

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 3rd July, 1935.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, SIR GEOFFRY A. S. NORTHCOTE, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

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

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. Hector Josephs, K.C.

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. G. J. De Freitas, K.C. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. J. Mullin, O.B.E., Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

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

The Hon. G. I. Goring, General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department (Acting).

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

The Hon. Q. B. De Freitas, Surgeon-General (Acting).

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. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

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

The Hon. R. V. Evan Wong (Essequibo River).

The Hon. F. J. Seaford (Georgetown North).

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

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

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd July, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

DEATH OF MR. T. MILLARD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Major W. Bain Gray): Sir, it is my melancholy duty this morning to move the following motion:—

That this Council records its deep regret at the death of the Honourable Thomas Millard, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer and Acting Colonial Secretary, and expresses its sympathy with Mrs. Millard and her sons.

Mr. Millard had a long and honourable career in the service of the Crown. He entered it just over 30 years ago in the capacity of Paymaster of the King's African Rifles. From 1905 till 1915 he served in Africa and in Cyprus, his last appointment prior to the War being Assistant Treasurer in Cyprus. In 1915 he volunteered for military service and was gazetted to one of the Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers (the City of London Regiment). He served with the British Forces in France and was severely wounded in 1917. As a result of this wound he spent a long period in hospital and in convalescence.

In 1921 he returned to his official duties

in Cyprus where he remained till January, 1928, when he was transferred to this country as Colonial Treasurer. In the same year he became a member of the Executive Council and the Court of Policy under the old constitution. In 1930 he represented British Guiana at the Colonial Office Conference, and in 1931 he was awarded the C.M.G. In 1934 he was appointed to succeed Sir Crawford Douglas-Jones as Colonial Secretary and was acting in his future office at the time of his death.

Mr. Millard was appointed Colonial Treasurer at a time of financial stress, which so far as I am aware has only one parallel in the history of British Guiana. His work as Colonial Treasurer is well known to all Members of this Council, and you, sir, have spoken of it in felicitous language, and it is not, therefore, necessary for me to cite examples of his financial ability and his success in the performance of his official duties.

Except in small communities such as this it is not usual for a civil servant to be known even by name to the public whom he serves. In the United Kingdom, for example, the Civil Service is essentially a silent service, but the conditions under which we live and work in this country make it inevitable that public officers should be much better known to the public than is the case at Home, and Mr. Millard's death has been followed by many expressions of public sympathy which show how well he was known and how much he was liked by all those who came into contact with him.

Mr. Millard was fortunate in his official life and he was even more so in his family life. It would not become me on a public occasion such as this to speak at length on the happiness which marked his private life, but no tribute to him would be complete which did not include some reference to his position as the head of a devoted family which includes two sons who, from their earliest days, have been known to all his friends for their intelligence and their youthful charm.

At such a time as this, our minds naturally turn to Mrs. Millard and her sons and I am sure that I speak on behalf of every Member of this Council, and of the wider public outside this Chamber,

when I ask the Members of the Council to record their regret at Mr. Millard's death and their sympathy with his family. I beg to move the motion standing in my name.

Mr. SMELLIE: Sir, I beg to second the motion which has just been moved by the hon. the Colonial Secretary. The death of Mr. Millard was a very great shock to me, as it was to all the people of this Colony. Members of this Council have lost a very valuable colleague—one whom they held in very high respect—and his loss will be very severely felt. In discussions and arguments which I had with Mr. Millard from time to time, principally over figures, I always found him most considerate and generous in conceding any points that were made against him. I feel his death very much, sir, and I have lost a very good friend who I will miss.

Mr. AUSTIN: On behalf of the Nominated Members of the Council, sir, I would like to re-echo the sentiments expressed by the Colonial Secretary and the Hon. Mr. Smellie on our loss by Mr. Millard's death. When we heard and learnt, with pleasure and gratitude, that Mr. Millard had been appointed Colonial Secretary of British Guiana, colonists felt that it was an opportunity whereby this Colony might make progress within a reasonable future. His loss to us is generally felt, and, as I said, I wish to re-echo how much we feel that death has severed Mr. Millard from the duties he performed so well.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot allow this motion to pass without expressing my sentiments in regard to Mr. Millard. As an Elected Member and one who moves among the people and takes a keen interest in the social and religious life of the community, I cannot help feeling that the country has sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. Millard, because he was not afraid to make the world feel that he was a Christian gentleman. He was not like those who hide their light under a bushel, and even in this House he made it clear to all that Religion played its part, even in the Government Service. That was a side of Mr. Millard's life which I always admired. Apart from his sense of justice and fairplay to the humbler members of the Civil Service and everyone who had business connection with him, one could not help feeling that

underlying the whole structure of his character was the sense of justice of the true English gentleman. In a community such as this, where certain aspects of life are so low generally, one looks with pleasure at a gentleman whose life was so exemplary, and his death came as a shock to all. Very few of us heard that Mr. Millard was ill and almost at once we learnt of his death. What I say of him can equally be said of Mrs. Millard, and while expressing sincere regret at the death of Mr. Millard, I am asking this House also to remember his estimable spouse in whatever sympathy we express here to-day. Mr. Millard died comparatively young. He lived in the fear of God and it might be said of him, as was said by someone:

Fear God and fear no sudden fate
When God calls victims to the grave;
Alike 'tis mercy soon or late,
Mercy alike to kill or save.

From all I have heard since Mr. Millard has been taken away from this world, his demise has been a merciful intervention of Providence. I have pleasure in supporting the motion moved by the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. GONSALVES: I join in the expression of sympathy at the death of Mr. Millard not only as a Member of this Council but as Mayor representing the people of Georgetown. Mr. Millard's association with work connected with Georgetown is well known to everyone here. So far as the Town Council is concerned our association has always been of the best, and he has always been very sympathetic in matters relating to the Council. He was of great assistance to the Town Council in connection with the Sewerage Question, and for his assistance in that and other directions the Council was grateful to him and deplored his loss. Everything possible has been said of Mr. Millard in his spiritual life, in his official capacity and in other ways, and I voice the feelings of the people of Georgetown in joining in the expression of sympathy.

Motion put, and agreed to, the Council standing.

BILLS—FIRST READING.

Pursuant to notice, the following Bills were introduced and read a first time:—

A Bill to amend the Spirits Ordinance, Chapter 110, by making provision for a temporary cessation of distilling operations for a period not exceeding four weeks.

A Bill to amend the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance, Chapter 86, with respect to the borrowing powers of the Council. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill to amend the law relating to pensions by repealing the provision for the abatement of pensions of re-employed pensioners.

A Bill to amend the Civil List Ordinance Chapter 52, with respect to the salaries which may be paid to officers.

A Bill to amend the Shops Regulation Ordinance, Chapter 77, to authorise the restriction of the sale of malt liquor and wine and the time of opening of hotels, retail spirit shops and taverns on any day appointed for the holding of the election of a member of the Legislative Council. (*The Attorney-General*).

A Bill to amend the Stamp Duties (Management) Ordinance, Chapter 43, by making provision with respect to the discontinuance of the use of dies and stamps.

A Bill to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended thirty-first day of December, 1934.

A Bill to appropriate the supplies granted in the last session of the Legislative Council.

A Bill further to amend the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, 1931, with respect to appropriation by the Board of the revenues of the Department.

A Bill to allow and confirm the expenditure incurred in the years 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932.

A Bill to amend the law relating to income tax with respect to shipping profits and the admission of claims for relief in cases of double taxation.

A Bill to empower the Georgetown Town Council to fund the total amount outstanding in respect of unpaid taxes and rates which have been levied during the years 1933 and 1934 under the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance (Chapter 86) and the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Ordinance, (Chapter 96) and the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Ordinance, 1930, and in respect of unpaid ratepayers' debts under the Georgetown Improvements Rates (Funding) Ordinance, 1932, together with interest thereon, and also to make provision for the payment of such taxes, rates and ratepayers' debts and interest. (*Mr. McDavid*).

A Bill to amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, Chapter 34, with respect to the rates of duty on forest products. (*Mr. D'Andrade*).

A Bill to amend the Local Government Ordinance, Chapter 84, with respect to the constitution of village councils, the election of village councillors and matters connected therewith, and to make provision for regulating the proceedings at elections. (*Mr. Laing*).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

THAT this Council approves expenditure in excess of the provision already made for the year 1934, as set forth in the Final Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1934, which has been laid upon the table.

