

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 15th December, 1937.

The Council met at 10.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, SIR WILFRID JACKSON, K.C.M.G. President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, (Mr. E. J. Waddington, C.M.G., O.B.E.).

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

Major the Hon. W. Bain Gray, C.B.E., Director of Education.

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

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo, O.B.E., (Eastern Berbice).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus, (Western Berbice).

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. F. A. Mackey (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 14th December, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO DECEASED POLICEMEN'S REPRESENTATIVES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Waddington): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

MESSAGE No. 11.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite Council to approve the award of *ex gratia* payments to the legal personal representatives of the Non-commissioned officers and constables of the Police Force named in the attached schedule, who died in service shortly before the enactment of the Constabulary (Death Gratuities Ordinance, 1936 (No. 25 of 1936) after having completed 10 years service in the Force.

2. There was some delay in enacting this Ordinance owing to the necessity for consultation with the Secretary of State on certain points, and it is considered equitable that payments of gratuities equal in amount to that provided in the Ordinance should be paid in these cases, in view of the fact that the principle embodied in the Ordinance had been accepted before the deaths occurred.

3. I invite the Council therefore, to approve *ex gratia* payments, to the legal personal representatives of the deceased men named in the schedule, equal to a year's salary in each case.

W. E. JACKSON,
Governor.

11th December, 1937.

SCHEDULE.

Name.	Date of Death.	Service.	Death gratuity (equivalent to one year's salary) recommended.
Lance Corporal 3883, Joseph Yhip.	4th August, 1936	... 13 yrs. 3 months ...	\$ 436
Corporal 3588, J. A. Junor	... 7th August, 1936	.. 16 years ...	528
Constable 3741, A. M. Carrol	... 12th September, 1936	... 15 yrs. 5 mths. ...	402
Constable 4343, L. T. Belle	... 10th October, 1936	... 11 yrs. 6 mths. ...	384

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

3RD SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1937.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next or a subsequent meeting of the Council he would move the following motions:—

THAT this Council approves the Third Schedule of additional provision required to meet expenditure in excess of the estimates for the year 1937, which has been laid on the table.

EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO DECEASED POLICEMEN'S REPRESENTATIVES.

THAT, with reference to the Governor's Message No. 11 dated 11th December, 1937, this Council approves the award of *ex gratia* payments equivalent to one year's salary in each case to the legal personal representatives of the non-commissioned officers and constables named in the schedule to the Message.

PRESS REPORTS CHALLENGED.

Mr. JACOB: Sir, before we proceed with the Order of the Day, I crave your indulgence to refer to a matter of very grave importance not only to this Government but to the people of this Colony and to me, your humble servant. Rule 5 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Council states:—

The Clerk may grant to the accredited representative of any newspaper permission to attend the sittings of the Council.

(b) If there should be published in any newspaper an unfair or misleading report of anything which has transpired at a meeting of the Council, the Council may direct that no representative of that newspaper may be permitted to attend the sitting of the Council for such period as the Council may determine.

Basing what I have to say on that Rule, I beg to refer you to the *Daily Chronicle* of to-day's date in which it is presumed, I think, to report the proceedings of this Council yesterday and my speech. I spoke, Your Excellency, for about half-an-hour and this newspaper has given me about a quarter of a column.

I cannot quarrel with the newspaper for reporting me or not reporting me. In fact, I would prefer not to be reported by this newspaper, but I do say it is an abuse of the privileges of this Council for a newspaper to report misleading statements—statements which when read in conjunction with the statements made by other hon. members would show to the public that it is misleading. In fact I go further and say it is unfair. I think it has been so condensed that it makes the matter very unfair indeed. I do not say that a newspaper should not condense what I say, but the condensed report given in this newspaper, as compared with the other newspaper, will show that it is misleading and unfair. I should not like the newspaper to be excluded altogether, but I am going to ask Your Excellency, to ask the Press to be good enough, if they want to report the speeches here, to report them clearly or not at all.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you move any motion?

Mr. JACOB: No motion. I just mention it.

THE PRESIDENT: There is nothing I can do unless a motion is moved. I will certainly not express any opinion as to whether reports published by the Press of proceedings of this Council are accurate or misleading or otherwise. That is a matter for the Council itself and not for me as President. I take it that you are satisfied, having drawn the attention of the Council to the matter.

Mr. JACOB: Do I understand you to say a motion must be moved?

THE PRESIDENT: I can make no ruling unless there is a motion.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to be

advised, if it is by motion some notice would be taken of it. It does not happen here very frequently, and I am completely ignorant as to the procedure.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Nihill): To a point of order; I think the hon. member would have been more in order if he had told the Council in what respect he thought the report of the news paper unfair. I do not know how many members present have read the report to which the hon. member refers. I for one have not done so, and I think it would be very difficult for this Council to move any motion in the matter without first ascertaining whether there is *prima facie* case for the hon. member's representation. I thought, when the hon. member rose, he was going to make a personal explanation under the Standing Rules and Orders, No. 8, and that he was going to tell this Council exactly in what way the report to which he has referred was misleading and unfair to the hon. member. I think unless the hon. member can do that in some way, it would be difficult for this Council to pass any motion under Standing Order, Rule No. 5.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member sees the difficulty, I suppose!

Mr. JACOB: I do not think we have overcome that difficulty. I have not quite gathered what should be done, whether I should move a motion and make a specific charge.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Attorney-General's point is that you must indicate in general terms in what way the report is misleading. If there is a *prima facie* case, then it would be a matter for the Council to investigate whether it is an abuse of privilege or otherwise.

Mr. JACOB: I shall await another opportunity and then bring the matter up again.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:—

A Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Colonization Fund Ordinance, 1937, in regard to certain particulars. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill intituled An Ordinance to make provision in the case of dispute for the sale of undivided interests in immovable property.

A Bill intituled An Ordinance to prescribe the method to be adopted in computing the taxes and rates to be levied by the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown in respect of the year 1938 on all properties in the city. (*The Attorney-General*).

A Bill intituled An Ordinance to continue the establishment of the Post Office Savings Bank and to provide for the better control and management thereof.

A Bill intituled An Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 37, in certain particulars.

A Bill intituled An Ordinance to make provision as to the pension rights of Benjamin Disraeli Mc Dougall. (*Mr. Mc David, Colonial Treasurer*).

A Bill intituled An Ordinance to abolish the offices of Chief Commissary and District Commissaries of taxation and to apportion the duties of those Officers among District Commissioners and other Officers. (*Mr. Laing, District Commissioner, East Demerara*).

Notice was given that at the next or a subsequent meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bills be read the second time.

COLONY DEVELOPMENT LOAN.

"Whereas the Labour Market of the Colony has been for some time in excess of demand;

"And whereas the restriction of the area under Sugar Cane cultivation as a result of the Sugar quota allotment will further affect the Labour Market by increasing the number of unemployed;

"And whereas there is no hope of any expansion of the major industry, to wit, Cane Sugar, for at least 5 years;

"And whereas it is imperative to encourage development of other industries which will absorb the labour element of the Colony;

"And whereas the current revenues of the Colony, including the Loan Grant in aid, are inadequate to develop the Colony which is largely undeveloped;

Be it Resolved,—That this Council respectfully requests the Government with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to raise a loan of £20,000,000 to be repaid with interest over a period of 50 years for the development of the Colony's resources, coastal and forestal.

"And that a copy of this resolution and the debate thereon be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

Mr. ELEAZAR: Sir, the motion which stands in my name on the Order Paper in a manner speaks for itself. The first preamble is, "Whereas the Labour Market of the Colony has been for some time in excess of demand." The second preamble states that the Sugar Industry has become somewhat restricted in its development as

the result of the quota which has been allotted to this Colony by those persons responsible for Sugar manufacture in the world when they met in England some time ago. As a result the third preamble is that for at least 5 years there is no hope of any expansion in the acreage under cultivation. The next preamble is that the current revenues of the Colony including the Loan Grant in aid are inadequate to develop the Colony which is largely undeveloped. I intend to deal with this motion and the preambles to it in the inverse order.

Notwithstanding the genius for colonisation for which the English people are proverbial, it became necessary after the lapse of over a century for the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Amery, to appoint a Commission to come to this Colony and make enquiry. The terms of reference of that Commission (known as the British Guiana Commission but called the Wilson Snell Financial Commission in this country) as laid down in their report, are—I am craving your indulgence to read from that report:—

To consider and report on the economic condition of the Colony, the causes which have hitherto retarded and the measures which could be taken to promote development, and any facts which they may consider to have a bearing on the above matters.

I submit, sir, that this is a tacit admission that this "Magnificent Province," this "Eldorado" this "Elysium of the Tropics," and thanks to a writer in one of the local papers a few days ago, this "Trans-Atlantic Eden," after 100 years of British occupation has not progressed and is still a most fertile land for colonization and development. In spite of its uniform climate, the most delightful at least in the Tropics if not in the world, in spite of the fertility of the soil capable of producing every known Tropical agricultural product with industry and enterprise equivalent to its superior in any part of the world, in spite of its forests studded with innumerable varieties of timber (and here I am reminded that history states that somewhere about in the early 60's at an exhibition held in London there were no fewer than 189 varieties of timber from British Guiana), in spite of its mineral resources in gold which to-day is fetching higher prices than ever in the history of this Colony,

in spite of its bauxite deposit, in spite of its diamonds and other precious stones, this Magnificent Province, this Utopia of the Caribbean Seas, is still languishing for colonization and development to the extent of being stated, by no less a person than Mr. Amery himself when he appointed the Commission, that the country is not developed and they were to enquire into the reason and causes that hindered that development. If any further evidence were required, I will call upon no other person than Mr. Amery himself, who was in those days Secretary of State for the Colonies, and who was in a position to know everything that concerns this Colony and to appreciate all the reports sent from the local Government from time to time. Let us hear what he has to say. Thanks again to one of the local papers, in a book recently published in England Mr. Amery in referring to British Guiana and the West Indian Islands stated in respect to British Guiana estates that the main problem is economic. Here I may digress to assure Your Excellency that in respect to the finding of the Commissioners the only point on which the local people and the Members of this Council at the time differed with the Commissioners was that they found constitutionally as well. We saw nothing wrong with the Constitution. When you have more time and have been here a little longer, I will deal with that. Thanks to Mr. Amery, he says that "the main problem here is economic especially in such an almost untouched territory as British Guiana." If there is anything required, if there is any more evidence required to testify to the fact that this country after 134 years (to be precise) has not developed, you have the testimony of no less a person than the Secretary of State for the Colonies. This, sir, is absolutely correct. British Guiana is still an undeveloped territory. The Commissioners have themselves so found. I intend, with Your Excellency's permission, to refer to this report of the Commissioners as I go along in support of my motion and that contention.

