

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 19th December, 1934.

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

PRESENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. N. Cannon (Georgetown North).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

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

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

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

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 18th December, 1934, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

PAPER LAID.

The following document was laid on the table—

The Divisional Reports of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1933. (*Professor Dash*).

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

IMPORTATION OF TEXTILES BILL.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) gave notice that at a later stage in the day he would move that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable the following Bill to be taken through all its stages :—

A Bill to regulate the importation of textile goods from foreign countries.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

INTERCOLONIAL FREIGHT RATES.

Mr. BRASSINGTON gave notice of the following motion :—

That this Council recommends that Government should take up the question of communicating with the Canadian Government in accordance with Article XVIII. of the Canada-British West Indies Trade Agreement, with respect to freight rates on rice, cattle and other minor agricultural products to Trinidad and the British West Indies.

OIL EXPLORATIONS.

Mr. BRASSINGTON gave notice of the following questions :—

1. What is the Policy of Government, if any, in regard to giving the public an opportunity to explore certain areas in the Colony for oil?
2. Is Government aware that the Trinidad Government collected \$835,000 in royalties from those engaged in the oil industry in Trinidad for the eleven months ended 30th November, 1924?

EXPENDITURE ON THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

Mr. DE AGUIAR gave notice of the following questions :—

1. What is the amount that will be paid by this Government to Officers and others engaged on the work of the Boundary Commission to December, 31st, 1934? Please show the amount paid in each year separately to—
 - (a) Officers.
 - (b) Other employees.
 - (c) Supplies and transport.
2. What is the amount received from the Imperial Government for the same period?
3. What class of Officers are engaged on the said work?
4. What class of Officers have been substituted from time to time for work in the Lands and Mines Department in place of those engaged on the Boundary Commission?
5. Will Government make a pronouncement as to whether the Officers substituted in the Lands and Mines Department are capable of performing the duties of those engaged on the Boundary Commission?
6. Has the working of this Department been affected as a result of the changes in its personnel? If so, to what extent?

ORDER OF THE DAY.

BILLS READ.

With the consent of the Council, Items VII., VIII. and IX. on the Order Paper were taken first.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. P. W. King) moved, and Mr. SMELLIE seconded, that the following Bills be read the first time :—

A Bill to authorise the making of Orders in Council for the purpose of effecting economies in expenditure with respect to the remuneration of persons in the Public Service.

A Bill to continue certain expiring laws.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bills read the first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at a subsequent meeting of the Council he would move that the Bills be read the second time.

IMPORTATION OF TEXTILES BILL.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs) moved, and Major CRAIG seconded, that the Standing Rules and Orders be suspended to enable the following Bill to be taken through all its stages :—

A Bill to regulate the importation of textile goods from foreign countries.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. D'ANDRADE moved, and Major CRAIG seconded, that the Bill be read the first time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: In moving the second reading of the Bill I should like to explain its objects. This Bill repeals and re-enacts with certain amendments, the Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance, 1934. In the existing Ordinance there is a restriction in regard to the quantity of regulated textiles, that is textiles containing cotton and artificial silk, which may be imported from foreign countries, the quantity from each foreign country being restricted by quota. There was no rationing of individual importers, the reason being that the only country whose quota was likely to be exceeded had, at the time of the passing of the Ordinance, already exceeded its quota. The necessity therefore did not arise. The next quota period begins on the 1st of January next year and terminates at the end of the year. The quotas have already been fixed by proclamation. It is expected however, that in respect of at least one country—Japan—the applications for licences to import from that country will greatly exceed the total quota, and there is the possibility of one or two merchants, with stocks in neighbouring countries—Surinam for instance—importing during the first few days of the year quantities which would exhaust the whole of the quota, and that would, of course, prevent any other importer from importing textile goods from Japan.

“Regulated textiles” has been fixed to mean textiles containing 50 per cent. or more of cotton or artificial silk, and section 4 of the present Ordinance provides

that "No person shall import any regulated textiles unless he shall at the time of importation submit to the Comptroller a return of the quantity, class and origin of the goods imported and a declaration of the origin in the prescribed form." Clause 4(2) of this Bill provides: "Applications for licences to import any regulated textiles shall be made to the Comptroller and shall state full particulars of the quantity, class and country of manufacture of the goods proposed to be imported under it." In issuing the licence all those particulars will be inserted. The validity of the licence will be during a single quota period only. Sub-clause (5) states: "The total quantity of imports of any regulated textiles, manufactured in any country, during any quota period which may be authorised by licences issued under this Ordinance shall not exceed the quota for that country fixed for that quota period."

Clause 5 (1) provides that if it appears to the Comptroller at any time that applications for licences for quotas in respect of any foreign country are likely to exceed the quota for that particular country and the quota period, he will immediately publish in the *Gazette* a notice to the effect that licences in respect of that particular country will be restricted. He will then call for applications to be made, and if the total of the applications sent in do not exceed the quota licences will be issued according to the applications. In the event, however, of the applications exceeding the total quantity of the quota he will then ration the applicants in proportion to the quantities imported by them during any preceding period, or according to their applications, or in any other manner which the Governor may approve. I may here mention that it is proposed, and it has already been notified in anticipation in the newspapers, that the basis for 1935 will be the imports for 1933. Anyone who did not import in 1933 but may have imported since then will be allotted a certain quantity.

Clause 6 of the Bill provides that a licence may, with the consent of the Comptroller, be transferred from the person to whom it was issued to any other person designated by him. Clause 8 provides that on the importation of the goods the licence for such importation shall be

produced to the Comptroller who shall endorse thereon the quantity imported until the licence is exhausted.

There is provision for the payment of a small fee in respect of each licence. It is proposed to fix it at a shilling for each licence. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Major CRAIG seconded.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I cannot understand the desire of Government to put through this Bill to-day. I had no knowledge that it was Government's intention to do so, but I shall endeavour to make a few remarks on the Bill although I must confess that I am at a very great disadvantage. I think I can say I am fully acquainted with the object of the Bill, and that is that Government having found itself in difficulty in endeavouring to arrive at a satisfactory quota with respect to the importation of a certain class of goods into the country, it is now proposed to ration imports of that class of goods. As the Ordinance has been in operation for a few months I had hoped to hear a pronouncement from Government as to the advisability of the Ordinance being continued, but that has not been forthcoming. I also wanted to know whether this Government has not gone outside of the instructions received from the Secretary of State regarding the protection that is now being afforded to British manufactures, because it does seem strange that a certain class of goods should be excluded from one British Colony and received with open arms in another British Colony.

It is well known that since the passing of what is now known as the Japanese Bill certain goods had to be re-exported from this country, resulting in heavy loss of revenue. I think on one small shipment the duty worked out at about \$500. I am ashamed to quote the c.i.f. value of the goods, but in order to put the true position of the goods I should mention that the prime cost was between \$50 and \$60. The fact is that the duty worked out at \$500, and the goods had to be re-exported. Where did those goods go to? They went to Trinidad, our neighbouring Colony, a British port, a Colony which, like ourselves, recently introduced legislation to ban certain goods from foreign sources.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: Is the hon. Member speaking of the quota restriction or some other restriction? If he is speaking in regard to any other thing he would be out of order.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: That seems to be a new Order in the House, to be called to order by the mover of the Bill. I do not know whether Your Excellency will rule on the matter.

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. Member is quite in order. He is only developing his argument. Perhaps on that particular point about certain goods being re-exported from this Colony and received in Trinidad there may be some reason for that, and perhaps the Comptroller might explain. It may be possible that those goods might have got into Trinidad at a less high duty, or might have fitted in with the amount of their quota.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Is that Government's reply?

THE PRESIDENT: I am only suggesting that that may be so.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: This House should be told definitely what were the instructions received from the Secretary of State, because it does seem strange to me that certain classes of goods should be debarred - the rate of duty made it impossible for those goods to come in. I am very glad to have had the opportunity to come back to Government on the question. It does seem to me that something is wrong somewhere. Perhaps Government has exceeded the instructions given by the Secretary of State, because our experience has been that these goods will never be able to come to this country on account of the high rate of duty, and we know now for certain that they can be received in another British Colony where the rate of duty is not as high. It is evident that that creates a hardship on the people of this Colony. If we cannot bring in these cheap merchandise here, and our neighbouring Colony can do so, and the same class of goods is going to Great Britain, it is obvious that the instructions of the Secretary of State have been exceeded. If that is so the Council should be told to what extent, and what are the reasons for

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I happen to know that the Comptroller of Customs has been in great difficulty over the whole Ordinance. He may or may not admit it. He is in difficulty as to what is wearing apparel. One item previously introduced as wearing apparel is no longer wearing apparel under the Ordinance. The time has come when Government should make a pronouncement. I am in sympathy with Government over the quota period, and I hope that this Bill will help Government to arrive at a satisfactory quota. I do not think this Bill or any other Bill will solve that difficulty because, as far as I know, the arrangements that have been made with respect to imports for 1935 are far from satisfactory. They may be satisfactory to a few persons but not to others. Provision has not been made for any person who during 1935 may decide to import this class of merchandise. That is wrong. Having regard to the quantity imported in previous years I can hardly see what quantity would be set aside for that class of importer.