Perhaps I might explain a slight variation in procedure which we are adopting. Hon. Members will observe that this is a definite motion of approval. When the motion has been seconded I shall immediately move that the Council go into Committee to consider the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure, and when it has been approved or amended we shall resume in full Council again, when this motion will still be before us and will be voted upon. I now move that the Council resolves itself into Committee to consider the statement of Supplementary Expenditure.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Council accordingly went into Committee.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I see a note to item 4 (Revenue Protection Expenses, \$151.90) "Vote inadequate for purpose." Certain sums are voted by this Council and we find gentlemen galavantiing over the country and then coming here and asking for more money. Everybody can overspend a vote, and when they ask for more money all they have to tell the Council is "Vote inadequate for purpose." I think that when votes are exceeded we ought to be told more when an excess is asked for.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is within the competence of any Member to ask for an explanation of any item, and that is why the Schedule is being considered in Committee. Does the hon. Member want an explanation with respect to the particular item, or is he speaking generally?

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The point raised by the hon. Member for Berbice River, sir, has always been the complaint of this side of the House. A vote should be taken first and the money spent after; but the money is spent first and a vote asked for after.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is not quite so easy to get authority for excess expenditure as is suggested. All applications for excess expenditure are carefully scrutinised by Government before a special warrant is signed. The next point is that whenever possible it is the intention of Government to submit supplementary estimates to the Council before expenditure is incurred. It must be obvious that there are occasions when it is necessary for Government to assume responsibility of authorising expenditure; but every effort is made to scrutinise applications for excesses, and a Department has to make out a very good case before authority is given to exceed its allotted amount.

Mr. ELEAZAR: What I say is that after you have authorised excess expenditure let us know how it has come about and not tell us "Vote insufficient." That is no explanation.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will leave this item in abeyance and pass on.

AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Here again appears an item "Travelling expenses and subsistence allowances" and the note is "This vote proved inadequate to meet the necessary expenditure of the year." I have no doubt that the money has been already spent and now we are asked to say "Aye." When I give Your Excellency an example of how the money is spent you can quite conceive the reason why I make complaint. There is a man who is supposed to be a Postmaster but is only in charge of a Postal Agency, the Post Office having been closed down, and he is paid a salary of \$10 a month and never has in his possession more than \$25 of Government money. Some time back the Auditor went to this Agency and the man asked "Who you?" The Auditor replied "I am the Auditor." The man then asked "What you want?" and was told "I come to audit your books." The man clinched the incident with the remark "The Commissary was here two days ago and the Inspector two weeks ago. You come too. Here are the books." The idea of three men visiting a Postal Agency in so short a space of time. That is our complaint and we want to know how this money is spent.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am not sure that any further explanation is possible on this small excess of \$27.06 than to say it was inadequate to cover the travelling. Is the hon. Member satisfied?

Mr. ELEAZAR: What else can I do, sir. (Laughter).

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Mr. SEAFORD: I remember that when the previous Supplementary Estimate came before the Council, because the Crown Agents were being discussed at the time, we specially asked to be assured that the additional provision for freight, insurance, etc., \$1,000, was all that would be asked for. Now we are asked to approve of an increase of nearly 30 per cent. I have brought the matter up so that the Committee which deals with contracts for supplies will bear in mind that the figures given them are not always correct. When they buy from local merchants they would know exactly what they have to pay and would not have to come back to this Council for a supplementary vote of nearly 30 per cent.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: In addition to what the hon. Member has stated, I would like to enquire why payments to the Crown Agents are divided under so many heads. We have on the Annual Estimates a lump sum and I have been told it was to provide for various charges—freight, insurance, and commission to the Crown Agents. Under this head an item appears and we are asked to vote an extra amount. It seems to me that there must be a great deal of shuffling with these charges of the Crown Agents, and I appeal to Government to make careful enquiry into the matter.

Mr. McDAVID (Colonial Treasurer): I wish to draw attention to the fact that an excess of \$1,522.92 has just been passed for drugs and medical appliances, and that excess is stated to be "due to the large number of cases (principally of respiratory diseases and the anemias) resulting from the floods, which caused all hospitals to be taxed beyond their accommodation and involved abnormal expenditure on services." Because of the floods purchases of drugs and medical appliances have increased, and I infer that that is the reason for the increase in freight and insurance charges.

The hon. Member for Central Demerara has been already informed that Government has one account for all Crown Agents' commission and inspection charges but freight is very carefully analysed and charged to every individual Department. The reason for that was in order that the Department itself should take care of freight expenditure. I think the hon. Member himself would be the first to admit that if these charges were not distributed he would have greater ground for complaint, and I hope he is not suggesting that Government should allocate freight charges to a lump sum vote for all freight on goods purchased through the Crown Agents.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I understand the Colonial Treasurer to say that each Department is endeavouring to ascertain the cost of goods purchased through the Crown Agents and that commission and inspection charges are taken into consideration. I would like to know what comparisons are made in arriving at the cost of goods imported through the Crown Agents. I hope later to show that some of the goods imported through the Crown Agents come from foreign countries to the detriment of British suppliers. I am satisfied in my own mind—I have brought my commercial experience to bear on it—that all those charges are not always taken into consideration. I do not see how they could be with the division of the votes.

Mr. SEAFORD: The Colonial Treasurer has pointed out that \$1,522.92 has been passed for drugs and medical appliances. Surely the Treasurer does not mean to infer that it cost \$1,243.37 to pay freight and insurance on \$1,522.92 worth of drugs and medical appliances.

Mr. McDAVID: The excess on freight and insurance is \$243. I do not know where the hon. Member gets \$1,243 from.

Mr. SEAFORD: The full provision for the year is \$1,243.37.

Mr. McDAVID: I was suggesting that one of the reasons for the increase of the freight vote is the \$1,500 spent on drugs and medical appliances. Dealing with the remarks of the hon. Member for Central Demerara, I wish to explain that I did not say that the Departments do not take into account commission charges on the Crown Agents purchases when calculating

the cost of imported articles. I was merely indicating to him that particular charges were met from the lump sum vote whereas freight was distributed over the Estimate. There are fixed commission and inspection charges and I know that the Departments do take these charges into account when estimating the cost of goods imported, and they certainly take them into account when comparing the cost of imported goods with local goods. I have gone into the question myself and I can assure the Council that it is very carefully done.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The Colonial Treasurer's explanation is unsatisfactory. I appreciate the point of the hon. Member for Georgetown North that the cost of freight and insurance on \$1,500 worth of merchandise is \$1,200, and I feel it is something that should be gone into.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think that inference is perfectly correct.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The original vote was \$16,500, on which freight and insurance was estimated at \$4,040. We have already to-day voted a supplementary estimate of \$1,522.92 and now we are called upon to vote \$243.37 for freight and insurance in addition to \$1,000 voted some time ago. The inference seems clear. Either the estimate in the first instance was badly drafted in order to bolster up the case of the Crown Agents, which was in the air at the time, or the charges for freight and insurance on the \$1,500 are entirely wrong.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. Member has suggested that Government drafted an estimate to bolster up the case of the Crown Agents. That is not so. It is quite probable that an under-estimate was made in the first instance and the natural result followed. Drugs and medical appliances had to be supplied in the circumstances and it was necessary to give effect to it. Even the argument of the hon. Member about freight and insurance being \$1,200 on \$1,500 worth of merchandise would not be correct.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I presume this money (19—Examinations, \$493.37) has been

already expended. I cannot see why Government should persist in spending money only to fail people. These examinations are unsatisfactory to everybody. One is to be held during this month and notice has been given that it will be the last examination. A man has complained that every subject has been made more difficult and the marks raised; and you give him less than a year to prepare for the examination. You are bound to fail him. Don't tell a man to sit for an examination determined to fail him and ask this House for money for the purpose of failing him. At the last examination for School Leaving Certificates over 1,000 pupils passed and only 13 have found employment. I do not know what has happened to the others.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suggest to the hon. Member to raise this subject when the Education Estimates are being considered next year.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Very well, sir; I won't forget it. (Laughter).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: For this Department supplementary expenditure is asked for \$1,749.58 for travelling expenses and subsistence allowances. I have been endeavouring to make an addition of all travelling, subsistence and duty allowances on this Supplementary Estimate, and I have reached the figure of \$5,000 in less than half of it. It is alarming. In this particular case the original estimate was \$6,850 and we are now asked to vote an additional sum of \$1,749.58. The explanation given is "A variety of causes have contributed to the excess, e.g., increased travelling due to floods and drought conditions following, special travelling in search of varieties of cocoa immune to 'Witch Broom,' special travelling in connection with the visit of representative of the United Fruit Company." I merely draw the attention of the Council to that fact.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand that the hon. Member does not want any further explanation from the Director of Agriculture?

