temperament of that officer, and Government should tell him very straight that this is British Guiana and British Guianese are a funny people—he had better be careful.

Mr. JACOB: I wish to support the complaint made by the hon. the Sixth Nominated Member (Mr. Edun) regard-

ing the attitude of the Medical Superintendent of the Mental Hospital. I have a letter on my desk; it is not signed but it gives various particulars regarding the conduct of this officer, and as my friend has asked Your Excellency's permission to send someone to you who would substantiate those complaints, I wish to support his statement. While the letter has no signature I think if a complaint is submitted and facts are stated, that complaint should be investigated. I propose to send that letter to the Colonial Secretary who could do what he likes with it.

I am asking you, sir, to take up to item 12, because I want to move the deletion of item 13.

Mr. LEE: I would like to make some comments with respect to the specialist officers of the Service referred to in items 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of this estimate. There are many persons in this Colony whose pride would not allow them to get into the line at the Out-Patients Department at the Public Hospital, pay a shilling and get a pauper's certificate which would enable them to see one of the specialists. After all there are people who, though poor, have a little pride, and I am asking Government, if possible, to permit persons to communicate with the specialist officers and make appointments for interviews. Sometimes persons who are being attended by private practitioners cannot afford to pay such practitioners the fees charged to enable them to consult a specialist. These specialists are paid by the public and I think their services should be available to the public. These specialists will not attend to persons unless they are patients in the institution or have a letter from a private practitioner. I agree that that is quite correct, but owing to the economic conditions I am asking that certain concessions be granted to the general public.

As regards the Mental Hospital I also have an unsigned letter, and I agree—and I would like it to be made public—that persons should not make complaints in writing unless they are prepared to sign their names. At the same time I am not prepared to disclose the name of any person who writes a complaint, but I want to be sure that the complaint is made by a genuine person who is either known to me or to someone else. I have had letters sent to me by persons who signed their names which I have not disclosed, and I do not intend to disclose such names at any time. I read the letter carefully—it is written by a very intelligent person—and some of the complaints seem to have some ground. I do not know whether it is a similar letter to that referred to by the hon. Member. I do not believe in anonymous letters. People who write letters to me must sign their names. They must trust me and I will—

Mr. JACOB: I may remind the hon. Member that if he did not disclose the name of the writer Government would not pay any attention to it. I was told so some days ago when he was absent from the Council—that unless the writer's name was disclosed Government would not intervene at all. Like my friend, I will never disclose the name of a person who writes to me, so nothing can be done.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I notice that the Medical Superintendent of the Leprosy Hospital seems to be the only officer who is not receiving \$4,800 per annum; his salary is \$4,440. I have just heard from the Director of Medical Services that a considerable amount of work is now being done in connection with school inspections and other services. I personally think, and I think the Council will agree, that the Medical Superintendent of the Leprosy Hospital holds a very important position in this community, and is an officer we should take our hats off to. It is not a pleasant job and I think it is very difficult to get a medical man to go up there. I

know that medical men do not like the post which one has to make his choice. I notice that the Health Officer of the Tuberculosis Hospital gets \$4,510. There seems to be some disparity there.

Before I sit down I would like to endorse the remarks made by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) who no doubt spoke feelingly as a lawyer. I can also speak feelingly about anonymous writing. It seems that certain Members think it is all right to write anonymously. They do not know, as we lawyers know, what misery is caused in this community by anonymous letters written by private individuals about other private individuals. They have not what is vulgarly termed "the guts" to sign their names. I also think that those people who refuse to affix their signatures to some of the most scurrilous articles should be given the "cat."

Mr. deAGUIAR: I am not quite sure what is the procedure this evening, because I want to ask a question with respect to an item on this page. I think it really arises out of the question Your Excellency asked the Colonial Treasurer in connection with the Clerical Establishment.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall I put items 1 to 12?

Question put, and agreed to.

Item 1 (13)—2 *Health Officers* (\$3,840 by \$120 to \$4,800), \$9,240.

Mr. JACOB: I move the deletion of this item of two Health Officers. In the report of the Committee which considered the salaries of Administrative, Professional and Technical Officers I supported the increase of these officers to the figure on the estimate, but when I did so I felt that these officers were serving a useful purpose and would continue to do so, but I have discovered—and during the general debate I raised the point—that these

Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors are not doing their duty very faithfully, and no reply to that charge has been given by the Director of Medical Services.

I will just relate a few facts in support of my case for the deletion of the item. I am not concerned with the men but with the measure. I do not know who they are, but I am certain that these Health Officers do no real practical work. The Central Board of Health threatened some poor unfortunate residents at Vryheid's Lust that the house they were living in would be broken down. The people interviewed the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) and myself and we visited the place and saw the house. While it did not conform to the Regulations we were perfectly satisfied that under the existing conditions that was the best house, and Government was not in a position to offer them a better house on a better site. If Government is not informed as to what is actually going on these Health Officers should advise Government of the thousands of people who want properly laid out lands to build houses, and that they want assistance.

If I am told that something is going to be done as regards rural housing my reply will be that that is as regards the Essequibo Coast. These Health Officers agree with whatever the Central Board does. They are paid by the taxpayers and should certainly represent the cause of the taxpayers, but they do not. As regards the case of the resident at Vryheid's Lust, I am glad to say that the threat was not carried out, and the house remains. These people would be willing to build their houses on properly laid out lands, but Government is not in a position to give them land or building materials. Why then threaten the people? Why have these officers if Government cannot carry out the Regulations? I say that the sooner Government abolished these posts the better.

The same thing happened at the Hague settlement. The people were taken before the Magistrate who ordered that their houses be broken down. I sent some of them to the Deputy President (Mr. Woolford) but I do not know whether he saw them. I also sent them to the Chairman of the Local Government Board. I do not know whether any report has been made on the matter. I think one of these Health Officers visited the Hague settlement. My point is that it is a hopeless waste of money to have these officers going around intimidating the people, and Magistrates fining them. No useful purpose is being served by their visits. I therefore move the deletion of the item, and I am going to ask for a division.

Mr. EDUN: As a member of the Central Board of Health I know that as a result of its relaxation policy the Board is not threatening anybody. I must say that the Chairman of the Board is very considerate, and I know of several instances in which he took it upon himself to flout the Board by preventing the breaking down of people's houses. I think the picture is completely changed now. There is much elasticity in the Board now, and I think it is contemplated that loans should be made available in certain circumstances. I do not think much hardship has been caused within the last six months. I have seen dozens of applications passed by the Standing Committee, and I think things have changed now. I think the hon. Member should wait a little and see what will be done in 1945.

The CHAIRMAN: I heard a good deal of that years ago and I brought it to the notice of the Director. I am satisfied that he has modified that policy, as the hon. Member has stated.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: I think the criticism which the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) has levelled at this Department would have been justified five years ago, or

even three years ago, but I think there has been a great change. I do not know whether the hon. Member has read the reports made by these officers from time to time. I do not think it is fair to say that these officers intimidate or harass the people. I know personally that they assist them a great deal by giving them advice, and I think the hon. Member speaks without knowledge of the work these officers are doing. He tells us he does not know who they are. Well, he cannot know about their work. (laughter).