My third objection is that no quota based on the previous imports of an importer would be satisfactory to any individual importer, for the simple reason that the quota is being based on the figures for one particular year. Even if it is satisfactory to an individual importer, would it be satisfactory to the inhabitants of the Colony as a whole? Debarring the entry of these goods is creating a distinct hardship on the people who can least afford to pay. I personally have no serious objection to this Bill. I sympathise with Government, but I would ask Government to make a pronouncement on the points I have raised because they are of some concern to those people who are engaged in this class of business. Why should a certain class of goods be debarred from this Colony and received in another? If Government has exceeded the Secretary of State's instructions it seems to me that the position should be remedied because the Colony is losing revenue, and in addition that particular class of merchandise is not available for the people.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I should have liked to feel that this Bill was coming up in its regular course. I always give Bills consideration before entering the Council.

THE PRESIDENT: I will explain the reason. It is purely intended to be of assistance to the commercial community so that they may know the position.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I see Government has been driven to it, but I am wondering whether the Bill is necessary at all. It seems to me that Government will continue to experiment, and it is not profiting by experience. The original Bill was brought into the Council late this year and caused a furore over the country. It was pointed out to Government that it would be prejudicial to the consumer while Government would lose import duty on those goods. Both of these have come out true. Government has lost revenue and has imposed on those least able to bear it the further expense of procuring for themselves more expensive articles. Government is going to impose the Bill again and make it worse by saying that those merchants who did not import in 1933 would not be able to import now. While we are doing this Trinidad is doing the contrary. Is this the time to impose additional taxation on the people of the Colony? Did I not characterise the original Bill as crazy charity? How far are we going now?

We have experienced all that we anticipated at the inception of that Bill, but in spite of that Government is bringing forward this Bill to continue the imposition and burden on the people. I submit that all those manufacturers of cotton goods in Lancashire, all those who were going out of commission have gone out of commission. Therefore the Bill has not benefited anybody. We are passing Bills here to benefit nobody but to punish everybody. I cannot see why Government, during the interim, could not have communicated with the Secretary of State and stated that the restriction imposed has created a hue and cry throughout the community, and that it is only the law-abiding nature of the people and their loyalty to the British Crown that has caused them to bear the burden. The Bill is indefensible. The principle is regardless of anything like jurisprudence. It is simply might overpowering right, and the people being imposed upon.

Mr. WALCOTT: This is a case where I think my sympathy is almost as much

with the Comptroller of Customs as it is with the taxpayer. I can now understand the necessity for more clerks in the Customs Department. This Bill imposes a quota within a quota. The Comptroller of Customs has realised the difficulties he has been placed in to divide the small quotas among the importers. As the last speaker says, the Bill is against all the principles of jurisprudence. It is against commonsense. The hon. Member for Central Demerara has pointed out that in Trinidad the duty charged on these goods is less than the extra duty which we put on at the last session. It seems impossible for this Government to adjust it in the necessary way; we usually seem to overdo it. In none of the West Indian Colonies, and I do not think in any other British possession, is there the same rate of duty on these Japanese goods as we have in this Colony to-day. The application of this quota has resulted in increased work in the Customs Department. I have the greatest sympathy with my friend the Comptroller of Customs. I know what it will mean to him and the time he will have to spend on it. If this is a case of protection for the Imperial Government then I think some of the \$380,000 we propose to borrow from them should be given as a grant-in-aid to pay for the increased Customs staff we have to employ.

THE PRESIDENT: With reference to the points made by the hon. Member for Central Demerara, the position is that we have carried out the instructions of the Secretary of State. Of course, this Bill in no way affects the question of the duties in the original Bill. They are percentages, and I take it that they are high because our original duties were high. There was one case in which we did not carry out the instructions of the Secretary of State, and that was in regard to a certain class of vests, and I received by last mail the Secretary of State's approval of our exclusion of that particular garment from the operation of the Ordinance because it cannot be obtained from Great Britain.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am very pleased to hear that. You will remember I asked that that be done.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 4—Issue of licences.

Mr. WALCOTT: I ask that no licence be brought in here. A merchant pays a general licence for trading in the Colony; why should he have to pay a specific licence to import foreign silk? It is ridiculous, and it is only putting more taxation on the people.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it is simply a registration fee.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: It is only a nominal fee.

Mr. WALCOTT: If it is a penny it will probably cost 20 shillings to collect it. (Laughter). The Chief Commissary might say he has not the time to collect it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is the usual custom of Government, whenever it has to issue a form of licence, to charge a nominal fee.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Why should there be a licence at all? An importer cannot possibly get goods in except he pays duty.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: The licence is in the interest of the importer. If there is no licence an importer may import any quantity which on arrival he may find is in excess of the quota. By having to pay a licence he will know exactly the quantity he may import.

Clause put, and agreed to.

Clause 7—Returns and declarations of origin.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: It seems to me that is rather late in the day.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: That is an annual statement of what he has imported.

Clause put, and agreed to.

Council resumed.

Mr. D'ANDRADE: I move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

Major CRAIG seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1935.

POLICE.

Item 39—Revenue Protection Expenses, \$1,200.

Mr. WALCOTT: When the Committee adjourned yesterday afternoon I was referring to the fact that no serious action had been taken either by the Revenue Officers, the Public Health Officers or by the Police in trying to see that the Copra Regulations are carried out, and that the spirit of the Ordinance is adhered to. The Copra Board has had several interviews with Your Excellency, and the Committee which you appointed has made recommendations. I do not know whether you intend to bring forward any further amendments to the Ordinance as the result of those recommendations, but I do know that a large number of samples have been submitted to the Government Analyst to be tested. I understand that comparatively few have been tested because the Analyst says he is too busy to give attention to them. Only two prosecutions have been brought, and in both cases I believe the Magistrate warned the defendants not to do it again.

No serious attempt is being made by the Government to enforce the Regulations. I have called attention before to the fact that the Government is losing a large amount of revenue. Perhaps Government thinks that because it can borrow money from the Imperial Government it is not necessary to collect that revenue, but in your speech Your Excellency mentioned that additional staff was necessary because Government is losing revenue as the result of being understaffed. It seems ridiculous that Government, after representations have been made by the people concerned, should bring forward Regulations to pro-

tect the industry and then not issue instructions to the subordinate officers to see that those Regulations are carried out. It is now over a year since the Copra Ordinance came into force. First we were told that Government could not enforce the Ordinance because there were certain loopholes. Amendments were made but still no serious steps are being taken to enforce the Regulations. It is unfair to the people who are paying Excise Duty today that others who are making similar edible oil, or at least who claim to be making similar edible oil, are not paying the Excise Duty.

I want to make it perfectly clear that this does not refer to the makers of crude coconut oil, who are not taxed in any way, but there are very many of the people who used to make crude coconut oil who are now using chemicals to try to get the coconut flavour out of their oil. They are using chemicals which, I am told, in some instances are dangerous to the public health, and it is time that Government takes notice of this. It is just another instance of the lack of co-operation between the various Departments of the Government, and perhaps I should say it almost amounts to disloyalty on the part of Government servants, the way they fail to carry out what should be their duty as passed on by senior officers of the Government. It is no use this Council passing Regulations in order to protect the industry unless the subordinate officers of the Government or the Heads of those Departments responsible are instructed to see that they are carried out, and their subordinate officers made to do so. I think it is as necessary to protect the revenue with regard to the collection of Excise Duty on edible oil as it is to prevent bush rum being made. It is the same loss of revenue to Government. I therefore fail to see why the Government should instruct the Police and the Revenue Officers to be so energetic in prosecuting bush rum offenders and not do the same thing in connection with edible oil.

I appeal to Your Excellency to try to get this matter put right. It is a disgrace that these conditions should be allowed to continue. It is manifestly unfair to the Company—I hold no brief for them, I am not a shareholder—that they should pay Excise Duty while others are allowed to

make what they claim to be similar oil and not pay the duty. I understand that the Company have threatened that if Government would not recognise its duty in this matter they will become offenders and not pay the duty, and let Government prosecute them as a test case. Surely we do not want a situation like that. Government is very anxious to impose extra Customs duties. The financial officers of the Government seem to be particularly keen on trying to raise revenue. I wish that their ability—and I have great respect for it—would be directed sometimes towards the reduction of expenditure or the collection of revenue where it ought to be collected, instead of being directed towards finding new means of imposing taxation.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I desire to support the remarks of the last speaker regarding the collection of revenue on edible oil. The Ordinance was passed with a view to giving the coconut oil industry protection, but it is not getting the benefits intended by that Ordinance. I join in the appeal to Government to instruct the officers responsible for the protection of revenue that they should be just as energetic as they are in making bush rum raids.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. Nominated Member is quite justified—and I think he knows it—in saying that Government is not doing anything. It is one of those instances where Government, in trying to interfere with the ordinary course of business, has found itself in very great difficulties. The position is that Government was asked to do certain things in regard to this oil, and also to take steps to protect and help the copra industry. We endeavoured to do that. A great deal of it was done last year. I was not here, but when I came back I found that although an Ordinance had been passed, or an amending Ordinance, that was not quite sufficient, and representations were made for another Ordinance. I forget how many Ordinances have been passed in this connection, but in each case we have been told by those concerned that if those provisions were put through that was all they required. We no sooner do that than some loophole is found and representations are made again. We have tried to enforce these Regulations but the District Commissioners find that they cannot,

They have been drafted as recommended by the industry concerned. Government has done everything to help the industry. Now we are considering what amendments can possibly be made. The Analyst is analysing those samples, but apparently there is a loophole. Those clever people get around the Regulations every time. It is simply a question of trying to close one hole when they open another. To say that Government is not doing all it can is not justifiable, and the hon. Member knows it.