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Unless he is going to tell us something about the visit of the

representative of the United Fruit Company. But I won't touch upon that now; I will leave it for another day.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I cannot understand why the Department has need to go travelling in search of "Witch Broom" on cocoa plantations. Farmers are expected to report if this pest is troubling them, but instead we find the Department sending officers round to see if farms are infested. It is a waste of public money.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture): The hon. Member has missed the point. No travelling is done for special control of this pest among farmers. It is part of a general scheme of research work undertaken by the Empire, which is centred at the moment at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, in an effort to find varieties of cocoa which are immune to "Witch Broom." We all know that "Witch Broom" is a very serious pest to cocoa. It has been responsible for the almost complete disappearance of the cocoa industry in Dutch Guiana, and with the exception of the North West District in this Colony it has been responsible almost entirely for a very serious reduction, if not the disappearance, of cocoa in the other areas. We regard it as very essential that a variety of cocoa should be found which is immune to "Witch Broom." We are not only helping the cocoa growing Colonies of the Empire but are interested ourselves in finding some variety of cocoa which would assist us possibly to extend our cultivation. In the North West District we are trying to keep the disease out there, and it would be a good thing if we could find some variety which is immune to the disease.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I rise to call attention to the fact that while the original vote for Miscellaneous was \$100, the supplementary vote asked for is \$115.72.

Professor DASH: Miscellaneous votes are always subject to fluctuation and dependent on the demand, but while there is a small excess it is not an excess on the total votes.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: It is over 100 per cent. of the specific item.

Mr. WILLS: While this might be a

small matter to the Director of Agriculture, it proves to Members at this end of the table that estimates prepared and presented to the Council are not reliable. Year after year we are told that Departments are making a saving and later they return with a supplementary estimate which doubles the amount. The Director of Agriculture says these votes are subject to fluctuation, but when he estimates for an expenditure of \$100 and now asks for \$115 it indicates that something is wrong.

Professor DASH: As a general rule it is not very often that my Department comes to the Council for supplementary estimates. Last year we had disastrous floods, followed by droughts, and one or two of these small votes have been exceeded on account of some additional activity unforeseen at the time.

Mr. SEAFORD: I happen to be a member of the Board of Agriculture. It is very easy to forget little things that occur. There may be an excess because the Board was approached by a deputation of the Banana Association and persuaded that money ought to be spent immediately in the interest of the banana industry. There was no estimate for banana work at the beginning of the year and the Department incurred increased expenditure on that and other little things that come under Miscellaneous. It is right that the Department should help minor industries in every way, but these extra items were not considered when the estimates were prepared and therefore were not provided for.

Mr. McDAVID: I might point out that the saving of the Department for 1934 was \$1,680 on the total estimate.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Nobody is attacking the vote. I merely started the discussion by pointing out that the original estimate was \$100 and tried to get some explanation why \$115 is now being asked for. I appreciate the point made by the hon. Member for Georgetown North. We know that the Department is trying to do something for bananas—how little or how much I cannot say—and if expenditure is incurred in that direction I do not think any Member would refuse the excess on the vote. But what is Miscellaneous?

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will find the explanation of the savings of the Department in detail in the Treasurer's Report, which has been laid on the table, and I therefore do not think he wants a recitation of them here.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: May I enquire whether item 25 (Crown Agents' charges on store purchases, etc., \$254.47) represents commissions paid to the Crown Agents?

Mr. McDAVID: It represents commission, inspection and a certain amount of packing charges; in fact, it is the total expenditure incurred at the Crown Agents' office in getting goods to the Colony.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The item includes packing charges, which Departments know nothing about, because all the charges they know about are freight and insurance.

Item 35—Expenses of B.G. Representative at Intercolonial Conference with regard to Merchant Shipping held in Trinidad, \$134.86.

Mr. AUSTIN: I am not the proper person to bring the question up as the Deputy Chairman of the Harbour Board is present, but I would like to mention that the officer was sent to Trinidad without the sanction of the Harbour Board and when he returned we were asked to pay his expenses. Government recognised that they had made a mistake and apologised and now they are asking this Council to pay the money to the officer concerned. It is only right that it should be paid, but I would like to have a ruling from Your Excellency on whether the Board should not have been consulted. The same officer was sent out of town without obtaining the leave of the Board when the question of settling Assyrians in the Colony was being investigated. On his return the members of the Board were told it was necessary for him to go up and survey portions of the river at Mallali in order to ascertain whether there was a suitable anchorage for vessels of a certain depth to disembark passengers. I feel that in the appointment of persons to serve on these Boards the presumption is that Government has some confidence and trust in them, and the question is whether an

officer should be allowed to leave the Colony or to be seconded for other duty without the permission of the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: I concur generally with the hon. Member's views. I have no doubt the omission was due to an oversight.

ROADS, RIVERS, CREEKS AND PORTAGE.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I observe that in respect of East Demerara it is stated that "the excesses on this head are due to the floods which occurred early in the year." The dam at De Hoop is impassable and water is running across it. I am told that the residents there were asked to do their portion and have done it, but nothing more has been done and with the present rains the dam is in need of immediate attention.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Director of Public Works to make a note of what the hon. Member has said; I think he will be satisfied if a note is taken of the point he has raised.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS.

The Committee reverted to item 4, which had been deferred, under the head of District Administration Headquarters.

Mr. McDAVID: The explanation of this excess is that certain rewards were payable to Public Officers and others in connection with fines which had been previously collected and paid into revenue. Before the arrangement ceased the payment of these rewards was charged against a revenue head. From the early part of 1934 these rewards have been made from expenditure, and it appeared that inadequate provision was made in not taking into account certain rewards which were payable from fines but were taken to revenue.

The Council resumed and the motion was agreed to.

THE PRESIDENT: Before we proceed with the next item I should like to make it known to hon. Members of the Council that I shall do my best, where Heads of Departments can foresee that further provision is necessary in the course of a year, to have a Supplementary Estimate placed before the Council before that money is expended. That is in conformity with the

Colonial Regulations. It would not always be possible. There are times when the Executive Government must take the chance that the Legislative Council would support Government in authorising expenditure which cannot be deferred, but so far as is possible a Supplementary Estimate will be laid before the Council before expenditure is incurred. (Applause).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

THAT this Council approves additional provision being made to meet expenditure in excess of the provision already made for the year 1935, as set forth in the schedule for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1935, which has been laid upon the table.

The procedure in this case will be the same as on the previous motion.

The Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Schedule item by item.

SUBVENTIONS, ETC., OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not think the explanation to this item (21—Recruitment and Training of Officers for Colonial Agricultural Departments, \$422.40) is sufficient.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: May I also ask for an explanation. I should like to know whether this Colony is going to continue incurring expenditure in training local students in Agriculture. We send four students to Trinidad from time to time and when they return they cannot get employment here. The question is whether the expenditure is justified. Officers of the Department of Agriculture are recruited from Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and elsewhere, whereas we are paying for our own people to qualify and when they return they cannot get anything to do. Not long ago one of our students had to go to Caracas. We cannot find employment for them here and cannot find it anywhere else.

Mr. WONG: I do not think the question raised by the hon. Member is the question. Your Excellency pointed out yesterday that this is an agricultural country, and this expenditure is justified. The real point is that when students from this Colony have qualified an attempt should be made to give them preference

of employment in the Department of Agriculture rather than employ outsiders.

Professor DASH: I quite agree with the point of view of the last speaker. The trouble is that it is very often very difficult to get local men when we have a vacancy. The Department was re-organised in 1927-1928. We had no colonial scholars available at the time in this Colony. Since then we have been getting some and those we have had opportunities and posts for have been employed. There were unfortunately no vacancies for the last three or four who have qualified. The principle is sound that wherever possible we should employ local men, and I quite agree with that principle and wherever possible they would be given preference.

Mr. SEAFORD: The first point is how many students from this Colony are turned out annually, and the second point is how many will find employment in this Colony.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I should like to know whether any local students who have qualified under this scheme have been employed in the Department of Agriculture. I know of only one, and that officer paid his own expenses. My point is that Government contribute to the expenses of these students, and when they have qualified they are not even given preference in their own country. Not long ago there was a turmoil over the appointment in the Department of an officer from St. Lucia.

Professor DASH: To a point of correction. That officer was not employed by the Department of Agriculture, nor was he paid from local funds.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: He was appointed under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture. It was shown that the officer was appointed from another Colony. If he has been sent back since I do not know; but I know that the officer for whom we were pleading at the time is still out of employment. We are told now that there are four students who have since qualified and returned to the Colony, but they can find nothing to do while we are giving employment to people from elsewhere.

Mr. AUSTIN: The Director of Agriculture was not in the Colony when the

appointment referred to by the hon. Member for Central Demerara was discussed at the end of last year. The individual in question was undoubtedly employed by the Department of Agriculture and it is no good splitting hairs in saying that he was not employed by the Department. It was said at the time by the Director's Deputy that the officer was being given a "try out," and I think an undertaking was given us that he would be there for about a year, at the end of which time he would be conversant with local conditions and return to St. Lucia and be of service there. It is only right that after young men have graduated and obtained certificates which entitle them to employment they should first appeal to the country of their birth for such employment. I may be taking a parochial view of the matter. But it is generally conceded in these days when it is difficult to obtain employment that these students, who have studied and worked hard and whose parents in some cases have perhaps sacrificed reasonable comforts for their future, should be given a chance to obtain employment in the Colony to which they belong.