But before doing so, permit me to digress at this point to give a little story, which I will never be able to forget; because the moral is so stubborn in itself and so appropriate I have to put it to this Council. The story is told of a mother lark who built her nest in a

farmer's cornfield and hatched her young therein. When about to make her excursions from her nest, she would strictly charge her young to be vigilant and to listen to whatever is said by any person who visits the field and report to her on her return. On one occasion of her return from her peregrinations she found the young ones in great consternation and enquired of them what was the cause of their condition. "Mother," they said, "the farmer and his son were here to-day and we overheard the farmer say to his son: 'My boy, this corn will be soon ripe and ready for harvest; we must send for our friends and neighbours to come and help us.'" The mother said: "Do not be disturbed, there is no danger." So they went on. On the second occasion when the mother lark returned and found the little ones in great perturbation, she wanted to know the cause of the trouble. "Oh mother," they said, "the farmer and his son were here to-day and we overheard the farmer say to his son: 'My boy, this corn is quite ripe and ready for harvest; we have sent for our friends and neighbours and they have not come; we must now send for our relations. The mother lark said, 'Oh my children, do not worry, there is no danger.'" So they continued in occupation of the field. On the third occasion when she came and found the little ones in an affrighted state, she enquired what was the cause of the trouble. "Mother," they said, "the farmer and his son were here to-day and the farmer said to his son 'My boy, we are likely to lose the harvest as the corn is much overripe. We have sent for friends and neighbours and they have not come; we have sent for our relatives to come and they have not; we have to buckle ourselves down to the task and do it ourselves, otherwise the crop will be lost.'" "Now," said the mother lark, "we will look after ourselves."

British Guiana has sent to her friends and neighbours for 134 years and they have not come. She has sent for her relatives and they have not come, they prefer to go to the Argentine and spend millions of pounds (sterling) there, they prefer to go to Brazil and spend millions there, they prefer to go to Mexico and do the same thing, and even in China—a place where any morning one can be made to clear out with only his suit on his back.

Here their funds are perfectly safe under their own Flag, and yet for 134 years British Guiana is still considered, as stated by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the person of Mr. Amery, a territory almost untouched. Those Commissioners came and they enquired. As a result of their enquiry this is what they say:—

It appears to us essential, as well on the ground of immediate financial exigencies as on that of future development, that the authorities finally responsible for the solvency and good government of the Colony should have power in the last resort to carry into effect measures which they consider essential for its well-being. This will involve an alteration in the constitution, the precise nature of which, we suggest, might be referred in the instance to a local commission convened by the Governor to advise upon the steps which should be taken to confer power upon the Governor to carry into effect measures which he and the Secretary of State consider essential for the well-being of the Colony; and also what other improvements, if any, might be effected in the present constitution.

I would not indulge in any recrimination by saying who was right or wrong, who was responsible or not; but the fact remains that the country is untouched. The Commissioners have come and found it so. It was one of their functions to recommend what should be done in order to give British Guiana a move on, and they began by saying:

The granting of this power presumes that the responsible authorities will thereupon proceed to restore financial equilibrium and the establishment of a sound financial system by the methods and on the lines which we have described. . .

I do not agree with them entirely as regards the methods to be adopted. These methods have not fructified and I am asking Government to resort to another method which will be more effective. When you have raped the Constitution and given Government power to govern, the Commissioners say you must simultaneously continue energetically the policy of freeing the coastal area from the danger of floods, drought and contaminated water.

That is the first thing to be done after you have taken away the Constitution. Your Excellency, this brings me to a point where I must again ask you to permit me to digress. This brings me, sir, to what has been the cry of this country as a whole and of this Council in particular for years and years. Long before my

time here, that cry has been the necessity for coastal irrigation and drainage. I remember that on the very first occasion that your immediate predecessor, Sir Geoffrey Northcote, presided over this Council I tabled a motion for the inauguration of an irrigation and drainage scheme and it was rejected. He then promised me that on the very last occasion he will preside over this Council that motion will be again brought up, and it will receive a different answer. Speaking to me at New Amsterdam he said these words: "Mr. Eleazar, I have a recollection that at the first meeting of the Council over which I presided when I came to this Colony, you moved a motion which Government did not accept, but now that I am going away from the Colony at the next meeting of the Council, which would be the last I will preside over, that motion will come up again and you will get a different answer." The motion did come up and I had the honour and glory of being the seconder of it. The Director of Public Works was the mover, and the motion was accepted by Government and carried. I understand some small attempt has been made since to carry it into effect. There is a survey going on with that view.

But there were times when we thought irrigation and drainage were not of such vital importance to the well-being of the country. Sugar was king; and although we could not get what we wanted in that respect, yet the population if not happy was contented. But, sir, since then it is common knowledge and history what has happened to Sugar, thereby throwing out of employment hundreds of people from the canefields—labourers—and naturally glutting the labour market. As you have heard from the hon. member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) yesterday, as late as 1900 there were 56 sugar estates in the Colony and to-day there are only 18. Some of these abandoned estates have been amalgamated with the few that are remaining; but take Essequibo Coast there were no fewer than 35 sugar estates operating there, I know that from my personal experience as a schoolmaster on that Coast, but to-day there is but one. When I visited Anna Regina in its last days and as I entered the building, to see the estate abandoned I turned away from seeing the giant with its strength lying dead as it were.

The point, I am making, is that the necessity therefore for irrigation and drainage has now become still more vital, because those people who have been put out of work on those estates must be found something else to do, and until the coastal lands are rid of the ravages of flood and drought there is no hope for them. Your Excellency must know that in every year—I say every year except perhaps one in seven—you have either flood or drought in some part of the country, and one in seven you have drought all over the country. We lose very much more every year by reason of continuous flood or drought, and the Commissioners so found. They say, Government must energetically try to rid the coastal area of flood and drought since a change of the constitution. I say, it has become even more vital now than it was then. In a country with a network of some of the largest rivers in the world it is criminal neglect not to provide irrigation and drainage for the coastlands so as to enable the people to reap what they have sown. With the exception of the Orinoco and the Amazon, the Essequibo is the largest river on the South American continent. Then you have the Demerara river, the Berbice river, and the Corentyne river, all large rivers. It is not like in some other places, say Trinidad for instance, where what is called a river is a little stream and where the Canje Creek in this country will be considered an ocean by the people there. The Commissioners further state:

We are convinced that the difficulty in regard to population would settle itself if the coastal area could be made free from the danger of floods and drought and the shortage of pure drinking water. If the inhabitants of that fertile area, the healthiest in the Colony, could be certain that the fruits of their labour on the land would not be denied to them by the ravages of drought or flood, they would not be tempted to seek new fields in the forest areas if and when these are opened up.

The idea had gone forth that if the coastlands were irrigated and drained and there was any opening up of the interior it would divert the labour supply from the sugar estates on the coastlands to the interior. But the Commissioners said no, if you can make it certain that they will receive the fruits of their labours from the soil by the inauguration of suitable irrigation and drainage schemes there is no fear at all of their

seeking new fields in the forest areas. Here we are but 36 hours travelling distance from Trinidad and a little further away from the other West Indian islands, and we are growing rice in this country and can grow it, I am able to say, to supply the whole of the West Indies as well as Canada and other British Colonies which may need a supply of rice. You may say, "Why don't you?" I say, "Because they give us a wide berth." "Why do they?" you next ask. The answer is: "Because they cannot be certain that they are going to get their supply." Through floods and drought cultivation of the land is only a gamble. All the time we have been gambling with the elements, and of course the elements always win. One of Your Excellency's immediate predecessors informed me personally that the day we can rid our coastlands of the storm water and get water on to the land for irrigation purposes when required and also keep the sea out, British Guiana will have a move on. It will be seen therefore that first we have the sea coming in over the land, then water remaining on the land and cannot get out, and when it is dry weather we have drought and are affected even though we have large rivers all over the country.

Why I am emphasizing this point to the extent that I am doing, is because I see the urgent necessity for immediate action, not the feeble action which is being taken. What we want is something more vigorous. We want something, according to the Commissioners, more energetic. That idea is not original; it came from the late Sir Gordon Guggisberg of blessed memory. He said we should get a number of Royal Engineers to survey the whole of the coastlands and inaugurate an irrigation and drainage scheme. Unfortunately he did not live to carry out what he had in his mind and of which he had given utterance. I urge upon Your Excellency, and I have no doubt that I will get the support of the entire Council, that we must now do what has been left undone these 134 years.

I am suggesting this loan, and I am hoping that I shall be able before I sit down to convince every member of this Council that it is possible for us to raise this loan to develop this country without putting one farthing taxation on the popu-

lation. You always will have "Thomases"; in Holy Writ you had one in twelve, and here with 29 men in this Council it is possible to have two or three (laughter). By this loan when the country has been developed you will still have some money left in our exchequer. I have no doubt that Government will see its way to recommend that this be carried out. The Commissioners recommended that Government energetically take into their hands the problem of irrigation and drainage of the coastlands so as to make the people reap what they sow. If that was done the West Indian Islands would be able to depend on British Guiana for their supply of rice; they would not be driven to the necessity of placing orders for their supply a long way ahead from India. The only reason why the West Indian Islands are getting their rice supply from India is because British Guiana cannot be certain at any time that they can give the supply. I have heard doubting "Thomases" here say that we cannot compete with India as rice is grown there so cheaply. Those members forget that distance imposes its own sanctions, for while it takes six weeks to get from Burma to Trinidad it only takes 36 hours from British Guiana to Trinidad. If we had proper irrigation and drainage we can grow all the rice they want, and not only our rice industry will thrive but we will hold the West Indian Market. The Commissioners, among the things they recommended, said that we should get new crops, and they mentioned one—ground-nuts. I have been told that nuts cannot grow here. I concede that nuts cannot grow in some districts, but in others I know that they will grow and flourish. It did in Berbice at one time and even now on the Corentyne Coast, but with floods all the time you cannot reap what you sow.

The question arises, what are you going to do with the labourers who are now thrown out of the canefields? The sugar manufacturers cannot help it. What are you going to do with the miriads of boys and girls who leave school every year? The Commissioners went on further and said we are to improve our educational system and must have training centres at places besides Georgetown and New Amsterdam, in such large villages as Buxton. Nine years have elapsed and only one such school has been established,

the one at Broad Street, Georgetown. I am not sure where the money came from to get that. There are two other Government schools established but Government has only built one. These are necessary complements to the development of the country's coastlands. From year to year 200 miles of road are levelled at a cost of thousands of dollars for labour. I hope Your Excellency will be spared that misfortune of riding over the Corentyne road; it is good now, but when the rains commence do not let anybody induce you to go there with your car. These roads take for labour every year large sums of money; surely if we had the money we would build permanent roads to meet the present heavy traffic. When these roads were originally built, it is fair to say, they had not to meet the kind of traffic we have now. The present traffic destroys the roads like anything. It is perhaps possible to build a road that will destroy a wheel, but I do not think that perfection has been reached that a wheel can be built which will not destroy a road. Permanent roadway is an amenity of civilization at least on the coastland here. Then again, sir, we have the sea defences problem. Lord Neptune is resting himself for a while, let us pray that he will continue so to do for many a day. If Providence does not come to the help of this country, and if Neptune should shake himself again you will have no public road at all and no railway-line within a fortnight. As a boy I travelled over the East Coast coastland and the sea was then about a mile out without exaggeration; to-day the sea is within 200 yards of the railway-line itself. The sea continues to encroach and we are nibbling at the work.