Mr. SEAFORD: As a member of the Board I would like to say that the Health Officers carry out the instructions of the Board, and if there is any complaint to be made it must be against the Board and not against the officers. They do their work faithfully and well, and I do not think there is any member of the Board who would raise one word against them. There has been relaxation of the Regulations for much longer than six months, and that has been carried out consistently. It is the opinion of the Board that it should try to educate the public up to a standard of living, which does not exist at present, and it is only by bringing home to them the conditions which the Board thinks are essential to good health that there would be any improvement made in living conditions. In the great majority of cases there are people who do assist the Board by trying to put their houses in order, but there are others who continue to flout the Board, and those are the people whom the Board will persist in getting at.

Mr. JACOB: The hon. the Fourth Nominated Member (Mr. J. A. Luckhoo) is not a member of the Board, and I am sure he is not serious when he says that I do not know what I am talking about. I can give the names of the people, the Magistrate, and several other details, but we have not time for that. Here we have a difference of

opinion between two members of the Board. The Sixth Nominated Member (Mr. Edun) says that the Chairman has disregarded the rulings of the Board and acted independently, and the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) says that the Board is right.

Mr. SEAFORD: The Director of Medical Services is quite prepared to answer that question. I do not know of any case in which the Chairman has flouted the decision of the Board.

Mr. JACOB: There we have it. While the Sixth Nominated Member (Mr. Edun) says that there is relaxation of the Regulations as a result of the decision not to press the people, we have the Chairman supporting one of the members of the Board that that policy continues. I do not know what the Fourth Nominated Member (Mr. J. A. Luckhoo) will have to say now. My case is that it continues. Mr. Veerasawmy ordered the breaking down of a house at Hague, and on the East Coast of Demerara the same thing happened.

The CHAIRMAN: I will put the question "That the item stand part of the estimate."

The Committee divided and voted:—

For—Messrs. Roth, Jackson, Austin, Critchlow, de Aguiar, C. V. Wight, J. A. Luckhoo, Seaford, Woolford, Dr. Singh, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary.—13.

Against— Messrs. Lee and Jacob.—2.

Item carried.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: There are three cases of Medical Officers with less than 10 years' service who have not yet obtained the higher medical qualification, and are not entitled to cross the salary bar at \$3,840, but their salaries have been carried beyond

that bar in view of the fact that world conditions during the last five years have precluded them from pursuing the necessary post-graduate study. Increments have been recommended for payment on the understanding that those officers will be required to obtain the necessary qualification at the first available opportunity. The view we take is that an officer joining the Medical Service should be prepared to take the higher qualification so as to pass that bar, and that if he is not sufficiently interested in his work to do that his salary should stop at \$3,840. I do not think it is a hardship on such an officer. He is not an asset to the Service if he is not prepared to go higher, and I do not think we should want him.

Item 1 (14)—28 *Medical Officers* (\$2,880 by \$120 to \$3,840 by \$120 to \$4,800), \$112,140.

Mr. LEE: I would like to find out whether these Medical Officers are appointed at any point of the scale, or they must start at the bottom of the salary scale?

The CHAIRMAN: They may be appointed at any point.

Mr. LEE: If that is the policy Government is adopting I would like to say that several officers feel that it is not fair because they started at a certain salary and expect that they will be senior to other officers coming after them, except specialist officers. In my opinion—and I express the dissatisfaction of several officers in the Medical Service—it is not fair. As regards the Medical Officers I am going to plead with Government to ask the Director of Medical Services to see that outdoor patients at the Public Hospital are given more attention.

The CHAIRMAN: We will take that under Hospitals. We are now dealing with District Medical Officers.

Mr. LEE: As it pleases Your Excellency. There is another question. If,



as enunciated here, it is to be the policy of Government to stop Private Practice, I feel Government should erect Dispensaries in the several districts and within easy reach of the public where the public can obtain medicine at a cheap and reasonable charge. It has been successful in the district where it was introduced, and I feel it can be just as successful in the other districts. It will take some time, I feel, before that policy is adopted generally and in the meantime the public should know about it.

Mr. JACOB: I rise to support the remarks of the hon. Member for Essequibo River. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction in the Medical Service. I do not know if that is known to the Head of the Department. I would not like to see this Colony faced with the problem, as was the case with Trinidad recently, of several Medical Officers resigning. I cannot understand, when it is difficulty for people to go away on leave and take a post-graduate course, Government should bring in this policy and make it rigid.

The CHAIRMAN: I think there will be given some elasticity.

Mr. JACOB: If you are going to do that, it is all right. If you are going to be rigid and, as the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo says, if an Officer is a month short of ten years the rule is going to be applied, then I fear there will be trouble.

Mr. de AGUIAR: There is one point under item (14) that I had hoped those Members who spoke before would have raised. We are now endeavouring to improve the salary scale of these Officers and generally to alter their conditions of service. I presume that they will be allowed to exercise the option whether they care to go under the new conditions of service or prefer to remain under the old conditions. If that is the case, perhaps, Government may decide to impose a time-limit, because I do not think it would be cor-

rect for an Officer to remain at the moment without exercising the option and then in three years' time when the economic condition is changed come up and say "I do not want to remain under the old conditions, I want to come under the new."

The CHAIRMAN: That is always done. A certain number of months is given when there is an important change of condition in the Service. He is entitled to time to decide. That may have to be decided in Executive Council later on.

Mr. de AGUIAR: Will it be an executive act?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. LEE: May I enquire whether these Officers will be paid any back pay on their increment from January, 1944?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know.

Mr. de AGUIAR: That is where the exercise of the option comes in.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: But the idea was, if and when the Secretary of State for the Colonies gives his blessing to the proposals and the Council approves of them, Government will then come back to the Council with a resolution asking that it be paid as from the 1st January, 1944.

Item (18) — 3 County Sanitary Inspectors, \$6,960.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: There are three counties and I see two officers are paid at one salary scale and the other at a lower scale. I would like to know why this differentiation. I should think the duties imposed upon each County Sanitary Inspector are the same.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: The Essequibo post is considered a Junior post. I think there are only six Sanitary Inspectors under the charge of this

particular Officer as against 20 and more in Demerara and Berbice respectively.

Item (19)—49 *Sanitary Inspectors*, \$42,084.

Mr. LEE: Your Excellency, last year I noticed six new posts were added and that was placed in the Budget for 1944. I want to find out from Government whether the present appointments in the Estimates differ from the total at the 1st January, 1944.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: Six new appointments were approved for 1944, but the approval of the Estimates did not go through until May. At that time we had four trained candidates whom we might have appointed, but they were all working then with the Anti-Aedes Campaign. We also had a class of ten under training; they were taking a two years' course to graduate in November, and we considered it wise not to make those appointments until that class had graduated. The appointments were made from the 1st November when four Sanitary Inspectors were transferred from the Anti-Aedes Campaign and made Government Sanitary Inspectors. Two of the new graduates were also taken on, and all of the rest went into the Yellow Fever Service. So we took the whole lot into the Service. We did not consider it wise in May to disorganize the Yellow Fever Service when we had no trained men to take their places.

Mr. LEE: That is where I must ask and plead with Government on behalf of those six new appointees. The men were in the Service. The Yellow Fever Service after all is a Government Service for the benefit of everyone in the Colony. They were serving in the Department, and it was not that they were not qualified as Sanitary Inspectors. I ask that Government, if possible, should date their service as from the 1st January.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot possibly do that unless the appointees were qualified as Sanitary Inspectors before they entered the Service. I cannot possibly date their appointment back and call them Sanitary Inspectors when they were not. They were doing something else.