Mr. WALCOTT: I take it you are admitting now that the Officers of the Crown are not sufficiently capable to counter the efforts of the offenders.

THE CHAIRMAN: I did not say that. Regulations were passed as recommended, but in trying to enforce them we found they were not sufficiently strong or comprehensive to prevent the evasion which the hon. Member is complaining of. However, the matter is still under consideration. Government is doing its best.

Item passed.

FIRE PROTECTION.

The items under this Head were passed without discussion.

PRISONS.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I desire to make a few observations under this Head. I think it was at the last Annual Session when several omissions were disclosed with respect to this institution, and it was thought that the engagement of a Keeper of the Prison would ameliorate if not eliminate most of what were considered irregularities that were complained of at the time. Since then I understand we have a Keeper of the Prison but, so far as one can gather, his advent to the country has served only to punish the Warders and give the prisoners ease. I understand that now and again the prisoners are entertained with a concert. That I understand is a somewhat humane form of punishing people (Laughter). There are no political prisoners in this country. If there were perhaps some of us would not be in this House. There is no Ghandi or anyone like him in the Colony. Only prisoners of that class, I conceive, would need a concert in prison. The prisoners

in this Colony are people who have broken the Criminal Code, and although we treat them as human beings we want to punish them as a deterrent to themselves and others. If we send them to prison and give them a concert now and then, what good would be done? There would be nothing to prevent them going back.

The Prison is still understaffed. There are not the requisite number of Warders, and as the result of that the men have to work from 6 to 6, which means standing from morning until night, except during the one hour allowed for breakfast. A prisoner can sit but the Warder must remain on his legs all day. I am told that if a Warder is seen leaning against a post it is a breach of the Regulations. In order to makeshift for the lack of staff I understand that four policemen are detailed every day to go to the Prison gate and take out two gangs, returning with them at 4.30 p.m. Two policemen are put in charge of a gang of prisoners which one Warder would be in charge of. Your Excellency will remember that on the last occasion mention was made of Warders who had been in the Service from 8 to 12 years without any promotion at all. I understand that since then four or five men have been promoted. But what do we find? Whereas in the past they were put on the Fixed Establishment, to-day they are not. That brings me to this: When I mentioned the matter on the last occasion the acting Colonial Treasurer drew my attention to Regulation 17 of the Pensions Ordinance, N. 20 of 1933, and said that all those men would come under that Ordinance. Regulation 17 (1) says:—

“In special cases any person holding a non-pensionable office who after the commencement of this Ordinance retires in circumstances in which he might have been granted a pension if he had held a pensionable office may if he has not less than fifteen years continuous service in the Colony be granted an annual allowance not exceeding two-thirds of the pension that he might have been granted had he been employed in a pensionable office.”

The hon. Member forgot that he was talking to a man who makes some pretension that he knows something about law. When the holder of a non-pensionable office has worked 20 years and desires to retire he has to petition the Government,

and it is sent to the Head of his Department to report about him. It may be reported that he was fined 5 cents five years ago for reading a newspaper, and his conduct was not good. It means that such an officer has to go hat in hand after 20 years' service. What is the idea of employing those five men on a different footing from those who were engaged before? Every effort is made to keep the local man out of anything that should come to him that may be considered as a sort of solatium in his old age. Those men should have been treated in the same way as their predecessors, and it is a matter Government should look into. Those three words—"In special cases"—should be eliminated from the Regulation if it is not Government's intention to keep these officers out of a pension.

I think that the Governor said that new industries would be started in the Prison whereby the prisoners would be made to do something of a beneficial nature. I do not know if anything of the sort has been done. Perhaps Government might inquire and see that something is done. I said at the time I did not think the appointment of a Keeper of the Prison would improve matters very much. It seemed to me that the morale of the Warders had gone down very low because they had nothing to hope for, and that if that was improved some improvement would accrue. Government thought otherwise, or that it should be accompanied by the importation of a Keeper, but from all one can see he might well be exported again with six months' salary, and it would be a gain to the Colony.

There is also another complaint coming from that quarter. Hitherto when a Warder became ill he could remain at home for at least three days so long as he notified the authorities. After three days a medical certificate would have to be forwarded. With the advent of the new Keeper, if a Warder is ill he must turn out for duty and work until the Prison doctor can see him and report on his condition. If he does not go to work he is fined. What becomes of the fine? I should like to know how many of the subordinates are being fined in the Prison, the Police Force and the Hospital? Some officers when they come out can see no good in the people of the country. They treat them

as anything but human beings. One cannot lay on the shoulders of the new Superintendent the fact that the Prison is under-staffed because the Inspector General of Police, who is now also Inspector of Prisons, must have observed that it is under-staffed and should have recommended to Government an increase of the staff. Who is to blame then for the fact that the staff is still short, and that policemen have to be substituted for Prison Warders? Inquiry should be made into the matter to see what can be done. The Prison is not a place where Government can afford to economise with a short staff. I appeal to Government to make the lot of the Warders a bit more comfortable and improve their status so that they can look forward to a pension.

Mr. LUCKHOO: With regard to the hon. Member's objection to concerts being held in the Prison, I think they should have a refining influence on the prisoners, and that it is a very wise innovation on the part of the Head of the Department. I hope they will come out reformed and good citizens. Surely they should enjoy some of the amenities of life and get a soothing influence from the songs of those good ladies who may offer their services. The Head of the Department should be congratulated rather than condemned for such a human act. I do not think my friend meant it that way. With respect to the inadequate staff I hope that the Inspector of Prisons will see that that state of affairs is remedied.

What I would like to see stopped is the practice of having men in prison garb parading the streets. In Berbice the Prison Farm is near the Prison compound and the prisoners are taken through the back lands. The Prison Farm is giving very good returns, and some of the food-stuffs produced are sent to Georgetown to other Government Departments.

With respect to the pension rights of Warders I think the whole question will have to be gone into. On the whole I think the discipline of the staff has improved. There were days when there was no discipline at all, but since the Inspector General of Police has been appointed Inspector of Prisons there has been marked improvement in that particular direction.

MR. DE AGUIAR: I wish to support the hon. Member for Berbice River in his remarks regarding pension rights of the Warders. It seems to me that the whole question should be gone into. There seems to be no definite policy as regards the treatment of these men. On the Estimate for 1934 there were 16 3rd Class Warders on the Fixed Establishment, but for 1935 there are 11 on the Fixed Establishment and 5 on the Unfixed Establishment. The explanation we have is that the new appointees have been put on the Unfixed Establishment.

MR. ELEAZAR: The trouble about these concerts is that while the prisoners are enjoying them the Warders have to wait until 7.30 p.m. before they can leave.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the hon. Member may some day enjoy those concerts. (Laughter). The remarks made by the hon. Member will be considered. With regard to the question of making those officers pensionable I think that generally the policy is that 3rd Class Warders, as new men, are appointed and remain below the line, and it should be a matter of promotion whether they should be moved up above the line. On one hand we are told we must curtail Government's pension commitments while on the other hand we are asked to increase them. Somewhere between the 1st and 3rd Class Warders there will have to be a line drawn. Warders must remain below the line until they are promoted. With regard to the way in which the Warders are treated, I have received no complaint from Warders, and I understand that whatever the treatment may be there are always plenty of applicants for the post. The work cannot be so hard or that they are badly treated in any way.

Item passed.

Item 1i—Personal Allowance to Colonel W. E. H. Bradburn as Inspector of Prisons, \$480.

MR. DE AGUIAR: I understand that some of those officers whose personal allowances for 1935 have been withdrawn have been receiving those allowances in 1934, and I think a Member would be quite justified in raising the question at this stage and inquiring whether the

authority of this Council was obtained for the payment of those allowances. I know that a Member cannot speak on an item which is not before the Council, but it was before the Council before, and since then information has been received that the allowances were actually paid. I have been definitely informed that one or more of those officers have received those allowances in 1934. As far as I am aware this Council at no time passed an item of that nature. Some pronouncement from Government is necessary.

THE CHAIRMAN: The matter will be looked into and the hon. Member will be informed.

Item deleted.

Item 1l—Assistant Warders—12 at \$396, \$4,752.