We have called our neighbours to come in and help us fight this encroachment by the sea from year to year with no result. That is a necessity and we cannot go on as we are doing. The money spent on sea defences is literally money thrown into the sea as nothing comes from it. It is not like irrigation and drainage where the money spent will be recovered from the farmers themselves, who will then be able to reap their crops. If we had the money we could construct a permanent wall and thus save this nibbling at sea defences. These are only some of the ordinary amenities of life which are absent from the coastlands at the present moment, because

we have not got the money to provide them. For years and years we have been clamouring for a move on, and although Your Excellency has only been here for a short time you have heard the hon. member for North-Western District state yesterday how long we have been clamouring for an Agricultural Loan Bank.

There is need also for an Agricultural Loan Bank. There are no means of farmers getting a few dollars to carry on agriculture ordinarily. It will surprise Your Excellency to know the number of men who have lost their all in the venture of rice business and have even hanged themselves. It was because they lost their crop and had to pay their creditors, as there was no agricultural bank where they could get a loan long enough to tide them over their difficulties, so that if they could not pay one year they could do so the next.

The Commissioners did not end there. They spoke of stamping out preventable diseases through the Public Health Department. We have got a Public Health Department, and that is all. We have made one feeble effort to enforce on the people one persuasive measure in that respect, but it is only an apology for public health. They have a very elaborate Bill, but have not the staff to carry it out. There is no money and therefore we cannot improve public health. I do not see how you can have sanitation in a flooded country. The Commissioners recommended that we rid the country of the ravages of flood and drought, by irrigation and drainage, make permanent roads, build large schools, keep the sea water out and get the land water out to sea when it is necessary, and then go further afield. No less necessary it is, they say, that the opening up of the interior should be pushed on with all speed.

I make bold to say that Sir Edward Denham, also of revered memory, did his best and made what is now known as the Denham road. I had the pleasure of accompanying Sir Edward over that road. I cannot go back for love and I do not know whether I will go back for money. It is a road of a sort, and there again you have to be continually repairing and spending money. I have some figures here in respect to the cost of that road. I cannot believe it. The amount is \$966,022

for the Bartica to Potaro area road; if it is construction alone it is bad, if it is maintenance it is worse. For how long are we going to continue it? It only shows the necessity for permanent roads—roads that will not entail this continuous repair every year. That is what happens there, as the place is sandy and every heavy down pour of rain washes the sand across the road; that will continue as there is nothing to prevent it. We therefore want permanent roads there. Sir Edward showed the way; he has made us see what we have to do in that respect.

But the Commissioners did not say that. They say we must push with all speed. They even go further and say:—

Finally, if it should prove that the great potential timber resources of the Colony disclosed by the recent report of the Conservator of Forests require for their economic exploitation the construction of a railway, we recommend that the Imperial Government should assume over a period of years the interest and sinking fund obligations which a railway development loan would involve.

We do not want that. We say, let us carry our own burden. Perhaps I may here digress a little to quote from a book which came into my hands yesterday, thanks to the courtesy and kindness of the Director of Public Works (Mr. Case), who is the author of it. I observe that it was published in England in 1934, at which time he could not have conceived any possibility of his being appointed Director of Public Works in this Colony. The book is titled "British Guiana Timbers," and therein is the following statement:—

Of Greenheart only, which is without question one of the most valuable timbers in the world, there is estimated to be 4,600,000,000 cubic feet of merchantable timber in the accessible area only.

That was a statement made by the Conservator of Forests in 1928. The accessible area referred to is only a small patch of the Colony's forests, so that development there would repay the expenditure. While we are complaining about the neglect, we cannot blind our eyes to the fact that it was nobody's fault. I cannot conceive, I could never have and not even now, how 300,000 people can be expected to economically develop 90,000 square miles of country. It is a super-

human task. The Commissioners saw that and in their report said:—

Development of the interior will, in our opinion, provide its own influx of population, and especially would this be the case if it were known that the Government were opening up by railway construction an area so rich in the qualities of timber for which there is likely to be an ever increasing demand.

There is an ever increasing demand for British Guiana timber, and the people here will not face the facts. Your Excellency, the trouble is that the woods are too expensive at the moment. I want again to quote the hon. Director of Public Works. He did not know that this was going to fall into my hands, but it is so necessary for the purpose for which I am using it now. He has inserted the following reason why British Guiana timbers are so expensive:—

The cost of British Guiana timbers is higher than it should be owing to the primitive system of selective logging, unavoidable owing to lack of capital to build railways, etc.

As long as we are going to wait on our friends and relations and neighbours, so long we will be where we are. I submit with every confidence that we should get money when we could. Before I sit down, I would like to stress the point that the Commissioners were careful to point out that if we attempt to develop the interior people will come in. No one wants a prophet to tell us that. Are not our West Indian friends thirsting for somewhere to go from their overcrowded areas? The Commissioners say:—

Meanwhile we consider that the Colony would be well advised to devote such resources as are available to the encouragement of immigration from the West Indies in preference to the expensive and one-sided scheme of East Indian colonisation or remote and dubious prospects of importing Asiatic labour from outside the Empire.

Your Excellency, again some feeble attempt was made at that. But, sir, most of these recommendations have never been touched at all, and those touched are either inefficient or too insufficient. We borrowed some money and tried to have some artesian wells sunk. We only got 17 for the whole of that money, and we have been reconditioning those seventeen wells every year. What right have we to get wells when we have such large rivers in this country? I have pointed out just a few of the avenues which are calling for development and expenditure.

I have come to the point where I am going to ask Government to recommend this motion as necessary, needful and feasible. If, sir, we had \$96,000,000 to expend, we will have it as a working capital. The interest on that amount will be somewhere in the vicinity of £700,000, the interest and sinking fund \$732,864, and the whole amount will be \$3,336,000 yearly. We will therefore have a large sum to carry on all our works, if we get this money. A large part of it will also be reproductive. Let me assure Your Excellency as to our revenue. The revenue of this Colony from 1932 to last year, I am not going to worry you with the exact figures was as follows: 1932, \$4,900,000; 1933, \$5,128,000; 1934, \$5,507,000; 1935, \$5,237,000; 1936, \$5,483,000. Your Excellency will therefore see that every year our collection is more than \$4,068,000. I should like to say that these figures are correct as they stand, so that we would have a working capital to go on always. All that we are required to pay is only \$4,000,000 every year as interest and sinking fund, and we can find the money to do so. Therefore by the time that we come to pay back that \$96,000,000 we will have begun to recover. At no time will the disadvantages outweigh the advantages in having this money. Besides that, money is cheap at the present time. It seems incredible that my friends will not adjust their minds to the problem; if they address their minds to the problem they will see that there is nothing so difficult in it. It is simple and what any businessman will do. Every individual that I discuss the matter with in close quarters expresses surprise at the simpleness of the thing.

Money is cheap, let us get it and give the Colony a move on. If we do not we are going to drift back into bankruptcy. If you are barely balancing your Budget, you cannot develop on that; you will have to get more than that to move on. Let us get a loan to do it. It will not cost us one penny more on our taxes, but after a couple of years we will be able to reduce taxes. I think it is fair, and I have all confidence in moving this motion which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

Mr. WALCOTT: Your Excellency, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion which I would like to support to

this extent in saying, that as regards security for the loan we have the Director of Public Works' statement as to the revenue obtainable from the timber in the accessible areas. Valued at the rate of two cents per cubic foot an amount of \$18,000,000 a year can be realised from its exportation.

Mr. JACKSON: This is a unique occasion and one of considerable moment to us all. There is before this Council a very ambitious motion, and I think a motion that deserves the most serious consideration. "There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood leads on to fortune; neglected, all the voyage of our lives is bound in shallows and in misery." I think, sir, that too much thought and consideration cannot be given to this important motion. I am sure that we are all in agreement with the fact that the Colony is undeveloped. Everyone will concede it has potential resources untapped, and I believe, if it is found possible for us to obtain a large amount of money capable of developing the resources of this Colony, that British Guiana will come into its own and will most assuredly be regarded as one of the brightest colonies in the British Empire.

The mover of this motion has given in my opinion ample reason why it should be favourably considered, and I cannot go over the ground that he has already traversed, but, I think, everyone will admit that there are various avenues that may be explored if this money is received. He referred to the question of Education. There is a very insistent cry that the Colony is not receiving to the full what it should for the amount that is spent on Education. There is no denying the fact that much has been done in later years for the improvement of Primary Education in particular in this Colony, and some good ground has been covered. I think that our not being able to make greater progress in this direction is not an indictment on Government, but is really due to the fact that the funds are not forthcoming to carry on all that is necessary. Lack of funds is our great trouble, and if we can secure funds I am quite sure that we ourselves will be surprised at the advancement that this Colony will register.

Reference was made to the report of the

British Guiana Commissioners, and stress was laid upon their recommendation in connection with Education. I would like, sir, to be permitted to quote one or two passages from their report which cannot but be of importance to our discussion here to-day. If anything is needed for improvement in this branch, the Commissioners state:—

“The first step should be to create a real Education Department, the head of which should be entrusted with the task of working out a programme of reorganisation on the lines recommended by the Commission over a period of four or five years. To a great extent, as we have already stated, the cost of this programme can be defrayed from the economies which will follow from efficient administration and, in so far as it cannot be, the items in question should be deferred till the end of the period when, given normal conditions and the adoption of the financial policy which we have indicated, the position we hope, may have considerably improved. In any case, however, the Colony would clearly be ill-advised to embark on fresh educational commitments until measures are taken to secure that adequate returns are received from the money now being spent.”

I should like to mention that one of the reasons for the statement that we are not getting full benefit from the money spent on Primary Education is, in my opinion, the absence of a thorough farm school, a technical school where the children may be taught and given the opportunity of equipping themselves for their work in life. Efforts have been made, sir, to implant in the minds of the pupils the need for engaging in agriculture on their leaving school, but those efforts have not been as complete as they should have been because of this bug-bear of lack of funds. We have no real farms in this Colony, Your Excellency, and what is carried on as a farm by the peasant proprietor is merely the planting of a couple of acres and therefrom vegetable crops are reaped. A real farm, as Your Excellency knows, is a farm that undertakes the rearing of poultry, cattle, and so on. There is need for the establishment of such farm schools in the three Counties of this Colony. No one will deny that, and this is one of the ways in which the money, if obtained, can be spent in the improvement of our educational affairs. I have no doubt, sir, that it will be money well-spent in this direction.