Mr. LEE: The other point is that some of them were Sanitary Inspectors seconded to the Yellow Fever Service which paid them more.

The CHAIRMAN: That is quite natural. They were in the Service with that rank and therefore got the pay. They cannot get the pay until their appointment to the post.

Mr. LEE: A certain Sanitary Inspector who was appointed in the Government Service was seconded to the Yellow Fever Service and got a higher salary in that Service. You are now taking him back into the Sanitary Service and will give him a lower pay.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot explain all the details of that.

Item (23)—*Temporary Clerical Assistance*, \$2,140.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I want a little explanation. I would have probably asked the hon. the Colonial Treasurer about it. I see the staff remains the same in numbers, but I am rather curious that the rise in expenditure is so high. It is true there is an addition of one Class I Officer, but I think the others remain substantially the same so far as grade is concerned, and yet I find in item (17)—*Clerical Establishment*—a rise in expenditure amounting to \$2,223, and in respect of item (23) there is only a slight reduction of \$310 although there has been no increase in the numerical strength. It is rather a matter of figures, and I will await an explanation.

Items on page 36 passed.

Item 9—*Furniture*, \$1,200.

The CHAIRMAN: Item No. 9 under "Other Charges!" In accordance with what I was saying in Council in the last two days, it is not quite necessary for this item to appear here. This item used to be \$400 and went up to \$600 and then it went up to \$1,200 for a specific purpose—to supply certain equipment and furniture required at Best Hospital. That having been done there is no need for that item to remain as a recurrent item of expenditure. It is so easy to slip through in a subsequent year as a current item after it is granted for a specific purpose. We all know that a vote of this kind is perfectly easy to be made current for an institution like the hospital or a school. It is convenient to have all furniture supplied under a Public Works vote either from the Public Works Department direct or, if convenient, to have the Director of Public Works allocate so much to the Head of a Department. That is the way we will handle furniture in my office, the Colonial Secretary's, the Attorney-General's; and every other office, except those three, will be grouped. Later when we come to the Public Works estimates I propose to adjust them by adding a little more to cover any such demands from a department. So I am going to move, if I may move it myself, the deletion of item 9 on the understanding that it will be adjusted under Public Works.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item deleted.

Item (32)—*Temporary War Bonus*, \$13,649.

The CHAIRMAN: Temporary War Bonus will be subsequently put under the Head—Extraordinary—so we have it all grouped together.

Item 11 — *Dental Treatment for School Children*, \$2,000.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I have risen to ask whether Government has received representation from His Lordship the Bishop of Guiana on this particular question. I know that a copy has reached me from His Lordship. It is a very important document. I feel some action ought to be taken. At the present moment dental treatment is confined to extraction and there is no attempt at treatment. I feel that it is a matter that requires minute examination. Since this item has appeared on the Estimates, there is a Medical Officer dealing with this particular thing but he confines himself to extractions, and so far as I know there is only one such Medical Officer.

The CHAIRMAN: I have not seen any such letter myself.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: The matter has been referred to the Dental Association who have promised to put up proposals before we finally consider it. The matter is left at that for the moment.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I also received a communication from His Lordship this afternoon and it is now on my desk. I promise to read it and send it on. Dental treatment for school children is a matter which has been discussed and, I think, if you are going to have an Advisory Committee it can investigate that matter.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I suggest that the proper body to deal with this is the Medical Board, because there are one or two Dentists on the Board. It has occurred to me that is the proper body to deal with it.

Item (29) — *House Allowances*, \$3,420.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: May I draw Your Excellency's attention to item 1 (29) —House Allowances. In the Explanatory Note the following details are set out:—

"Medical Superintendent, Public	
Hospital, Georgetown .....	\$ 480
Ophthalmologist .....	480
Medical Officer, Police, Alms	
House, etc. ....	480
Medical Officers .....	1,620
2 Sanitary Inspectors.....	360
	\$ 3,420"

I think when the appointment of Medical Superintendent, Public Hospital, Georgetown, was made, Your Excellency, we all thought that he should live within the institution compound, but temporary quarters had to be provided for him. I take it this item should not appear under recurrent expenditure but as extraordinary expenditure.

Mr. deAGUIAR: Are we going through the page? I want to move the reduction of one item.

The CHAIRMAN: Let us have your item.

*Item 2—Transport and Travelling,  
\$21,000.*

Mr. deAGUIAR: I want to move the reduction of this item because I have received, through the Director of Medical Services kindly supplying me, a memorandum giving details of the expenditure under this Head. It is not as detailed as I would like. It is not sufficient to let me know whether there is any real increase in the number of Officers who receive these allowances from this particular vote. For instance we have the same Director of Medical Services, the same Medical Superintendent of the Leprosy Hospital. There is no increase in the number unless a few Sanitary Inspectors who appear under (b)—Subsistence Allowances. It does seem that an increase of \$5,000 is an extraordinary figure.

The CHAIRMAN: The rates are increased. You will see that from the Note.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I do not think the rates apply to these particular Officers. I may be wrong.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The hon. Member is wrong. The rates of Commuted Fixed Allowances were increased by 25 per cent, and on the 1st January, 1945, by 33½ per cent. The fixed Allowances rates are by far the larger part of this item. Although I cannot vouch myself for the correctness of the figure, the hon. Member would realise that if the rates have gone up, \$5,000 it is not an unreasonable increase. The Travelling Allowances, as the Director of Medical Services explained, are fixed amounts of \$30 and they have been increased by 25 per cent. Those increases have been granted because of the appeals by Public Officers and in spite of those increases the appeals continued. The hon. Member is the owner of a motor car and will be able to substantiate the great increase that has taken place in the cost of running a motor car. While I cannot vouch for the correctness of the estimate, there is reasonable ground for substantial increase.

Mr. de AGUIAR: The hon. the Colonial Treasurer may be right and I am wrong, but the sum total of the amount estimated may still be wrong.

The CHAIRMAN: One-third increase will be more than \$5,000.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I think I am right this time. Most of the increases referred to took place last year.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I should add that the Subsistence Allowances are increased this year by 25 per cent. It is part of this amount.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am not speaking of Subsistence Allowances. That represents a very small proportion of that amount. That only calls for \$4,000 whereas the item is \$21,000. I am dealing with Travelling Allowances.

\$15,600, which is the figure stated for travelling, seems to me to be wrong. In any case what I am going to suggest is this, whether the hon. the Colonial Treasurer is right and I am wrong or *vice versa* the best thing is to carry out the figure at the same amount as last year and, if he is right, he can come back to the Council. I formally move that this item be carried out at \$16,000. While on my feet I am going to move the deletion of item 26.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I think I should tell the hon. Member that in 1944, the vote for the item—Travelling Allowances—was \$12,300. In 1945, the amount is put at \$15,600, a difference of \$3,300. Is that an unreasonable amount after what I have told him that there is an increase in the rates of Travelling Allowances?

*Item 26—Purchase of motor car for Medical Superintendent, Leprosy Hospital, \$2,000*

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: Am I to take the hon. Member seriously as regards the deletion of item 26? I really do not think he can be serious although he suggests it should be deleted. This Officer is away travelling around on official duty, I think, about 12 to 14 days of the month. I am satisfied as the owner of a motor car, although I do not do as much travelling because I cannot get the quantity of petrol, that this Medical Superintendent loses money at the present moment in travelling as the result of not owning a car.

