

THE DEBATES

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF BRITISH GUIANA.

OFFICIAL REPORT

OF
*PROCEEDINGS AT THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE SECOND
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 1934.

The Fifth Session of the Second Legislative Council of British Guiana was opened in the Council Chamber, Guiana Public Buildings, on Wednesday, 5th December, 1934, with the customary formalities and ceremonials.

PRESENT :

The President, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, SIR CRAWFORD DOUGLAS-JONES, K.T., C.M.G.

The Honourable The Colonial Secretary, Mr. P. W. KING (Acting).

„ The Attorney-General, Mr. HECTOR JOSEPHS, K.C., B.A., LL.M.
(Cantab.), LL.B. (Lond.).

„ T. T. SMELLIE, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

F. DIAS, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

Major „ W. BAIN GRAY, M.A., Ph.D. (Edin.), B. Litt. (Oxon.), Director of
Education.

„ J. S. DASH, B.S.A., Director of Agriculture.

„ R. E. BRASSINGTON (Western Essequibo).

„ E. A. LUCKHOO (Eastern Berbice).

„ E. G. WOOLFORD, K.C. (New Amsterdam).

J. C. CRAIG, D.S.O., M.E.I.C., Director of Public Works.

„ E. F. McDAVID, M.B.E., Colonial Treasurer (Acting).

„ W. A. D'ANDRADE, Comptroller of Customs.

„ J. MULLIN, M.I.M.M., F.S.I., Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

„ B. R. WOOD, M.A., Dip. For. (Cantab.), Conservator of Forests.

„ J. A. HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc. (P.H.) (Edin.), D.T.M. &
H. (Edin.), Surgeon-General.

The Honourable N. CANNON (Georgetown North).

„ PERCY C. WIGHT, O.B.E., (Georgetown Central).

„ J. ELEAZAR (Berbice River).

„ J. GONSALVES (Georgetown South).

„ J. I. DE AGUIAR (Central Demerara).

„ JUNG BAHADUR SINGH (Demerara-Essequibo).

„ M. B. G. AUSTIN (Nominated Unofficial Member).

„ F. J. SEAFORD (Nominated Unofficial Member).

„ PEER BACCHUS (Western Berbice).

„ J. L. WILLS (Demerara River).

„ E. M. WALCOTT (Nominated Unofficial Member).

His Lordship the Bishop of Guiana (Rt. Rev. Oswald H. Parry, M.A.) read Prayers.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 9th October, 1934, were taken as read, and confirmed.

Council and approved by the Secretary of State, provided for a total budget expenditure of \$5,181,983 together with special expenditure of \$162,017 on Unemployment Relief Works, and \$116,067 on Colonial Development Fund Schemes.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The President addressed the Council as follows :—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

Two occurrences during the year have given cause for anxiety to Government and the people of the Colony. I refer to the floods which caused an extremely grave situation in the earlier months, and to the serious damage to the sea defences on the East Coast, Demerara, which developed later in the year.

The floods have had this year and will have during 1935 an adverse effect on the economic condition of the Colony and on the revenues of Government, while the need for further heavy capital expenditure on sea defences will increase the burden of the unproductive public debt.

I refer to these two misfortunes at the outset because they have largely influenced Government's activities during the year, and have entailed the expenditure of large sums of money outside of the scope of the normal budget.

The estimates of Expenditure for the service of the year 1934, as passed by this

The budget expenditure was to be met from Colony Revenue estimated to produce \$4,792,181 supplemented by extraordinary receipts of \$406,288 and the estimated proceeds of various special Colony reserve funds, making a total available revenue of \$5,198,469. The special expenditure on Unemployment Relief Works included in the Estimates was covered by the unexpended balance of the grant-in-aid appropriation from the Imperial Government for the previous year estimated at \$32,017, together with a further appropriation of \$130,000 for the current year authorised as loan-in-aid, while the expenditure on the Colonial Development Fund Schemes was also covered by authorised grants and loans. Therefore the budget position for 1934 was that the inclusion of the proceeds of the special reserve funds as Revenue of the year enabled a balance to be maintained between estimated revenue and expenditure with a small surplus of \$16,486; assistance from the Imperial Exchequer being limited to the sums required for the carrying out of special works for the relief of unemployment and of the schemes of development being financed from the Colonial Development Fund.

In my address on the 28th of August

last I informed you that preliminary revised estimates of expenditure and revenue for the year prepared after the closing of the accounts to 30th June indicated a net improvement on the original budget. I am glad to be able to report that it is expected that this anticipated net improvement will be realised.

The revised estimate of Revenue for the year totals \$4,957,199 compared with the original estimate of \$4,792,181, an increase of \$165,018, but the extraordinary receipts to which I have referred will amount to \$338,481 instead of \$406,288 a decrease of \$67,807. There will thus be a net increase in revenue of \$97,211 over the estimate.

Regarding expenditure, no general saving on the approved estimate can be anticipated this year. The revised estimate of expenditure for the year amounts to \$5,260,061 compared with the original approved estimate of \$5,181,983—an increase of \$78,078.

The increase in revenue over the estimate accordingly more than counter-balances the increase in expenditure, and the net result of the year's working will be a surplus of \$35,619 compared with the surplus of \$16,486 anticipated when the budget was framed.

From 1933 there was brought forward a surplus of \$87,038, which, with the anticipated surplus from the working of the current year, will enable a balance of \$122,657 to be carried forward in 1935. It is important that it should be clearly realised that this surplus is not the result of an excess of normal revenue over expenditure but represents, in effect, the balance of the proceeds of special reserve and other funds realised, and brought to account as current revenue in order to limit as far as possible the Colony's dependence upon the Imperial Exchequer in respect of its normal budget transactions.