I need not refer to the remarks made in respect to the opening of the interior, but to say that I am perfectly satisfied that a

good deal of money can be obtained if the resources were tapped. For one thing it is difficult and expensive for us to get to the fields. In respect to the benefits which can be derived from our timbers, one of the reasons given for non-exploitation is the difficulty and high cost of transportation. That brings me to the point that a railway to the interior is, in my opinion, an absolute necessity, and if some of this money could be used for that purpose, then it would give a fillip to our timber trade and much good would result therefrom. I am not over-concerned as regards the manner in which we are going to refund this loan, if I am satisfied that the figures quoted by the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) can stand the test. He is a peculiar individual, and I will not be surprised if he has not obtained those figures from officers of the Government, capable of giving them. I am sure that if an effort is made to convince this Council and from this Council to convince the Secretary of State that there is need for the obtaining of this loan, much good will result from it. I am an old man and I may not live to see my prophecy fulfilled, but I venture to assert that should the money come to this Colony, within the next ten or fifteen years we shall have here such a beautiful Colony teeming with population obtained from our neighbouring colonies and a contented people living in peace and plenty, that the Colony will then deserve the name which has been given it—that of the Magnificent Province. But Your Excellency, how grand and good a thing it would be if the improvement which we so much hope for as the result of this motion could be traced back to your advent to this Colony? I have no doubt, sir, that your name will be handed down to posterity and it will be one to conjure with.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Long after the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) has departed this life, I am sure, the people of this Colony will be ever grateful to him for the several attempts he has made from time to time in order to bring development to this Colony. Although I must admit that on this occasion the hon. member in question is endeavouring to embark on a very ambitious scheme, it is not the first occasion that he has brought before this Council a motion in one form or another which aims at development. I think, sir,

I am right in saying that he believes in the principle, that if you knock and knock loud and long enough the door at some time or other will open to you. I share that principle with him, and I sincerely hope this debate will bear some fruit. I will even go one step further than that and ask myself the question, not only on my own behalf but also on behalf of the people of this Colony, as to whether we in this Colony are doomed to stagnation. It is a reasonable question to ask because, as the hon. member pointed out, we have been travelling for over 100 years and have very little to show for it in spite of the vast resources of the Colony. One hon. member rightly pointed out that so far as our assets are concerned we have quite a lot that we can put forward as security for any development loan which may be considered reasonable to embark upon.

It seems to me, sir, that the time has come, if not yet overdue, for the Imperial Government to show more than ordinary confidence in this Colony. It seems to me also that the time has come when the Imperial Government should show more than sympathy for the people of this Colony. It seems to me also that the time has come when a serious effort should be made to convert this Colony into a very important Imperial asset. How best can we achieve these aims? In the past several commercial interests have endeavoured in their own little way to embark on schemes of development. We have had several instances in the past of companies operating in the interior of this Colony and for one reason or another after a few years have had to go out of operation. I have no desire whatever to advance any argument or to state any reasons for the failure or otherwise of those companies. Some of them are well-known, not only to members of this Council but to Government and the people of this Colony as well. We know that the difficulties and excessive cost of transportation are two of the primary causes of the failure of some of the companies which had attempted to operate in the interior of this Colony.

My reason for supporting the hon. member's motion is that I would like to see a step forward being taken and that as soon as possible. I would have preferred,

however, if the motion were a little more happily worded; that is to say, instead of committing this Council in a recommendation to the Secretary of State for a given sum of money, he should in his motion invite this Council to accept a motion for a recommendation to the Imperial Government, or to the Secretary of State, or whoever is responsible for the consideration of motions of this kind, for a thorough and complete investigation of the possibilities of development of this Colony, the question of the amount on the loan to be decided upon after that investigation has been made. My chief concern is that a thorough and complete investigation should be made as early as to the possible development of this Colony. Further it seems to me that we will have a very strong argument to put forward for such an investigation. Until quite recently, in fact I think up to the present time, we have been receiving assistance from the Imperial Treasury. Therefore would it not be right to assume that unless a bold attempt is made to develop this country we will continue to remain a liability on the Imperial Government? No matter how poor a man may be, the pride in him will always make him feel that he ought to try and make himself self-supporting. We are grateful to the Imperial Government for the assistance given in the past, but we feel that with our resources we should be able to try, as the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) pointed out, to do something for ourselves; and the time is opportune now. The depression that we have gone through within recent years seems to be lifting a little bit, and the time has come when we should make a bold step forward in that direction. Unless we do something now we shall continue to be a liability on the Imperial Government.

I purposely refrain from supporting the hon. member in so far as the figure is concerned, because I realise, especially as our revenue is concerned, the limitation of our own resources in that respect. He has quoted figures and therefore there is no necessity for me to do that again. But there can be no doubt, that unless there is an immediate return of revenue the question of paying sinking fund charges and interest on a loan of £20,000,000 will be beyond our present revenue earning power. But he went on to say, and I am

inclined to agree with him a little, that with the capital in hand we may be able to embark upon schemes from which in subsequent years we will obtain a sufficiency of revenue to meet those charges. But those are figures which must be carefully gone into before final decision can be arrived at. My principal concern is, that if and when the time comes for schemes to be put forward, first of all neglected works of a productive nature which would assist in the repayment of the loan must be done. By that I do not suggest that works of an unproductive nature should be left back but that they should go hand in hand. That must be done especially in spending loan money otherwise we will find ourselves later on in serious financial difficulties.

There can be no doubt that all we are doing at the present time is marking time. We have been doing so for years, and unless we take matters in our own hands (so to speak), unless we are bold enough to put forward suggestions of this kind, it seems to me that we will continue to mark time. Our population of 300,000 is centred over the coastlands, and we know the repercussions from that. The cost of administration is exceedingly heavy. We cannot help ourselves; we must have the various social services, administrative services, Police, Post Office, etc., in every district. Imagine having a post office for 50 persons. How can we ever hope to progress when we have our population scattered over such a large area. I agree with the hon. member when he says that some people fear that when we get the money we will not know what to do with it. But I do not know anybody who never knew what to do with money so long as it reached their hand. It is true that some people fritter it away, but it is equally true that a good number of them utilise that money in the best possible way. I do hope, if the motion as it is worded would not find favour with Government, that at least the suggestion I have put forward will—that the Council should recommend to the Imperial Government that a thorough and complete investigation be made as to the possibilities of developing this country. You may call it a commission, if that is the better term. Otherwise it seems to me that we will continue to mark time in the same way as we have done for these last 100 years.

Mr. JACOB: The motion as tabled by

the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) has my sympathy and support also to a limited extent. I shall not adopt the course as adopted by the hon. member for Central Demerara (Mr. De Aguiar) in just asking for a thorough and complete investigation as to the possibilities for development. I shall ask the mover of the motion to amend it so as to give a specific sum. I do not think a sum of £20,000,000 will find favour with this Government, or with all the members of this Council, or even with the Imperial Government. There is no question that this Colony needs development. There can be no doubt about that. It is the method of development that is worrying not only the Government but the people of the Colony as well. I share the view that any money borrowed must be repaid. If, as has been pointed out, the interest and sinking fund charges on this loan would amount to \$4,000,000 per annum, that amount added to the one million dollars odd we have to provide for Public Debt at the present time would alone absorb all the revenue of this Colony. It must be borne in mind that several of the schemes to be undertaken would not be of a productive nature for some considerable time, and therefore, I think, if a smaller sum, say of \$20,000,000, (to spread over 15 years or so and immediate steps taken to begin to develop along certain specified lines) be asked for in the motion it would find favour with Government and the Imperial Government also. I therefore submit for favourable consideration that the motion be worded to read “\$20,000,000 to be given to this Colony over a period of 10 years.”

I would like to refer to one or two statements I have made in this Council on one or two occasions, especially as the motion and debate thereon will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The second speech I made here on my entry to this Council was on a message from the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and I think that the present one should be reminded of it from the debate on this motion. Mr. Amery said in his message, dated April 18, 1928, and recorded in volume 6 of the Official Report of the debates of this Council at page 97:

I cannot allow this day to pass without some expression of hope and indeed of confidence that it will mark the dawn of a new era for British Guiana. In saying this I do not

wish to disguise from myself and from the people of the Colony the seriousness of the difficulties which confront them. But at least these difficulties are systematic not of stagnation but of progress and the result of courageous attempts to grapple with problems which I do not doubt can and will be solved by the continued and well directed co-operation of all. The pressing necessity of the moment is restoration of the financial equilibrium. It is only on the firm rock of a sound financial system that the foundations of economic development can be well and truly laid. Consolidation of the gains already won in this field must be the prelude to the further and ordered advance which I trust will not cease until this great undeveloped member of the Empire, so rich in historic associations, shall no longer deserve Milton's epithet:—'yet unspoiled'.

It has been stated here quite clearly by those members who spoke before me that this Colony has been crying out for development for over a century. When the Constitution was changed in 1928 a specific undertaking was given by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as representing His Majesty's Government, to the people of this Colony. He said: "We are going to do everything possible to develop this Colony and see that the finances are properly looked after." I am happy to be able to say now that the finances have improved to a very great extent, and if conditions remain as they are and if the co-operation of the people of this Colony is really sought, I have no doubt that we will make further advance and that rapidly. There can be no doubt that the agricultural resources of this Colony are exceedingly good. There can be no doubt that the sugar industry has demonstrated that it can hold its own against world competition. Rice and other small industries can hold their own against world competition. The sugar industry has demonstrated that it is left for Government to assist other industries to demonstrate that also. It must be borne in mind that the sugar industry had Government assistance for a long number of years. What assistance has Government given to the other industries? Government knows that better than I do. I do not think that the best has been applied to the other industries. It is only by financial aid and sound financial investment that the other agricultural and timber resources of this Colony can be improved.

We have advocated here over and over again the establishment of an agricultural bank and the inauguration of an irrigation

and drainage scheme. In the past we have had promises. We have had, as one hon. member said, sympathies. I would like to say verbal sympathies and not real actual sympathies; if we had that and real financial help this Colony would have progressed. I have implicit confidence that the agricultural resources will be developed and very rapidly too, but it is all due to lack of finance. I do earnestly ask hon. members of this Council, especially those interested in other interests, to support those of us, who are interested in all industries, in trying to influence not only this Government but the Imperial Government to give a help to the other industries, otherwise sooner or later serious difficulties may arise. It is well within the knowledge of Government the difficulties that are arising. There is a great deal of unemployment in this Colony.

The motion begins by saying: "Whereas the labour market of the Colony has been for some time in excess of demand." I can speak on that alone and say all that I have to say on this motion, but I would like to refer Government to Chapter 210 which is the Immigration Law of this Colony, the Emigration Regulation Ordinance. Section 4 of that Ordinance states: "(1) Except as aforesaid no one shall—(a) engage, recruit, or collect any member or members of the labouring class for service outside the colony." The position is somewhat serious. This Colony has been and is crying out for development, and here we have a provision in our Statute Books actually prohibiting any labourer from going out of this Colony while there is unemployment here.

The Council adjourned until 2 p.m. for the luncheon interval.

2 p.m.—

Mr. JACOB (resuming): When the Council adjourned I was endeavouring to make the point that there is legislation in this Colony preventing a labourer from leaving the Colony. Then on the other hand there is unemployment here to a very great extent. The labour market is glutted and has been so for some time. That brings me to this point. What must the labourer do? It is, I think, the duty of this Government to endeavour to find something for these labourers to do. It is an onus cast on us, as partners in this

government, to assist in finding something for these workers of the country, and the only feasible way at the present time is by getting a loan from the Imperial Government to irrigate and drain the lands and empolder suitable lands for the purpose of settling those labourers in the Colony.

