

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Wednesday, 12th December, 1934.*

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, SIR CRAWFORD DOUGLAS-JONES, Kt., C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

### PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. P. W. King (Acting).

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

The Hon. T. T. Smellie, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo (Eastern Berbice).

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

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, M.R.E., Colonial Treasurer (Acting).

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

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

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

The Hon. J. A. Henderson, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc. (P.H.), (Edin.), D.T.M. & H. (Edin.), Surgeon-General.

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

The Hon. J. L. Wills (Demerara River).

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

### MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 11th December, 1934, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

### UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

#### FLOODING OF LIMA VILLAGE.

Mr. BRASSINGTON gave notice of the following questions:—

What steps, if any, are Government taking to prevent a recurrence of the flooding of the Village of Lima, on the Essequibo Coast?

Has the Commission to examine and report on the economic condition of the Essequibo Coast been appointed, if so, will Government state its personnel, and when is it likely to commence its investigations?

Mr. DE AGUIAR laid on the table a petition from Ramjit Singh praying for a gratuity to enable him to pay for expenses incurred in connexion with injuries received by his wife and daughter as the result of a collision between a motor lorry of the Public Works Department and a cart in the vicinity of Plantation Lusignan.

## ORDER OF THE DAY.

## COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The Council resumed the debate on the following motion:—

That the Council do resolve itself into Committee to consider the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1935.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. P. W. King): When the Council adjourned yesterday afternoon I had dealt with some of the points raised by hon. Members in the course of the debate on the Budget. There are just one or two more points with which I should like to deal. The first is as regards development schemes. The Hon. Mr. Seaford said that people hesitated to go in for development schemes in this Colony owing to the fear that as soon as they started they would be practically ruined by Government imposing taxation on them. I hesitate to think that would be the position because in the past few years Government has shown that it is willing to help any development schemes that may be put forward. In fact by the passing of special legislation, and also imposing prohibitive duties on imported articles of a similar nature to those proposed to be manufactured, Government has shown quite clearly that it is quite prepared to assist people who are willing to start industries, and I do not know why the hon. Member should imagine that it would be the desire of Government to impose taxation on those people. Perhaps his view is that Government may be forced to do so, but I do not see why he should take that view myself, and I hope if people are willing to start industries they will do so and do not anticipate that Government will do everything in its power to kill them. Although there are no development schemes put forward by Government I think the Council is aware that a Committee was appointed with regard to flood relief works and recommended certain works which, although not development works, will, if approved, provide considerable employment and have a good effect both on revenue and the welfare of the Colony.

Several hon. Members commented on the fact that this is a Crown Colony, and they seem to think that the officials in Downing Street have no interest in this Colony. I do not think that

can be accepted as a correct view. In the past few years this Colony has received very large sums from the Imperial Government during the time of stress, and the Downing Street officials, I submit, have clearly shown that they have the interest of the Colony at heart and are willing to help in every way they can. In fact when we go to them with schemes of development and relief of unemployment they have always helped us and will continue to do so. It is true that some hon. Members have urged that if we had representative government this Colony would be much better off. I was born in this Colony and have lived here all my life, and I expect to die here, but I do not think I am too anxious to see representative government in this Colony. I am a Government official but I have the interest of the Colony just as much at heart as any Elected Member. We have had the case of Newfoundland where it has been shown that representative government did not prove the blessing the people thought it was. We are all entitled to our views even though some of us are Government officials. It is not fair, in my opinion, to charge the Downing Street officials with absolute neglect of this Colony. The Imperial Government has given us a great deal of assistance and is prepared to continue to do so. When the depression is over this Colony will have to carry on on its own, and I am quite sure it will be only too pleased to be relieved of the burden which it must bear at present.

Remarks were also made about public officers in this Colony being birds of passage, and therefore had very little interest in the Colony. I consider that an unjustifiable attack upon public officers who come to the Colony and serve their time. After all they are paid salaries for doing their work, and I submit that they have shown by their actions and the work they have done that they are conscientious officers willing to do all they can for the benefit of the Colony, and they thoroughly earn the salaries paid them. We hear in the Council and see in the Press, reference to highly paid Government officers. I have never met them. I do not consider any of them overpaid for the work they have to do. I think they all work hard for their salaries, and I do not consider they are at all overpaid. Perhaps when the Colony's finances improve the Council will approve

of the suggestion by the Hon. Mr. Seaford that they should be better paid. In times of depression Government officers, like others, must suffer, but I do object to those remarks about Government officers being merely birds of passage.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I rise to a point of correction. I did not hear the remark at all yesterday. I am always making it, but I did not hear it at all yesterday. I object to these castles being reared and knocked down by the Colonial Secretary himself.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think the Colonial Secretary is referring to the hon. Member's speech at all.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The remark about birds of passage was not made by any Member yesterday.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: What this Colony suffers from is the fact that of the people whose wealth was made in this Colony very few reside here. (Hear, hear). That is what affects this Colony more than anything else. In Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados you will find that people who have made their wealth in those islands reside there, and that has a very good effect on those Colonies. It must have. There are lots of people who come here and make money and then shake the dust of the Colony off their feet. They retire and spend their money in England. Those are not Government officers only. I do not think any Government official ever leaves the Colony with much money in his pocket. There are other people in business who make vast sums of money and retire from the Colony, and that is the last we hear of them. I think if they remained and spent that money here the Colony would be far better off. I do not know if the time will ever come when we will be able to impose a tax on wealthy absentee proprietors. We might be able to balance our budget without any trouble, but I am afraid that is a proposition that will not find very much favour with a good many of the people in this Colony.

I do not think there is very much more I can say except that in conclusion I would like to refer to the remark made by the Hon. Mr. Walcott that he hoped

when we are going through the Estimates item by item it would be possible, with the co-operation of the Elected Members, to save the \$384,000 which we are asking for on loan. I hope it will be possible but I cannot see how it is going to be done. Perhaps the Elected Members will be able to point out how it can be done. I would just like to point out that the \$384,000 might be easily saved if we struck out the various extraordinary public works which have been inserted in the Estimate, amounting to something like \$150,000. Those items have been inserted in order to provide unemployment relief works in most cases. That is a point which the Council cannot overlook. Government has to make provision for works of that nature. Many of them are undoubtedly unproductive, and many of them I daresay we will be told are an absolute waste of money, but a good many of them have been undertaken merely with the idea of giving relief to the unemployed. Government considers it absolutely essential that provision of that nature should be made. If Elected Members who represent the people say we cannot afford it, by all means strike the items out, and the responsibility will be theirs. They claim to be representatives of the people, let them strike them out. There are other works representing large sums which Government considers necessary, though I daresay if we ran Government as a business concern no provision would have been made for them. The Pure Water Supply scheme is also going to cost quite a lot of money—\$34,000 in absolutely essential works—but there again it is for the benefit of the people, and if the elected representatives of the people say that the people must not have it that is a matter for them.

There are other works in connection with the Transport and Harbours Department which Government, having taken over the Department's reserve funds, must now make provision for. I refer to the replacement of steamers for which purpose a sum of \$200,000 has been provided. But if the Colony does not want proper transport facilities and people should be inconvenienced, that amount can be struck out also, and we will carry on with the old steamers until they become derelict when the Department would be closed down. That is how a

business would be run. When it is no longer paying it would be closed down. Government cannot run its business in that way. There are lots of things we might close down if it were simply a business concern, but the Colony's affairs cannot be run in that way. It may be very easy to balance the budget by striking out these amounts but, unfortunately, Government considers they must remain in.

There is nothing else I desire to say in reply to the remarks made by hon. Members, as we have been warned by them that various points will be raised as the items are reached on the Estimates, and replies will be made categorically. I do hope that Elected Members of the Council will go through the Estimates and make suggestions that will be constructive and not merely destructive. I daresay there are quite a lot of items which Government can be persuaded to leave over, and I am quite sure if proper representations are made they will be left over, but there are others which will have to remain in.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

The Council accordingly went into Committee to consider the Estimate of expenditure for the year 1935.

Mr. SEAFORD: I wish to refer to a remark made by the Colonial Secretary. It has just dawned on me that the reason why we have not been able to attract money here is that most of the capitalists must have heard that it is regretted that Government cannot put a heavy tax on them. We are thinking of taxing the absentee proprietors while we are trying to bring British money here. A business firm would not have taken a reserve fund of \$400,000 in connection with the Transport and Harbours Department and used it for other purposes as Government has done.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I would like to make a remark in connection with the statement of the Colonial Secretary that the excess of expenditure over revenue amounting to \$384,000 is practically covered by two items. He instanced the sum provided for new steamers—

THE CHAIRMAN: I would ask the

hon. Member to reserve his remarks until the particular item is reached.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I am nearly finished, sir. (Laughter). I was going to remark that in a business concern a sum would have been set aside for the purpose of replacing the steamers, a Replacement Fund. If that had been done we would not have required this large sum to-day.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. Member does not seem to realise that the sum was set aside but it was pinched by Government.

THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Will Government inform the Council what will be the salary of the new Governor? I see nothing here. Has Government been informed what the salary will be?

THE CHAIRMAN: Government did inquire and the reply was that there will be no change.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: We must therefore take it that the new Governor will receive the same salary as Sir Edward Denham. When may we expect him to arrive in the Colony?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is uncertain. I have no information on that point.

Item 2—Upkeep of Furniture, Plate, Linen, Uniform for Servants, Messenger, etc., \$2,000.