Mr. McDAVID: This item is a re-vote of the proportion of the contribution payable by the Colony in respect of 1934, the provision for which lapsed at the end of that year because payment was not made through the Crown Agents in time.

Mr. ELEAZAR: The Director of Agriculture may be very sorry for not being able to employ local men when they have qualified, but that carries the matter no further when these men have to seek employment in other Colonies. When the Department was being re-organised there was in it a man fully qualified, who was employed as a part-time officer, and he was sent away with a promise of re-employment at some future time. That man was never re-appointed and his services are now being utilised by the Surinam Government. More than that. I know an individual who had been experimenting with tobacco for some years before the Department was re-organised. He, too, was shunted off. The Department itself started tobacco cultivation and failed and has given it up. These are the things we complain about. Our men are being overlooked. When they are in the

Department they are cashiered, and when they go away and qualify there is nothing for them to do. How long are we going to qualify them when we cannot employ them? Charity begins at home.

Mr. AUSTIN: Is the Director of Agriculture in a position to say how many students graduate every year at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

Professor DASH: I have not the files before me in connection with the hon. Member's question. It will be remembered that this Colony did not join the training scheme until some years after the College was started; and at the time of the re-organisation there were certainly no men available of the type required that could be brought into the Department. The position since then has changed somewhat in that now-a-days there are, and will be, a certain number of qualified students available, but the unfortunate aspect is that openings for that type of men must naturally be limited in a country such as British Guiana. In so far as has been possible I have always endeavoured to give every chance to local men, and I think that if the officers of the Department themselves were questioned it will be found that is true. I drew up a statement some time ago just to satisfy myself on that point, and I can truthfully say that what was made clear is that we have not had an opportunity hitherto to employ any number of these students from this Colony who have passed through the College. Vacancies may possibly occur in the future and certainly every opportunity will be given for the local men to be employed. It is certainly my intention, wherever possible, to give these men every chance.

The point was raised by the Hon. Mr. Austin in connection with the employment of a man from St. Lucia. That man was in the Colony when an opening occurred for the employment temporarily of a trained man and he was brought in and put on that job. At that time there was certainly no trained man in the Colony of the type required. That officer is still working on a temporary basis. Now and again permanent openings occur, and when an opportunity of that kind occurs and a local man is available I certainly will employ him. I have given every indication of that already.

I cannot say off-hand how many of these scholars have passed through the College, but I think this year we have had the maximum. The Scholarship is of three years' duration and when vacancies occur we are allowed to nominate new students. Three years ago we had three vacancies and three new students were nominated, and these three have now completed their term and are available for employment. While, of course, the Department is perhaps looked to, there are other opportunities for employment in the Colony which must not be lost sight of. There is, for example, the possibility of employment as laboratory assistants on sugar estates. Mr. Austin has made a strong point for the local man and I only hope he will carry the principle into practice. A number of our local men go elsewhere. One now occupies a post in St. Kitts and is doing very well. There may be others whom I do not recall at the moment. I reiterate that the policy of Government is to employ local men whenever they are available and have the qualifications.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The most important point raised was how many qualified men are employed in the Department of Agriculture at the moment. That point has not been answered.

Professor DASH: I should like to have notice of that question.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Director of Agriculture is entitled to notice of the question and the question will be answered. I do not think the discussion can be usefully taken much further. The Director of Agriculture stated, and I endorse what he has said, that whenever an opportunity occurs we shall employ a locally trained man. We are not in a financial position to create vacancies for these students and it is necessary therefore for us to await those vacancies. I am sure hon. Members do not wish to cut down opportunities for education such as this country can afford its students at Trinidad merely because Government cannot undertake when those students come out of the College to find them employment.

IMPERIAL LOAN-IN-AID.

Mr. SEAFORD: In the remarks column relating to the items under this head reference is made to the financial

statement at page 6 of Legislative Council Paper No. 6 of 1935. I find that the additional provision required for bonification of lands is the same amount as was authorised to complete works in 1935. The same thing occurs in respect of drainage and irrigation schemes. For curing and seasoning timber the actual expenditure was \$5,000, yet we are asked for \$5,000 more to complete work in 1935.

Mr. McDAVID: I am sorry I have not got the Council Paper, but I can explain the timber curing scheme. That scheme calls for \$5,000 more than is actually allocated; in fact, the vote was reduced by \$5,000 in order to provide cover for work which at the time was considered to be more important. When it was discovered after the close of the year that some money was available, Government decided to restore the \$5,000 that had been cut down from the provision for curing and seasoning timber.

Mr. SEAFORD: That means then that the revised allocation has again been revised. As regards \$5,000 being available, I have never seen a half-penny available when every year we are getting these loan grants. We agreed to spend \$5,000 and the position, as far as I can see it, is that there was \$5,000 knocking around and it has been spent on the curing of timber.

Mr. McDAVID: The \$5,000 for curing and seasoning timber is really a revolving fund represented by actual stock in the possession of the Conservator of Forests. The amount spent up to the end of 1934 was inadequate, and as we had a definite sum available for unemployment relief works it was devoted to this purpose.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is the explanation. I must take the responsibility for acting without the Council's approval. The Conservator of Forests came to me and said he had such demands on him for timber that he required more funds for curing. He also told me that the original allocation had been \$10,000 and was approved by this Council. \$5,000 of that sum was taken at the time of the flood for flood relief measures and the Conservator asked that he should be given further operating funds in order to develop the seasoning of timber. It seemed to me very desirable in the interest of the Colony's timber trade that that should be

done. If we ran out of seasoned timber we would be compelled either to admit that fact or sell unseasoned timber. Neither course would be to our advantage. This is not really expenditure of the Colony's revenue, but the use of funds put at our disposal.

Mr. SEAFORD: As far as I remember one of the reasons why the allocation was reduced was that it was found that the timber when cured was sold on the spot at the Forest Department at the same price as imported lumber in Georgetown. It could not compete with imported lumber and that is one of the reasons, I think, why the vote was reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: I wish to ask if it is possible that some repairs be undertaken on the East Coast roads. I have already called the attention of the Director of Public Works—although I do not think it needed calling attention to—to the condition of the road going up the Mahaicony creek. That road is used largely by milk vendors, who bring down about 175 gallons of milk every day, and it is knee deep in mud. I hope Government will execute some repairs in the near future, or do some maintenance work, because I understand that nothing can be done this year. I also wish to mention the De Hoop road. It is not a road at all but simply a track and is continually covered with water. This road will require a lot of money to put it in order, but I ask Government to have some maintenance work done on the Mahaicony road.

The Committee adjourned for the luncheon recess.

Mr. WILLS: I am supporting the plea made by the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara for repairs to the roads, which are in a deplorable condition in country districts. I refer especially to the roads in the Canals Polder which, on account of insufficiency of the maintenance vote, are from time to time closed to vehicular traffic. In these Canals the only other means of travelling is the waterway and it is very dangerous. When these roads were closed last year two deaths occurred on that waterway, and there is always the risk of persons losing their lives by travelling by boat. Three or four weeks

ago one of these roads was closed to vehicular traffic, and that procedure will continue to be a hardy annual unless the maintenance vote is increased. When the road was then closed a woman who was ill had to get out of the car on her return from hospital and walk to her home. That made her ill again and she had to go back to hospital. I am asking that something should be done to reduce the inconvenience from which the people are now suffering, and if the Director of Public Works would ask for a reasonable sum for the purpose I am sure it would be voted.

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works): It is one of the easiest things to make roads on the coastal belt, but it is most difficult to maintain them. The land is so flat and water-logged that there is no stability in the subsoil, and with continual traffic on them the roads invariably go back to their original condition. The roads mentioned this morning are level with the surrounding land and it is impossible to make them to stand up to traffic all the year round. With regard to the roads in the Canals Polder, sir, I believe there would have been as great an outcry if I had suggested closing the canals for navigation, and probably a more tragic picture drawn of deaths from motor traffic than from drowning in the canals. The closing of the roads in the Polder is essential. If left open longer than they are it would be impossible to bring them back to any reasonable condition without incurring heavy expenditure, and so long as transportation is available on the canals it is advisable for all concerned to close the roads. There is no difficulty in cases of sickness to persons receiving special permission to drive over the roads. Such permission is given by the District Engineer in every case when application is made and it will always be given in cases of illness. I thank the hon. Member for the kindly thought that I will get a bigger vote, and he will have an opportunity of saying "Aye" to the increased vote which I shall have on the Estimate for next year.