As I said this morning, this matter has been debated here over and over again. It is not new to this Council and to this Government, and I do not think it is new to the Imperial Government. Every now and again when the matter is raised by members of Parliament, the Imperial Government tells them: "We are not aware that there is necessity for giving help to these Colonies." I have in my hand a copy of the "West India Committee Circular" of November 18, which showed that the question was again raised about British Guiana and I crave Your Excellency's indulgence to read it.

The question was asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies "What steps are being taken to improve working conditions?" He was also asked whether he proposed that the inhabitants should now be given some measure of real responsibility in the Government of the Colony. Mr. Ormsby Gore, in the course of his reply said—

It is not necessary to read the whole except the last paragraph :

He was in entire agreement with the decision referred to. At any rate as long as the Colony was in receipt of a grant from the Imperial Exchequer, His Majesty's Government must continue to exercise effective financial control.

That seems to be in conflict with Mr. Amery's message when the Constitution was changed. Mr. Amery made it quite clear that provided the Imperial Government had control of the finances the Colony will be developed. It is now practically ten years since then and the Colony has not been developed. In fact the agricultural resources of the Colony are a little worse off.

I think it is our duty to bring this question up as often as possible, so that His Majesty's Government will be aware of what is happening here. I have had a consultation with a few of my friends here this morning, and I think it is our solemn duty to advise Government so that His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies will be aware of what is happening. On the one hand you have people willing and ready to work, but cannot get

work as conditions are such that they cannot successfully work. On the other hand the people are told: "You are not to leave the Colony." Therefore we ask: Give us some financial aid; give us a loan as by the development of this Colony not only the inhabitants of this Colony will progress but they will provide raw materials for the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire; they will also provide food for various parts of the Empire. We are not like Europe where the inhabitants cannot find work within their own country and must migrate. We can accommodate millions of people here. We have here everything except finance. I see the hon. Colonial Secretary smile when I say that we can accommodate millions here. I do not think there is any question about that. We have the land, 90,000 square miles, and it is known that the land is fertile and abounds with all kinds of minerals, and valuable minerals at that. I think that any loan to this Colony by the Imperial Government will not only assist this Government but other portions of the Empire thereby. In fact I go further and suggest that the Imperial Government consider the advisability of settling certain portions of this Colony with people from other parts of the Empire. It is then and only then that this Colony will progress, and it is then and only then that we will see daylight. At the present time we are only marking time. We are in a state of stagnation; the population is increasing and very rapidly too and there is no outlet for it.

I do urge on Government to accept this motion, and I trust my hon. friend will amend it to read \$20,000,000 instead of pounds (sterling), spread over 10 years and to be taken as required. I will not be a party to our taking the money and not spending it profitably. I think it can be profitably and beneficially spent. I think that with the united co-operation of all sections of the community—I want to emphasise that—with the co-operation of the Capitalist here we can certainly progress. I know we have a fair number of Capitalists, and if money is brought into this Colony it would be harder for them to have the hold that they at present have on labour here; conditions will become harder for them. I would like to say a word in that respect and advise those who

have that idea. This country can accommodate a large number of people, and if a large number can come it will be better for all of us. This "dog-in-the-manger" policy has been going on for a long time, and it should cease.

There is urgent need for the restoration of existing industries. It can only be done with capital, money that will be justifiably spent and repaid within a very short time. We have had the test. As I said this morning, the sugar industry has shown itself capable of meeting world conditions, the rice industry can with help of the right kind, and there are other industries which can also. There are too many items imported into this country which ought to be produced here. We have here wealth only waiting for capital, and that kind of wealth that is going to improve the finances of this Colony very shortly and rapidly. If we begin with \$2,000,000 to irrigate and drain the lands and empower suitable lands, and hand in hand with that something is done for the interior of the Colony, the loan will be justified and this Government and the Imperial Government will have no cause for regret, and, what is more, make the inhabitants of this Colony feel that they have not been neglected and will not be neglected in the future. The inhabitants of this Colony feel that they have been sorely neglected in the past. It is well that His Majesty's advisers know that, and it is time, though I think it is overdue, that due attention be paid to the requests of this Colony and more than verbal sympathy be given, real practical help, real financial help be given to the inhabitants of this Colony.

A certain matter has exercised my mind for several weeks, Your Excellency, and I think it is my duty to refer to it in this Council to day. I refer to the disputes in Berbice at the present time.

THE PRESIDENT: Is this relevant to the subject of the loan?

Mr. JACOB: I just want to mention it here so that there will be a record of it.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it relevant to the subject of the loan? You are the best judge of that!

Mr. SEYMOUR: The motion proposes nothing new. As far back as 1928, a loan was advocated by a very capable Governor who came to this Colony. He was no less a person than the late Sir Gordon Guggisberg. Sir Gordon came to this country with a very determined policy—a policy to which he gave much time and thought. His proposal was for a loan of £5,000,000, but with the untimely death of that grand man all went into thin air. But this is what did materialise—the enlargement of the Agricultural Department. That is only one of the things which were to be brought about. He said in this Council that this is an agricultural country and we should have an Agricultural Department to meet its needs, and he is going to see that is done. He spoke of an Agricultural Loan Bank and of setting aside £1,000,000 for that. He asked for co-operation in an endeavour to bring about new industries in this country other than sugar. We were unfortunate in the untimely death of that fine man.

Since then we have formed ourselves in this Council into a new company, which I would like to call "The Top-Hatters." We welcome Governors with "Top-hats" on, we bid Governors farewell in "Top-hats," and we welcome Administrators also with "Top-hats" on. "Marking time" is all that we have done. However, it is refreshing to see that we have here members thinking in dollars and not cents as in my time. It shows that their idea of money is expanding, and in the expansion we visualise development.

I have listened with very much interest this morning to the debate, and I congratulate the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) for knocking at the door. I think he hopes to get the door open. The hon. member asked himself certain questions; I never do that as my medical adviser has told me the danger in doing that and answering myself. I do not think, however, we should be worried if we do ask ourselves a question which will not frighten us. I do not think any member wants £20,000,000 to put it all in agriculture. We can raise that money, but as sane businessmen it must be on a definite policy. Nothing else than on a definite policy can we spend that money. Not so very long ago I advocated in this Council that a Standing Development Committee be

appointed, the personnel of which should be men of the right type and not because they are politicians. Men with interest in this Colony, men with something at stake should be formed by Government into a Standing Development Committee which will analyse policies brought forward. Those policies will not be thrown aside but will be given a fair deal, as they will have every chance of being analysed in the light of a continuity of purpose.

I am going to ask the hon. member for Berbice River to reduce that amount in his motion by one-fourth. I think if we raise a part of the loan, later we can start to go farther afield. It must not be forgotten that Government has not quite been marking time; Government has quite recently adopted a policy of survey work. That was on the programme of the late Sir Gordon Guggisberg. He had suggested that we should have a party of engineers from England to carry out surveys. It is somewhat idle to talk about irrigation and drainage unless we have the money and know exactly what we are about. In many cases it will be absurd to empolder certain lands, but there are other places on the coastland where such a condition can obtain. An economic policy of surveys should be gradually carried out. We should quietly proceed to empolder say 1,000 acres now, another 1,000 acres next, and so on; by the time the second is complete we will be enjoying the fruits of the first set. That is a policy we should pursue.

This is a country of white elephants. We have them by the scores. It is no good talking about the past. It is a matter that everything will right itself if we use the right statesmanship, the right energy, and if we apply ourselves fearlessly and honestly to the development of this country. I certainly think that the time has come when a very vigorous action should be taken in the development of this country. As I read of the West Indies and of the whole of the Colonial Empire, and also of what they are endeavouring to do elsewhere, I cannot help feeling that we are very much in the rear; in fact we also ran. We are not even a starter in the world's race, for competition and efficiency go hand in hand. I can say much more, but I want to sound a great note of warning to hon. members of this Council.

Your Excellency spoke yesterday of co-operation. I regret to say that from the very outset yesterday, an hon. member thought fit to make a statement in this Council in the very opposite direction to that. Is it right for a member to come here and tell this Council that a certain industry in this country is putting into its own pocket the money which is being obtained from a tax. Is that co-operation? That, sir, is the curse of this country. There is not such a thing as co-operation here and Your Excellency will surely find that out. It is the duty of every hon. member when speaking in this Council to be very careful and to weigh in his own mind every word that he says. I assure you, sir, that even now after such statements have been made there has been repercussion. If we are going to sit together and pull together, as my hon. friend on my left said yesterday using the word co-operation, then we may hope to go forward. I will be no party to go to the Imperial or any government and ask them to put one cent in this country unless we have co-operation.

It has been said by the hon. member for Berbice River that the English people send their money to other parts of the world. I have travelled over the world and I know the conditions that existed when that money was invested. That money was only invested on a promise from the governments concerned. Very fine conditions were granted to those financiers or capitalists, such as cheap and abundant labour and every chance of a good return for their investment. If we are going to have strife over nothing, and political evils and other factors which should not obtain, we can never expect to get the British Government or any Foreign Government to allow money to come here where it is not safe. I do appeal to hon. members of this Council, if we are going to put our shoulders to the wheel, to let our acts be clean, fair, and just, both to the labourer and to the capitalist, and with co-operation, a fearless mind and a fearless thought we may then make that first step on the road to progress.

I am supporting this motion wholeheartedly. The time is ripe for the local Government and the Imperial Government to exercise a real interest in our affairs, if we are going to get out of the financial

stress and poverty in which we find ourselves. It is essential that we get a move on, that we make a forward move. I hope that the hon. member's motion will bring that step nearer and clearer.

Before resuming my seat, I have but one more remark to make. The flotsam and jetsam of this country is the Sea Defences of this Colony. That is keeping us back. Large sums of money have been absolutely thrown away in an endeavour to keep the sea out. This is a Crown Colony under the control and government of the Home Country. I ask you, sir, as I did your predecessor, to make representation to the Imperial Government in order to see whether they could not endeavour in one shape or form to relieve us of this heavy burden, which is not solved, will not be solved, and will take years if you do solve it. I ask you, sir, to put before the Imperial Government where they come in and where they must look upon our condition from an Imperial point of view, so that we may go forward with productive work in this unfortunate far-flung country of the Empire.

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD: I do not think there is anybody in this Council or anybody in this Colony who will not support this motion in principle. I do not think there is anybody here who will not be only too glad to see this Colony developed to the full. We who live here feel that it is a rich Colony, and we will like to see it take its place with its bigger brothers and sisters in the Empire, but I do not feel that we can ask anybody to advance us such a large sum as £20,000,000, unless we can put a concrete scheme or schemes before them. It has been suggested that our roads want improving, our industries in the interior want development, and numerous other schemes, but they are at the present nebulous. We in this country must first go into the details of any scheme that we are putting up, say what it is likely to cost, and then ask for a loan to cover that expenditure. It is no good our developing products here, whether agricultural or otherwise, unless we can find a market for our production. We must be able with whatever we produce here to compete with the rest of the world in the world's market. It was suggested by the hon. Nominated member (Mr. Walcott) that as

a guarantee for this loan, if you take the full amount of greenheart that is left to be cut in the forests of this country the royalty would pay the interest on that loan. There is no doubt that it will; but have you got a market for that greenheart? I do not know, but it will take us a very long time to be able to sell all that greenheart, and it would be very many years before we could pay a part of that interest. I do not think we can look at it from that point of view. I honestly do not see, if we raise the loan, what guarantee we are going to give. This is a business transaction, as we are told it is to be a loan and not a gift. If we ask for a loan we must be in a position to give a guarantee, and we are not in that position, at least it is not sufficiently stated.