Mr. CANNON: I see there is an increase here. I do not wish to appear nig-gardly, and I do not wish to deprive the new Governor of new bed linen or a new wash basin, but being the first item I wish to find out what is the necessity for us to reduce a single item here? Personally I feel that we ought to take these items *en bloc* and tell the Imperial Government "We want this money to enable us to carry on, please let us have it." So far as I am concerned that is a course I would willingly agree to. If, on the other hand, we feel that we should oppose every item here, as has been indicated by my colleagues, then this is the first one I will start with and ask that it be reduced to what it was for several years. To pass these items *en bloc* is the simplest way of dealing with these

Estimates ; it saves a lot of time. I do not see the necessity for us to wrangle over these items when we have the British Exchequer behind us. In view of the suggestion that we should reduce these items I move that the item be reduced to \$950. We cannot afford any more.

Mr. ELEAZAR : If Government is willing to accept assistance at all I will ask my friend to increase the amount by \$50. I cannot conceive of anybody anticipating that \$2,000 would be spent on an item like this. I think it is rather high and we are giving the new Governor a bad start. I ask the hon. Member to agree to the item being carried out at \$1,000.

Mr. LUCKHOO : I should like to get some information from the Government as to the present condition of the furniture, linen, etc. at Government House.

Mr. SEAFORD : I do not think I am giving away any secret when I say that I know that when there are official dinners at Government House crockery, silver, linen and such like things are borrowed from certain places. (Laughter).

Mr. AUSTIN : I do not think Members of the Council realise the awkward position and embarrassment which the residents at Government House have to put up with whenever they have to entertain Colony guests and people who come to the Colony and necessarily have to be invited to Government House. It is to me astounding to realise and know that there is little or no crockery, silver ware, linen, etc., at Government House, and I think we would be only doing the right thing by the new Governor and to Your Excellency, by allowing this item to go through as it stands.

Mr. ELEAZAR : It is bad logic. The actual expenditure in 1933 was \$933, and last year the approved estimate was \$950. How can one now anticipate that \$1,000 would be too little? No matter how much we vote Government will always borrow from Bookers and other people. Let us begin with the new Governor and not set him a bad example. Sir Edward Denham was a great entertainer—I can speak from personal knowledge—and he spent only \$950 last year.

Mr. AUSTIN : I wonder if the hon.

Member realises that Sir Edward Denham had to borrow gear from various clubs and from myself and other people on occasions when entertainments had to be given for the benefit of visitors to the Colony?

Mr. ELEAZAR : Those who have assisted are still alive and will continue to help on such occasions. If necessary, provision can be made for any increase of the vote on supplementary estimate in June.

Mr. DIAS : I do appeal to the hon. Member who is opposing this vote to consider the position of a Governor. Does he suggest that the Governor should be an individual who should be borrowing my plates and cutlery for use at Government House? I consider it *infra dig.* The Colony provides the Governor with a free house and equipment. Surely he is entitled to all that is necessary to keep that house in a fit state instead of having to borrow from a club, a store or a private individual, and perhaps put those persons to some inconvenience. The idea is to provide Government House with what it has not got to-day, and I think it behoves this Council to provide the Governor with the necessaries for Government House and prevent him having to rely on the generosity of others. We have all been to Government House and we know that we have used borrowed goods. I do not think the Governor of the Colony should be placed in that position. During the number of years I have been on the Council I have never known the supplementary estimates to contain anything for use at Government House. There might have been an exception once in a while.

Mr. ELEAZAR : Would this Governor be less a Governor if he spent \$1,000? Sir Edward Denham spent \$933 in 1933. We cannot afford more than \$1,000. Why can't the Governor get some things for himself?

Mr. BRASSINGTON : If in the past very small amounts had been spent on the upkeep of furniture, plate, etc. at Government House I could well see the necessity to vote this sum of \$2,000, but if hon. Members would look at the Comparative Statement of Expenditure they would see

that every year a large sum of money has been voted for the upkeep of furniture, etc. In 1924 it was \$808, 1925, \$972, 1926, \$790, 1927, \$951, 1928, \$1,508, 1929, \$913, 1930, \$1,442, 1931, \$942, 1932, \$1,206, 1933, \$933. It is evident that there must have been extra demand between 1927, when \$951 was spent, and 1928 when \$1,508 was spent, and then two years later \$1,442 was spent. I am not in a position to say whether those sums were liberal. On the face of it it appears that they were. It averages over \$1,000 a year during the last ten years. I quite agree with the Hon. Mr. Austin when he says that nobody in the Council should wish to see the Governor of the Colony in an invidious position it regard to furniture, plate, linen, etc. required to entertain guests at Government House in the interest of the Colony. But I think we want some very convincing argument before we can arrive at the decision that the money that has been provided by the Council for the purpose has been inadequate. I cannot subscribe to the argument that in the past this Council has been niggardly in providing equipment for Government House.

Mr. WALCOTT: I quite understand the position as explained by Messrs. Austin and Seaford, and I would be the last one to put the Governor in the position of having to borrow glassware, etc., but it seems to me that having done so for a considerable number of years it would not hurt if it has to be done one year longer. This is not the time that we can afford to be luxurious. It is a time when I think Your Excellency would like to set the example of economy. There is no doubt about it that the majority of the people in this Colony have had to reduce their expenditure very considerably, and I should think the Governor would desire to set the example. His Majesty the King set the example 18 months ago.

Mr. WIGHT: I feel that there is no necessity for \$2,000 except we want to buy a new outfit through the Crown Agents. The best set of dinner ware can be bought for \$40, and you do not want the best for your guests. (Laughter). I consider \$1,000 a year for upkeep and replacement of furniture, plate, linen, etc., a very exorbitant sum. I have the same furniture and dinner set in my house as I had over 40

years ago. Government House is well furnished at the present moment. There is no question of replacement of furniture, and the little bit of glassware and China ware required will not amount to £50. I understand that every Governor brings his own linen. I think \$1,000 would be ample.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps I may be allowed to make a few remarks. All we are asking for this year is \$1,000 in excess. I can assure hon. Members that the vote of \$950 was only just enough to cover a number of items that could not possibly be put on the Estimate. As the hon. Member for Western Essequibo pointed out, the vote was exceeded in 1930 and 1932 when some of the carpets had to be replaced. Carpets are not inexpensive articles, and that is where the excess occurred. In the present instance there is practically no linen left at all, and if visitors stay at Government House more than two or three days it is impossible to find sheets for them. They have to wait for sheets while they are being washed. The position really is that we are only asking for \$1,000 to provide replacements and additions, and \$1,000 does not go very far when it comes to replacing crockery, a certain amount of cutlery, and linen. The linen is worn out and wants replacing. I am afraid that if the \$1,000 is not voted for replacements it will not obviate the necessity for the Governor having to hire glassware and crockery for large entertainments.

Mr. ELEAZAR: In view of what you have said—I nearly always agree with you—can't you make it \$1,500, which would be the highest amount Government has ever spent? I appeal to Government as we have larger items to consider.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is quite impossible for me to say whether the whole of the \$1,000 will be spent on replacements, but a list of replacements has been sent Home. Whether the cost will be \$1,000 or more I cannot tell because we have not yet had a reply to the letter.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I agree with you, sir. Let us vote \$1,500 and if they cost more we will vote more.

Mr. CANNON: I said at the outset that this matter is one of principle, and

while I should be delighted to do anything to assist Your Excellency in any suggestion you may make I am sorry I cannot on this occasion. It is a wrong principle and I am not going to be a party to it. There are people who are suffering greatly and cannot even get food to eat, and here we are going to lavish \$1,000 on the new Governor. How do we know that he is going to spend a penny in entertaining anybody? I have chosen this item so as to make my position quite clear. It has been said that the Governor should be given linen. I happen to know that when I started business there was a Governor who bought at a sale which I conducted quite a lot of cutlery and glassware. He might have done it out of respect for the citizen whose sale it was, but it was no more than he should have done. When we are furnishing a house for a Civil Servant we do not, as far as I know, provide swizzle glasses for him. Even if I stand alone I will have this item put to the vote. I will not vote more than \$950, but if my colleagues are willing to vote \$1,000 I am not going to be against them because I wish to be with them on every possible occasion.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Even assuming that that sum will be insufficient, and that the new Governor will have to put his hand into his pocket to the tune of \$200 or \$500, may I remind the Council that the Financial Commissioners, Messrs. Gaskell and McGregor, recommended in 1931 that the salary of the Governor should be reduced by £500? We are not doing that. We have been told by Your Excellency that the new Governor will get the same salary as his predecessor. I cannot help whether it will be received unpleasantly by the Government and its supporters, but I respectfully ask Government: Is this Colony in as good a position to-day as it was in 1931? I represent a constituency where hunger and depression are stalking the land. I refer to the County of Essequibo. What are those people going to say to me who has been sent here to represent them? No matter how certain members of the Government may sneer at the term "representative of the people" I can conscientiously say I have always tried to bring the grievances and complaints of my constituents to the notice of this House faithfully and without favour. They will rightly say to me "Render an

account of your stewardship. We are starving here yet you have voted \$1,000 more for linen for Government House." I say that any extra linen or furniture that may be required at Government House over and above what the \$1,000 can provide ought to be purchased by the Governor himself. (Hear, hear). When he is leaving the Colony he would be able to dispose of them. We are running this Colony on the basis of a first-class Colony. Let us face the truth. We are barely a third-class Government (Hear, hear) and the sooner we all begin to realise that and cut our coats according to our cloth the better it will be.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: May I suggest that the Council agree to a reduction of \$250? It is absolutely necessary that these things should be provided. The hon. Member for Berbice River suggested the maximum sum ever voted, therefore I propose that the item be carried out at \$1,750.