Mr. LEE: May I enquire in respect of Travelling Allowances whether that includes the Yellow Fever Service—the men in the country areas? I think they cross the ferry by steamer and go down the West Bank, Demerara, on bicycles. If they are paid travelling allowances and claim bus fares, they do not travel on the buses. There may be some information on the matter.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: They are not paid from this vote at all.

Mr. LEE: I would ask Government to enquire into that. They travel on bicycles and, I understand, they draw travelling allowances for travelling on the buses.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: That is very small. The wear and tear of their bicycles tyres alone will be equal to the bus fares.

Mr. LEE: I am not saying it is an irregularity.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: I think the vote is the correct amount that is necessary.

Question “That the sub-head—“Transport and Travelling”—be allowed to stand as presented to Council” put, and the Committee divided, the voting being as follows:—

For:— Messrs. Jackson, Austin, Critchlow, C. V. Wight, J. A. Luckhoo, Seaford, Woolford, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—10.

Against:—Messrs. Roth, Edun, Lee, Jacob Dr. Singh, and Mr. de Aguiar.—6.

Item passed.

Mr. de AGUIAR: Before Members are asked to vote on the deletion of item 26, I would like to make this observation. The reason for my opposition is that I think it is a dangerous precedent for this Government to purchase motor cars for the use of Officers, in the performance of their duties. I visualise that if this principle is adopted it is not unreasonable to expect a number of Officers to make similar application and, I have no doubt, put up a very good case. In this particular case, I am not convinced, although I believe it is true, that this Officer as the result of the large amount of travelling he has to do is probably out of pocket, but I have heard the same story told by several



Officers. I am aware that if Officers wish to purchase a motor car for use in the performance of their duties this Government is willing to assist them in obtaining the necessary finance and to accept repayment under very reasonable terms. I think it would be a wrong thing to do, however good the case may be, for this Government to purchase a car and furnish an Officer with it to be used in the performance of his duties. If it is not so, then I can visualise hon. Members getting up and asking pertinent questions as regards the car being not only used for official duties but for private affairs as well. That is my reason for moving the deletion of this item. I do not wish this precedent to be established, and consequently I think that in doing so I am fair to the particular Officer concerned. He would certainly be embarrassed if he allows the car to be purchased by Government and handed over to him.

Mr. ROTH: I am inclined to agree with the last speaker.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Actually the first point I would like to say is that I agree entirely with the hon. Member that it will be most undesirable for Government to purchase cars for the use of Government Officers in the ordinary course of their duties. I have been listening with great care and have heard many Members accuse Government of being too rigid. I think Government should be allowed to use its intelligence. Although it is bad principle to purchase motor cars for Government Officers, there are circumstances which alter cases. It is not intended to purchase this officer's car and let him use it as a gift. It is intended to buy a new car and that officer will use it on duty and present a report for every journey. This particular officer does so many journeys that his cost is absolutely exceptional. He cannot possibly use his own car and draw travelling allowance under the Regulations without being very much out of pocket. Moreover, his car cannot stand up to the work which he is called upon to do in his official capac-

ity. Furthermore, the officer well knows what is the intention of Government, and I am told he welcomes it. I have no details with me but I can assure the Council that Government would not purchase a car for an officer who already owns one, unless it is a cast iron case. Any member who wishes to go into the mileage cost will be able to do so tomorrow. This is an exceptional case and the Director of Medical Services can probably give more details than I can.

The CHAIRMAN: Is he likely to carry a leper in the car?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: It is likely to carry a large amount of equipment from place to place. I would suggest that it might help if the wording of the item were altered. Perhaps it might read: "Purchase of motor car, Leprosy Hospital," because it will be a departmental car, and there are one or two examples of departmental cars, like those of the Paymaster of the Public Works Department and the Commissioner of Police.

Mr. ROTH: I was about to say that I was in agreement with the views expressed by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar), especially in view of the present circumstances in which it is very difficult for an officer to purchase his own car, but I must admit that the arguments put forward by the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer have convinced me with the other side of the matter.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I wish to support what the Colonial Secretary has said. I happen to know the officer concerned. I quite agree with what the hon. Member has said on the question of principle, but this officer has to travel 14 days out of 30. He has an unenviable job. I have travelled with him from Essequibo to Georgetown. I have discussed travelling with him. He has a most arduous job, and how he does it

without an assistant I do not know. He is working more than the average 12 hours per day. He has to travel from Charity to Skeldon without a break. It is impossible for him to use his own car and not be out of pocket. I was rather surprised that the hon. the Sixth Nominated Member (Mr. Edun) should discriminate with this officer because on the Committee which dealt with the question of travelling and subsistence allowances, of which I happened to be Chairman, I think the hon. Member was rather in agreement with travelling. In fact I think he pleaded generally for travelling of Unofficial Members.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: Once I agree with the principle raised by the hon. Member on my left (Mr. de Aguiar) I cannot help but agree with the remarks of the last speaker. This officer has to travel the great distance from Skeldon in the East to Charity in the West, and I think he would be out of pocket if he used his own car and relied on the subsistence allowance. I agree that in order to meet the point raised by the hon. Member the wording of the item might be altered as suggested by the Colonial Treasurer. It is the exception that proves the rule.

Mr. LEE: I absolutely agree with the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) and for this reason: Did Government know prior to the introduction of this item what distances this officer had to travel, and that his predecessor had travelled longer distances for several years without any effort by Government to purchase a car for him? I know that on one occasion that officer conveyed a person from No. 63 on the Corentyne to the New Amsterdam Hospital in his car. I do not see why this principle should be adopted in this case. In the case of the Police they have to keep pace with the fast moving era, and with the bandits. There are no bandits in British Guiana, but that is the reason the Police have put forward

for the use of cars. In the case of the Public Works Department the Paymaster has to travel to all parts of the Colony, and cash canisters are carried in the car. Because this officer has to travel from Skeldon to Charity to attend to certain people is no reason why he should be given a car.

Mr. EDUN: I have just seen the Civil Service List for 1943, revised to 1st July, 1943, and at page 167 I observe that the post of Medical Superintendent, Leprosy Hospital, is listed as vacant. It does not indicate who is the officer, and I am not concerned with the person.

The CHAIRMAN: That List is rather out of date. An appointment was made in April this year.

Mr. EDUN: The Council should be grateful to the hon. Member for Central Demerara for bringing this matter forward so forcibly. I agree with him that it is a violation of principle. I understand that this officer is supposed to be the resident Medical Superintendent, and should be living within the compound.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: He is living there.

Mr. EDUN: He should get a travelling allowance if he has to travel.

The CHAIRMAN: He resides at the Hospital but travels to Skeldon and Bartica.

Mr. EDUN: That gives the whole story away. He is the resident Medical Superintendent, therefore—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member should know that this officer does not use a car to get to and from work. He uses it to visit clinics all over the Colony where lepers are treated.

Mr. EDUN: I understand that, but why buy a car for him? I do not

admit that he has to travel as much as the Director.

The CHAIRMAN: Much more.