MR. GONSALVES: Do I understand that in order to improve the efficiency of the service six more Warders will be taken on in 1935?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, we have to increase the staff by six Assistant Warders. I would like to remind the hon. Member that, unfortunately, the gaols are very full and it is necessary to employ extra Warders because of the increasing numbers of prisoners.

Item 1m—Station allowances to Warders at the Mazaruni Station, \$720.

MR. DE AGUIAR: Is the item under the correct Head? I think it ought to be under the Forest Department. The Warders are supervising prisoners engaged in Forestry work.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was under the Forestry vote last year, but this and other items have been transferred to this Head because it was decided that as they were Prison Warders the item should be under Prisons. They are looking after prisoners and not doing Forestry work.

THE CHAIRMAN: The position is that a certain number of prisoners have been sent down there to assist in keeping the Mazaruni Station clean. It was regarded more or less as a temporary measure until the matter has been examined further. Since then, owing to the

increased number of prisoners in the Prison, we have had to declare the Mazaruni Station a prison, and it has to come under the Prison vote.

Mr. SEAFORD : In view of that statement I may mention that I understood that Government was reverting to the system of sending prisoners to Mazaruni because they were better off there. In the old days when prisoners were kept there the control of them was better and the expense was less. They did a lot of useful work there in quarrying.

THE CHAIRMAN : There is no stone to quarry at Mazaruni. It is all finished.

Mr. SEAFORD : I understand there is some amount of stone on the Camaria Road.

Mr. BRASSINGTON : May I ask how many prisoners are at the Mazaruni Station ?

Mr. WOOD (Conservator of Forests) : Thirty-nine, including one at the Bartica Hospital when I left there.

Mr. ELEAZAR : Aren't they doing Forestry work ? Why shouldn't the charge be against the Forest Department and let us see how much we are paying for growing greenheart ? I think it is taking away something from the Forest Department.

Mr. WOOD : These amounts which have been put on the Prison vote this year were transferred from the Forestry vote. The prisoners do not entirely do Forestry work. They are employed to do axe work in the bush ; there is certain objection to that. They are employed in keeping a large area of Government property clean, and the actual amount of punitive labour for purely Forestry work they provide is not very great. They do keep clear a large area which would otherwise be overgrown by bush, and which I think generally creates a very favourable impression about the interior at least among visitors. The hon. Member has not yet visited Mazaruni, and seems to think that all the prisoners are employed in growing greenheart. I extend an invitation to him as I extended to many Members last year, to see what we are doing, and then perhaps he will be in a better position to discuss the vote.

Mr. ELEAZAR : Your Excellency has extended an invitation to me to be a prisoner at the Georgetown Gaol, and now my friend wants to welcome me at the Penal Settlement. (Laughter).

Mr. WOOD : I said as a visitor and not as an inmate. (Laughter).

Mr. GONSALVES : When these prisoners return to normal life are they given any opportunities for employment by the Forest Department, having had experience of the work during their incarceration ?

Mr. WOOD : Most of them are well trained by the time they leave there in clearing land, cleaning trenches and work of that sort, but I think it is a recognised principle that it is extremely undesirable to offer prisoners work just outside the walls of the prison in which they have recently been incarcerated, and where their mates are very often still in the gangs. It leads to very undesirable trafficking and things of that sort. I must say at once that prisoners who have been recently incarcerated at Mazaruni are not regarded as being eligible for employment at the Mazaruni Station.

Mr. GONSALVES : If the work is spread out there would not be that association between them unless they make it possible.

Mr. BRASSINGTON : What would have happened if these prisoners were not there ? Where would the expenditure have been found in these Estimates ?

Mr. WOOD : Originally the idea was that a gang of prisoners should be sent twice a year for six weeks to keep the area clear. It proved impossible to control them up there, and it was decided that no more would be sent up. We simply had to carry on as best we could without the place being kept clear. When those prisoners were sent up there permanently the place continued to be cleaned and kept clear.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : I think that supports the claim I made at the beginning. If the Forest Station should be at Mazaruni the Forest Department should be responsible for all the charges in connection with the upkeep of its area. This is

an item that should properly come under the Forest vote.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: All that goes to prove the unwisdom of ever removing the prisoners from Mazaruni. At the time other Members and I gravely dissented from the policy of Sir Edward Denham in removing the prisoners from Mazaruni. It is a case of the chickens coming home to roost. It was an absolutely wrong thing to do.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member misunderstands the position. It is quite possible that no prisoners would be kept there at all but for the overflow of the Prison. The intention was to send men there occasionally. That proved a failure. It then became necessary to find a place for the prisoners, and it was therefore decided to declare the Mazaruni Station a prison and to send there the overflow from the Georgetown and New Amsterdam Prisons. In order to keep the Forest Station and its surroundings clear it may be necessary to employ a batch of labourers at very great expense. The Forest Station has now been declared a prison, and it is proper that the expense of keeping the prisoners there should be charged against the Prison vote.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: It was the greatest mistake to do away with the convict settlement at Mazaruni.

Item passed.

Item 5—Drugs and Medical Appliances, \$390.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I ask that this item be increased to \$500. The extra \$110 is to provide tooth brushes and paste for the prisoners. (Laughter). At present they get none, and I think it is obvious that people's teeth are a most important part of their anatomy. The prisoners have no means of cleaning their teeth, therefore I ask that the item be increased to that amount.

Mr. SEAFORD: I am quite in favour of keeping their teeth clean, but I think the people with the finest teeth are those who use the sticks.

Mr. WOOD: Whenever I inspect the prisoners at Mazaruni there is a demand

for nail brushes, but I have no means of providing them. (Laughter).

Question put, and agreed to.

Item 6—Tools and Appliances, \$200.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that this item be increased to \$460 in order to provide a new oil engine for the fibre machine. The amount will be recouped in a very short time because of the matting which is made. At present it is supplied purely to Government institutions.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item 9—Travelling Expenses, \$1,010.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that this item be reduced to \$650.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item 10—Bakery—Georgetown Prison, \$10,000.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that this item be increased to \$10,630 in order to provide an automatic mixing machine for the bread made in the Prison, which is supplied to the Hospitals and various other Government institutions. All bakeries have been urged to instal these automatic mixing machines in the interest of public health.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item 14—Miscellaneous, \$800.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that this item be increased to \$1,000 in order to provide utensils for the prisoners. At present they use cups and other vessels made of tin which are very insanitary. It is proposed to get porcelain mugs, etc.

Question put, and agreed to.

MINISTERS OF RELIGION.

Item 4—Allowance to Bishop of Guiana for Missionary purposes, \$491.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I wish I had the power to move that the votes under this Head be doubled. At the time when it was decided to dis-establish the Church I was then preaching, and I protested, but my protest was not heard. Whatever I may say to-

day has nothing to do with the fact that I still feel I was right then and those who are responsible for what is to day were wrong. I wish to remark here on the fact that while we have in this country what is known as a Sunday trading Ordinance, which is very good, and while we pretend to be in a Christian community and are paying this amount—very inadequate I must admit—we are allowing things to go on in the country which are subversive to what we are paying this money to provide. I refer to the fact that we are getting in this country a Continental Sunday—

THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I cannot allow the hon. Member, in Committee on the Estimates, to go into a question of that kind. He can move a motion if he wishes, and have a debate on it. I would be very glad to hear the hon. Member on the subject.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Very well, sir. You know what I intended to say. (Laughter).

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. Member move a motion so that he can discuss the matter?

Mr. ELEAZAR: Very well, sir. Do you want me to move it now?

THE CHAIRMAN: You can give notice of it to-morrow morning.

Mr. SEAFORD: May I suggest that we set aside a Sunday afternoon for the debate? (Laughter).

Item passed.

Poor.

Item 22—●Out-Door Poor—Essequebo, \$3,255.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Has Government considered the necessity of providing more money for the support of the poor in Essequebo? Without wishing in any way to prophesy, I say there can be no doubt that if Government does not do something for the County of Essequebo it will be faced with an enormously increased expenditure in providing poor relief, or in keeping the people in the Alms House.

The Committee adjourned for the luncheon recess.

Mr. BRASSINGTON (resuming): When the Committee adjourned I was speaking on the question of out door poor relief in Essequebo. Owing to the conditions in Essequebo, the tremendous increase in unemployment, I think it would be wise—in fact I intend to move that the item be increased to \$20,000. I am sure that nobody knows it better than Your Excellency that the outcome of unemployment is starvation, and the outcome of starvation, in nine cases out of ten, is sickness, loss of vitality and the filling of the Hospitals and the Alms House, and applications for poor relief. This is to my mind unavoidable. I am quite satisfied that it is not the fault of the local Government. While perhaps Your Excellency will not admit it in this Chamber you would, if you were given the power, take steps to alleviate the present deplorable conditions in Essequebo. I have spoken so often about it that perhaps, like the hon. Member for Georgetown North, who says that his friends say he has sewerage on the brain, I have Essequebo on the brain, but I will continue to have it on the brain. I have not given up hope that the Government will, before it is too late, take steps to put the economic conditions in Essequebo right. I do not know whether, under the present Constitution, I can move that this item be increased to \$20,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member realises that he would not be in order in moving an increase of the item. He can of course advocate it and leave it to Government to introduce it.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: That is exactly what is going to happen.