Mr. CANNON: So far as I am concerned, my answer is "No."

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Do I understand the Colonial Secretary to say that an estimate has not been made out? If an estimate has not been made out for what is required for Government House, how has the figure of \$2,000 been arrived at?

THE CHAIRMAN: I have explained that a list has been sent Home in order to ascertain the cost.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Is the difference between \$1,500 and \$1,750 the Crown Agents' charge?

Mr. SEAFORD: If Government accepts \$1,500 and the cost is more Government can come back to the Council.

Mr. WIGHT: I am not going to move from \$1,000. The Governor's Contingency Vote is \$1,000; let it come out of that.

The amendment moved by Mr. Cannon that the item be carried out at \$1,000 was put. The Council divided and voted:—

*Ayes*—Messrs. Walcott, Wills, Peer Bacchus, Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh, De Aguiar, Eleazar, Wight, Cannon  
Luckhoo and Brassington—10.

*Noes*—Messrs. Seaford, Austin, Dr. Henderson, Wood, Mullin, D'Andrade, Mc David, Major Craig, Professor Dash, Major Bain Gray, Dias, Smellie, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—14.

Amendment lost.

Mr. CANNON: I beg to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that not only are the Elected Members unanimous but one of the Nominated Members has voted in favour of the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will make a note of it.

The amendment moved by Mr. Eleazar that the item be carried out at \$1,500 was then put and lost.

The amendment moved by the Colonial Secretary that the item be carried out at \$1,750 was then put. The Council divided and voted:—

*Ayes*—Mr. De Aguiar, Dr. Henderson, Mr. Wood, Mr. Mullin, Mr. D'Andrade, Mr. McDavid, Major Craig, Professor Dash, Major Bain Gray, Mr. Dias, Mr. Smellie, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Secretary—13.

*Noes*—Mr. Wills, Mr. Peer Bacchus, Mr. Seaford, Mr. Austin, Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh, Mr. Eleazar, Mr. Wight, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Luckhoo, Mr. Brassington—10.

Amendment carried. The item was reduced to \$1,750 accordingly.

#### LEGISLATURE.

Item 6—Bicycle Allowance to Messenger, \$24.

Mr. CANNON: It has been brought to my attention that notice has been served on all Government employees using bicycles that from the 1st of January their allowance will be reduced to \$1 per month. How is it that the item is carried out at \$24?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is going to be reduced to \$12.

Mr. CANNON: Following upon what I said a little while ago, here is an instance

where poor unfortunate messengers' bicycle allowance is to be reduced from \$2 to \$1 when we are giving over \$1,000 to Government House. I think the less I say about it the better.

Mr. SEAFORD: I ask Your Excellency's permission to revert to item 5—Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Allowance of Members of the Councils whilst engaged on the business of the Councils, \$400. What does it cover?

THE CHAIRMAN: Travelling expenses of Elected Members mainly.

Mr. SEAFORD: What about the other Members?

THE CHAIRMAN: It covers the expenses of all Members of the Council but mainly Elected Members.

Mr. SEAFORD: I was thinking of the Conservator of Forests. I think he is wasting his time in this Council.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir Edward Denham gave an undertaking to this Council that the Conservator of Forests, when he was removed to the Penal Settlement (laughter)—I beg your pardon, I meant the Forest Station at Mazaruni,—he would no longer be appointed a Member of this Council. It was said that he would spend his time in looking after the forests and not waste it in coming to Georgetown to attend meetings of the Council.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think hon. Members did not quite understand what the position was. The position was that the Conservator of Forests was relieved of attending meetings of the Council except at the Annual Session.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir Edward Denham must have said that under his breath.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I desire to make some remarks with regard to item 6—Bicycle Allowance to Messenger, \$24. Doesn't it appear to Your Excellency to be cheeping with a vengeance to notify a messenger who is using his own bicycle that Government is going to take away \$1 of his allowance when other Government officers drawing \$200 and \$300 per month are to be given increases to the extent of \$60 per month? A \$20 bicycle would not



be of any use at the end of a year to a messenger who has to travel long distances. I understand that the messengers have been told that if they refuse to use their bicycles there were plenty of people out of work. I appeal to Government not to make it appear that we are making the rich richer and the poor poorer. It is niggardly and beneath the dignity of Government.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Government would be well advised to adopt the suggestions of the last two speakers. I can visualise a little later on some Members of the Council raising the question whether the price of motor cars has not gone down and whether for that reason the travelling allowances to some of the highly paid officials should not be reduced. I do not see why Government should adopt measures of economy with people who are the lowest in the Service. I foresee a lot of trouble later on.

Mr. AUSTIN: It seems to me that this reduction, as suggested, is wrong. I happened to sit on a Committee in connection with these allowances some time ago, and although we were not unanimous in the decisions arrived at, eventually we were so far unanimous as there was no minority report sent in. I think the Hon. Mr. Dias was a member of the Committee and will perhaps bear out what I say. It was considered that \$2 per month was a reasonable and fair bicycle allowance to Government messengers, and I think I pointed out that even in Water Street we gave a little more than that for the reason that the licences were paid in some instances, and the distances to be covered were longer. Government would be well advised to allow the item to stand as printed.

THE CHAIRMAN: In view of the remarks made by hon. Members Government is not desirous of being hard on messengers owning bicycles, but I may say that the suggestion that \$12 a year was adequate in view of the low cost of bicycles was made to Government and not by Government itself. We went into the matter very carefully and found that good bicycles could be purchased for \$18 or \$20. It seems absurd to give an allowance of \$24 per year for the upkeep of a bicycle which cost \$20. I do not think any

Member can justify an allowance for the maintenance of a bicycle which is higher than the cost of the bicycle itself. I would just remind hon. Members of that position. In view of the remarks made by hon. Members the item will remain as printed.

Mr. WIGHT: I cannot allow that statement to go unchallenged. A bicycle for \$18 or \$20 will not last more than six months.

THE CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member ridden one?

Mr. WIGHT: I bought one for a boy and had to give it away after three months.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think they are rather good bicycles.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: They will not last longer than six months.

The item was passed as printed.

Item 7—Renovation of Table in the Legislative Council Chamber, \$100.

Mr. WIGHT: I move the deletion of this item.

THE CHAIRMAN: This item was put in because it was thought desirable that the appearance of the table should be improved.

The item was deleted.

#### COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

#### SALARY OF THE NEW COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Item 1a—Colonial Secretary (\$7,128 to \$7,848 by \$240).

Mr. BRASSINGTON: What will be the salary of the new Colonial Secretary?

THE CHAIRMAN: We have no information about that.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I think it is very unfortunate that the salary has not been fixed. While I have every admiration for the new appointee who sat in this Council for many years, I cannot reconcile

that with what is my clear duty, that is to point out that the Financial Commissioners recommended that the salary of the Colonial Secretary which is at present £1,485—£50 £1,635 should be reduced to £1,300 on the occurrence of a vacancy in the office. Moving reduction of salaries is not a pleasant thing to anybody, but I must point out—and I intend to repeat it throughout the session—that the Colony is in a very critical position, and one cannot in justice to the taxpayers acquiesce in a proposal that the salary of the new Colonial Secretary should be more than £1,300, which is a handsome remuneration especially when it carries with it furnished quarters. I was at pains to say that I have great admiration for the ability and qualities of Mr. Millard, but I cannot close my eyes to the fact that we have to put our house in order, and that if we are to reduce expenditure in every direction to meet present conditions we cannot afford to pay more. It appears to me that the tendency of the Colony is to gallop ahead to bankruptcy. I do not think it is realised what a terrible financial position the Colony is in and the depression amongst the labouring class to-day.

Mr. CANNON : I am supporting the last speaker. I think £1,300 is quite sufficient to pay a newcomer. It may be that is the salary fixed. Your Excellency has said that you have no information, but I certainly think this Council should express its opinion and, if necessary, make recommendations to the Secretary of State that we cannot afford to pay any more.

Mr. BRASSINGTON : I would further like to say that I think the Colonial Office has treated this Council with scant courtesy. What are we coming to here? We are nonentities, we are told nothing.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I am not in the habit of throwing bouquets but I cannot close my eyes to the fact that, knowing the officer who is to fill the post of Colonial Secretary, and knowing his value to the country, I would be very sorry if my brother Electives thought otherwise than that he deserves the salary being paid to the present Colonial Secretary. Economy is a good thing, but I realise that very often expenditure is good economy, and I think in this instance and one or two others

we might well economise by paying a person from whom we are going to get good service, to the value of such service. I too feel like the hon. Member for Western Essequibo that we have not been treated with respect in the matter. If a Colonial Secretary is appointed from another Colony I cannot conceive that we would pay him the same salary as his predecessor ; he would have to come and prove his mettle. But with respect to Mr. Millard we know his qualities and the service he will give, and I appeal to hon. Members not to attack in an unreasonable manner those who are more than deserving, and in that way be divided amongst ourselves. We are certain that every penny paid to Mr. Millard will be money well spent even in our parlous state.