Mr. EDUN: The Director ought to do more travelling as Head of the Department. I remember very well that I was moved in giving consideration to the widow of the late Dr. Rose, but in this case I cannot be moved at all to provide a car for any Government officer. The impression is that a car is to be bought for one officer. That is not right; I think it should be a question of a travelling allowance. I agree with the hon. Member for Central Demerara that it would be creating a precedent, and whoever is responsible for the publication of the report should be condemned in no uncertain terms. Must we not have regard to the deficit?

Dr. SINGH: I would suggest that the car should be attached to the Leprosy Hospital. That would obviate further discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: I think everybody is agreed that that would be far better. In normal times officers would be glad to have their own cars, but under present conditions that is very difficult.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: The officer travels between 800 and 900 miles per month. It costs him about \$50 per month to keep his car—much in excess of the allowance he gets.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I think I am right in saying that District Engineers and Agricultural Superintendents travel over 900 miles per month. That is where my difficulty lies. Officers like those I have mentioned travel up and down the countryside day after day, and I am sure this officer has not got to do that. I am sure he attends the clinics on certain days only. Now that I hear that he travels between 800 and 900 miles per month the little bit of sympathy I had with the remarks of the

Colonial Secretary has gone by the board, and I shall have to press that the item be deleted.

Mr. EDUN: Wouldn't it be better to let him use his own car and give him an allowance?

The CHAIRMAN: I think we have ventilated the matter a good deal. May I put the question that the item stand as printed??

Mr. deAGUIAR: On a matter of principle I ask for a division.

The Committee divided and voted:—

For—Messrs. Roth, Jackson, Jacob, Austin, Critchlow, C. V. Wight, J. A. Luckhoo, Seaford, Woolford, Dr. Singh, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—15.

Against— Messrs. Edun, Lee and de Aguiar—3.

Item carried.

*Item 23—Training of Medical Officer in Bacteriology and Pathology, \$4,200.*

Mr. de AGUIAR: May I enquire how soon we may expect the officer who is undergoing special training in England at the Colony's expense?

Dr. HETHERINGTON: About August.

#### MEDICAL—X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. LEE: When a workman is injured and is entitled to hospital treatment under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, I think that if he has to undergo an X-Ray examination it should be free of charge to the injured employee. At present the cost is deducted from the pittance he gets as compensation.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I am surprised at the hon. Member's request. He

should not press his point because it might interfere with the compensation paid to the workman.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: May I enquire when the Radiographer is expected?

Dr. HETHERINGTON: He has been seconded for part-time service with the Military Authorities, but his services are still available.

MEDICAL—HOSPITALS AND  
DISPENSARIES.

Mr. LEE: I wish again to draw Government's attention to the fact that the Medical Officer on duty at the Out-Patients Department cannot cope with the number of persons who attend that clinic daily. The officer is told that he must get rid of all the patients, with the result that there is no proper examination. I plead that some attention be given the matter.

With regard to item 1 (13)—Nurses and Servants, \$304,617—a departmental Committee was set up to enquire into certain conditions of service affecting servants employed at the Hospital. I understand that the Committee submitted a report dealing with a request by laundresses and cooks for increased salaries. If Government has not yet considered the report of the Committee I suggest that consideration of this item be deferred.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The report has been submitted to Government and is being considered by the Commissioner of Labour in relation to other salaries of similar posts in other Departments. The matter will have to go to the Secretary of State and will come back to the Council. It will take some time, and the report will have to be printed. It affects 577 employees, and the amount involved is substantial. I cannot, therefore, offer any hope of a very early decision on that report. I do not think it would be wise to defer any item on the estimate.

Mr. LEE: When we consider that the substantive pay of these people is \$15 per month plus war bonus, in relation to the present cost of living I must plead with Government to do something for them as quickly as possible, even if it is only an increase in the war bonus. It will be appreciated that even in normal times a salary of \$15 per month is very small indeed.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I cannot do anything without seeing the report.

Mr. LEE: There is also the question of the conditions of work. Until recently certain conditions existed, but as a result of the petition and the report of the Committee the amount of work has been increased. These servants are labouring under very hard conditions, and I am asking that Government consider the matter and revert to the old system.

Mr. EDUN: Government ought to make an announcement in order to inform the employees what is the position. We have made certain recommendations but we have heard nothing about them. Government has a Bureau of Publicity and Information.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The report of the Committee has not yet reached the Executive Council; it is with the Commissioner of Labour.

Mr. SEAFORD: Is the hon. Member going to move that the item be deferred? If that is done I would like to know how those people would be paid.

Mr. CRITCHLOW: A salary of \$15 per month is undoubtedly too small, and I am asking that whatever increase is decided upon should be made retrospective.

Mr. EDUN: Whatever increase Government decides to grant should be made retrospective from the 1st January, 1944.



The CHAIRMAN: Time is getting on. I cannot answer that at the moment. I have not seen the report.

Mr. EDUN: Other civil servants have got their increases made retrospective from the 1st January, 1944. These employees should be treated in the same way.

Mr. LEE: May I be privileged to have a copy of the report?

The CHAIRMAN: We will see what we can do.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to lend my support to the plea made on behalf of these deserving people. \$15 per month is not a living wage, and while it is true they are getting a bonus of 25 per cent. their living conditions are exceedingly hard. I take it that these people have to work seven days a week at 50 cents per day. I think Government ought to look around. The Municipality pays women workers 84 cents per day, and I think the male workers have even better conditions. I think Government ought to rush this matter. After all a large number of people are involved, and any money paid to them will remain in the Colony and will be circulated. I think the Colony would benefit tremendously.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, we will get down to it.

*Other Charges—*

Mr. de AGUIAR: The increase under the head "Other Charges" is \$91,927. Frankly I am at a loss to know where to begin.

The CHAIRMAN: I tried to meet that this morning by saying that the Treasurer and I would get down to a minimum until we are satisfied. That is the best I can do.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I take it that Members might hope that before the end of 1945 is reached the item will be less than it is now.

The CHAIRMAN: I have not seen the details.

Mr. JACOB: I am a little surprised at my friend's remarks. When I look at the details of the increase I see that Dietary accounts for \$54,000, Clothing and Bedding \$11,000, and Medical and Surgical instruments and equipment, \$19,000. Of course Transport and Travelling shows an increase of \$4,800, and I have no objection to that item being reduced if it is possible.

I want to make a very strong complaint which has been made here year after year regarding the accommodation, bedding, and so on at the Public Hospital. I can understand that the institution is short of beds but I cannot understand why it should be short of mattresses and other necessary comforts for patients. Patients have to lie on the floor with just a sheet or a blanket, without a mattress or a pillow. This thing has been going on for several years. We have been promised over and over again that there will be some improvement. I would like to know if any improvement has been made and, if the position has got worse, what are we going to do about it. I think something ought to be done.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: I think the very figures which the hon. Member for North-Western District has quoted are really not in support of what he is saying. "Dietary" is increased by \$54,000, "Clothing and Bedding" by \$11,000 to make the patients more comfortable, and "Drugs and Medical Appliances" by \$19,000. All those are for the betterment of the people.