Mr. ELEAZAR: While I have every sympathy with Essequebo I am not going to ask Government to increase any amount for poor relief, but I suggest to the hon. Member that he might do something to get Government to assist Essequebo in some way or another. While Essequebo cannot be in a worse state, relief in this form would only be penalising those who are themselves in a depressed state, because those people who cannot pay taxes at all, and those who are now being squeezed, will be further squeezed to provide for people who are destitute. We tax the man who is working in order to give the man who is not working relief. Esse-

quebo is on its very last leg, and that is a lame leg. Unless Government can see its way to do something—somebody told me some time ago, and I think Your Excellency indicated it in your Speech—the last sugar estate in Essequebo is bound to go and is going.

I have always understood, since Crown Colony Government came into vogue, that the Colonial Office looks upon the local Government as the man on the spot, and it is only one case in a hundred where the man on the spot makes a recommendation that the Home Government turns it down. While I cannot see the force of increasing poor relief I can see Government doing something which will enable people to earn money. It is "moonshine" to talk about removing the people from Essequebo and establishing them in other parts of the Colony, because things are just as bad in other parts. I do ask Government to do something which would provide work. I do not believe in doles. Unemployment relief is a burden on the man who is trying to do something.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I do not think the hon. Member understood me. I have not put forward that this money will be of any help to Essequebo, but I am pointing out that owing to the conditions there Government will be faced with the expenditure of a great deal more than the amount put down here. I would be bereft of any brains if I thought for one moment that providing money for poor relief would help the people of Essequebo. With regard to the Government bringing forward schemes I have done everything that mortal man can do. I saw Sir Edward Denham in private interviews over a dozen times. I got six or seven Elected Members to obtain an interview with him and we pointed out to him the whole position in Essequebo, giving him figures and everything else. I tried, as Chairman of the Hampton Court Estates, to get other parties in the Colony to buy the estate at a reasonable price. I have done everything possible.

The wages paid over the pay-table of that estate in the last three or four years varied between \$60,000 and \$80,000. The whole of that sum was circulated throughout the Essequebo Coast. After March next year that money will be completely

withdrawn. It would not surprise me if I were told later on that Government is going to do something in regard to Hampton Court. Government will be looking around to do something when the estate is closed down, when the canes have been cut and are of no further use from a business standpoint. You cannot abandon a sugar estate in a few months and then resuscitate it in a few months. The abandoning process is very rapid, but the building up is very slow. I am going to be quite frank. My own belief, apart from what I have been told, is that there are interests at work which have dictated or told the Colonial Office not to do anything for Essequebo; it is a hopeless thing. I believe that the Colonial Office would have done something but there have been other influences at work. It is very regrettable. I cannot say it is true but the fact remains that I have been told that certain powerful influences have been brought to bear on the Colonial Office to prevent anything being done for the Essequebo Coast. I would not be worthy of being called a man if I did not say that to-day.

Dr. HENDERSON (Surgeon-General): No doubt the hon. Member has noticed the note on the next page which indicates that next year there will be a transfer of poor people in the island of Wakenaam, hitherto part of the Essequebo district, to the West Demerara Administrative District, and that accounts for the reduction, in a large measure, which is seen between the figure for next year and that for this year. There is also a small sum in regard to Essequebo, and much larger sums in connection with Demerara, Berbice and Georgetown, which have been extracted from the figures and included in the figure of \$2,500 in item 24. I suggest that the figure, \$3,255, opposite Essequebo stand as printed. Other than that I have no information in regard to likely increases, feeling sure that if and when these are required the necessary money will be forthcoming.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I think somebody said—I believe it was the Colonial Secretary—that this vote was for burial expenses. That is not so. I can only go by what the item says—"For the support of the Poor including Maintenance of Orphans, and Funeral Expenses." Why say it is only for burial expenses?

Mr. CANNON: I am very surprised to hear that this item is for the burial of the poor, but it appears to me that if things continue as they are we would want a double sum because there would be so many to be helped that this amount would not defray the expenses, and a supplementary estimate would be required. I cannot agree with my friend on my left (Mr. Eleazar) when he says that being unanimous will not achieve anything. He did not say so in as many words but that was the inference I drew from his remarks. Unless we are unanimous we are not going to get one thing done.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I did not say anything of the kind.

Mr. CANNON: I particularly said that the hon. Member did not say so in those words, but the fact that he refused to support another hon. Member is sufficient for me. That is what he meant to convey, and that attitude is not peculiar to my hon. friend. I hope that before the end of the present session he will realise that in order to get anything done we have to be unanimous.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I ask the hon. Member to withdraw his remarks. I maintain that I said nothing which could convey to anybody that I thought a unanimous vote of the Electives could do nothing.

Mr. CANNON: I am pleased to hear the hon. Member say he is not opposed to unanimity, but his very action shows he is because he is not agreeing with the hon. Member's suggestion. What he says in reality is that the Government of this Colony should have been in a position to influence the Government on the other side. At any rate what I want to say is that unless something is going to be done for that part of the country it means wholesale destruction as far as I can see it. It has been suggested that the people of Essequibo are to be removed to some other part of the country. Perhaps that would be an excellent thing, and we would be able to put those funny people who are coming here to take charge in Essequibo. I have no voice in that matter. I wish to tell the hon. Member that I too am opposed to doles. I wish to say—I am sorry I did not have the figures yesterday—that we owe the Imperial Government \$4,000,000, and at the end of this

session we shall see another \$160,000 or \$180,000 added to that sum. I cannot conceive that there is any chance whatever of this Colony being able to repay that money to the Imperial Government no matter how many agriculturists we turn out. Therefore we shall continue from year to year calling upon the Imperial Government to meet the deficiency.

In the circumstances I urge upon Government to put a sum sufficiently large on the Estimate, or at any rate to pay those rates which Your Excellency is insisting should be paid by the unfortunate people on that Coast. If 50 per cent. of the burial fees is provided for here, we might add a sufficient sum of money to pay their rates for them, thereby preventing Your Excellency from seeing those people levied upon and their homes taken from them. There is no chance in the world of our repaying the money we owe the Imperial Government so long as we pursue our present policy of allowing our Customs duties to be frittered away as we have been doing since we entered into the Reciprocity Treaty with Canada. The position is getting worse each year, and it is nonsense for us to come here and expect to do anything more. We should take all we can get and make the best of it because the time is coming when we will get nothing at all. That is the position I am taking up to-day, and I hope when Your Excellency has left us you will at least hear that that is how this little game is being played, and how it is going to be eventually worked out.

Item passed.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. ELEAZAR: One would have expected that there would be no necessity for saying anything on this Head seeing that there is a Committee now sitting to investigate the administration of the Department, but what is astounding is that immediately after the Committee commenced its investigation there should be put on the Estimate several new appointments. When the Committee has finished its investigation what report can it make? It would be reporting on conditions that did not exist when it commenced. Is Government frustrating the efforts of the Committee? It cannot be otherwise. I cannot congratulate Govern-

ment on putting these estimates before the Council, well knowing that there is a Committee investigating. When Government accepted the motion for the appointment of the Committee Government knew that these things were going to be done. Why did Government not tell us not to worry about a Committee because it was taking steps to remedy the defects? Government is trying to hoodwink the Elected Members and the whole community. It is like a battle of wits and Government is always coming out second best.

What we want is an expert physician. We have an expert surgeon who is a credit to the Hospital. Instead, Government proposes to appoint two supernumerary Medical Officers, so that if the Committee recommends the appointment of an expert physician there will be additional expense, or two officers to be dismissed. The Department has been getting on quite well with three Nursing Sisters, but now that the Committee is sitting it is proposed to increase the number to four. When was it discovered that a night watch was required? Need I say that the nursing staff is depleted? I take a wager with the Surgeon-General that if we go now to the Hospital we will find some of the beds hovering with bugs. It is because the institution is under-staffed and the nurses have no time to look after the cleansing of those beds. Yet nobody is talking about increasing the nursing staff. It is proposed to increase the watchmen and the Nursing Sisters. Another Nursing Sister is suddenly required to watch at night. I do not think it is fair to the community when a Committee is investigating the matter. How can we know the true position?

I understand that when the Committee visited the Mental Hospital in New Amsterdam the members were very nearly chased out of the institution. I understand that they dared to ask whether the appointment of a Mental Specialist would not improve the institution, and the suggestion was like a red rag to the bull who is in charge of the Hospital. (Laughter). I had hoped that my motion would have been put on the agenda before this vote came up for consideration, but that has not been done. I see all kinds of things on this estimate that one might object to.