Mr. CANNON : I am sorry the hon. Member has referred to my remarks. I do not wish to be at all personal. It is true I am here to discuss principles and nothing else. I have not a word to say against Mr. Millard as Colonial Treasurer. He is a man with great knowledge of figures, but as Colonial Secretary I do not know what he is going to be. I have great doubt that he is going to be the success my friend thinks. I hope I am wrong. But it is the principle I am dealing with. We cannot afford to pay him the same salary. Whether it is Mr. Millard or a brother of mine who was appointed I would say the same thing to-day. I am dealing with the vacancy that has occurred and we are filling it. I say without the slightest intention of being offensive to Mr. Millard, I hope he will fill the office with credit to himself and to the country, but I have my doubts.

Mr. SEAFORD : I desire to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. Members for Western Essequibo and Georgetown North. It is not the individual but the office. If we paid members of the Service according to how we liked them we would have a terrific budget. I also feel that the Colony cannot afford to pay more. I would like to move that the salary be carried out at the minimum instead of the maximum. I take it that moving this gentleman up to the position of Colonial Secretary is promotion. The post of Colonial Secretary is higher than that of the Colonial Treasurer, therefore I

think it is only right that when he goes into a higher position he should get an increased salary. I understand that his present salary is £1,300 including £100 as Commissioner of Income Tax. I therefore move that the salary of the Colonial Secretary be carried out at the minimum figure.

Mr. WALCOTT: I desire to second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would point out that this particular case being on the Civil List the hon. Member cannot move a motion to amend it. The hon. Member can express his opinion which will be noted by Government. I may point out that there will probably be some saving on the amount indicated here because we are not certain of the date he will assume duty. That will depend upon his return and when the new Governor comes. Therefore the sum of \$7,848 will be subject to some reduction which cannot now be calculated.

Mr. SEAFORD: It is the salary we are getting at. My point is that it ought not to be carried out above the minimum of the post.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I did not move a reduction because I fully realised that the item is on the Civil List which the Council can only consider every five years. I wish to make no attack on Mr. Millard at all. I was at pains to express my admiration of his ability. But no matter how able a man may be, I say that at the present time this Colony cannot afford to pay more than £1,300 to its Colonial Secretary with a furnished residence. I think it was the hon. Mr. Seaford who said he would like to increase the salaries of most of the officials. So would I, but that is a different matter altogether. We are not here to show our friendship in a manner that is not strictly fair. I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for Georgetown North on the frank way he expressed his opinion. We want more frankness in expressing opinions in this Council.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am glad to hear that coming from the hon. Member for Western Essequibo. I know it is characteristic of the hon. Member for Georgetown North. I think Members are really missing the

mark when they cannot appreciate the point I made that very often expenditure is good economy. It is statesmanship. To talk about friendship is beneath hon. Members. Fancy your humble servant calling himself a friend of Mr. Millard, I appreciate his capabilities, and I am asking hon. Members to address their minds in the same way. I must not be misunderstood as appealing for a friend. I have no friend among the officials in that sense.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I desired to make no imputation against the hon. Member for Berbice River at all. I did not have him in my mind because we all know his characteristic of independence, and I am sorry that he should think I had singled him out in any way.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: If I understand those of my colleagues who have spoken, they are not taking exception to the appointment, and they fully appreciate that they are unable to move a reduction of the vote, but they have expressed the opinion that the salary of the post should be as fixed by the Financial Commissioners. In the case of the appointment of Mr. Millard this Council was not consulted. He has been appointed and we welcome him. One hon. Member suggests that he should begin at the minimum salary. The figure proposed is the maximum salary being drawn at present. I am quite willing to support that view for the reason that Mr. Millard as Colonial Treasurer received an addition of £100 to his substantive salary, and to fix his salary on the basis suggested by the Financial Commissioners will mean no promotion at all to him. The minimum salary might mean some promotion.

Mr. AUSTIN: I do not think a single Member would not welcome Mr. Millard back as Colonial Secretary, but if his emoluments are fixed at the figure on the Civil List, \$7,848, he would be getting an increase of nearly—

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the Colonial Treasurer might explain.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): On appointment an officer draws the minimum salary of the scale. The amount which would be actually expended under this Head would depend on the date on which Mr. Millard assumes duty. The pre-

sent holder of the office will still be Colonial Secretary until he finally retires from the Service. He will go on leave next year, and it is possible that one-half of the vote will be paid to the present holder of the office. It is quite impossible to say at present what the figure will actually be, but hon. Members can rest assured that on appointment the new officer will draw the minimum of the scale.

Mr. AUSTIN: It seems to me that we have been beating the air a bit.

Mr. WIGHT: From what I know in the Street, I think the dignity of the office of Colonial Secretary is worth the salary that is paid. I am not with my colleagues in that respect at all. The Colonial Secretary has to take very responsible work on his shoulders. Whether it is this officer or another it does not matter to me. He also has to act as Governor when the necessity arises. I say the present salary is not beyond what the new officer should get. That is my view of it.

#### THE PRINCIPAL CLERK.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: With regard to item 1d—Principal Clerk (\$2,304 to \$2,784 by \$120), \$2,784—I observe that the note says "Change in holder of office." I would like to know what it means. I am not opposing it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Last year the Principal Clerk drew more. The new Principal Clerk is on that scale; he has just been transferred to the office.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Who is he?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. Claude Hampden King, who was clerk to the Attorney-General, has been transferred to the Secretariat as Principal Clerk, and this is the salary to which he is entitled.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I am satisfied.

Mr. WALCOTT: Yesterday the Colonial Secretary in explaining certain increases in the Estimates said that they were due to officers receiving increments on their salaries. Here we have an increase that is not due to increment but to the shifting of an officer from one Department to another. The question is whether we are going to have a corresponding saving in the Attorney General's

office to make up for the additional amount being paid in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In this particular case that will be the effect because Mr King drew the pay of a 1st class clerk in the Attorney-General's office, but the new holder of the office will only draw the pay of a Class 1 officer which is less than what Mr. King drew.

Mr. AUSTIN: Does the present salary of the Principal Clerk include the emoluments he drew as clerk to the Attorney-General? Is he entitled to carry those emoluments with him from one Department to another? I refer to the emoluments set out in the Appendix as drawn by Mr. S. W. Cole, acting Clerk to the Attorney-General.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. King, when he was Clerk to the Attorney-General, drew emoluments from two Funds, the Patoir Fund and the Berbice Lutheran Fund, in respect of which he received \$120 and \$96 per annum respectively. He also drew a Service Allowance of \$240 to which he was entitled. On his transfer to the Secretariat it was felt that he should not be penalised by losing those amounts, and they were included in the salary. He is also entitled to an increment and is now drawing the maximum salary of the office.

Mr. WALCOTT: Are we to understand from that that when officers get special pay for doing extra work in connection with these Funds, that they look upon it as part of their monthly salaries? I understand that Customs officers get extra pay for over-time work, and I presume that on the same principle those officers would expect to have those amounts added to their salaries when they go to another Department. If the work in connection with these Funds is done during official hours I do not think the officer deserves extra remuneration. The principle as explained by the Colonial Secretary seems to be all wrong.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I did not say that was the principle. That is what was done in this particular case. It is not the principle.

Mr. WALCOTT: I did not say the Colonial Secretary said that was the

principle, but the implication is there. This is a precedent.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: If an officer is appointed to act as Secretary to any Commission he should receive extra remuneration for such work. It cannot be said that because he does the work during official hours he should not get extra remuneration. He has to take minutes of the meetings and put them in order. I certainly think he is deserving of extra remuneration but I do not say it should be out of proportion to what he deserves.

Mr. SEAFORD: I observe that the total expenditure on the Fixed Establishment under this head in 1933 was \$12,773, and the estimated expenditure for 1935 is \$17,475, an increase of nearly \$5,000. Has the work in this Department increased, or is there some other reason for this large increase?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: We must not take one or two heads, but the total expenditure of the Department. The actual expenditure in 1933 was \$28,266 while the estimated expenditure for 1935 is \$34,168, an increase of \$5,902. It was that I commented on yesterday when I was speaking on the Budget.

Mr. SEAFORD: The hon. Member has overlooked the fact that under the sub-head Clerical Assistance a sum of \$1,440 has been removed from this Head and charged against Miscellaneous. That has to be added in order to make a true comparison.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: That makes the position even worse. Every year every Department shows an increase. I do not know when we are going to come to the end of it.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Is it a transfer or promotion?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is merely a transfer from one Department to another.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The maximum salary of the officer in the Attorney-General's office was \$2,280 while his present salary is \$2,784, an increase of \$42 per month.

Mr. AUSTIN: Would it be correct to

say that the salary of the Principal Clerk represents promotion plus emoluments he received as Clerk to the Attorney-General?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. WALCOTT: How are we going to provide for those payments to the Secretary to those Funds?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Those payments are not made by Government but out of the Fund themselves. Mr. King was Secretary to the Trustees of the Funds and the payments to him did not come from Government funds at all.

Mr. WALCOTT: That was what I was trying to get at.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The person who does the work now will have to get those amounts and Government is paying the clerk who has got promotion.

Mr. WALCOTT: The Colonial Secretary has made it perfectly clear that Mr. King did the work plus Government work, and was paid other than Government money, but when he is transferred from one office to another those emoluments were added to his salary. That is hopelessly wrong.

Mr. WILLS: The Colonial Secretary told us it is not the practice of Government when transferring an officer to let him take with him any perquisites, but we are yet to hear why it was done in this case.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I never said it was not the practice of Government to allow officers to take extra emoluments with them. As a matter of fact if an officer is transferred and he can carry on the extra work suitably he is allowed to do so. What I said was that this was the first case. Whether it is right or wrong it has never arisen before.