The CHAIRMAN: I agree it is an alarming rise, and what we are faced with is not to be able to carry within our revenue the cost of our Medical Service and how to get around that. I have actually called today for the original printed despatch touching Development and Welfare under which



provision for any service, if a Development and Welfare Service and if the Colony is unable to carry such service it can be put up under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. That is the position we may be forced to, and the next step to that is Treasury Control. I have it very much in mind.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I do not wish to press my views on the Council. I would rather accept Your Excellency's explanation of the position, but I do wish to make this very important point. I do so because the hon. Member for North-Western District gave me support which I may describe as half-hearted when he went on to say that he would rather support "Dietary" going up very much more. I am going to borrow his own book to let him see the force of my argument. In 1942, practically three years after the War had started, the figure was \$175,000 and today it is \$278,000. Between 1942 and 1945 we have got a rise of \$103,000 on that particular item. We have been saying that the hospitals have been full for years, and I do not think the answer to that will be there is an increase in the population of the hospitals. The answer must really be a rise in the cost of the goods that are purchased for the institution. If from 1942 to 1945 there is a rise of \$103,000—I have not the actual figure for 1938. I am wondering what that figure was at that time—I imagine it was very much less, and in that case the increase is rather enormous.

The CHAIRMAN: That figure is terrific, rising from \$108,000 in 1941 to \$278,000 in 1945.

Mr. de AGUIAR: And as I said, it cannot be said that there is an increase in the number of patients in the hospitals to such an extent.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not going to quarrel with the figure. I may say that things are done with great care. I look at the items before I sign the warrant.

Item 25—*Allowances to patients and discharged inmates of Leprosy Hospital, \$12,600.*

Mr. de AGUIAR: The Director of Medical Services may give an answer to both questions. In 1943 this item was \$5,600; in 1944 it rose to \$12,600. I do not recall at the moment what the explanation was at the time, but I see in 1945 it is proposed to carry out the item at the same figure. I have a recollection that when the increase was suggested in 1944 there was a specific explanation in connection with the rise. I want to know whether that position remains the same or is expected to be so in 1945.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has not made an actual motion on it.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I did not make a motion because I accepted Your Excellency's statement that the matter will be thoroughly gone into by you and I was quite willing to leave it at that stage. I require an explanation as regards item 25 only.

Dr. HETHERINGTON: It is an increase in the rates of allowances to those people, because in actual practice we have found that the discharged patients are not being employed and they are left on the verge of starvation. As an actual fact they were on the verge of starvation as the result of the cost of living having gone up during the war. Consequently the rates have been doubled.

#### MAGISTRATES.

The CHAIRMAN: I will take the item "Temporary War Bonus" out as an extraordinary expenditure.

Mr. WOOLFORD: In connection with this Head I have laid over a notice of motion dealing with the entire Head. It is not actually on the Order Paper because we are discussing the Esti-

mates. The Clerk has it and I am aware the hon. the Colonial Secretary is fully aware of its contents. It is a motion for the appointment of a Committee. I have been informed that a committee of a kind has been appointed to deal with this question. I do not know what the terms of reference are, but the hon. the Colonial Secretary is to inform me in writing. I hesitate to speak on this Head until I know actually what the position is. I may add that my motion proposes to deal with the appointment of a committee not merely on the question of the personnel of the Magistrates, but it involves also the question of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates and generally a good many other matters which I will explain when the motion is being made.

The CHAIRMAN: I am only aware of a short discussion in the Executive Council. Two Members of that Council—the hon. the Fourth Nominated Member and the hon. Member for Western Essequibo—are to examine the question you have raised and put up to us what is the position at the moment.

Mr. WOOLFORD: There are so many things I have to say about it. My motion is there and tomorrow is Private Members' Day, and I intend to ask that we proceed to discuss it then. I am anxious about it and I am not withdrawing it. I have spoken to the hon. the Attorney-General about it and I know he is very willing to help the committee when it does function. I would like to say under this Head that some years ago a circular was issued by the Colonial Secretary of the Colony who was then Mr. Waddington. It is a printed circular and is in the possession of the Magistrates' Offices. It is in the form of a direction to the Magistrates that when persons are admitted to bail and sureties are found who happen to have immovable property, the transport must be held by the

Magistrate's Office concerned. That is a very important matter because in my opinion no direction whatever should be given to a Magistrate as to the manner in which his duties performed by him should be exercised. That is a duty performed by the Magistrates. In actual practice it is not only leading to very great inconvenience but even hardship.

I shall explain shortly what I mean. When a man is admitted to bail he is either required to find a sum of money as an earnest against his future appearance, or he is made to enter into a bond with one or more sureties which is frequently and properly referred to as a recognizance. The person charged is made to sign it and the surety or sureties also. If the sureties have immovable property they are made to surrender the transport or some other title or letters of decree which are not many, I understand, at the present moment. As a legal instrument it has no value whatever and a deposit of that kind has no value, although those persons are ready and willing to stand as sureties for the persons charged. It seems to me that administrative direction to the Magistrates ought to be withdrawn because the Magistrates enforce it. They retain those legal titles and so prevent the persons who are acting as sureties from using those documents in other directions, as we know there are people who lend money on the surety of them, when out of kindness and without reward they stand as sureties for the persons charged. They can never get those instruments back until the cases are disposed of. My complaint about the matter is that it does not lie within the province of the Colonial Secretary to interfere with any form of the administration of justice. The point is, it seems to me, it would be quite sufficient if the number of the transport and the date of it be taken down by the Clerk and a note made of it on the recognizance. In the

event of having to escheat the property or any action having to be taken against the surety for the non-appearance of the person charged that will be there. The situation is not improved by the retention of the instrument as surety. I am sure hon. Members of Council who are legal practitioners will bear me out. I am speaking on behalf of the general public I do ask that an enquiry be made, and I would ask the hon. the Attorney-General to assist in the matter. I cannot see why the Magistrate should observe it. The Magistrates are under the administrative oversight of the Attorney-General. It was done years ago, and I regret that although I refer to this matter in this assembly very frequently the practice still obtains.

Mr. LEE: I did not know that Your Excellency had appointed a committee in respect of the Magistrates' jurisdiction. I am glad to hear that, and I will not say anything about that because I do not know what are the terms of reference. But what I would say is this: There is still congestion of work in Georgetown and at Mahai-ca and Mahaicony and unless something is done it will continue to pile up. I have many civil cases pending over two years, and it is not fair to the public.

Mr. J. A. LUCKMOO: I hope very soon that the hon. Member for Western Essequibo and myself will deal with this matter. It is not necessary for me to say anything on the anticipated decision we may recommend in this matter. I would like to draw Your Excellency's attention to some of the Courtrooms in the County of Berbice. I was only Wednesday last at the Reliance Court. It was the second time during my practice that I visited that Court. The Courtroom, which was erected there many many years ago, is very small indeed in so far as space is concerned. There is little or no room left for practitioners to sit at

the Bar table which is almost immediately in front of a prisoner who may be tried and a witness who may take his stand in the box. It is a most inconvenient Court. The Magistrate has a little room but he is unable to fix a table in it to have his meals on and he has to recourse to having his breakfast on the Bar table when the Court adjourns for the mid-day recess. Apart from that, there are other Courtrooms — Whim, Springlands—where there is hardly very much space. I think Your Excellency visited Whim. It seems that justice may sometimes be defeated because witnesses on the other side can lurk around the corner and see and hear what is going on in the Courtroom. Complaints have been made that Police Constables interested in the prosecution have actually taken out notes to witnesses outside. That does not make for good administration of the law. I think these Courts ought to be housed in the upper storey of the buildings rather than on the ground floor. Some of the Courts are in a very shabby condition. If we want to impress upon the public the majesty of the law, then we should have proper buildings to house the Courts. That is the only way to preserve and uphold the dignity of the law. I make these remarks because I think some attention ought to be paid to the condition of these Courts. Even the furniture need attention. There are no chairs, just some benches, and the non-Commissioned Officer of Police has to lend furniture from his own home. I think something should be done for those Courts in Berbice.