Mr. HUMPHRYS: Will the Director of Public Works not give some undertaking that at least the Mahaicony creek road will be made efficient for traffic until the next Estimate comes up. The people there cannot now get

their milk out, which will result in loss of revenue to the railway as the milk is brought to Georgetown for sale. I hold in my hand a letter from the Director of Public Works in which he says every endeavour will be made to maintain traffic during 1935. I hope the Director will try to keep that promise and I ask for some undertaking.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I rise to emphasise that it can hardly be conceived what it means to the thriving population at De Hoop to use a road which is absolutely impassable. With about \$500 that road can be made good. Must I understand that nothing is to be done until next year? I cannot believe that this Council cannot find \$500 to save the people from the inconvenience.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will give this matter my attention together with the Director of Public Works.

The Council resumed and the motion was agreed to.

T.B. HOSPITAL AND V.D. CLINIC.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 11 of the 6th of April, 1935, this Council approves of the acceptance of the following free grants from the Colonial Development Fund:—

- (a) £15,330 (\$73,584) for the establishment of a Tuberculosis Hospital, and
- (b) £3,125 (\$15,000) for a Venereal Diseases Clinic.

The Message referred to in this motion sets out the position and I think all Members are familiar with it. We are all very glad to see that the Medical Department is going to be provided with these two institutions to assist them with preventive work under the new Public Health Ordinance. The diseases in both cases are such as require separate institutions for their treatment and prevention, and there is no doubt that the lack of these buildings has been a serious handicap to the medical staff in the past. We have been fortunate in this instance in getting a free grant from the Colonial Development Fund, and we should remember the efforts of Dr. Kelly, a former Surgeon-General, who came out on a Medical Mission and was able to assist us in this matter.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Mr. SEAFORD: I think we may express our appreciation of the grants that have been given to us; I am sure they are appreciated throughout the Colony. The public health of the Colony is a matter we all ought to do what we can to help. But I do not think the question stops just there. For some years it has been recognised that a Venereal Diseases Clinic was essential in this Colony, and from the point of view of the sugar estates and villages they were anxious that steps should be taken in that direction. The Government Medical Service were approached and they promised to assist in any way they could, and the estates undertook to allow their hospitals and staffs to be used for dealing with these diseases. Unfortunately, the offer of the estates was not accepted because, it was said, Government could not afford the cost of the drugs required. I observe that this Clinic is to deal with the needs of Georgetown and the surrounding districts. I appeal to Government to reconsider that decision and see what further can be done.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I rise to offer my thanks and the thanks of my constituents for this gesture from those who have been so generous in donating to us free grants for these purposes. While I express my thanks to the donors I am also asking Government to reconsider its decision as to whom the Clinic should benefit. The Clinic should be available to everybody who wishes to benefit from it and not be limited in its scope to Georgetown and the surrounding districts. In the treatment of venereal diseases people like to go far away from their home where they are not much known, and Government might very well consider the question from that point of view.

Dr. DE FREITAS (Surgeon-General): I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by Members in acknowledgment of the benefits these grants will confer on the inhabitants of the Colony. There is no doubt that this phase of our work has been seriously handicapped by the absence of suitable buildings for the purpose. As regards the Venereal Diseases Clinic, one of the type in Great Britain will be erected. Plans have been already prepared and the estimate approved and the erection of the building will soon be

commenced. I do not think there is going to be any restriction to the use of the Clinic, but that it will be open to everybody in the Colony who may have need of it. That disposes of the plea of the hon. Member for Berbice River for an extension of the facilities to every person in the Colony. The suggestion of the sugar planters was, as has been stated by the hon. Member for Georgetown North, turned down on the ground of expense. Government did not see its way at the time to authorise an expenditure of more than \$400 to cover the cost of drugs used in the treatment of venereal disease. Since then a concession has been made by the Medical Department supplying certain drugs used in the treatment of expectant mothers suffering from these diseases. These drugs are available and are made use of in all estates hospitals where there is a Government Medical Officer in charge. As to the extension of this concession to permit of treatment of all venereal diseases, that is a matter for this Council to decide, and there is no doubt that a certain amount of treatment can be carried out in estates hospitals. As a matter of fact a certain amount of injections are carried out at present in these hospitals, and the question has also been considered by the Medical Re-organisation Committee. The matter certainly is capable of extension, and, if provision can be made for the supply of drugs required for the treatment of venereal diseases, I shall welcome it.

Mr. GONSALVES: I see from the Message it is intended during 1935 to spend \$40,000 on the Tuberculosis Hospital and \$10,000 on the Venereal Diseases Clinic. There have been discussions in this Council with regard to certain works by the Public Works Department, and I am hoping that there will not be a repetition of the grievances expressed in the past in regard to the employment of labour. I was told yesterday that at the moment there is a dispute pending between a contractor to the Department and men employed by him on certain work. Apparently the contractor was not required to give any surety or to enter into a bond, and the men employed on the job now find themselves in the difficulty of not knowing from whom to get their money, the contractor not being a man of financial substance and Government not being legally

responsible to the workmen. If this work is going to be done by contract I suggest that the Director of Public Works should be advised what form of contract should be entered into so that the workmen may be guaranteed their pay.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Representations with respect to the relationship of the contractor and these men have just reached Government and are receiving attention.

THE PRESIDENT: I have no doubt that the Director of Public Works has taken a note of what the hon. Member for Georgetown South has said. It is not pertinent to the passing of this motion and does not require a reply.

Motion put, and agreed to.

PENSION OF DR. J. EWING CHOW.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No-14 of the 25th of April, 1935, this Council approves under the provisions of section twenty-five of the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204, of the addition of six years to the pensionable service of the late Dr. J. Ewing Chow, Government Medical Officer, for the final calculation of his pension.

The circumstances with regard to this motion are set out in the Message. I am sure we all regret a motion of this kind. Dr. Ewing Chow earned everybody's respect and liking in the practice of his profession as a Government Officer. Government had already decided to confer this benefit on him when his unfortunate retirement took place on the ground of ill-health. That was followed soon after by his death. Government's proposal is to give the maximum benefit which is possible under the Pensions Ordinance under which Dr. Ewing Chow was serving, and I recommend this motion to the Council and I have no doubt as to its result.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Dr. Ewing Chow was a colleague of mine for some time on the New Amsterdam Town Council and he certainly won the respect of all concerned. One can sympathise with Government in trying to extend to those whom he left

behind some sympathy; but what I cannot understand is this making fish of one and fowl of another. I know of several cases of men who wanted just six months or a year to entitle them to full pension and Government said nothing could be done for them. One man gave meritorious service for 43 years and asked for six months for that purpose and he was told that could not be done. Let Government be generous, but they must be just as well. I am supporting the motion, but I am also telling Government they should treat every one alike.

Motion put, and agreed to.

KING'S JUBILEE SCHOLARSHIPS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 16 of the 29th of April, 1935, this Council approves of provision being made in the Estimates to cover expenditure to the extent of \$50 in 1935 and \$300 annually for the period 1936 to 1940 inclusive in connexion with the award of the King's Jubilee Scholarships.

When some time ago preparations were being made to celebrate the King's Jubilee in the Colony, one of the suggestions was that in addition to the number of Scholarships given annually we should give at least one extra Scholarship to mark this event. The first suggestion came from the Teachers' Association, but it was warmly supported by everybody connected with education and afterwards discussed by representatives of the Secondary Schools. Some difficulty arose as to the award of one Scholarship to Primary and Secondary Schools and it was agreed to award two Scholarships, one for pupils under the age of 12 from the Primary Schools and another under the age of 14 for the junior forms of Secondary Schools. Government approved of that idea, the Secretary of State also approved of it, and it only remains for this Council to give its approval to put it into operation. The Scholarships are awarded for this year only but they are for a term of five years to confer the benefits of secondary education, together with a maintenance allowance which will enable the beneficiaries to receive secondary education under reasonable circumstances in regard to maintenance and the provision of books and other items necessary.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

REMISSION OF LICENCE DUTY.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 17 of the 29th of May, 1935, this Council approves of the remission in respect of the period 1st April to 31st December, 1935, of licence duty payable under section 31 Item (22) (ii) of the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 37, as enacted by section 14 B of Ordinance No. 29 of 1931, by certain lorry owners employed during the first quarter of the year 1935, by the Public Works Department for the purpose of transporting stone and other materials in connexion with the breach of the sea defences at Nog Eens, East Coast, Demerara.

As stated in the Message, this motion is intended to meet an abnormal situation which arose in connection with the transportation of materials to the sea defence at Nog Eens. The position in regard to the payment of licence, as explained in the Message, is the only means by which Government can grant to the petitioners what they are asking for, and what Government considers a reasonable request in the circumstances, namely, that they should not be compelled to pay the full licence for a year to enable them to work for three months on work of public utility such as they were employed on. Government is asking the Council for approval of this proposal: to remit the remaining nine months' portion of the licence which is ordinarily collected under the law.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR: These people earned very good money in doing this work, I have been credibly informed, and I have no reason to doubt that some of them got money they did not earn. They carried loads that did not reach Nog Eens and for every load they were paid. Some of them even carried half loads. Why didn't they leave the job to people who owned lorries and have to pay their licence? Is Government to pay them handsomely and then relieve them of the licence? Are we to understand that they are going to scrap those lorries, or send them to Berbice to smash up the roads there? I know a man who used a lorry for three days in January and was fined and advised to apply for a refund. Only on Monday he was given an

extension of time to pay the fine, and he has to pay every farthing of the licence and then beg for a remission. The case before us is one in which the men worked their lorries and were paid handsomely, and they ought to give back to the taxpayers what they are entitled to.