Mr. WALCOTT: We all appreciate that.

Mr. WILLS: I appreciate the explanation given, but we are yet to hear why this officer should be given perquisites which he drew when he was Secretary to those Trusts.

Mr. CANNON : Is the officer still carrying out those duties ?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : No.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : Are the emoluments the officer drew from those Funds pensionable ?

Mr. McDAVID (Acting Colonial Treasurer : I will try to explain the position. In the Attorney-General's office Mr. King received \$2,280 as Clerk to the Attorney-General, and \$240 as Service Allowance, making a total of \$2,520. On transfer to the Secretariat at a salary of \$2,304 to \$2,784 he became entitled at once to a salary of \$2,640 with increments added to his previous salary. That transfer took place some time this year and the salary to which he is entitled next year will be \$2,700. Therefore the amount on the Estimate is only \$84 more than he would have got normally under the Regulations. The extra \$84, I take it, is compensation to him for the loss he suffers by being deprived of the extra emoluments he drew from those Funds. (Laughter). Hon. Members should not laugh because this officer has been selected to perform certain duties and he should be compensated for the emoluments he would have drawn had he remained in the Attorney-General's office.

Mr. WALCOTT : That does not answer the question.

Mr. AUSTIN : I would like to know whether those two amounts the officer received from private sources will now be pensionable with his appointment as Principal Clerk in the Secretariat ?

THE CHAIRMAN : He does not draw them now.

Mr. SEAFORD : But he is drawing the equivalent.

THE CHAIRMAN : He is drawing the equivalent.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I do not understand the remark that the officer was selected for certain duties. Isn't this officer being given special preference here ? If it is a mere transfer on promotion why is it that the Colonial Treasurer cannot explain ? If an officer is transferred on promotion no consideration

should be given to extra emoluments he might have been receiving in the other Department. He must be content with the salary attached to the new office and take his opportunity as promotion comes his way, or as the increments fall due. Anything outside of that is wrong. I do not like the idea of saying that an officer is selected. He is not the only officer who has given good service. The extra \$84 must either be explained or be deleted from the Estimate.

Mr. CANNON : I am not quibbling over the \$84. Let the officer have it if he is entitled to it. What would help is if Your Excellency would direct that the Council be told what is the amount payable to the officer as Principal Clerk. If I remember rightly there was an officer who was doing the work and was entitled to get more pay than he was getting. Has the officer who has been brought in been put on a higher basis than the young man who was doing the work prior to his arrival in the office ? Is it fair promotion for Mr. King to go there and be given \$2,304 ? Can Government tell us what was the maximum salary of that particular officer whose place Mr. King fills ?

THE CHAIRMAN : I think it would be better to hold the item over in order to go into it.

The Committee adjourned for the luncheon recess.

Mr. WOOLFORD was present when the Committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

Item 1e—2 Class I. Clerks, \$3,594.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : It seems to me that further explanation of this item is necessary. In the Estimate for 1934 the item was "1 Class I. Clerk, \$1,782." The explanatory note in connection with the new item states :—"One eligible for increment. Additional Class I. Clerk provided in substitution for the post of an additional Assistant Colonial Secretary." We have just been debating the salary of the post of Principal Clerk which I understand is being filled this year. It is now proposed to bring in another officer in substitution for an additional Assistant Colonial Secretary, which will mean an increase of two officers in this Depart-

ment. I should like an explanation whether it is the intention to have two additional officers.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** This Class I. officer is to take the place of the additional Assistant Colonial Secretary referred to last year when the Council gave an undertaking to Government or said that if the additional Secretariat Officer who was supposed to come from the Colonial Office was not available, the post of a Class I. clerk should be put on the Estimates this year. That is the post to which the hon. Member refers. That is the only additional post.

**Mr. DE AGUIAR:** I would like an answer to my question whether it is proposed to increase the staff of the Department by two officers. This morning we were told that the post was being filled by the clerk from the Attorney-General's office. Now we are going to have two of them.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The post Mr. King came to fill is the post that was held by Mr. Collier who was Principal Clerk and also performed the duties of Clerk of the Councils. There is also the post held by Mr. Hill who is now a Magistrate. That has not been filled. Mr. Collier's post is being filled by Mr. King, but there is still another vacancy which has not been filled. Therefore we are asking for a Class I. clerk in order to bring the staff of the Secretariat up to full strength.

**Mr. DE AGUIAR:** That is exactly my point. Mr. Collier has always been with us, but Mr. Hill has not. Mr. Hill now performs other duties. Now we are going to fill Mr. Hill's post by transferring Mr. King from the Attorney-General's office, and in addition we are asked now to vote for another clerk for the Colonial Secretary's office. It seems to me we are asked to put two new officers into the office. One must go. That is the only way we can hope to effect any savings on the Estimates. I formally move that the item be carried out at \$1,878 to provide for one Class I. clerk.

#### THE PRINCIPAL CLERK.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** I would like to revert to the previous item

before the hon. Member's amendment is put. When the Committee adjourned for lunch the question of the salary of the Principal Clerk was being discussed. It is the post filled by Mr. King at present. Mr. Collier was Principal Clerk prior to Mr. King's transfer to the Secretariat, and drew salary at the rate of \$2,880 a year. Mr. King as Clerk to the Attorney-General drew a salary of \$2,280 with a Service Allowance of \$240, and as Secretary to the Patoir Fund \$120 and from the Berbice Lutheran Fund \$96 a year, a total of \$2,736. The practice of Government when officers are transferred to another Department is that they should not suffer any loss of emoluments. Therefore Mr. King, instead of being brought in at the minimum of the scale, was brought in at \$2,736 which is the maximum. He has since earned an increment and this year will draw the maximum which is \$2,784. Those extra amounts, although not paid by Government itself, are considered part of the officer's emoluments when he is transferred. He is not expected to lose by the transfer. That is how Mr. King happens to draw the full amount of \$2,784, all of which of course is pensionable. By his transfer Mr. King has gained the large sum of 17 cents per month. His emoluments are pensionable in any case.

**Mr. WALCOTT:** I thank the Colonial Secretary but I still cannot follow his arguments. In the case of Customs officers who draw overtime pay, if they are transferred to another Class do you add that overtime pay to the minimum pay of the Class to which they are promoted in order that they should not lose anything?

**Mr. DE AGUIAR:** As far as I am concerned the explanation regarding Mr. King's salary is fully well understood, but the fact remains that in addition to Mr. King it is intended to appoint another Class I. officer. Is that correct?

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The actual personnel of the Secretariat now is exactly the same as approved by the Council last year, except that one of the posts has not been filled because it was suggested that an officer should come out from the Colonial Office.

Mr. CANNON: I suggest that the case of Mr. King be dealt with first. So far as Mr. King is concerned I am perfectly satisfied with the information supplied by the Colonial Secretary, but there is one thing that I do not think is altogether right. I understand that Mr. Collier drew \$2,880. If that is so why is Mr. King being paid only \$2,784? While I am here to take exception to extravagance I am not here to do any officer an injustice, and that is why I asked what was the officer before Mr. King drawing? Now I have got that information it appears to me that Mr. King's salary ought to be carried out at that figure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Except that we have now fixed the scale of the post as shown, and as Mr. King's total emoluments came within a small amount of the maximum we gave him the maximum.

Mr. CANNON: I am quite satisfied that the officer is losing nothing.

The item was passed as printed.

Item 1e—2 Class I. Clerks, \$3,594.

THE CHAIRMAN: There has been no increase in the staff that was approved of last year and the year before. There was a long debate on the staff of the Colonial Secretary's office and it was generally admitted that the staff had been reduced too low, and it was agreed that a certain personnel should be provided for both in the re-arrangement of the office and the pay, as indicated here. There was no actual increase in the personnel. If the amendment moved by the hon. Member for Central Demerara is carried it would mean that the personnel would have to be reduced by one. The office cannot possibly stand it.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I would like to point out further that provision was made for additional clerical assistance to the extent of £600. I observe that that item has been removed from this Head and put under another Head, but the sum is not quite the same.

THE CHAIRMAN: That clerical assistance, as explained last year, was required throughout the whole Service. During the process of economy certain staffs have been cut down, and there are certain

periods when officers go on leave and assistance has to be given. It was put under the Head "Colonial Secretary's Office" last year but the Secretary of State said he considered it would be better under another Head, and it has been transferred to Miscellaneous. That clerical assistance has nothing to do with the Secretariat. It is only to provide assistance where necessary when officers go on leave.

Mr. ELEAZAR: What happens to the acting officers when all the officers are in their places?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Those officers are only employed temporarily when officers are on leave. When the staffs were at full strength it was possible to transfer an officer from one Department to another. No Department can spare an officer now; they are all under-staffed. (Laughter). Hon. Members may laugh but I would like some of them to work in the Civil Service for a couple of weeks; they may change their views as to how Civil Servants work.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Is it that we are only passing the item, but Government is not going to engage anybody?

THE CHAIRMAN: We will get to that item under Miscellaneous.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I want to be quite clear whether there is an increase in the personnel. Frankly it seems to me there has been an increase. Last year the amount voted was \$14,712 on the Fixed Establishment. Next year it is proposed that the amount should be \$17,475. Obviously there must be an increase somewhere, whether in the number of officers or in salaries I do not know.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think I can explain. The hon. Member for Georgetown North was rather the culprit. Last year we removed from the Estimate a sum of \$2,880 because we could not get the hon. Member to realise why it was there. That was the salary of Mr. Hill who is now a Magistrate. We had to get a supplementary vote for that amount, which brought the actual amount voted in the year 1934 to \$17,592. Therefore, in effect there is a small saving.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The actual expenditure in 1933 was \$12,773.