There is another item which I would like to draw Your Excellency's attention to. It is item 5—"Crown Witnesses Expenses." I think it is an abominable waste of public money to have this vote increased from year to year. I know of cases, probably they are not brought to the attention of the hon. the Attorney-General, where persons are asked to attend Court who are useless in giving evidence for the Police but

are there to make up numbers, and for every day they attend they ask for fees. This item has been growing a great deal. This Council is being asked now to vote \$18,230 to pay Crown Witnesses expenses. I think some investigation should be made as to how these witnesses are paid. You may have the postponing of a case probably twenty times and, although witnesses are warned not to attend, still they do attend and receive payment for their attendance. I think some investigation should be made and I would ask the hon. the Attorney-General to make some enquiry into the matter. Some of the witnesses who attend the Courts are now known as "professional witnesses;" they make it a profession to attend the Courts and draw several amounts from time to time. I am not going to speak at length on this item because my hon. friend on my right, Mr. Woolford, has a motion, I think, which he desires to have debated and that is the proper time for me to do so as I am anxious that we should get through the items of expenditure.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I only rise to find out when the hon. Member for New Amsterdam made reference to a committee of some kind, whether he referred to the subject matter or the personnel.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am not a legal man, but there is one question I would like to ask which came to my notice. It is true we have recently considered the question of salaries generally for the Magistrates, but I understand there are some Magistrates, maybe one or two but I know at least one, who ever since their appointment are still drawing the minimum of the post. That is, a Magistrate who is confirmed in the post. There must be something wrong. My information may not be strictly correct, and I would like to know if that is the case. I believe acting Magistrates do draw a

higher salary than the minimum stated here. It seems a hardship if what I learn is so.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: There are only three points mentioned. The hon. Member who has last spoken made the point that some Magistrates appointed at the minimum salary are still drawing it. He is misinformed. No Magistrate is at the minimum salary as the increments are annual. The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Luckhoo, spoke about the condition of the Courts in Berbice. The last time I examined those Courts was in 1941, when it so happened they had just repaired the Berbice Courts and they were by far the best in the Colony. However I do thoroughly agree with him that not one Magistrate's Court nor the Supreme Court is worth its name. You can hardly expect me to take steps to recommend the wholesale rebuilding of Magistrates' Courts or the wholesale repainting of them.

As regards the question of furniture mentioned by the hon. Member, it is curious that I have had a report from no Berbice District until last week when the shortage of chairs was mentioned. Provision is made for that within the limits of the vote which hon. Members have before them. The disused benches we will replace.

The hon. Member also mentioned the question of Crown Witnesses and the growth of the vote. It is quite true that the vote has grown every year since I have been here, but the fact is that litigation has increased considerably since I have been here. In times of prosperity it increases very fast. Judging from the litigation in the Courts last year people are prosperous. In all the District Courts litigation has increased, and that means that the expenses for Crown Witnesses are going to be very much higher. I agree with what the hon. Member said that professional witnesses should be stamped out. I will cer-



tainly ask the Commissioner of Police to look into the matter. At the same time I may point out that this vote is a very small concern of this Colony, because actually 82½ per cent comes back in payment by the parties concerned. So really the increase of the vote is not material to swell Government's expenditure.

The hon. Member for New Amsterdam mentioned the question of a circular from the Colonial Secretary some years ago, and he reminded me he had complained two years and no action was taken. As far as I am concerned that is perfectly true from the date of that debate two years ago. It completely slipped my memory. I have made a note here, and I will look into the question of the origin of the circular and see if it is possible for it to be withdrawn.

#### POOR.

*Item 1 (a)—Superintendent, Alms House, and Secretary, Poor Law Commissioners (\$2,400 to \$2,880 by \$120), \$2,400.*

Mr. ROTH: This Officer's salary for the coming year is put down at \$2,400. As a Poor Law Commissioner I am in a position to know that with the addition of the Old Age Pension work this Officer's work has very nearly doubled. I understand his 1944 salary is \$2,280, and under this new scale he will retire before he reaches his maximum. The increase he has been given, despite the increase of work, only amounts to \$120 for the first year. I understand that he was led to believe very confidently that in view of the very great increase in his work he would have been put on the same status as a Chief Clerk by the Social Welfare Officer and also by the Chairman of the Poor Law Commissioners' Board. The point I am trying to make is this: He has been given quite a reasonable increase according to the estimates, but the point is that he will not be in the Service to enjoy the

full benefit of it. I think he will retire in the next three years before he reaches the maximum of the scale. His work has been almost doubled in the last two months on account of his having the burden of the Old Age Pensions for the Georgetown area, which is no little work. I am asking whether Government cannot see its way to give him at least two increments in order that he might reach the maximum before he retires. It is a very deserving case, and I think the hon. Mr. Jackson can bear me out in the matter.

Mr. JACKSON: Every word uttered by the hon. Member who has just spoken, is correct. We have had intimate association with the work of the Poor Law Commissioners and the Superintendent and Secretary, and we certainly can testify to the increased work put upon that officer by the Old Age Pension Ordinance. Speaking for myself I think that work might well have been performed by a whole-time officer of high grade, and I think that some better consideration might be given to this officer on account of the additional work he has to perform, and the excellent work he has done in the past. As the hon. Nominated Member mentioned, we were all of the impression that the officer had been strongly recommended for the post of Chief Clerk at the maximum salary, but so far as my information goes that was wrong, and now he is put at the bottom of the scale. I think the request made by the hon. Nominated Member is a moderate one indeed—that the officer might be given two increments so that his remuneration might come pretty near to what he might expect for the additional work imposed upon him. I do not know whether the Colonial Treasurer will have any objection to giving his support to the appeal we are making, and I feel sure that, having regard to the service given by the officer and the additional work imposed upon him, this Council will not object if Government is disposed to give him a little more consideration. I do not think it requires any more words from me to impress upon this Council that this officer deserves a little more con-



sideration, and I make the appeal confident that something will be done to show that Government appreciates the additional work put upon him.

*Item 4—Dietary, \$52,000.*

Mr. de AGUIAR: I observe that there is a reduction of \$4,000 in this item. It is true that the explanatory note says that the number of inmates in the Alms House has been reduced, but I cannot imagine that the reduction in the vote could be so great.

The CHAIRMAN: There is more money about. It is a curious fact. There is a substantial reduction each year. Admissions have gone down 70 or 80.

Mr. de AGUIAR: There was an increase of nearly \$9,000 on the Dietary vote in 1944.

Mr. ROTH: There are over 2,000 persons receiving out-door relief in the Georgetown area.

Mr. de AGUIAR: My point is that the Dietary vote has actually been reduced for 1945. A reduction of 80 in the number of inmates does not show up the vote under "Hospital" in a very favourable light.