No one can gainsay the fact that drainage and irrigation are the blood life of the Coastland. We know that the Colony has been crying out for that for a long time. I am in favour of extending them to the fullest capacity. I am glad to see a start has been made in that direction with surveys, which are being carried out now on the East Coast, Demerara. We have no idea as to what the cost of the scheme will be, and it seems rather fantastic that we, as a body of men sitting in this Council and supposed to be the leading men of the Colony, should ask to be given a blank cheque, so to speak, without being able to state definitely what we require. I am in favour of development and the motion also, but I am going to deal with facts and not blind my view to what, I consider, is the right and only proper course, and that is, to take a businesslike view of the whole situation. The question has been raised about the investment of British money in China and Mexico. That, however, has been dealt with by the hon. member for Western Essequibo (Mr. Seymour). But here again, as it has been said, no man would refuse money if it is offered to him, and those men who have invested their money in foreign countries know perfectly well that they will not get the security there as in a British Colony. Why then have they done that? It is because they know they will get a return on that money they have invested. You cannot blame those people for not investing their money here, if they do not think they can get a return on their investment. It is up to us to

put our house in order, whether by drainage and irrigation or opening up the hinterland. Let us do that first, and then ask those financiers to come in and get a return on their investment.

I am in favour of the principle of the motion, but I cannot accept the motion as it stands asking for a loan of £20,000,000. I would ask the hon. mover (Mr. Eleazar) to accept an amendment of the motion. If he would not, then I propose to move it myself. Instead of the motion reading: "to raise a loan of £20,000,000 to be repaid with interest over a period of 50 years for the development of the Colony's resources, coastal and forestal," I would change it to read: "to raise such loans as may be found necessary for the development of the Colony's resources on the coastland and in the hinterland or interior." It seems to me, that will obtain the object which the hon. mover of the motion has in mind. I feel, sir, the motion so amended will be one more acceptable to hon. members of this Council. When any scheme is put forward, hon. members will have an opportunity to judge it on its merits. We will be in a position to put forward, what I consider, reasonable plans and then we can ask to be treated as reasonable people; we can ask then for development as we can show that it can be made a success. Let us then formulate those schemes, get estimates, and ask for money for those schemes as they are put forward.

I do not know, sir, if the hon. mover of the motion would be prepared to accept the amendment I have proposed, but if he is not, then I would like to move it. I therefore beg to move an amendment to the resolution as it stands to read:—

"That this Council respectfully requests Government with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to raise such loans as may be found necessary for the development of the colony's resources on the coastland and in the interior."

Dr. SINGH: I rise to support the motion, subject to the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: You are supporting the motion.

Dr. SINGH: Yes, Your Excellency.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. J. H. B. Nihill): The amendment is not seconded.

THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps the hon. member would like to second the amendment?

Mr. KING: I would like to second the amendment just proposed by the hon. member for Georgetown North (Mr. F. J. Seaford). I do not intend to speak at length on the subject though much can be said on it, as already so much has been said on it, but lest it be thought on account of my silence that I am not in favour of the motion, I deem it necessary to give voice to my support. It does seem that the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Georgetown North is more reasonable than the original motion. While I have every sympathy with the original motion to raise £20,000,000 for the development of this Colony, as the hon. member has said, we must look at this matter from the point of view of business. The first essential in raising money in the markets of the world is the question of the security to be given. I am not denying for one minute nor gainsaying the fact that the Colony of British Guiana is worth \$96,000,000. May be it is worth much more than that, but the men who will be investing their money here will be doing so with the view of obtaining a return on their investment. The Colony is supposed to be immensely wealthy in potentialities, but it takes money to get that wealth out of the ground, whether as mineral, agricultural product or otherwise. Development schemes must be proportionate to the disposal of the revenue derived from those schemes, whether agricultural or mineral. Possibly to spend \$96,000,000 on the agricultural development of this Colony would be to flood the markets of the world with the produce this Colony can bring forth, but that would be ruinous as it would not pay to produce agricultural products at a cost which would not be compensated for by the price we could get. It therefore seems to me that the proposal for the amendment which has been made by the hon. member for Georgetown North is one more likely to appeal to the Powers-that-be at Downing Street, and more likely to obtain some form of relief in so far as this Colony is concerned.

If the debate that has taken place in this Council this morning does nothing else than to bestir the Powers-that-be at Downing Street, to awaken them from their slumber in respect of the affairs of this Colony, then I believe it will be productive of some good. Until we awaken them to our own consciousness of the wealth of this Colony and to the fact that we do feel that this Colony does need some financial assistance from the people in England, we will get nowhere. I feel that the sooner we do so the better it will be for this Colony. For years we have been allowed to suffer unduly from flood and drought, and to eke out our own existence however best we could. It is true, and there is no gainsaying the fact, that the Imperial Government has helped this Colony, but I cannot help feeling that it has helped it somewhat shamefacedly and not to the extent that this Colony deserves. I do also feel that the time has come when we should awaken the Home Government to the fact that we feel that more notice should be taken of this Colony by them than they had done in the past.

This Colony can be developed. There are undoubtedly resources in this Colony which can be developed and made very useful to the inhabitants and indeed the people of the world. It is true that it will require a certain amount of diligence and a certain amount of insight to find out first what industries can best be developed so as to be productive of some immediate return, but I think any idea of raising money for this Colony will not only mean the development of the industries of the Colony, but also a saving of money by developing or improving conditions existing in the Colony on which large sums are now being spent and have been wasted over a period of years.

I have in mind the roads of this Colony. As has been already stated in the debate on this motion in 1935, I think it was, I suggested to Government that a loan may be raised for the purpose of putting the roads of the Colony in order, as I felt then and as I do feel now that the amount of money, now spent annually in the upkeep of the roads in the parlous condition in which they perpetually are, will more than cover the interest and sinking fund charges. It is not sufficient to keep up the roads in a

condition that requires the large expenditure of money annually as at present. We have a very clear example in the roads of the City of Georgetown. Your Excellency has not been here long enough to realise in what parlous condition the roads of the City were before now, but those of us who can remember the previous condition of Water Street, the principal street in so far as this Colony is concerned, quite realise what tremendous improvement has taken place. Water Street is now a thoroughfare of which this City can be justly proud. The Georgetown Town Council, realising it was absurd spending large sums of money annually in keeping streets in a hopeless condition without permanently improving them, approached Government to raise a loan to enable them to put the streets of the City in order. Part of that loan was spent on Water Street, and I have been noticing it for some time that the upkeep of Water Street for the past five years must be very small. It is certainly a pleasure and an improvement to the City to see a street of that nature. Similarly I feel the roads of the Colony should be put in a better condition by raising a loan necessary for the purpose of improving them. A percentage of any money raised on a loan to be spent in the Colony must necessarily find itself indirectly back to Government by means of indirect taxation, because all the money spent in the Colony is to be spent among the labourers who must necessarily spend it in the support of themselves and family. It is therefore clear that indirectly any loan that is raised by Government goes back almost immediately to Government, and in addition to that it improves and keeps in order the state of health of the people who have to find a living in this Colony.

I do urge and ask Government in all seriousness—Your Excellency's predecessor in office assured me that the matter was receiving the attention of Government—that the question of the roads of the Colony is one which should engage the attention of Government. I firmly believe that if the roads of the Colony are put in a better condition, they in themselves would help to encourage minor industries in the way of agricultural products and in that way

help indirectly to improve and increase the returns to the Colony. As regards some of the roads in the district which I have the honour to represent in this Council, one finds it very difficult to travel over them and unless some definite means is adopted to put them in order that condition would just go on from year to year while the money spent on them will be wasted continuously. That is one of the means by which the money raised by a loan can be profitably spent in this Colony. While I am in favour of the motion in its principle, since we do need money here for the development of the Colony, I am more inclined to support the amendment by the hon. member for Georgetown North which I have seconded.

Dr. SINGH: I would like to say something on the principle of the motion. There is an understanding, at least for the next five years, that the production of sugar will be limited to a certain tonnage, due to the allotted Sugar Export Quota. It naturally follows that the acreage under sugar cultivation will be limited and a certain percentage of labourers thrown out of employment and forced to look to new avenues for employment. I believe that Government is the only body that can solve that question of unemployment at the present time.

This is supposed to be an agricultural country, and we have a formidable Agricultural Department with a highly technical staff. That Department can assist Government by suggesting some of the minor industries which can be encouraged and put on a commercial basis, thereby assisting unemployment to a certain extent. In the long run the Colony will be benefited also. Then we have hundreds of youths leaving our schools every year. There is nothing for them to do. They have to remain idle, and we are told that crime amongst the juveniles is on the increase. It is here that the Department of Agriculture can assist in devising some form of training for the youths. I think that in that way we will be able to assist the youths who are leaving school shortly. There are other constructional works, but at the present time I think it is far-fetched to mention them. I, however, will do so because they will certainly help to solve

unemployment if Government gives them due consideration. I refer to constructional work with ferro-concrete, such as looking after the harbour front, the bridging of the Demerara River, and the extension of the West Coast Railway to a point opposite Bartica. As I have said these propositions are a bit far-fetched at the moment, but are however worthy of mention to Government for their consideration. I consider the question of unemployment will be solved if Government can see its way to raise sufficient money in the form of a loan to help the minor industries. It is only then that the question of unemployment will be solved.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The motion now before the Council is the amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for Georgetown North. It reads:

Be it resolved,—That this Council respectfully requests the Government with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to raise such loans as may be found to be necessary for the development of the Colony's resources on the coastlands and in the hinterland.

Mr. JACOB: I had suggested an amendment to the original motion, but I did not actually move it. If you permit me, sir, I will move an amendment for £5,000,000.

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD: To a point of order: Is the hon. member interrupting the hon. Colonial Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: There is no objection, if the Colonial Secretary allows him to raise his point so as to facilitate the debate. That is a subsequent amendment to that moved by the hon. member for Georgetown North.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: That, I take it, is the motion we have before us now. In substance it means very little except that we support in principle such schemes of development as may after a thorough examination prove to be suitable to the Colony. That also, I take it, is the intention of the hon. mover of the amendment in putting that amendment forward, and as such it will naturally meet with the approval of us all. It really means that we hope schemes will be put forward in the future

that they will be thoroughly examined and as a result thereof we will be able to raise loans to develop mainly the coastal area in regard to drainage and irrigation schemes. I think probably, sir, that was the main reason for the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) tabling his motion.

I would like to pay a tribute to the earnest endeavours which the hon. member for Berbice River has made from time to time over a period of years to bring this matter before the attention of this Council, and to stress the importance of such development schemes. I am sure that he will agree on reflection that the statement of the position as given to us by the hon. member for Georgetown North (Mr. F. J. Seaford) is the correct one, namely that all development schemes are business propositions and must be treated as such, and therefore applications for loans must follow and not precede the formulation of and the examination of such schemes.