THE CHAIRMAN: That was the end of the period of economy. The Council agreed, after a long discussion, to allow the Secretariat staff to be increased on the representations which I made. As a matter of fact the amount to be voted for personal emoluments for the Colonial Secretary's office shows a small decrease on what was voted last year.

Mr. CANNON: I am sorry that you got away with a supplementary estimate. I do not remember it. A year ago we decided that a young man should be brought out from the Colonial Office to become acquainted with local conditions. That Your Excellency says did not materialise. We have run a whole year without the services of that gentleman.

THE CHAIRMAN: We had an officer there. We brought in Mr. King.

Mr. CANNON: Now we are provided with Mr. King we do not want this temporary officer. That is what we are trying to make clear.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member forgets that we have also lost the services of Mr. Hill who was on the staff of the Secretariat.

Mr. CANNON: We have done without Mr. Hill's services for so long that one cannot conceive why Government is urging that we should provide someone in his place.

THE CHAIRMAN: The position is we cannot get on without him.

Mr. CANNON: A couple of years ago you pointed that out, and that is what is opering in our minds now. I think we can easily carry on at least for another year and I support the suggestion of my friend that £600 be taken off.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: What I want to understand is whether the Colonial Secretariat is at the present moment at its maximum strength.

THE CHAIRMAN: Not the strength at which it ought to be. (Laughter).

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Is it at its maximum strength or is it going to be increased during 1935 by one officer?

Mr. SEAFORD: You stated that this

Council had agreed to the personnel being increased by two, and the reason was that Mr. Hill had to be paid under this Head although his services were not available. Why we agreed to two was because Mr. Hill had to be paid although he was never employed in the office.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not think Members are enlightened yet. Now that he is a Magistrate Mr. Hill is paid under another Head, but Government is still providing for him for someone else to get it. His place is being filled by Mr. King and somebody else is filling Mr. King's place. Do we understand that Government is really getting another officer there? What is he to do?

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think I can explain the matter any more. The Council certainly agreed—I think it was in 1933—that the strength of the Secretariat should be increased by two senior clerks, and that is the position. If the hon. Member looks at item 1e he will see there are 2 Class I. Clerks. Below that are 1 Second Class Clerk, 2 Second Class Clerks and 2 Third Class Clerks who disappear. In the place of those five clerks he will find there are two Class I. Clerks and 3 Class II. Clerks, so that there are exactly the same five officers. There is no increase in the personnel. If the hon. Member looks a little further down he will see item 1f, 3 Class II. Clerks, and 1g 5 Class III. Clerks, that is eight officers, instead of 2 Fourth Class Clerks, 1 Fourth Class Clerk, 1 Fifth Class Clerk and 3 Sixth Class Clerks. We have simply adopted the recommendation of the Financial Commissioners to have a long grade. The personnel has not been increased although it was agreed to by the Council. That I think is rather muddling hon. Members. If we did not have to print all these additional figures and classes the matter would be quite simple, but if hon. Members would look at it they would find that the position is quite clear. There is no increase in staff. If the hon. Member wishes to press his motion I will put it. It cannot be accepted because we cannot turn away a clerk who has been in the office for some years.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If there is a clerk in the office we do not wish him to be turned away.

THE CHAIRMAN: Under item 1d you will find the Principal Clerk, and below that 1 First Class Clerk and 1 Class I Clerk disappear.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Below Principal Clerk there are 1 First Class Clerk and 1 Class I Clerk, but the item was carried out last year for 1934 at 1 Class I Clerk, \$1,782, which shows that there was some retrenchment there two or three years before. But in respect of 1935 it is proposed to have 2 Class I Clerks, that is to say the Class I Clerk who was in existence last year at \$1,782, with an increment of \$96, bringing his salary to \$1,878, and a new Class I Clerk at the minimum scale of \$1,768.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is beginning to see light. Let me carry him back a little further. If he looks at item 1c he will find that the Principal Clerk was Mr. Collier drawing \$2,880. That office disappears. It is now Assistant Colonial Secretary. Item 1d has already been dealt with. Instead of a Principal Clerk last year we had 1 First Class Clerk and 1 Class I Clerk. In the place of those there is a Principal Clerk now. A little further down he will find 2 Class I Clerks. Instead of that we had 1 Second Class Clerk, 2 Second Class Clerks and 2 Third Class Clerks.

Mr. SEAFORD: That is not down on the Estimate. There is no amount for 1 Class I Clerk. That is the Principal Clerk.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The item of \$3,594 is made up in the same manner. A new Class I Clerk is now proposed for the Secretariat at the minimum. He is going to be put in the office for the first time and will draw \$1,716, which is the minimum salary. It is obvious he is a new officer who was not there before.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I cannot explain the matter any further. I will proceed to put the item.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am asking you, sir, to let us understand the position. We are not here to obstruct Government.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will hold the item over and try to explain.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Besides Mr. Collier

and Mr. King, is there anybody else in the office?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, there is nobody else.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is quite clear that if the item goes through there will be another clerk appointed to the Secretariat. I said so long ago. I explained that the officer who was to have come from the Colonial Office has never come and there is no probability of his coming now, apparently. Therefore we are trying to bring the staff of the Secretariat up to full strength by the insertion of this Class I Clerk who will be the new officer. There will be an additional officer in the Secretariat, but there is no increase on what was approved of by the Council last year.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Last year the office worked without Mr. Hill but his salary was voted. Mr. King is now filling Mr. Hill's place. Now it is proposed to have an additional officer at the beginning of next year. That is what I have been asking all the time. I move that the item be carried out at \$1,778.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Government ought to agree to it now after this painful extraction. This is not the time to increase the personnel of the office. We have been doing without two, certainly we can do without one. We must try to save where we can.

THE CHAIRMAN: Government cannot accept the amendment because it has been decided before that the Secretariat should receive two extra clerks. That was decided two years ago. The departmental work is increasing. We have two officers on leave and we have to make provision for leave. If hon. Members wish to vote against it I have no objection.

Mr. DE AGUIAR'S amendment that the item be carried out as follows:—

Items 1e—1 Class I Clerk, \$1,878 was put. The Council divided and voted:—

*Ayes*—Messrs. Walcott, Wills, Peer Bacchus, Seaford, Austin, Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh, Messrs. De Aguiar, Eleazar, Wight, Cannon, Woolford, Luckhoo and Brassington—13.

*Notes*—Dr. Henderson, Messrs. Wood, Mullin, D'Andrade, McDavid, Major Craig, Professor Dash, Major Bain Gray, Mr. Smellie, The Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—11.

Amendment carried.

Item 1j—Secretariat Allowances, \$324.

Mr. WIGHT: Why is this item increased by £15? Last year the sum voted was \$252.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That item might be carried out at \$252, the Council having struck out the Class I. Clerk.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: What are these allowances for?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: They are special allowances to certain Secretariat clerks. The matter was fully explained last year, that certain officers are paid these allowances while they hold certain posts. They are drawn as a sort of Duty Allowance. I believe there was a lengthy debate on the subject last year.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I was not in my seat last year when the debate took place, and I think I am entitled to information when I ask for it.

Mr. McDAVID: These allowances are part of a scheme recommended by a Committee the report of which was laid on the table of this Council which adopted the Committee's recommendations. This is the result of one of those recommendations. I think Government is right in following that recommendation because it is part of a procedure approved by the Council.

The item was reduced to \$252.

#### ARCHIVES AND STATIONERY.

Item 1a—Superintendent of Archives, \$720.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I move that this item be carried out at the original figure, \$480.

Mr. SEAFORD: Why is it necessary to increase the amount?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The officer has not yet arrived. The amount

voted last year was only for a part of the year. \$720 is the salary that will be paid, and I do not think the gentleman is prepared to take any less. We expect him to return to the Colony shortly. With regard to item 1c it has been represented to Government that the clerk in charge of the Store is unable to carry on the work by herself, and that is why provision has been made for a probationer.

Mr. WIGHT: I move that that item be struck out. \$5,400 worth of stationery cannot be looked after by two persons in the Government, but \$25,000 worth is being looked after by a man outside who gets \$40 per month.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Superintendent of Archives has nothing to do with the Stores Clerk.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I originally moved that item 1a be carried out at \$480, the original figure. Now it is proposed to increase it to \$720 because somebody is to come from abroad to fill the position.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I hope the hon. Member will not press his amendment. The appointee is a gentleman who is well known to us all in this Colony and it has been very difficult to secure his services. Mr. Cruickshank is the appointee, and I know of no one in this Colony who is better suited to fill the duties of this office. In fact I was largely responsible for suggesting his name. I do not think hon. Members know what is the work to be done. I would suggest to them that they visit the place and see the volume and nature of the work. One has to be specially qualified to do the work. I do not know of any literateur nearly as qualified as he is, and I am rather surprised to find that he is willing to accept the figure offered.