The CHAIRMAN: The Dietary vote is now down to \$52,000. I cannot explain that. I will make a note of what two Members have urged about the Superintendent, but I imagine that it comes within the statement I made the other day, and I cannot at this stage make any promise, but I will bear the matter in mind.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: It is quite true that a recommendation did come forward from the Poor Law Commissioners that this officer should be promoted to the status of a Chief Clerk, but the weakness of the argument in the correspondence is the extraordinary plea that he should be given the maximum

which would affect his pension. There are several officers who would like the same thing. A good deal of stress is laid on the fact that the officer is going to retire. That is hardly an argument to put forward. Again, this officer was given promotion from a lower grade to a Senior Clerk as recently as the 1st January, 1943. He has now been promoted again to the grade above. The matter was carefully considered and it was thought proper that he should start at the minimum, because there were many cases of the same kind.

The CHAIRMAN: He has had two promotions in three years.

Mr. ROTH: The very fact that he was promoted so recently from a junior position to one of responsibility, and that quite recently that responsibility has been doubled, shows that he must be a very responsible officer.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, we will bear it in mind.

*Item 19—Conveyance of Mental Patients, \$1,300.*

Mr. de AGUIAR: There is an increase in this item, and I invite Your Excellency's attention to the explanatory note. I do not know who has anticipated an increase in the number of mental cases.

The CHAIRMAN: I suppose some good reason was put up.

Mr. LEE: I understand from medical men that the substitute for quinine is causing this trouble. (Laughter).

Mr. de AGUIAR: Are we going to allow the explanatory note to remain?

Item agreed to.

SUPREME COURT

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: With all these increases in the Civil List I think the salaries of the Judges will have to be considered.

The CHAIRMAN: I raised it at the Colonial Office last October. It will come up. I will delete item 10 (Furniture—\$300). This is another instance of a vote getting in and jumping up and up.

Item 10 deleted.

TREASURY—INCOME TAX OFFICE

The COLONIAL TREASURER: As printed, this estimate must be regarded as completely *pro forma*. Hon. Members know that the Income Tax Officer is with us, and he has promised to report before the end of the year. I know he is going to recommend a re-organization of the office. He has hinted to me some of the things he will recommend—for instance that there should be one whole-time Commissioner in addition to the two part-time Commissioners, one being myself and the other Mr. King. He will also recommend the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner and the strengthening of the staff by two or three other officers. Government will put before Council proposals for the re-organization of the office early next year.

Mr. JACOB: Two Commissioners are listed here and I think it was understood—

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I know the point the hon. Member is making—

Mr. JACOB: I have made no point yet. I think that now that the Treasurer's remuneration has been increased—I think it was understood that even in the case of an officer doing additional work (I do not know if this is additional work out of official hours) there should be no increase of pay. I understood that the Treasurer's salary was £1,100, and that he received another £100 as Commissioner of Income Tax. Now that his salary has been increased I do not know whether it is intended that the £100 should remain under this head.

The CHAIRMAN: It will not be drawn.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I would prefer that the whole estimate should remain as printed.

Mr. JACOB: As regards the other Commissioner I do not know whether he has been doing this work at all. I think he was absent from the Colony for some considerable time and was doing other work. I think the post is not merely a nominal one. The other Commissioner draws fees in addition to his substantive salary, and it has caused a serious anomaly. I will not say anything more.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: These are specific posts. I was appointed a Commissioner of Income Tax before I became Colonial Treasurer. It was the salary paid to me as Commissioner. Similarly, Mr. Percy King holds that post which is a statutory post, for which he is paid a special salary. I do not think it is fair to regard it as an allowance. It is quite true that the bulk of the work is done within official hours, but a large proportion is done out of official hours.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I was wondering whether the hon. Member was moving the deletion of the item.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I think the hon. Member was making another point with which I agree. I refer to the question of allowances generally, and I think Your Excellency has that under review already.

LEGISLATURE.

The CHAIRMAN: I propose that we revert to the heads which were held over. We might take first the head "Legislature" on page 2. The question of the duty allowance to the officer performing the duties of Clerk to the Councils was considered in Executive Council the day before yesterday, and it was decided to delete the item of Clerk of the Councils as a substantive post, and

include the officer in the clerical establishment. That requires no actual change in the figures. On the question of the allowance the Treasurer will explain what is proposed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I have a note of the decision in Executive Council which will appear as an explanatory note in the revised Estimate. It reads:

"To permit of the payment of a duty allowance not exceeding \$10 per month each to any Secretariat officers whose salary is less than \$1,680 (efficiency bar in Class I scale) performing the duties of Clerk of the Executive Council or Clerk of the Legislative Council."

In its application the Colonial Secretary will appoint any suitable clerical officer of his Department to the duties of Clerk of this Council or of the Executive Council. If, as it frequently happens, he has to appoint an officer of comparatively junior rank—either a Class I or a Class II clerk below the point in the scale, I have mentioned, he would be given an allowance of \$10 per month. The reason for the allowance is clear. The duties of Clerk of this Council are extremely responsible and onerous. They involve a lot of overtime work, and in general they are more arduous than those of the ordinary Secretariat officers. It seems quite fair that there should be an allowance of that sort. If it is possible to assign a much more senior officer—a Senior Clerk or a Class I officer higher in the scale—the allowance would not be drawn by such an officer. If also the officer happens to be getting just under \$1,680 he would get only so much of the allowance as would bring him up to that point. I therefore suggest that the item be allowed to remain as printed, with an explanatory note to that effect.

Mr. de AGUIAR: The explanation meets my objection to the item, and I beg leave to withdraw the motion which I think I moved at the time.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it is a suitable compromise. We also discussed the question of election expenses which,

of course, should not come under the head of recurrent expenditure, as it is intended only to provide for an occasional by-election. It will therefore have to be treated as an extraordinary item. We do not wish to insert a figure today until we have some kind of estimate, possibly from the Committee to be appointed.

#### COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

The COLONIAL TREASURER: That involves a consequential increase under the head "Colonial Secretary's Office," and I move that that head be recommitted

Agreed to.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that item *f*—Clerical Establishment—be increased from \$20,600 to \$21,800.

Item as amended, agreed to.

#### ANALYST

The CHAIRMAN: We will now re-commit Head IV.—Analyst—to reduce item 6—Miscellaneous—from \$180 to \$80, and to delete item 7—Furniture, \$200. As already explained, both these items will be included under "Public Works."

Amendments agreed to.

#### CUSTOMS.

The CHAIRMAN: I propose that we do the same with respect to Head VII.—Customs—to delete item 10—Furniture, \$500.

Agreed to.

#### LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The CHAIRMAN: We have to do the same in the case of the Labour Department, item 8—Furniture \$300. The sum of \$995 was spent in 1943 in fitting the office. That having been done, there

is no need for further extraordinary expenditure to that extent. If there is any demand it would be met from the lump sum vote under "Public Works."

Item 8 deleted.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: May I refer to two heads which were left over? Your Excellency referred them to my Committee who met and had before us the Principal of Queen's College and the acting Chairman of the Board of Governors. I think they were able to satisfy my Committee that there should be an allowance to the School Librarian and

Book Store keeper of \$180, as appears on the estimate.

The CHAIRMAN: We had better take that up in Executive Council. There are certain points I wish to raise myself, not only on that item but on others.

As I mentioned this morning, I propose to take those Bills which the Attorney-General says are important and necessary to be passed early, at 2 o'clock tomorrow.

The Council resumed and adjourned until the following day at 2 p.m.