I see that £500 is to be paid to young doctors who are to come to learn their jobs. Why not await the Committee's recommendations? I observe that a similar Committee was appointed in Trinidad and its recommendations filled nearly four sides of one of our local newspapers. I expect that the local Committee's recommendations will be as trenchant as those. I suggest that Government should withdraw all the proposed appointments and await the recommendations of the Committee. I do not think it is fair to Members to ask them to approve of these appointments when we know that a Committee is investigating the matter. In the County of Berbice we have five Sanitary Inspectors —

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps it would save time if the hon. Member would raise these questions on the respective items.

Mr. SEAFORD: Would it be possible for Government to take a lump sum for the whole Department until the Committee reports? Government may find it necessary to alter the whole estimate. It is no use criticising when a Committee is sitting.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is quite possible that in the light of the Committee's report some variation of the estimate will be necessary, and it will have to be done on supplementary estimate next year. I think the hon. Member's suggestion a good one, if it meets with approval.

Mr. CANNON: As long as Government is not going to take any less than is asked for here, I am in agreement. My policy is to take all we can get so long as it is for the benefit of the unfortunate people who visit these institutions. I am in agreement with the suggestion provided there is no reduction of the amount asked for.

Mr. AUSTIN: As a member of the Committee I may say that at our very first meeting the Chairman told us that there were several items which would be included in the Estimates for 1935, and one of them is the item to which the hon. Member has referred, the appointment of two Supernumerary Medical Officers. This item would have been inserted whether a Committee was sitting or not, and there are other items in connection with other

departments of the Hospital which would have been put on the Estimates in the ordinary way. What the Committee will have to consider is not in any to disturb what is put on this estimate but whether we could recommend increases or improvements in the various branches of the Medical Service.

Dr. HENDERSON: Before these estimates are further discussed I would like to say a few words in regard to what has already been said. I think it will be accepted by the Council that it is the duty of the Head of a Department to examine his Department periodically and see what can be done by way of development and necessary re-organisation. Before preparing the estimates I had no idea that I would get the assistance of the hon. Member for Berbice River in proposing the appointment of a Committee to consider and make recommendations for the re-organisation of the Department. Therefore, after being some seven months in the Colony, I set about to see what best could be done in order to make progress with the time.

The Hon. Mr. Austin, I am glad to see, has referred to the findings of the Committee in so far as they have already taken place, and I think he is of the opinion that the few new items which are proposed in these estimates should be considered here to-day. I would remind the Council that the Committee which examined the Medical Department in Trinidad took no less than about 13 months to complete its inquiry, and I think that in Trinidad apparently all the people of that island have more time to do their duties than is the case in this Colony. I should be very surprised, sir, if this Committee concludes its findings before the last quarter of 1935. Should the patients in the Hospital await the findings of the Committee before urgent requirements for their case should be seen to? I think not.

To take one instance, that referred to by the hon. Member for Berbice River, the appointment of two Supernumerary Medical Officers, I think every doctor knows that for a very long time the number of doctors at the Georgetown Hospital has been too few, and the small and inadequate number is drawn upon to provide a relief officer for a Government Medical Officer who is ill or has to come, say, from

the North West District, to give evidence in Court, and for various other reasons. All that means that a constant intimation passes from my office to that of the Resident Surgeon that an officer must be despatched, perhaps next day or in two days. It comes to this that those 75 or 100 patients, depending upon the number in Hospital, have to bear the brunt of this shortage of staff. A doctor is changed suddenly and there is difficulty in handing over the progress of the cases. I do not say that a change of doctor is not desirable sometimes, but that is usually at the request of the patient or the desire of the doctor himself. I do not think it is fair to thrust upon patients of the Hospital an unsatisfactory and undesirable change.

The hon. Member for Berbice River also referred to the increase in the staff of Nursing Sisters. He noticed that on the estimates it is proposed to have one additional Nursing Sister. When we come to that item I will have more to say. I think he has not noticed that it is also proposed to increase the number of Probationer Nurses in the Hospital. The number of beds in the Hospital is increasing from year to year and I must press for the proper number of doctors and nurses.

With regard to the question of bugs, that probably does take place from time to time, but we are doing our best to carry out infestation when required. I would press for the inclusion of those items which in my opinion, and I trust in the opinion of hon. Members, are very essential.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: While I have no desire to keep back the work of the Council I cannot agree to take the Medical estimates *en bloc*. There are one or two items on which I have consistently spoken and urged that some change for the improvement of the Medical Service should be made, and that is with respect to dispensers and dispensaries. I am fully aware that a Committee is sitting and that any representations that are made will be sent to the Committee. As a matter of fact, at to-morrow's session of the Council I propose to give notice of a number of questions in regard to dispensers. This is an estimate of many pages, and for that reason I do not think it should be taken *en bloc*.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I do not think we can agree to take these estimates *en bloc* unless all the proposed increases are eliminated, and the estimate passed as it was in 1934 until we receive the report of the Committee. It is not fair to say that all these things were found to be necessary before. There are so many things to be discussed that we cannot take the estimate *en bloc*. One hon. Member spoke of increases, why not decreases ?

Mr. CANNON : The hon. Member refers to decreases. His own motion complained of the inefficiency of the Hospital. How can you decrease the estimates of an institution when you are crying out for inefficiency ?

Mr. ELEAZAR : I say we cannot decrease the number of nurses and increase the watchmen.

Mr. BRASSINGTON : The Medical estimates comprise 10 pages.

THE CHAIRMAN : I will put the items separately.

Mr. SEAFORD : When I suggested it I only referred to three pages. I never dreamt of including the Bacteriological Department. The Surgeon General said there are too few doctors at the Hospital, I made the remark before that the Resident Surgeon spends half his time counting linen and looking after laundry which might be done by somebody else. I suggest, if that must be done, that instead of getting another doctor we should take on another steward. It is *infra dig* to ask a medical man to look after those things.

Dr. HENDERSON : A point like that we can very well defer for the opinion of the Committee.

Mr. GONSALVES : As a member of the Committee I do not quite understand what the position is. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary as Chairman might tell us. There are items on this estimate which are the subject matter of the Committee's investigation and have not been discussed yet by the Committee. The remark has been made before the Committee that these are some of the things required to be done, but I do not know that the Committee has formed any definite

opinion as regards several of these items. Supposing we pass these items to day and the Committee makes contrary recommendations with regard to certain items what is going to be the position ? It seems to me that the investigation of the Committee with regard to this Department would be useless if we are going to deal with matters here which have been referred to the Committee. I may be inclined to vote against an item here, for instance item 14, because while I know there is a feeling among the members of the Committee that there should be some improvement, I do not know that we have arrived at any definite opinion as regards any particular item. If these items are going to be considered to-day and dealt with I should ask to be relieved of my seat on the Committee. There are several items here which are improvements to be considered by the Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN : I would ask the hon. Member not to look at it in that way because this Committee cannot possibly report for some considerable time, and we cannot hold over these estimates for next year until the Committee has reported. The position is that when the Committee has reported certain recommendations will be considered by Government, and that may mean variation of the estimates during 1935, or special provision being made, or special appropriation for alteration of the estimates for 1936. These recommendations have been made by the Surgeon-General for the efficient carrying on of his Department, and I hope they will find support on the Committee. It would be too late to wait for the Committee's report, and in the light of that report further consideration of the whole position of the Department may be necessary next year.

Mr. GONSALVES : I hope that certain items will be accepted by the Committee, but I am thinking of items that will not be accepted. When the Committee's report comes in, if it convinces Government on those particular points it may mean that Government will have to put some people out of their appointments or find somewhere else for them to go.

Dr. HENDERSON : The new appointments are unlikely to come within the category referred to by the hon. Member,

To take item 1*k*. It is noted that those appointments will be on contract annually. By the time the Committee submits its findings to Government it will be very near the end of the year and there will be no harm done in taking the officers on.

Mr. CANNON: The report will have to go to the Secretary of State, and it will be two or three years before it is acted upon.

Dr. HENDERSON: We want to refer to that report as our policy from year to year for the next 20 years.

Item passed.

Item 1*k*—2 Supernumerary Medical Officers, Public Hospital, Georgetown, at \$1,200—\$2,400.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I move the deletion of the item because, while I am not a doctor, if all I hear is correct I think the consensus of opinion is that an expert Physician is needed at the Hospital. The whole Colony is clamouring for it, and if Government is going to appoint anybody it should engage an expert Physician. When it is a matter of medicine people have no confidence in the Hospital; they go elsewhere. They want something more like what they get in surgery. It is almost a sin to have a man filling a post that he cannot possibly fill. If Government found it necessary to get an expert Surgeon, who has given all satisfaction, then I think it is time for Government to consider the advisability of getting an expert Physician. My view is that Government should not employ anybody until the Committee has reported. If the Committee respects the community at all it will suggest the engagement of an expert Physician.

Dr. SINGH: I did not mean to say anything on the Medical Department in view of the fact that private medical practitioners have met and propose to put their case before the Committee. I may say that in our proposal we have suggested the appointment of a physician who should be the Senior Physician at the Hospital with the qualification of M.R.C.P. (Glasgow), and the qualification of the present Surgeon-Specialist, if not a specialist in the medical department as we have in the surgical department. We also recommend the appointment of supernumerary officers.