Mr. SEAFORD : I am not satisfied that these people are entitled to any rebate. When they swarmed round the Public Works Department they took on the contract with their eyes open. One or two of them came to me to borrow money to buy a lorry and to pay the full licence, and they assured me that they would repay the amount within three months. They started with one lorry and made so much money that they bought a second and later a third lorry. They had no reason to believe that the work would have been carried on as long as it was carried on, because the work was extended considerably, therefore there is no excuse that the work was carried on only for three months when it was contemplated to last for a year. I believe in equity and if a man cannot honestly carry out an obligation he is entitled to relief, but I do not believe that any of these people lost anything by the contract. I rather believe they made a very handsome profit out of it, and I cannot feel therefore that they are entitled to the rebate asked for.

Mr. HUMPHRYS : I do not think this is a matter that can be easily dealt with fairly. Have Government made any enquiry of the amount earned by these lorry owners and the approximate amount of their profit during that period? That is the basis on which the matter should be decided. Unless these men made very little or no profit, I do not think they should ask for any rebate. My information has been, as the hon. Members for Berbice River and Georgetown North have stated, that very good profits have been made out of this contract. In two instances owners of lorries tried to get an introduction from me for this work, and unless I am convinced I will not support the application.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : I think the most important point has been overlooked by the previous speakers. These lorries were called upon to pay the high rate of licence imposed for the special purpose of pro-

tecting the railway. The necessity arose where the Public Works Department needed quick transportation and required lorries for the purpose.

Mr. SEAFORD : That is incorrect.

Mr. DE AGUIAR : That is my information. All that the owners of the lorries are asking for is that they should be allowed to pay the lower rate of licence. This refund represents the difference in the licence of lorries operating between Georgetown and New Amsterdam and other parts of the Colony.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS : I should like to know what amount is involved in this refund and for what period the lorries were employed. If an undertaking was given by the Public Works Department that the lorries would have sufficient work to carry them throughout the year, then I think it is only fair that their owners should be given the consideration they are asking for.

Mr. WILLS : I take it that Government is going to be consistent and allow bus owners on the West Bank, Demerara, who are engaged in a public utility service, a rebate for the period when the roads there are closed and they are prevented from using them. If it is going to be the policy of Government to give a rebate to those vehicles, which, as I say, are engaged in a public utility service and are prevented from using the roads through no fault of their own, I am prepared to support the motion, otherwise I shall vote against it.

Mr. WIGHT : I drew the attention of the Council to this matter and I expected this appeal. These lorries grew up overnight until there were 13 to 15 on the road. I understand that one of the employees of the Public Works Department, who was in receipt of £2 or £3 a week, "chucked" up his job to buy and run one of the lorries. I drew the attention of the Transport and Harbours Department to the fact that these lorries were competing with the Department and suggested that we should take up stone and cement by rail and make delivery by our own lorries. I know that the Commissaries will not permit a motor car to go on the road for five or six days without exacting the licence for a quarter. I

would like to know the names of the people who own these lorries. There was a tremendous amount of camouflage, and it would be very improper for this Council to give any rebate on these licences.

Major CRAIG: When the work was started at Nog Eens the acting Director of Public Works went into the question of taking materials to Nog Eens by rail with the General Manager of the Transport Department. At that time the extent of the work was not expected to be so great and it was considered that the additional track which would have to be laid to connect with the existing railway would make it prohibitive for the quantity of materials to be handled. It was therefore considered cheaper to continue with the lorry traffic from Georgetown. There is no doubt it was afterwards found that the amount of stone transported to the site was very large indeed and required many more lorries than my Department had at its disposal. Materials were used daily and had to be transported as expeditiously as possible. Instead of the lorries going up with half loads many of them went with a little more than their full load. Had the quantity of stone ultimately transported been known beforehand it would have been more economical to make arrangements to take it up by rail. That was done some years ago in connection with the re-conditioning of the roads, and that is being done now with the reconstruction of the sea wall at Hope.

I cannot give the exact rates but as far as I remember, calculated on the rates paid and the average number of loads taken up to the site, the average profit was not more than \$1 or \$1.20 a day. There is no doubt that these lorries were used for return freight in many cases. It was mentioned that one of the employees of the Public Works Department was in receipt of £2 or £3 a week and threw up his job to buy and run one of these lorries. No lorry driver in the Department gets £2 or £3 a week. There was one man who had been employed by the Department as a casual driver who persuaded someone to put up the money for a lorry, and I hope he did make a little money out of it. There were several others who had the advantage of return freight, which no doubt augmented their profit, but their working expenses and overhead charges were un-

doubtedly paid for in the rates they were given for the transport of the stone. I do not think there can be any charge against the Department that the rates were too high for the service rendered.

Mr. WONG: My information in this matter is that early in January this year the Public Works Department found it extremely urgent to move a quantity of materials from Georgetown for the sea defences on the East Coast and that they had not sufficient vehicles at their command to undertake the entire transportation themselves. On the other hand, the Department could not promise these lorry owners more than three months' work, and naturally the lorry owners were unwilling to take out licences for the whole year. I believe the lorry owners were then given a promise that if they undertook the work and helped Government out of the serious situation that existed at the time, an attempt would be made to obtain the consent of this Council to a remission of the licence for the remaining nine months of the year. I also understand that these lorries have not been used since the execution of the work. If those are the facts I am prepared to support the motion.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to know if that assurance was given.

Major CRAIG: No assurance was given of more than three months' work.

THE PRESIDENT: No assurance that involved responsibility of Government?

Major CRAIG: None by the Department.

Mr. ELEAZAR: One person asked me to use my influence with the Director of Public Works as there was a gentleman willing to give him a lorry because they were making so much. I told him I would not prostitute my influence in that way.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think there is an exaggerated idea of the amount paid for the use of these lorries. Enquiries made by Government show that the highest amount paid to any single owner was \$485 for the whole period. Two owners received over \$300, several \$200, and one as low as \$13. The owners of these lorries were asked to pay a licence of \$750, so that on that aspect of it a very good case has been made out for

making the concession. Another point which was mentioned but not emphasised is that if these lorries are used in any part of the Colony they will pay the proper licence. In other words, each vehicle will incur its ordinary liability wherever it is used after the first quarter. The hon. Member for Western Berbice asked what amount of revenue is involved. The average is about \$200 and in most cases actually less for the period when the lorries were used on this job.

The Council divided on the motion and voted :—

Ayes—Messrs. Humphrys, Wong, Walcott, Wills, Peer Bacchus, Austin, Dr. Singh, De Aguiar, Gonsalves, Dr. De Freitas, Laing, Goring, D'Andrade, Mullin, De Freitas, McDavid, Major Craig, Professor Dash, Smellie, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—21.

Noes—Messrs. Jones, Seaford, Eleazar and Wight—4.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Professor DASH: Pursuant to notice, I beg to move :—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 18 of the 29th of May, 1935, and Resolution No. XI. of the 9th of January, 1935, this Council approves of the insertion in the Estimates of Expenditure of contributions to the undermentioned Imperial Institutions :—

- (a) \$1,008 per annum during the years 1935 and 1936 towards the maintenance of the work of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux and of the Imperial Economic and Shipping Committees; and
- (b) \$111 as one payment in respect of the period 1st April, 1935, to 31st March, 1936 towards the work of the Farnham House Parasite Laboratory, the Biological Field Station (Stored Products Research) Slough, and the Low Temperature Research Stations at Cambridge, East Malling and Aberdeen.

I do not think there is need for me to elaborate on this motion. Support for these institutions was fully discussed when Message No. 18, to which reference has been made, was before the Council at the end of last year, and all that is now sought is provision for the assurance of the contributions of these grants to the institutions. The usefulness of these institutions has been frequently referred to in this Council and of the work they do for the Colonies and the Empire generally.

Major CRAIG seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I do not know where we are going to stop with respect to these contributions. This is a poverty-stricken country. In everything we ask for we are told that we must cut our clothes according to measure, yet here we are asked to contribute forever for other people's benefit. We are certainly a part of the Empire, but we have to consider the whole Empire. Why should we be asked to contribute to everything that is called Agriculture? We are to employ men from Aberdeen and when they come here they do not know rice from grass. We have to pay for their education too. The Director of Agriculture seems to take a pleasure in bringing these things before the House (Laughter). Members laugh, but it is nothing to laugh at; it is a serious matter. Surely the Empire does not expect us to be more loyal than even to our own sons.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to point out to the hon. Member, in the first place, that these contributions are only for two years, not forever; and, in the next place, we are contributing in proportion to other parts of the Empire.