That is what Government has in mind, and, as one or two hon. members have already stated during the course of the debate, the present survey of the coastal areas will put us in possession of facts which will enable us to study closely schemes for the various areas on the Coast, which may prove to be for the benefit of the population as a whole. I feel therefore, sir, that there is no reason why we should not all agree to the motion in its amended form. As I have previously said, we are really stating in this motion, that, if specific schemes are proved suitable, we will be prepared to ask for loans to put them into effect.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) has moved an amendment, but it has not been seconded.

Mr. SEYMOUR: I second the hon. member's amendment.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am very grateful to the hon. members who have supported unreservedly the motion I moved this morning, and I am fully grateful to those members who, though they cannot see eye-to-eye with me, have expressed their views in regard to the

principle of the motion. I regret, however, that I cannot subscribe to the amendment moved by my hon. friend, Mr. Seaford, because it seems to me to be unsound in principle. Certainly we are not consenting to anything but to hope. That is what we have been doing for 134 years. I do not see what useful purpose will be served if we consent to hope. You will remember this morning I based all my argument on the report of the Financial Commissioners, who had come to this Colony on the expressed mission to enquire into this Colony's economic condition and to suggest means for the amelioration of such condition. They said in their report:

One of the greatest impediments to the development of the Colony's undoubted resources is its present financial situation. If it were possible for British Guiana to raise loans both to fund its existing and prospective indebtedness in respect of coastal and other improvement schemes, and also to open up the interior by the construction of roads and railways, the causes which have retarded development would rapidly disappear.

Those Commissioners came here to enquire into the causes which have retarded development, and that is what they have said. If we are to fund our debts—our present debt is \$21,931,085—we must raise a sum of money sufficient to pay them and have something in hand to carry on with. That is also the view I conceive. I would like the financiers of Government to prove to me that is an unsound policy. That is what the Financial Commissioners recommended. They say, if possible find money to fund—

THE PRESIDENT: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but the debts the hon. member is referring to are those already funded. I simply point this out so as to prevent any misunderstanding.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The existing debts!

THE PRESIDENT: I am not speaking of what the Commissioners said, but of the sum the hon. member referred to just now. The funded debt of the Colony is something more than that, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I accept the correction. We are to raise enough money to pay off those debts when they become due, our existing debts and any other we

may incur. It seems that we want money for that, and the reason I suggest this loan is because I conceive the idea that we will have to pay all the debts we can possibly do at the present time. Some are not yet due and we will have to pay them when they become due. My idea is to have money in hand to pay off those debts when they become due and at the same time carry on the development of the Colony. It appears to me that when we do that, we can continue to pay the annual charges on those debts and make arrangements for the payment out of our revenue of the interest and sinking fund of any new loan. I regret if we do differ over that, but it seems that the matter should be solved. I do not know, Your Excellency, but I can give the hon. members an opportunity to consider it, if they so desire, as I do not wish to put my own view if by any means it will involve the Colony or Government in difficulties. But I wish that something could be done and that promptly, and to do that we must get money.

I may say again that is in the recommendation of the Financial Commissioners, and they did not seem to have minced matters at all. They said:

If it were possible for British Guiana to raise loans both to fund its existing and prospective indebtedness in respect of coastal and other improvement schemes, and also to open up the interior by the construction of roads and railways, the causes which have retarded development would rapidly disappear.

Whatever that may mean, that is why I consider \$96,000,000 necessary to do what is said therein to be done. It is a matter for Government to have that done. It seems from what I have heard, the idea is that hon. members of this Council must go and find out a scheme, get a prospectus, get experts to investigate different avenues and give chapter and verse as to the cost. I do not think that is the business of this Council at all. We are assisting Government because we conceive the idea that we have so many industries to develop and Government is always saying: "We have no money." I have fixed upon this sum here after considering several avenues by which we can improve the condition of the country, and I think this loan is by no means too much especially when money

is so cheap. I do claim, and I think I am entitled to that consideration, that Government should say what is its own conception of the passages I have just read from the Financial Commissioners' report. All I have said redounds to this. I conceive, in respect to the things which the Financial Commissioners have referred to in their report, that £20,000,000 will put us in a position to carry them out. If Government can show me otherwise I will be only too glad.

As regards the suggestion by my hon. friend, the member for Central Emerara (Mr. De Aguiar), I thank him for the assistance he has given in respect to the motion, but I think he himself on mature consideration will find that his suggestion to get a Commission to come here again and make enquiry is useless. That is what this Commission has done. My consolation is that the position remains the same. Although the Financial Commissioners had been sent here to make such an enquiry and they did so and made recommendations, yet those recommendations have not yet been carried out. Government had not the means to do so, and I am now saying that the position has become worse now in so far as labour and undevelopment are concerned. But the means of obtaining money are not quite so difficult now, because financiers say the money market is in a healthy condition, and because money is cheap and more easily available. Those Commissioners have already made a thorough examination of our economic condition, the same thing that the hon. members are suggesting must be done now.

I very much regret I cannot accept the amendment by the hon. member for Georgetown North (Mr. F. J. Seaford). I would have liked to do so, as the hon. member is always sincere in everything he says whether he be wrong—and he is very often so—or right. I would like him to show me where was the unsoundness in the proposition I made. I endeavoured to make the point that Government is being asked to get this money whereby it can pay off all its possible indebtedness and carry out development wisely. I suggested that all that will be required is to pay to one source \$4,000,000 as interest out of the Colony's revenue, which

is easily more than that. I am very sorry that hon. members, although they agree on the principle, do not agree with me in regard to the motion. If they can take me out of this doubt which I have in my own mind, that the obtaining of a sufficiently large amount of money so that Government may do what I endeavoured to suggest this morning is the only feasible thing, I will be thankful.

As regards the amendment by my hon. friend on my right (Mr. Jacob) for £5,000,000, that again is intended to just do a little bit here and there or perhaps one or two of the other things I enumerated this morning. It must be remembered that I am basing all my argument on the Financial Commissioners' report. They have said that when you have changed the Constitution simultaneously you must do certain things which they enumerated. I make bold to say that if we are borrowing just a few million pounds (sterling) to run a railway, say 200 miles, which will develop a very large extent of the hinterland and bring thousands of labourers into the Colony, then such a small loan will do very well. But that is not what has been suggested by the Commissioners. I do feel Government has not addressed its mind to the proposition and will not be able to convince me. What Government will say may appear feasible but it will be financially unsound. I do not subscribe to that policy at all. I am too old for that now.

But, Your Excellency, you sit here as President of this Council for the first time since your advent to this country. Lots of things may pass without your being able to appreciate really what is really at the back of the minds of the speakers. Your Excellency, there is a story about a noted lawyer. He was in the habit of working himself into a very high state of emotion when addressing in a case. He would burst into tears at the psychological moment when the jury would sympathise with him and he would win his case. In one case while pleading his best for his client, before he got to the pitch of calling his never-failing aid the Judge said to him: "Mr. So-and-So, you are going back to that old stunt again?" and he replied: "No, Your Honour, for you seem not to know

that every time I have a new jury.' Your Excellency is a new jury and I have to come up with these old stunts of mine, and after all you will find that there is something behind them. (Laughter).

I do not know Your Excellency, and that is why I must explain. If I do not tell Your Excellency this, I am sure you will not understand what I have said or very little. I do not blame Government, but this is the position. The story goes that a boy attending school seemed to be very apt at figures. It seemed that he would make a good mathematician like the Colonial Secretary. One day when all the officials of the school were in attendance the master called upon the boy to demonstrate how well he could work at figures. "John," said the master to him, "I am going to give you a little sum. If you have 20 sheep in a pen and five escape how many will remain?" John said: "None, sir". "What John, you do not know subtraction?" the master remarked. John replied, "Teacher, you know subtraction and I know sheep. If one gets away all gone". That is the case with Government Officials here. They know subtraction all right but not sheep. They want me to tell them what is there in the country to be developed, and although I tell them yet they cannot see with me because they know subtraction and not sheep.

That is why I am asking them to say if the remarks made by the Commissioners have no meaning. Really that is the basis of all I have said this morning, otherwise I will withdraw the motion in favour of the amendment by the hon. member for Georgetown North (Mr. F. J. Seaford), or adopt the amendment by the hon. member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob). But it seems to me that the hon. members' amendments will not carry us any farther because it is Government's duty, I conceive, when they have the guarantee that they will have the money to spend, to seek out avenues to spend that money. If the amount of the proposed loan is too much, then Government may suggest that it be reduced by so much, but to say that hon. members must be able to give chapter and verse, and furnish figures

about a scheme before coming to the Council to ask for a loan for that scheme, is not in my opinion hon. members' duty. All I ask Government is to get a loan of £20,000,000, or any millions. This country can pay it back if it gets a move on.

Having said all I desired, I cannot do more. I have suggested to Government the reason why I cannot subscribe to the amendment by my hon. friend (Mr. Seaford) well intentioned as it is, and also the reason why I cannot subscribe to the amendment for £5,000,000 which has been suggested by my hon. friend on my right (Mr. Jacob). Possibly if they collaborate with me, we may be able to put our heads together and arrive at an agreement. I am not pressing for \$96,000,000 specifically, but for something decent to give this country a move on. That is what I am pressing for. I suggest that \$96,000,000 will be adequate for that, but if Government and hon. members think otherwise then it is on the part of Government to make a gesture. I cannot help feeling that if Government were to address its mind to this motion in the spirit in which it is moved, then we would not have to sing the song of the poor man, as we have been doing all these years. Money is cheap, development of the Colony is a-begging, and unemployment is rife. I commend the motion to Government and hope that Government will see its way, if it cannot accept the motion, to say what it can do, and let us get a move on. That is all I am asking.

THE PRESIDENT: Before I put the motion, I would like to say a word not by way of comment but just to clarify the position as regards the vote. The original motion for a loan of \$96,000,000 under the Rules of the Council will be put to the vote first and after that the amendments. I am sure hon. members do not expect me to make any official comment, as I have been less than four weeks in the Colony and it would be a formidable problem for me publicly to venture comment on the possibilities of spending a loan of £20,000,000, but I want to explain to hon. members what the position of Government must be in a request of that kind. The hon. member's motion asks that the Council request the

Government with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies—that is of course essential, and in fact that means the Government must approach the Secretary of State for the Colonies and ask permission—to raise a loan of this amount.

The very interesting suggestions that have been made about development must command everybody's interest and sympathy, but we have to deal with this motion as a practical suggestion. I am bound to say, when you approach His Majesty's Government or any other body whose credit will be involved in the provision of this loan, you have to look at it from their point of view as well as from our point of view. Their point of view, I have very little doubt in saying, will be that nothing but a negative answer can be given to a request for a loan of that kind without specific proposals as to the manner in which the loan can be expended. For this Government to agree to approach the Imperial Government with a request which must inevitably meet with a negative reply is an almost impossible position to ask this Government to take up. I am not speaking of the merits of the case but simply of the technical situation which arises. It is therefore impossible for the Government as such to accept the motion as it stands. In a lesser degree the same argument applies to an amendment for a smaller sum without any specific proposals of the manner in which that sum will be paid out. That does not at all mean, however, that Government is not in sympathy with the general principle of the motion, that some means should be found of expediting development in the Colony. We are simply looking at it from a practical point of view of the channels through which we as Government have to work.