Mr. CANNON: I supported it last year and I will support it again. Mr. Cruickshank is a very able man. He is a pensioner, and if he gets this I suppose he will cease to draw a pension. He cannot get both, I am sure. I do not like the way the Colonial Secretary put it "We cannot do with less." It irritates us on this side of the table. I think he should say "We should like you to give it to us."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: We

cannot do with less, but if this Council says we must we have to. That is my opinion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The position is that this is very important work, and I think if any hon. Member is interested enough to go up into the dome he would see what we have done in cleaning up the old records. The position is that Mr. Cruickshank was offered the post but he said he could not accept it except he got £30 a year. If the Council thinks it is too much we will have to abandon it. I hope hon. Members will consider that the records of this Colony are worth looking after. They are very valuable and are worth looking after. We have some very interesting documents which were found in the dome. It is a pity that they should have been allowed to remain so long buried in dust and debris. I ask hon. Members to have some sympathy towards the old records of the Colony, and that they should be properly kept and annotated.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If Dr. Roth got £100 I cannot conceive of another man not being able to do the work for that sum.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Roth was only a part-time officer; he was also Curator of the Museum.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Government is very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Cruickshank. I think he is admirably fitted for the work, and I entirely agree with Your Excellency's remarks and those of the hon. Member for New Amsterdam as to our not neglecting those archives. Anybody who has a proper pride in the Colony of his birth will recognise that this is something that is important to future generations who will be able to see and learn something of the past.

Item passed as printed.

Item 1c—Probationer, \$360.

Mr. WIGHT: I move that that item be deleted.

THE CHAIRMAN put the item as printed and the Council divided and voted:—

*Ayes*—Messrs. Austin, Dr. Henderson, Wood, Mullin, D'Andrade, McDavid,

Major Craig, Woolford, Brassington, Professor Dash, Major Bain Gray, Smellie, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Secretary—14.

*Noes*—Messrs. Walcott, Wills, Peer Bacchus, Seaford, Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh, De Aguiar, Eleazar, Wight, Cannon, Luckhoo—10.

Item passed.

#### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THE CHAIRMAN: I ask that the items under District Administration be held over to get some further approval.

The Council agreed.

#### AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

Item 1c—Chief Clerk (\$2,760 to \$3,240 by \$120), \$400.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: There seems to be some increase in this item.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the note makes it clear. It provides for 10 months salary, a Service Allowance and an allowance in lieu of quarters.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: In the estimate for 1934 \$240 was voted in lieu of quarters, and this year there is an addition of \$240.

Mr. McDAVID: The item "Service Allowance, \$240" disappears; it is being put against the particular item to which it refers. Had this officer been there for a complete year the item would have been \$480. As it is only for 10 months it is only \$400. There is no increase.

Mr. WIGHT: It seems to want auditing. Ten months at \$20 per month is only \$200. I hope the Colony's books are not audited like that.

Mr. McDAVID: The hon. Member is lacking in his arithmetic. Twelve months at \$40 per month is \$480, and 10 months at \$40 is \$400. (Laughter).

Item passed as printed.

Item 2—Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Allowances, \$900.

Mr. ELEAZAR: What is the reason for this increase? There is no explanation at all.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The

Auditor informs me that this is the first year in which he has made inspections, and that the \$740 voted for this year has been found to be too little. He therefore asked that it be increased to \$900.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: We should not restrict the activities of the Auditor. Let him travel and make inspections.

Mr. SEAFORD: I think the Council should welcome more inspections.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: While I am in agreement with anything that will facilitate more frequent visits of inspection by the Auditor I would point out that the actual expenditure on this Department in 1933 was \$24,608, and the estimate we are asked to pass to-day is \$27,387, an increase of \$2,779. I am not suggesting that the activities of the Department should be curtailed. I am only stressing the point that every year there is an increase on the previous year's estimate.

Item passed as printed.

#### TREASURY.

Item 1a—Colonial Treasurer (\$4,800 to \$5,760 to \$240), \$3,840.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Is Government in a position to inform the Council who is going to be promoted to this important post? It has been known for some months that the holder of the office is returning to the Colony as Colonial Secretary, and I say that the Colonial Office is treating this Council with scant courtesy in connection with this appointment. They do not give us an opportunity to make any recommendation as to who should fill the post and at what salary, or whether we consider that there is anybody in the local Service capable of filling it. We are told nothing. All we will hear, probably in the next three or four months, is that a cablegram has come announcing that Mr. "So-and-So" has been appointed Colonial Treasurer. I do not think it is right, and I must enter my protest against it. We are either a Council with some responsibility and experience of the Colony's needs or we are a body of "nincompoops." It appears that we are placed in the latter category by the Colonial Office.

THE CHAIRMAN: No information has yet been received as to who will fill the

post. I may say that it will probably be filled somewhere about the middle of next year, so that there is still some time to receive information.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Everybody knows that the cost of Administration is far too high, and any opportunity of reducing it the Council would be pleased to take. But we have no opportunity of reducing it when we are asked to vote the maximum salary and raise taxation to meet it. I think it is a very unfair position. I see no reason why an officer should be appointed at the maximum salary. Government should have been informed of the appointment so as to be able to inform the Council.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The Secretary of State should be advised that the amount has been carried out at the maximum for the sake of convenience, but that the new appointment should be made at the minimum salary.

THE CHAIRMAN: This may be regarded as the total figure. It is not yet known how long the present substantive holder of the office will draw pay under this vote. Hon. Members may take it that when an appointment is made it will be made at the lowest figure on the scale.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: As regards Service Allowances I am of the opinion that the new system of merging them with the salary of the officer is wrong. Members of the Council will find it difficult to trace the salary of an officer when he is transferred to another Department. It is another form of shuffling.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member was not here last year when I think it was done at the request of the Electives. We cannot vary our Estimates from year to year.

Mr. CANNON: Next year we will not see that explanatory note. The allowance should be on the other side of the page.

Mr. McDAVID: I can assure the hon. Member that whenever a Service Allowance is payable it will be specially noted alongside the item. We have to be guided ourselves.

Item passed as printed.

Item 2—Books of Account, etc., \$800.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: What is the total expenditure for the 10 months of this year ending on the 31st October? The actual expenditure in 1933 was \$338, and the approved estimate for this year was \$800. I would like some explanation why there has been such an enormous increase from \$338 to \$800.

Mr. McDAVID: I think the figure of \$338 should be increased by \$132. It appears a little further down on the page, but I prefer to explain at a later stage.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I see from the Comparative Statement that the actual expenditure in 1924 was \$129, in 1925, \$264, in 1926, \$148. In 1932 the expenditure was \$134, in 1931, \$137, and in 1930 \$174. It seems to me to have gone up tremendously in later years.

Mr. McDAVID: There is some slight variation in regard to accounts. Previously all the expenditure in connection with books of account was charged against the vote of the Treasury, but that has been changed and other Departments provide their own books. There is no doubt that the sum of \$800 asked for is considerably higher than the actual expenditure in 1933 which was \$470. I will give an explanation at a later stage.

THE CHAIRMAN: There may be some mistake in the Comparative Statement because the amount was \$638 in 1933.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I can only go by what is printed in the Draft Estimate.

THE CHAIRMAN: I draw attention to the item "Books, Stationery, etc., \$638" in the Comparative Statement.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: In the Estimate it is referred to as "Books of Account, etc."

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has asked for the expenditure for the 10 months of this year. The item will therefore be held over.

Item 6—Travelling Expenses, \$150.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I would like to know where the Treasurer travels to. I have never seen him in New Amsterdam. Does he only go to Government House?

Mr. McDAVID: I think it is the Treasurer's misfortune that he has not been able to go to Berbice as often as he would like.

THE CHAIRMAN: But he may do so next year. (Laughter).

Item passed as printed.

TREASURY—INCOME TAX OFFICE.

Item 1b—Secretary (Class I Clerk) \$2,520.

Mr. SEAFORD: Why is he getting a Service Allowance?

THE CHAIRMAN: After a certain number of years an officer becomes entitled to it by resolution of the Council.

Mr. McDAVID: With regard to the remark made by the Hon. Mr. Seaford yesterday in the course of the debate on the Budget, that the Income Tax was high, and that it was at the rate of  $\frac{1}{5}$ th or  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., I desire to explain that that is not so.  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. is the company rate of tax.

Mr. SEAFORD: I said it was high in an undeveloped country, and secondly it was  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on industry.

Mr. McDAVID: It is not  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. even on industry.  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. is the company rate, but companies deduct that tax from the dividends paid to the shareholders. The collection of the tax from a company is only the means of collecting it at the source, but a shareholder is allowed it as a set-off against his personal tax which might not amount to anything like  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. In this Colony the average tax on individuals is not higher than 4 per cent. In so far as companies are concerned the tax of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. is only on that portion of the profits that is not actually distributed in dividends. It is true, however, that a large proportion of our Income Tax is collected at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and that is because such a large proportion of the profits come from companies registered in the United Kingdom. From those companies the tax is collected, but it means no extra charge on them because in any case they are liable to United Kingdom taxation which was at the rate of 5 shillings in the pound last year. The United Kingdom permits this

Colony to charge taxation up to half of their rate and therefore in charging 12½ per cent. all this Colony does in so far as companies registered in the United Kingdom are concerned is to collect half of the tax from the Imperial Government. The individual has his own personal rate which is comparatively low and does not average more than 4 per cent.

Mr. SEAFORD: I do not see how you can take an average rate because companies and their shareholders are a source of great income. The people who have money invested are paying very much more than an average of 4 per cent. I do not think you can take 4 per cent. as the rate at which companies are paying Income Tax.

Mr. WIGHT: I quite agree with Mr. Seaford. The Colonial Treasurer has neglected to tell us what becomes of the difference if a company does not pay out full profits to its shareholders.