Professor DASH: There is no doubt that we get much more out of these institutions than the small amount we contribute. We can apply to them at any time for advice and assistance, and we actually get help now from some of these institutions. The contributions are not large and, considering the help we get from the Empire and other places as well, it is money very well spent.

Motion put, and agreed to.

PAYMENT FOR STONE.

Major CRAIG: I beg to move :—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 10 of the 4th of April, 1935, this Council approves of the payment of \$600 to Mr. J. N. Hodge in full and final settlement of a claim against Government in respect of 120 tons of stone removed from land owned by him in Leguan between June and August, 1920.

In moving this motion I do not think very much can be added to what is contained in the Message itself, which is a very full explanation dating back to the

time when the stone was taken. The statement in the Message is that all the stone was not used on the sea defences but some of it on roads. On that hinged the doubt about payment. The matter has been considered from every point of view and Mr. Hodge has agreed to accept a sum of \$600 in full and final settlement of his claim.

Professor DASH seconded.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: It seems to me such a long time to pay what appears to be an honest debt. The stone was removed in 1920 and it is now 1935. The question is whether Government should not plead prescription. (Laughter).

Mr. HUMPHRYS: What strikes me is that this stone is being paid for at the rate of \$5 a ton. Stone is supplied to the Municipality and Government at \$2.70 per ton. I have no objection to the claimant getting all that is due to him, but \$5 a ton seems rather high. Is that the reason why it has taken 14 years to decide whether he should be paid or not? However, if Government has considered the matter and thinks \$5 a ton is a fair sum, I am not going to oppose it. But there are some words in the motion which I do not like as a lawyer. The words "full and final settlement" pre-supposes that the claimant has received something before, but I take it that he has not. I also ask Government whether \$5 a ton is not too much in view of the fact that no serious damage has been done to the property.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Hector Josephs): I think I can assure the hon. Member that there has been no payment hitherto in connection with this matter. It has taken some time, and there are a great many reasons for the length of time taken, to arrive at a settlement. There might have been faults on both sides, but the point is whether it is fair and just that Mr. Hodge should be paid with respect to what was done with the stone. The position is that the stone was taken off his property against his will. I assure the hon. Member that the matter has been very carefully gone into and investigated, and I venture to express the opinion that the settlement is a fair one.

Mr. SEAFORD: I hope the granting of this claim is not going to make Government liable for hundreds of thousands of dollars. There are hundreds of places from which stone has been removed from the foreshore and used on the public roads.

Motion put, and agreed to.

ADVANCES TO SEA DEFENCE BOARD.

Major CRAIG: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 19 of the 13th of June, 1935, this Council approves of advances on loans to the Sea Defence Board amounting to \$199,210 (in addition to the advance of \$652,400 approved by Resolution XIII. of the 31st of January, 1935) in pursuance of section 17 (2) of the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933, to defray the cost of construction of sea defences of a permanent character in respect of the undermentioned Districts:—

East Coast Demerara		\$ 652,400	
West Coast Demerara	...\$	125,645	
Essequebo Coast		45,565	
Leguan		11,000	
Wakeanaam	...	5,000	
East & Corentyne Coasts,			
Berbice		12,000	199,210
			<hr/>
			\$ 851,610

This Council further approves of the raising of a loan of \$813,795 (being the sum required as above, less the balance of \$37,815 available from the loan of \$120,000 raised under the Sea Defence (Loan) Ordinance, 1933) and of arrangements being made with the Crown Agents for the necessary advances to be made from the Joint Colonial Fund pending the raising of the loan.

The Message states that Mr. Case during the latter part of last year inspected the whole of the sea defences and submitted a revised estimate of cost, which was a reduction of the total submitted in Message No. 14. In his Report, which was laid on the table yesterday, Mr. Case gave his reasons for the reduction in the total estimate. There is not much beyond what is in the Report and in the Message itself that I can add. Practically the whole of the work on the East Coast has been completed, with the exception of one or two koker channels and the short extension of the wall at Hope, and a section of the Coast at Vigilance which has been causing some anxiety owing to continued erosion. Work on the West Coast has been more or less held up pending a decision on this motion, because the amount voted was not sufficient to carry out the full programme. The work there has not been held up to

the extent of endangering it but to the extent of the money voted, and when the vote now allocated is passed work will be proceeded with immediately and carried out in accordance with the recommendations of Mr. Case. On the Essequibo Coast the same policy has been adopted. We have carried out work there that was absolutely essential and within the limits of the money voted. I may mention in connection with the Essequibo Coast, however, that until the report of the Commission appointed to consider the economic conditions there is received, only work which is absolutely essential will be undertaken. There will therefore be no unnecessary expenditure.

In Leguan and Wakenaam the same policy has been adopted. The Consulting Engineer is of opinion that to maintain the sea defences on these islands \$96,000 is required in the case of Leguan and \$111,000 in the case of Wakenaam. The Sea Defence Board, while satisfied from a sea defence point of view as to the necessity of the works recommended by Mr. Case, did not consider it was an expenditure that was warranted at the moment from an economic point of view. The provision for the East and Corentyne Coast, Berbice, is practically for the eastern end of the Coast. I am sure those Members who come from the East will have seen the extent of the wall we have constructed at Nog Eens, and I trust it will be there for at least 50 years. That wall has given a considerable amount of trouble in its construction, and a considerable amount of hard work has been put into it by all and sundry. That part of the Coast was lower than anywhere else, and my only hope is that it will remain at that level and go no lower, otherwise I may have the misfortune of having to come back to the Council for a further loan.

Professor DASH seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR: Having the misfortune to keep the sea out and the storm-water when the rain begins to fall, what else can we do but vote this money. On the other hand, we can ask for closer supervision in certain directions in respect of these works, because there are continuous complaints. When these large works are in hand, no doubt, some of these complaints are exaggerated and some are unfounded, but that is no reason why those

who are concerned should not keep a close eye on everything that is going on. Over and over again one hears that Mr. "A" is the contractor for the carriage of stone, wood and all and sundry, and if something is required and it is not available that something must wait. When that state of things is going on something is wrong. Our very existence depends on these moneys being found somewhere, but those who are in charge of the expenditure ought to take a little more care of it, and if they are taking care of it something more is required. A word to the wise is sufficient, and I tell the Director "Take heed, all is not well."

Mr. SEAFORD: The work which has been done on the East Coast is very expensive work. I suppose that at the time it is completed about \$1,000,000 will have been spent. With work of that magnitude there will be complaints; it cannot be helped. Some of the complaints may be true and some not. One or two people came to me with complaints, but those complaints were quite the reverse of those of the hon. Member for Berbice River. The complaints of the people who came to me were that they were not getting sufficient for the work done or for the stone supplied. However, it is not impossible to hear grumbles and rumours. But I would like to attest to the extraordinarily good work done by the Public Works Department on the East Coast and West Coast. I visited these Coasts once or twice a week and I was very interested in the work and agreeably surprised at the method of adapting themselves to the extraordinary conditions. I am referring not only to the men in charge of the work—I think they have done extraordinarily well—but also to the labourers employed, whom one saw working with water up to their waists. I think credit is due to the Department and to everyone concerned. But I am a little concerned about the estimates. The groynes have not built up the foreshore at all; in fact, erosion is going on very rapidly in the vicinity of Vigilance, and I am afraid that in a very short time the wall there will have to be extended. If we wait until there is a breach in the dam or until the erosion extends it will be impossible for us to get the wall up, and the cost then will probably be double what it would be if the matter is taken in hand early. I

think we should not be too confident but should look ahead and so save further expenditure there.

Major CRAIG: I should just like, on behalf of my Department, to thank the hon. Member for the very kind remarks he has made. It is not often that the Department is congratulated and when it is I must express my thanks.

Motion put, and agreed to.

"EX GRATIA" AWARD.

Major CRAIG: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 20 of the 22nd of June, 1935, this Council approves of the payment of an *ex gratia* award of \$600 to the children of Edan, a labourer, who died on the 27th of February, 1935, as the result of injuries sustained on 3rd August, 1934, in an accident caused by the collapse of a beam which was supporting the section of the Government Stelling at Springlands on which he was working.