Incidentally I may clear up one point on which perhaps I inadvertently misled the hon. member, and that is in regard to the funded debt. The funded debt is the great bulk of the debts which stand on our books now. There are some unfunded debts, but the great bulk of the Colony's debt is funded debt. That debt under the normal rules of the market cannot be paid off until it matures. When it matures the question of raising

a further loan to pay off that debt will automatically arise, dependent naturally on the size of the sinking fund at the time, but until it matures no amount of money raised on a loan can be applied in liquidating that debt. That is to say, we cannot take advantage of cheap money at the moment to pay off a debt which does not mature for ten years. The bond-holders have a right to hold those bonds until their maturity.

Returning to the question of the motion, the amendment moved by the hon. member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) is of a different character, and though I cannot possibly pledge Government in a debate of this kind to take any special steps in the matter, it will serve to bring out the feelings of the Council and also serve the main purpose of this debate in bringing the matter forward to the notice of the Imperial Government, which, I take it, is one of the chief objects of the hon. member's original motion. Therefore in regard to that amendment Government is in a different position, as it involves no pledge but automatically involves the debate and the proposals that have been made being brought to the notice of the Imperial Government. I do not want to comment on the proposals in any way. I do not feel I have been here long enough to make a useful comment and before putting the question I do not wish to introduce any further controversial matter into the discussion. Therefore it rests with me now to put first to the Council the original motion: "That this Council respectfully requests the Government with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to raise a loan of £20,000,000 to be repaid with interest over a period of 50 years for the development of the Colony's resources, coastal and forestal. And that a copy of this resolution and the debate thereon be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

Mr. ELEAZAR: From what you have said, sir, I do not think I will be justified in asking Government to put the motion to the vote. I am perfectly satisfied with what you have said, and with the consent of my seconder I ask leave to withdraw the motion.

THE PRESIDENT: I have no objection at all, if the Council approves. Which amendment do you accept?

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am withdrawing the original motion in favour of the motion which Government said it will not find itself in difficulty to accept. (laughter).

THE PRESIDENT: The motion stands withdrawn. According to the Rules of the Council, I will now put the amendment moved by the hon. member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob).

Mr. JACOB: The hon. mover having withdrawn the original motion and subject to what you have said, I have no other alternative than to withdraw the amendment moved by me with the consent of the seconder.

THE PRESIDENT: This is a matter within the competence of the Council. If the Council has no objection, the amendment stands withdrawn. That leaves the amendment by the hon. member for Georgetown North (Mr. F. J. Seaford): "That this Council respectfully requests the Government with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to raise such loans as may be found to be necessary for the development of the Colony's resources on the coastlands and in the hinterland."

Question put, and agreed to.

UNCLASSIFIED OFFICERS' PENSION REGULATIONS.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I beg to move:—

Be it Resolved.—(a) That Regulation 17 of the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, be amended by deleting the words "in special cases" in the first line, and also the word "twenty" be deleted and the word "fifteen" be inserted after the words "not less than" in the fourth line, also the words "two thirds" after the words "not exceeding" in the fifth line be deleted and the words "three fourths" be inserted.

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

This particular motion ought not to be very difficult, and I hope Government will see its way to accept it without any

trouble. For a long time it was a rule of Government to grant a small pension to officers who have served Government but were not on the pensionable staff or Fixed Establishment; when they have served for a period of 15 years Government always gave them a pension. Later on, by some means or other Government caused this section to which I now refer—Regulation 17 of the Pensions Ordinance—to be placed on the Statute Books of the Colony. That section began with the words “In special cases,” so that it no longer carried with it the force which it originally had. Originally if a person served Government faithfully for 15 years or longer and resigned, he received a pension. Later on the period was extended to 20 years, but this expression “In special cases” still remained, so that when a person has served Government for 20 years there was still something to follow. Government will fall back and ask some disgruntled Head of Department (present company always excepted) whether this particular officer deserves to receive a pension, and that Head of Department will have it in his power to inform Government that this particular officer in question should not be given any consideration because he had a bad defaulter’s sheet. When that sheet is looked at, it might be found that only on two occasions in 26 years he was fined possibly for smoking a cigarette, or that he came in one morning dressed in frock coat and top hat, or failed to notice the approach of his superior officer and give him the usual salute. So it has turned out that some of these officers have been made to suffer.

About three years ago during the regime of your immediate predecessor but one, Sir Edward Denham, a case came before this Council which struck me very forcibly. A man had served in a certain institution for 26 years; he died and his relatives asked the Government for some consideration. Government was willing to give that consideration, but in obedience to this section referred the matter to the Head of the Department concerned, when lo and behold the man who had served Government for 26 years and retired was accused of larceny. Sir Edward in his characteristic fairness demanded an enquiry, which revealed that between that man and another man who was an ordinary servant a pair of old

shoes had been misplaced in the shoemaker’s shop and could not be accounted for. Sir Edward compelled the officer to expunge it from the records, and the relatives of the man got something. That only shows the extent to which some people will go to do other people an injustice, and that condition should not be left on the Statute for an individual to say whether a person who has given Government over 20 years faithful service should or should not be given anything.

There is another case in which 35 years and 9 months’ service by a man to Government was thrown to the wind; he was given 14 days’ notice to quit because he was convicted of a technical breach of discipline. The Colonial Secretary at that time advised Government that there was something peculiar in the wording of the section; he thought Government might find something which would remove the difficulty. Nothing has been done since then. The hon. Major Bain Gray was commissioned by Government to make a report on the Unclassified Officers of the service. Major Bain Gray, thorough officer as he is, had this to say about it:—

In both Jamaica and Trinidad, while the principle is the same, the proportion of the normal pension which is allowed is three-quarters as allowed by regulation 17 (1). This difference may be defended on the ground of the difference which exists between the financial position of this colony and that of Trinidad or Jamaica, but although the maximum difference is small, being the difference between three-quarters and two-thirds of two-thirds of salary, or one-eighteenth of salary, the use of the larger fraction makes a change in the scale which is very desirable, especially in the case of the employees receiving small salaries. I recommend, therefore, that the proportion should be raised from two-thirds to three-quarters in this colony also. In order to provide for the case of employees with the smallest salaries there should be a minimum of \$5 (£1. 0s 10d). per month.

Major Bain Gray feels that this amount should no longer be based on two-thirds but on three-quarters as in Jamaica and Trinidad. All I am asking Government now to do is to eliminate the words “in special cases” and to substitute “three-quarters” for “two-thirds” in that particular section of the Ordinance. I think it is quite fair; and here again when we copy, and this country is famous for copying from England, Rhodesia and other places, we copy the disadvantages and not

the advantages. Here is a case in which we are copying not the same conditions from Jamaica and Trinidad. In both of those places the period is 15 years and the basis of calculation is three quarters while in British Guiana the period is 20 years and the basis of calculation two-thirds. I do not know what is wrong with this country. I hope Your Excellency is going to put a stop to it.

Your Excellency, I cannot see any difficulty in Government accepting that. It is so in Jamaica. Hitherto it was 15 years here, but I do not know how it became 20 years. Both in Jamaica and Trinidad it is a 15 years period and a "three-quarters" basis of calculation. I am asking you to do the same in this country, especially as it is strongly recommended by Major Bain Gray in the manner he has done in paragraph 47 of his report. I beg to recommend the motion as it stands.

Mr. JACOB: I beg to second the motion that has been so ably moved by the hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar). I do not think I can usefully add anything to what has been already said. I commend it to Government's favourable consideration.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am going to suggest to the hon. mover of this motion to withdraw it, not because I have no sympathy with the motion as I do have in certain respects, but for the reason he has already referred to. It is a matter dealt with in the Bain Gray report, and it is a section of that report which has not yet been considered by this Council. We have considered certain sections and approved of them, but the matters to which attention is now drawn will all come under review when Chapter 4 is placed before the Council, and it will be not before very long. For that reason I ask that the motion be withdrawn. The first two amendments referred to were the subject of considerable debate at the time the Ordinance was passed in this Council, and it is not an easy matter to agree to an amendment in those two respects.

In regard to Regulation 17 dealing with the necessity for the certificate of the Head of the Department in order that an officer on the non-pensionable establish-

ment should get an allowance, I would like to state that the same provision applies to pensionable officers. A certificate has to be signed by the Head of the Department concerned in accordance with the Pensions Ordinance itself. I do not think there is anything further I need say in regard to it, as all the amendments which the hon. member proposes will be debated in connection with the Bain Gray report. That report has been laid on the table of the Council and certain sections of it has been approved, but the others have not yet been placed before the Council. It is proposed that those sections should normally come before the Council.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am very glad for the pronouncement made by the hon. Colonial Secretary, and I have pleasure in withdrawing the motion pending the consideration of the Bain Gray report. Incidentally I may mention that I do not like the idea of telling me that Civil Servants are having such a regulation against them, because those people I refer to are told that they are not Civil Servants at all and only the clerical branch of the service is recognised as such. I do not like to hear that the regulations operating against the Unclassified Officers are the same as those existing in the Civil Service Regulations, for the simple reason that they are told that they are not of the clerical branch of the service and have no right under those regulations. I ask that the motion be withdrawn.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I am right in saying that this motion will remain on the Order Paper for the next opportunity for the consideration of private business, but in the meantime there will probably be an opportunity of debating substantially the same subject under a Government motion. If the hon. member wishes to proceed, there is not the slightest objection on my part and, I should imagine, none on the part of the Council.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I am entirely in the hands of the Council in the matter.

The motion was withdrawn.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I hope Government will accept this motion because every person in this Council, including the hon. Major

and excepting Your Excellency, is well aware of what I have to say on this motion. Therefore it should be taken as read. I beg to move:—

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

This is a motion which has been moved in this Council over and over and I am asking Government to accept it.

Mr. DE AGUIAR seconded.

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education): I desire to move an amendment by way of an addition to this motion in order to make quite clear, in accordance with what has happened on a previous occasion, that the substance of this motion was mentioned in this Council. The original motion asked for an enquiry, and it was then explained that a Committee had been already appointed to prepare a draft Education Code, and when that Code is ready the intention of Government is to place that Code before a Committee which the hon. member has in mind. My proposal is to accept the hon. member's motion and to add to it sections involving

the amendment which I wish to move. The motion as amended will then read:—

THAT Government be respectfully requested to appoint a committee—

- (a) to enquire into the whole system of elementary Education in the Colony;
- (b) to consider the draft Code of Regulations for Aided Primary schools which has been laid on the table; and
- (c) to recommend such amendments and additions to the draft Code as the Committee may consider desirable in order to effect improvements in the present system.

If hon. members study this amended motion, they would see it combines the original motion and additional sections together showing what the Committee has to do. I beg to move the amendment.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer) seconded.

THE PRESIDENT: On the strength of that amendment I understand the hon. member is withdrawing his motion?

Mr. ELIAZAR: I withdraw it.

Amendment put, and agreed to.

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