It is very hard nowadays to get appointments in hospitals in London on account of so many men being available, and our doctors coming out will find it difficult to obtain employment in the Government Service. At the same time Government would be offering those young doctors appointments at the Hospital on the supernumerary basis so that they could have some local experience, and after a temporary appointment for a year or two they could either join the Service or take up private practice. I suggest that the Medical Department's expenditure should be approved on the basis of that of 1934, and that all the new appointments should be held over until the Committee reports.

Mr. AUSTIN: The members of the Committee were rather staggered when they realised how few were the doctors at the Hospital and the large number of patients, and I am rather surprised at the hon. Member for Georgetown South's criticisms because we were generally agreed that we were very glad to hear that two supernumerary officers were to be put on the Estimates before we made our report. It was considered very necessary and should be done at once. As regards the Senior Physician, that also was mentioned, and will come up later when we are formulating.

Mr. GONSALVES: I am afraid that the hon. Nominated Member misunderstood my remarks. I was not criticising the necessity or advisability of the appointments, but only pointing out the position the Members of the Council were in. It was pointed out that the staff of the Hospital was short and that a temporary solution was the appointment of supernumeraries. I am in agreement with what the hon. Member says as regards increasing the staff, but he will recollect that the members of the Committee were to have discussed those items before they went to the Council. We have not had an opportunity to do so.

Mr. SEAFORD: I would like to know what type of doctor Government expects to get for £250 a year. It seems absurd to ask any man who has had to study and take five years to qualify, to give his service for £250 a year. It is entirely wrong.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I have listened with

a great deal of amusement. This is one of the items I have made a special note of. I am in agreement with the last speaker. I think it was the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo who said just now that it is proposed to appoint local men as supernumerary officers. It seems to me that one might reasonably expect, judging from those remarks, that that is all local men may hope to get.

Dr. SINGH: I meant to say that when the private medical practitioners are putting their case they will ask Government to appoint local men provided they have the necessary qualifications. In that case all appointments should be offered to local men.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I was going to say that perhaps this Council will be told that after those officers have served a number of years consideration will be given to them in the event of vacancies arising. If that is so, there is something those officers could probably look forward to. I do not know whether the right of private practice will be given to them. I can only assume that will be so because to expect a highly qualified man to come and work for £250 a year would be more than putting temptation in his way. I would like to know how those appointments are going to be made, whether consideration will be given them in future years, or the right of private practice.

Dr. HENDERSON: In regard to the observations that hon. Members have made concerning the appointment of a Physician, I desire to say that just as we have a specialist Surgeon so do we want a specialist Physician.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member should confine himself to the two supernumeraries.

Dr. HENDERSON: At the outset let me say that it is not original on my behalf. It was so in the country in which I last served—Jamaica—and I notice in the report of the Committee in Trinidad that it is proposed that the same procedure should be carried out there. The idea is that young doctors returning to their countries have had no opportunity to practise their profession in the manner which is normal, by acting as a House Physician. There is no doubt that com-

petition for those posts in Great Britain is very keen, and in few cases have doctors of this country had that opportunity. Therefore we want to give them that opportunity when they return to the Colony young graduates of about 23 or 25 years, or perhaps even less. In most countries these appointments are either not made at all or the recipient gets about £40 or £50 a year. I got no pay at all for the six months I was a Resident Physician. In fact it cost me over £50 at that time for the completion of my University training. It must be regarded in the light of what is recognised as the first appointment of a young medical man.

If I may refer to the Trinidad report, the salary proposed is £150 for one year, and if the medical officer is engaged for a second year he gets a raise of £100. The Committee recommended that in exceptional cases an officer might be allowed to remain on for a third year, in which case he will get another £100, making his salary £350. It is proposed to start the officer here with a salary of £250, and the appointment will be for one year, renewable at the end of that time for a period of one or two years. It is intended that the appointment shall be full-time, and private practice will not be allowed. The idea is that a young officer should spend his whole time in Hospital learning as much as he can from his senior officers.

To my mind there can be no doubt about the usefulness of such a scheme because that young doctor, at the end of his year or two years, will very likely have to face one or two alternatives. It may be, if he has done very well in that time and a vacancy exists in the Service, that his good work is brought to the notice of the Resident Surgeon who in turn brings it to the notice of the Surgeon-General, who in turn brings it to the notice of the Government, and although such an officer will have no right to receive a permanent appointment to the Service he will have a most favourable opportunity of getting that appointment even if it is the gift of the Secretary of State. He becomes known and his good work is known, and he has a very good opportunity. I think I have mentioned that all these appointments are for our own doctors. There is no question of importation. If, on the other hand, there should be no vacancy at the time of

the expiration of the contract that doctor will want to put up his plate and go into private practice. I think my friend and colleague will agree that at the end of one or two years that young doctor is very much better qualified to set up his plate than he would have been otherwise. He would be known to have been in the Hospital, and that at the very outset will increase his number of patients. I feel convinced that this scheme is going to be a good one, and I trust on the Council approving of this item.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I understand that these youngsters when they arrive from England go to the Hospital to be understudies to other doctors. If that is the case there is all the more reason for the engagement of an expert physician from whom these youngsters will learn something of their jobs while Government pays them \$80 per month.

Dr. HENDERSON: Quite true.

Mr. ELEAZAR: If at the end of the period the supernumerary officer is not engaged he can go outside with some experience, but is Government going to get all the pupils before the teacher? Get the expert physician first and then the understudies. I look upon \$80 per month as a miserable pittance for a doctor, no matter what kind of doctor he is. After all when our men go abroad and qualify they should find something to do in their own home. I ask Government to put on the Estimate a sum for the appointment of an expert physician.

THE CHAIRMAN: That will no doubt be done in the light of the recommendation of the Committee. I had no knowledge until this afternoon that the Committee proposed to suggest the appointment of a Physician Specialist. I am very glad to hear it, but until we get the report of the Committee Government can do nothing.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: To a point of explanation. The Committee has not made any recommendation yet. It has only just got started, and the sitting of the Council has interfered with its meeting, as most of the members of the Committee are Members of the Council. The hon. Member for Georgetown South has threatened to retire from

the Committee. However we find the Medical Service we will look into it and make recommendations to Government. We may either suggest increases or decreases. We cannot hold up the estimates of the Department until the Committee reports, and I do not know when Government will get that report. I should not hesitate to vote that some of these items should be struck out. The members of the Committee feel that they have an absolutely free hand. We may make recommendations which may not be acceptable to Government. We are not bound by anything that is down here to-day.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Has Government engaged those officers already?

Dr. HENDERSON: No, sir.

Item passed.

Item 20—Allowances to Medical Officers undergoing courses of study in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, \$500.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Are we going to pass this amount? When this system was introduced it was said that young men would be appointed only when they have the Diploma of Public Health. For some reason or other, in order to engage some men who did not have it Government changed that pronounced policy. Now when Government has got them here it proposes to pay for them to get that qualification. Is that fair to the taxpayers? I move that the item be deleted.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I support the amendment that the item be deleted. As far as I am aware medical officers were told definitely that unless they had that qualification they had no hope of entering the Service. I would like to know whether this provision is being made for officers in the Service. There must be something wrong somewhere.

THE CHAIRMAN: The position is that this sum of money is put on the Estimate to assist people from this Colony who are medical students to take a course at the Tropical School. There are numbers of young people who are undertaking the course so as to be able to qualify themselves for the standard of medical men required in this Colony.

Dr. HENDERSON: I would like to say in amplification of your remarks, sir, that there is no change of policy whatever. As a rule this course is usually taken before the graduate arrives in the Colony, but it may happen that it is the desire of Government to fill a vacancy at once, and that an officer may be required to come out straight away. He is supposed to take his course at the first opportunity and proceed to the London School.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: That being the case, I will insist on this item being deleted. We should await the emergency.

Dr. HENDERSON: It is not an emergency, it is a normal appointment. I have at least three applications from Guianese doctors in England to be allowed to take this course.

Mr. ELEAZAR: That is a monstrous statement: men asking to be assisted to qualify for a post. Let them qualify themselves. After they have taken the course Government may not require them. I have a shrewd suspicion that this is intended for young fellows abroad, not Guianese at all, whom Government may want to employ, or somebody abroad may direct should be employed.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I must join with the hon. Member for Berbice River in asking that the item be deleted. I am not at all satisfied with the explanation given. If a man wants an appointment he should have himself fully equipped. It is not a scholarship allowance. All technical officers would ask for the same thing. I think the idea was to assist Government officers already in the Service to take this course while on leave. What undertaking have we got that these men would not go to some other Colony when they are qualified?

Dr. HENDERSON: It is obvious that I have not made myself clear. At the outset I should say that this \$500 is expressly for officers who have been appointed to the Medical Service of the Colony. They should have a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene when they come out here to start their duties, and normally the sum is expended on such an officer before he takes up his appointment in this Colony. But as I endeavoured to explain, it may be that there is no

time to take that course before taking up duty in the Colony, and it is expected of that officer when he comes out here under those conditions, that he should qualify by taking his Diploma at the earliest opportunity when he is next in Great Britain.