Mr. McDAVID: I said that a company pays 12½ per cent. on that portion of its profits that it does not distribute. The individual taxpayer only pays his personal rate. If he is a wealthy man he may pay a much higher rate than 12½ per cent. One must assess the burden of the tax by taking it at the average.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The undistributed portion of the profits of a company belongs to its shareholders.

Mr. McDAVID: And when that profit is distributed the shareholder will get a set-off equal to the tax paid by the company on that undistributed profit.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am glad to hear the Colonial Treasurer say "when it is distributed." I like the word "when."

Item passed as printed.

#### CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

Item 1f—12 Class II Officers, \$19,901.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs): I move that this item be carried out at "13 Class II. Officers, \$21,161," and that the next item 1g. "32 Class III. Officers, \$26,936,"—be carried out at "33 Class III. Officers, \$27,392." In the Estimate as drafted provision has already

been made for the addition of one Class I. Officer and two Class III. Officers. With the two I have just moved the Department will have five additional officers, one Class I, one Class II. and three Class III. officers. During the last four or five years the staff of the Department has been reduced by five officers and five watchers.

Mr. SEAFORD: I would like to know whether the Comptroller of Customs has changed his mind as to the officers being necessary. When did he change his mind?

Mr. D'ANDRADE: What I have moved is what I asked Government for.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Comptroller of Customs did ask for five extra officers, but in putting up the increased number to the Secretary of State he said he would only allow two. We asked him to re-consider it and he said we could include five if we could find a saving under Personal Emoluments. The Comptroller of Customs is satisfied that he requires five officers to meet the requirements of the public, and since the Estimates were printed we have had a reply from the Secretary of State that we could increase it to five.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I would like to get some further information. Are any of these officers included in the District Administration Scheme? At present one of the officers of the Customs Department is in Berbice doing District Administration work.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: Two officers have been transferred to the District Administration Scheme, and when those two officers are included my Department will have the exact number it had before the District Administration Scheme was introduced.

Mr. SEAFORD: Are they permanently under the District Administration Scheme?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I would like to know if effect will be given to the recommendation of the Electives that when vacancies occur retrenched officers should get a chance of re-employment?

THE CHAIRMAN: All of these additional officers will be employed in George-

town. It has nothing to do with the District Administration.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: They will be stationed in Georgetown, sir.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Are we voting money for officers under the District Administration Scheme. Customs officers who are sent out to do District Administration work?

THE CHAIRMAN: There are officers of the District Administration Scheme who do Customs work and are paid under the District Administration Scheme.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: In the estimates before the Council the Comptroller is asking for five new officers. In addition to those five there are two other officers in the Customs Department doing District Administration work.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: When the District Administration Scheme was introduced the Customs staff on the Estimates was reduced by two officers and the District Administration staff increased by two, the reason being that those Customs officers became available for work in addition to Customs work, and it was found desirable to transfer them from the Customs to the District Administration Scheme.

Item as amended agreed to.

#### DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND MINES.

Mr. MULLIN (Commissioner of Lands and Mines): I ask that the items under this Head be held over. Owing to the regrettable death of a senior officer we have had to revise the estimates and a new page is being printed and will be laid before the Council to-morrow.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I hope the Commissioner will be able to answer the questions I asked yesterday when the time comes to consider the estimates of his Department.

#### FOREST DEPARTMENT.

Mr. SEAFORD: I move that the entire items under this Head be deleted.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I think the hon. Member has made that suggestion well knowing that it cannot be carried out.

Mr. SEAFORD: I do not know that at all.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I think he is knocking his head against a stone wall. I have looked through this Head and I observe that the approved estimate for this year is \$39,610, while the estimate for next year is \$30,657. What are we carrying this burden for? We are spoiling one of the best officers of the country. If I had the power I would make him Colony Commissioner to run the District Administration Scheme. No one has ever controlled the affairs of the Local Government Board as he has done. Instead we have him planting trees that we will not want for the next century. Greenheart takes 100 years to mature, I understand, before it is fit for use at all. At present even our greenheart, the best hard wood known, we cannot find a market for. Even local workmen will not use our crabwood because it is too hard, and the British workmen say it spoils their machinery. There is an item of \$2,000 for nurseries. Can we afford luxuries now? Why do we want to experiment upon timber growing? For all these years we have been maintaining the Civil List in the hope that we may be able to utilise the products of the forest and get something out of them, but every year it is costing more. It is costing us \$20,000 in salaries to operate \$10,000 for all purposes, and we have to pay pensions on that. The Conservator might be asked to revise his estimates and delete everything that can possibly be deleted, because we are really doing work that is not necessary in the immediate future. That is the view I take of the whole matter. No good purpose will be served by considering the estimates item by item because the Conservator will be able to show us that he wants these things. I am asking Government to request him to hold over whatever can stand over.

Mr. CANNON: I get little pleasure from being a Member of this Council but to-day's events have afforded me a certain amount of satisfaction. For the past half a dozen years I have been preaching the necessity of closing down this unnecessary Department. It is not that I wish to close down my hon. friend, because I have the greatest respect for him, but he is wasting his time on this job. He could be of better use to the Colony if he were



allowed to do so. I have moved over and over that Government should close down this useless Department, and now I am pleased to see my friend, the hon. Mr. Seaford, has taken it up. I wish to tell him that it is useless attempting it because I had the opportunity of discussing this matter in that wonderful Hall in Downing Street with the principals there, and I know that we can strike out every item but it will still be maintained so long as we are getting doles from the Imperial Government. They are prepared to pay the entire cost of this work and deduct it from the money they are giving us as doles, so where does the advantage come in? Personally I would like to see the vote increased three times so long as the Conservator promises not to import anyone else to assist him in doling out the money; but will spend it all on labour in the Colony. Talking is of no use. As I suggested yesterday, we should pass all the estimates *en bloc*. That is what we have come to. They are not going to listen to us. They have sent my hon. friend and his associates out here to find something for them to do.

Mr. SEAFORD: Perhaps, in view of what the hon. Member has said, I should explain my reason for moving the deletion of the estimates for this Department. The report we had from one of the officers of the Department practically stated that there was absolutely no market for our woods in Great Britain. There will never be a market because there is a Trust with all the Peers in the United Kingdom buying shares, and they are interested in the woods of the East, so that there is no chance of a sale of British Guiana woods anywhere. I am informed that as long as that Trust exists with that huge capital there is no chance of selling this Colony's woods, and that people were paid \$40,000 not to buy our woods. We were told that our woods were no good. The whole thing is an absolute waste of money.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps to save time I will accept the hon. Member's suggestion and put the total estimate for the Department to the vote.

Mr. SEAFORD: If my amendment is lost I take it that you will consider the estimates item by item.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will fall back

upon what the hon. Member for Georgetown North suggested—that the Secretary of State would deduct the amount of the vote from the grants-in-aid to this Colony.

Mr. SEAFORD: It comes back to what I said—dictatorship.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I always regret the part I took in the formation of this Department. I well remember when Sir Graeme Thomson brought it up before the Council, and we had a most glowing description of the benefits that were going to accrue to the Colony. On the prophecy he made I rather reluctantly recorded my vote for the formation of the Department. Out of the estimated expenditure for 1935 the Conservator's salary is the princely sum of £1,500 plus a house allowance, to look after an expenditure of \$10,000. I wonder if there is any Legislature in the world where such a state of affairs would be tolerated. I will vote for the striking out of the whole of this vote. I am sure no Elected Member wishes to cast any reflection on the Conservator of Forest because it may be well said that we are not in a position to offer any valuable or fair criticisms on his ability. All I say is that we are not getting value for the money spent, and that this \$30,000 can be very much better spent in helping some industry or in doing something to relieve the distress that exists in the Colony. We cannot sell our woods, so what is the use of continuing with a hopeless venture?

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I am quite willing to put the suggestion of the hon. Member for Georgetown North to the test by supporting the Hon. Mr. Seaford's amendment that the entire estimate of the Department be deleted. If the Secretary of State chooses to run the Department as a separate Department of State, and reduce the dole to be given to this Colony, it is all well. I would like to see the Department removed from the Estimate entirely. I have been saying for years that the Department is too heavy at the top. The reply I got some years ago was that it was a technical Department. I warn the Hon. Mr. Seaford that it would be very much better to take the estimates item by item because, even if we do not succeed in having the entire vote deleted, we might at least secure the deletion of one or two of the items he has in mind.

Mr. CANNON: That is just what this country suffers from. We cannot be united. If we are unanimous to-day we can strike this vote out because the Nominated Members are opposed to it.

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forest): There is one thing I would like to enquire from the mover of the amendment. He has moved that the whole of this page be deleted. To-day is the 13th of December; does he propose to put four officers on the street on the first of January? It is customary to give six months' notice. It has always been done with other officers. I do not care about myself but I have other officers to think about.

Mr. SEAFORD: That is not my intention at all. We have not yet dealt with the estimates of the Department of Lands and Mines. Those officers could be attached

to the Department of Land and Mines to look after the records and such work that requires to be looked after.

THE CHAIRMAN put the items as printed, and the Council divided and voted:—

*Ayes*—Dr. Henderson, Messrs. Wood, Mullin, D'Andrade, McDavid, Major Craig, Woolford, Professor Dash, Major Bain Gray, Smellie, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—12.

*Noes*—Messrs. Wills, Peer Bacchus, Seaford, Austin, Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh, De Aguiar, Eleazar, Cannon, Luckhoo and Brassington—10.

Estimate passed.

The Council adjourned until the following day at 11 a.m.