As the Message itself explains, this award was passed for payment to Edan but before he received it his death occurred. I made enquiries to find out exactly the position of his dependents and found that they were two young children. It was then suggested that the money should be deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank for their benefit. The work Edan was engaged on along with other men was the repair of the stelling at Springlands, and, as very often happens in work of that nature, cracks which are not seen suddenly develop, in this case with fatal results. On one occasion I was myself engaged on certain work, and while standing on a beam 18 inches thick and 12 inches wide with only 2½ tons on it I heard a crack. I jumped off the beam and two minutes after the whole of it collapsed in the water. On examination of the beam I found an annular crack which there was absolutely no chance of seeing before the beam collapsed. The beam that collapsed while this stelling was being reconstructed was not an old one, and it indicates that one can never tell when a beam might collapse although it appears to be strong.

Professor DASH seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR: I suppose these

children are too young to thank Government themselves for this gesture and on their behalf I do so. I hope others who are employing labour will make the same gesture under similar circumstances.

Motion put, and agreed to.

ECHO OF THE FLOODS.

Major CRAIG: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 21 of the 24th of June, 1935, this Council approves of the payment to the East Demerara Water Supply Commissioners of the sum of \$10,140 spent by them in repairing dams in consequence of the floods of 1934 to be met by loan; and further approves of the necessary advances being obtained from the Crown Agents pending the raising of the loan.

I do not think anyone here who remembers the floods will object to a loan for this purpose, particularly if they cast their minds back to the vast sea of water between the public road and the railway. I can speak personally of the efforts made by every estate manager on the Coast in raising dams to prevent damage by flooding of the water from the Conservancy.

Professor DASH seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

DRAINAGE OF CANALS POLDER.

Major CRAIG: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 22 of the 24th of June, 1935, this Council approves of expenditure of a sum of \$181,808 on a scheme for improving the drainage of the Canals Polder to be met by loan; and further approves of the necessary advances being obtained from the Crown Agents pending the raising of the loan.

We have heard on one or two occasions to-day, sir, the needs of the Canals Polder, both with regard to the roads and the danger of using the canals, and in bringing forward this motion I am wondering if we are not going to aggravate the danger that exists with regard to the navigation canal. However, in the interest of the drainage there I recommend the acceptance of this motion. For the past seven years I have stressed the necessity for digging these canals, but no one would do anything. Now that we shall have this money something will be done. It is

necessary, first of all, to provide some dredging plant, because it is impossible to do this work by hand. It is for that reason that this motion is brought forward now in order that the order for the dredging plant may be pushed ahead. There are one or two points to be considered. One is the disposal of the excavations. It is impossible to put all the excavations on the banks of the canals. It will have to be decided where they are to be deposited, and to keep within the estimate they will have to be put at some point near the mouth of the canals. That is in the meantime being investigated.

Professor DASH seconded.

Mr. SEAFORD: Before giving my vote in favour of this expenditure I ask Government to give an assurance that no water will be taken from the river into these canals for navigation purposes. This work will take five, six or seven years to do. If water is going to be taken into the canals for navigation purposes, owing to the heavy silt that will accumulate before the second canal is finished, it will be found that the money is thrown away. These canals are essentially drainage canals, and as this money is apparently to be spent for drainage of that area the canals should be maintained for that purpose. We know from experience that canals cannot be used both for drainage and navigation, and I ask Government to give the Council an assurance that that will be the case. I cannot see that there will be any hardship, while there will be water in the canal all the year round, except in dry weather. For the people's own good these canals should be maintained for drainage and for drainage only.

Mr. WILLS: I do not think any Member of the Council would oppose this motion. It is with a deep sense of appreciation I express the gratitude of my constituents for the interest Government has at last taken in trying to improve the drainage in that area. Year after year the farmers have suffered great hardships and great handicaps, and I ask that the work to be undertaken should not be of a temporary nature or patch-work. I notice in the Message that "Government has not yet given final approval of the details of this scheme." I am going to ask Your Excellency carefully to consider—and it may

be that useful information might be given by those who actually dwell in that area—the advice of how this scheme might be beneficial to all concerned.

THE PRESIDENT: I repeat that it is my intention to prevent water being allowed into these canals in future for the purpose of navigation.

Motion put, and agreed to.

NEW AMSTERDAM IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. McDAVID: I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 12 of the 7th of April, 1935, this Council approves of the acceptance of a free grant of £3,000 and a loan of £3,000 from the Colonial Development Fund to provide for the construction of a new market with latrines and a new fish market in New Amsterdam, the loan to be free of interest for the first four years and thereafter at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum repayable within 20 years after the date of advance by the method of equated annuities covering principal and interest.

The Council is already aware of the facts relating to this matter, which was discussed in Council some time ago and was again referred in the Speech of Your Excellency yesterday. I should like to add to the statement contained in the Message that the work which is to be done with this money is part of a larger scheme the Town Council of New Amsterdam is embarking upon. These works include extensive repairs to the Town Hall and improvement of the Electricity Works. For these additional works the Town Council are raising a loan of \$29,100 by public subscription. I invite attention to the fact that this grant and loan are made by the Advisory Committee of the Colonial Development Fund for a specific purpose, and Government in turn is lending the money for that specific purpose. The effect of that arrangement is that provision will have to be made in the Estimates of the Colony for the payment of interest when the time arrives. Of course, reimbursement will accrue to Government revenue from the Town Council of New Amsterdam. Government is satisfied that the Town Council is able to face the commitment in respect of these improvement works. I think every Member of the Council will endorse the statement in the concluding paragraph of Your Excellency's Message, *i.e.*, "I consider

that every assistance should be given to the Municipal Council of New Amsterdam in their efforts for the improvement of their town in the directions indicated." The motion should, I think, be amplified by the addition of a final paragraph in these words "This Council further approves of the grant and loan being made by Government to the New Amsterdam Town Council on the same terms."

THE PRESIDENT: I will allow the hon. Member to move the amendment after the motion has been seconded.

Mr. MULLIN: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. McDAVID: I move an amendment that the motion be amplified by the addition of the following paragraph:—

This Council further approves of the grant and loan being made by Government to the New Amsterdam Town Council on the same terms.

Mr. ELEAZAR: There is very little need for discussion on a motion such as this. I have no reason to doubt that every Member will say "Aye" when the motion is put, because the Ancient County has always been known to carry its own weight and to provide 40 per cent. of the exports of the Colony, thereby contributing largely to the revenue. We have not at any time asked Government for relief of any kind, and we have assisted Government in maintaining the finances of the Colony as far as we have been able to, so it was no surprise to us that the Imperial Government saw fit to give us assistance when we are shouldering the heavy burden the Municipality has undertaken. That burden is the removal of our stables to a more convenient site, the repair of our Town Hall which is long overdue, and the provision of a new market and other amenities so far as sanitation is concerned. I therefore have to express the thanks of the inhabitants of New Amsterdam for this generous gift, and we give Government the assurance that when the proper time arrives we shall do our share in the repayment of what has been given to us in the shape of a loan.

Mr. GONSALVES: I hope the day is not far distant when Your Excellency will also present a Message to this House saying "I consider that every assistance should be given to the Municipal Council

of Georgetown (Laughter)." Government has helped us for the improvement of Albuoystown, and I hope you will see your way to go and see what has been done in that section of the City.

THE PRESIDENT: I must ask the hon. Member to confine himself to the motion before the Council.

Mr. GONSALVES: I was saying, sir, that any money given us will be well spent; and the hon. Member for Berbice River is right in thanking Government for the assistance given to New Amsterdam.

Motion as amended put, and carried.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Mr. MULLIN (Commissioner of Lands and Mines): In pursuance of notice given, I beg to move:—

THAT, with reference to Message No. 13 of the 7th of April, 1935, this Council approves of the acceptance of a further loan of £7,000 (\$33,600) from the Colonial Development Fund to finance the continuance of the geological survey for a further period of one year on the terms set out in the Message referred to.

As set out in the Message, the original loan was £9,998. This is not an afterthought or an underestimate. When the loan was first asked for Government's considered opinion was that the geological survey should be for a period of three years, and that was what was asked for, but the Colonial Development Committee only granted money for one year in the first instance. Before we got to the end of the first year it was evident that the programme could not be approximately completed in that time. The original scheme was to examine the areas made accessible by the construction of roads to the Potaro and Mazaruni rivers. It is not much use constructing roads to the gold and diamond fields unless you have authoritative information to go on in connection with the resources which are being tapped by those roads. To obtain that information the period of the survey has been extended for another year, and we hope and believe it will enable the programme to be completed.

Mr. GORING seconded.

Mr. ELEAZAR: We know that we have a very extensive hinterland and that

in it are gold, diamonds and other minerals, and these surveys are intended to discover where these precious stones or minerals may be found. For that reason we welcome these surveys and feel it is a direction in which money may be well spent. But I do not know whether we are justified in spending money from year to year without knowing that we have found something. I have not heard that as the result of these surveys any new

districts have been discovered. As far as I am aware the districts discovered by the ordinary pork-knockers are the districts miners have been going over again and again, and I think the surveyors are simply going over the same ground as well.

Motion put, and agreed to.

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