THE CHAIRMAN: There are bonuses of £100 a year offered for Tropical qualifications. Under that we do get certain advantages of free tuition for our medical students.

Dr. HENDERSON: That is another matter. For example, Dr. Francis went Home to take a course in Public Health. I think his fees were paid from the item Your Excellency has just mentioned.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not quite understand what this \$500 is for, then.

Dr. HENDERSON: It is for the payment of fees of officers on first appointment to the Medical Service of the Colony in order that they may take the Diploma.

Mr. CANNON: May I ask how much of the vote has been expended this year?

Dr. HENDERSON: So far nothing has been spent at all.

Mr. CANNON: That is what thought.

Dr. HENDERSON: It can only be spent under two conditions, (a) when there is a vacancy in the Service, (b) when an officer goes to England and has to take his course because he had not the opportunity to take it before. That is why no money has been spent.

Mr. ELEAZAR: One thing I know is that there are officers in the Colony, not in Government employ, who have those qualifications. What of them? With all due deference to the Surgeon-General I think this is the time to get young men from abroad who are qualified. We should not engage people to come out here unless they have the D.T.M. They should qualify themselves. What is meant by item 17—Fees for Approved Courses of Study (Medical Officers), \$240—? This is for the same thing.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Is the student paid the money while he is undergoing the

course for three or four months, or when he has actually obtained his Diploma?

Dr. HENDERSON: This money is paid by the Secretariat here to the Crown Agents who pay the London School.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: That is not an answer to my question. The money is being paid into the worst people's hands. It is possible that they pay him before he sits the examination.

Mr. DEAGUIAR: Do we pay the Crown Agents a commission for paying out this money?

Dr. HENDERSON: I am very sorry that my answer has not satisfied the hon. Member, but I believe what I have said is correct, and what does take place is that the money is paid by this Government to the Crown Agents who in turn pay it over to the London School. When that is done the graduate goes along and takes his course.

Mr. CANNON: It appears to me to be the first year this item appears.

Dr. HENDERSON: Unless there is a vacancy here to which a graduate is appointed there would be no medical man taking this course unless he is bound to.

Mr. CANNON: I appreciate that the object of the vote is to provide for the case stated, but I want to know how much of the vote has been expended. The reply given is that no portion has been spent. We are asked to vote \$500 for next year. Is it contemplated that any portion of it will be spent?

Dr. HENDERSON: It will very likely be spent. There is a vacancy now in the Service and we shall make an appointment early next year. If the item is deleted this Council would not be doing for the Colony's undergraduates what it ought to do. Every Colony provides this for its medical graduates. The Council would not be acting fairly to the sons of the Colony.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Is the Colony providing men with their qualifications for the benefit of the Colony or for themselves? Must we pay them to be qualified and then pay them when they come out? I must

repeat that this item is for the appointment of men from abroad.

Item deleted.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Item (12)—15 First Class Dispensers (\$480 to \$720 by \$48) \$10,082.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: At the present moment First Class Dispensers get a salary of \$480 to \$720 by \$48. Your Excellency is aware that the late Surgeon-General, Dr. Kelly, made strong representations in regard to the hardships and inadequacy of pay of these Dispensers having regard to the very important work they are called upon to do. He recommended that their salaries be increased to \$624 rising to \$864 by \$48, in other words, that they should be given salaries of \$52 rising to \$72 per month. His recommendation was an increase of \$144 a year. I think from interviews I have had with him, the present Surgeon-General is also very strongly in favour of increasing the salaries of these First Class Dispensers. Owing to the reduction of the Medical Service and the withdrawal of doctors from certain districts, great responsibility is placed on those men, and I certainly think Government ought to give heed to the recommendation of the present Surgeon-General and the late Surgeon-General, backed by the argument of Elected Members at repeated sessions of the Council. They are about the worst paid men in the Service. My idea is that the salaries of those men should go up to \$960.

Dr. SINGH: Under the old scale dispensers enjoyed a certain amount of security where pension rights were concerned. When the new scale of classification came into force representation was made to the Surgeon-General, and it was hinted in this Council that dispensers would also be considered. I would like to know what is Government's intention with regard to dispensers' status in the Service, their pension rights and their emoluments. I also understood that the salaries of the two grades of dispensers would have been increased. These men before taking their course at the Public Hospital or in estate hospitals have to present a Cambridge Certificate. They serve for about three years, and after they pass their examination they receive the same remuneration

as a probationer in the Civil Service who starts with a salary. These dispensers serve a very useful purpose. They are appointed to districts of the Colony and play a very important part in attending to emergency cases. They are an asset to the Medical Service, and should be considered among the list of Civil Servants and given pension rights and increased remuneration.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I would like to join in the appeal made on behalf of those dispensers who are very poorly paid. Their status should be increased. Class III clerks go up to \$1,200. Dispensers are required to have certain training and qualification and should be given a fair remuneration. Government should give them some relief and so carry out the promise made by the late Surgeon-General.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Government must realise that those men are under a double disadvantage. They were given a definite promise that their remuneration would be increased, and those who were appointed some time ago were given the assurance that eventually they would be eligible for pension. They have not been given that increase, and by reason of the new Pensions Ordinance they are left in the cold. I am not pleading for an increase of their salaries but that Government should say something about the security of tenure of the men, the assurance that something would be done for them in the way of pension rights. I agree with what Your Excellency has said that we always complain that the Pension List is so high, but we cannot allow people outside the Colony to draw large pensions while those who are here get none.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with First Class Dispensers who are on the Fixed Establishment.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Government might see its way to give them a small increase even in these strenuous times.

THE CHAIRMAN: Last year I think the field allowance and other allowances to these dispensers were increased. Their position was improved, but I am not quite sure how. I quite appreciate what has been said about the usefulness of these dispensers, and I have no doubt it may be possible to put them on a higher scale. I

think their position has been improved by the increase of the field allowance which comes under a separate item. I think something was done in that direction either last year or the year before.

Dr. HENDERSON: That is briefly the position. I remember very well that when this item on the Estimates was under consideration last year the hon. Member for Western Essequibo raised the point and was supported by the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Seeram) and others, and I was instructed to go into the whole question of the re-grading of these dispensers, which I have done carefully. There is no doubt that dispensers in this Colony are not properly graded, both as regards comparison with other officers in the Medical Service and the whole Service, and with other dispensers in neighbouring Colonies of the British Empire. I set out the whole position, referring in brief to the history. Briefly I have recommended re-grading along these lines: That First Class Dispensers should be raised from the present figure of \$480 to \$720 by \$60 to \$960. I go on to say that in course of time I hope to be able to recommend a further increase of this scale. As regards the Second Class Dispensers I recommended that their scale, instead of being \$360 to \$480, should be a long scale beginning at \$360 and going up to \$720 per annum. I proposed that the first stage of the scale should be \$360 to \$480 by \$24, and that the next increment should be by \$36 to \$600, and the lowest part of the grade should be by increments of \$48 to \$720.

I also took up the question of the replacement of the Second Class Dispensers on the Fixed Establishment, and suggested that in keeping with what took place in the Clerical Service, when they reach the stage of \$600 they should be placed on the Fixed Establishment. As regards allowances and other emoluments I think those are matters for consideration by the Committee, and I feel sure that the Committee will consider sympathetically the position of those dispensers. If I can look ahead and judge the approximate time this will come before the Committee I think it would be about February next year, and I propose, when the Committee has studied the question of re-grading the dispensers, that that part of its

report should be forwarded at once to Government.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I like the Surgeon-General, but I think he has spoiled our case. We do not want these bars.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we should accept the Surgeon-General's suggestion that the matter be left to the Committee.

Item passed.

Item 23—16 Second Class Dispensers (\$360 to \$480 by \$24), \$7,385.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: These Second Class Dispensers are even worse treated than the First Class Dispensers. They get \$30 per month rising to \$40. Those men can get no further until some of the First Class Dispensers die or retire, or something happens to them. On sugar estates dispensers get as much as \$70, and on one estate as much as \$80 per month, and to expect these men to rise from \$30 per month after years is to drive any initiative or ability they possess clean out of their minds. I am going to table some questions which I would ask Government to

send on to the Committee in addition to Government answering them. I suggest that these Second Class Dispensers should receive the same salaries as the First Class Dispensers now receive, starting at \$40 and reaching a maximum of \$60 per month. The Surgeon-General has proposed that the First Class should get \$60 to \$80 per month, and the Second Class Dispensers \$40 to \$60. We have heard of the very able service of many officials, but these poor dispensers still labour under a great disadvantage, and I would ask Government to look into their case. Your Excellency said you thought some improvement had been made in their position. It was not in salary. Of course any travelling allowance would not help them very much. I do not think there has been anything approaching even a small increase in their remuneration.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not think we can finish this vote this afternoon, and as it is only a few minutes before half past four I ask Your Excellency to adjourn until tomorrow.

The Committee adjourned until the following day at 11 o'clock.