I have stated that, apart from the budget expenditure, the approved Estimate for 1934 included provision for special expenditure of \$162,017 on Unemployment Relief Works to be met from Imperial grant and loan-in-aid. The funds actually available however amounted to \$164,619 the unexpended balance of the grant from 1933 having been under-

estimated by \$2,602. In addition you are aware that, as a result of representations by Sir Edward Denham, the Secretary of State authorised in May last a further loan-in-aid of \$177,200 and sanctioned a corresponding increase of Expenditure, which was subsequently approved by you, with the double object of relieving unemployment and providing for emergency, relief, and repair works made necessary by the floods. I also informed you in my address of 28th August of the additional appropriation for this purpose of an unexpended balance of \$21,400 remaining on hand from monies received as loan-in-aid from the Imperial Government in 1932. The total sum made available for expenditure this year on Unemployment and Flood Relief Works is therefore \$363,219.

With regard to the schemes financed from the Colonial Development Fund, the total expenditure under this head in 1934 will, it is estimated, amount to \$163,314.

The expenditure in progress on sea defences for reconstruction and new permanent work is being met, partly from the balance of the sea defence loan of £25,000 raised in London in 1933 and partly by advances from the Crown Agents pending the raising of a further loan, and you have approved of advances being made to the Sea Defence Board to a total of \$498,185 during this year to defray the cost of these works.

The figures I have given may be summarised thus. There is a surplus balance of \$87,038 brought forward from 1933; revenue for 1934 will total \$4,957,199 with special receipts of \$338,481 making \$5,295,680; expenditure chargeable against revenue will amount to \$5,260,061 leaving a surplus for 1934 of \$35,619, and a total surplus of \$122,657 to be carried forward to 1935.

It will be realised, therefore, that concurrently with the normal budget expenditure of the year, additional special expenditure met from funds provided from external sources to an estimated total of over \$1,000,000 is being incurred on repair, reconstruction, and development works. And, while in so far as this special expenditure represents the cost of salvage of assets damaged by flood or sea it constitutes an economic loss to the Colony.

This expenditure has materially assisted in relieving unemployment and distress among the poorer classes of the community, in sustaining their purchasing power, and so maintaining the ordinary budget revenues of Government.

In order to complete my general review of the financial results of 1934 I shall briefly compare the revenue and expenditure figures with those of the previous year.

As I have already stated, the revenue for 1934 is expected to exceed the estimate by \$165,018. The total is, however, just \$2,750 less than the actual receipts of 1933, the differences in the collections under the main heads of Revenue between the two years being inconsiderable. In all the circumstances this result must be considered satisfactory.

Under Expenditure, the excess of \$78,078 over the approved Estimate for the year is principally due to the carry-over to 1934 of a payment of some \$42,000—the second moiety of the 1933 liability in respect of “Railway Permanent Annuities” and “Perpetual Stock,” for the reason already explained to you, and to an anticipated increase of \$24,000 in the net deficiency of the Transport Services for the year, owing to a considerable fall in the revenue from goods traffic.

The approved estimate of Expenditure for 1934 was \$140,000 greater than the actual expenditure of the year 1933, the principal increases being in the votes for extraordinary public works.

It was inevitable that expenditure could not be maintained at the low level which had been reached in 1932 if the Colony's assets in the form of roads, buildings, bridges, and other public works were not to be allowed to deteriorate to the point of absolute disintegration.

Departmental estimates for current expenses had also been reduced to such an extent that the annual savings on votes which have hitherto been always obtainable on pressure are now no longer possible.

Before passing on to deal with the position for 1935 I shall state briefly the position in respect of the Public Debt which imposes so heavy a burden on the Colony's annual budgets.

The Funded Public Debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1933, amounted to \$22,187,538 against which sinking funds were held valued at \$3,809,414. To the total of the Funded Public Debt must be added that portion of the expenditure on Colonial Development Fund Schemes which has been provided as a loan.

The amount due to the Fund at 31st December, 1933, was \$345,731, and this figure will, it is expected, be increased to \$462,220, at the close of the current year.

In assessing the Public Debt, account must also be taken of the outstanding “Railway Permanent Annuities” and “Perpetual Stock” which involve a fixed perpetual annual charge of \$84,600—equivalent at current rates of interest to a capital liability of some \$2,000,000.

During the year the last remaining local 6 per cent. Bonds amounting to \$963,600 were redeemed, partly out of the proceeds of a new issue raised on the London Market, and partly from the loan Sinking Fund.

The new issue consisted of £175,400 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock redeemable in 1959/69 issued at a price of £96 per £100. It is a matter for considerable gratification that the Crown Agents were able to place this long term loan on behalf of the Colony at so low a rate as 3 per cent. at 96.

Opportunity has also been taken during the year to effect the redemption of \$1,200,000 3 per cent. stock issued in 1898 and 1901 and maturing in 1945 from the loan sinking fund which was short of the amount required by only \$215,500. This amount has been made good by a new loan of £45,000 3 per cent. stock issued at par by the Crown Agents redeemable in 1945.

In July, 1935, \$933,600 of 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock issued in 1891 will fall due for redemption and will be met from the sinking fund.

These operations will have the effect of reducing to some extent the funded public debt and the annual charges thereon.

But, it is unfortunate for the Colony that it is precluded from securing a much more substantial reduction in the burden of

these charges by effecting a conversion to a lower rate of interest of the most expensive loans now current, namely \$4,800,000 5½ per cent Loan raised in 1922, and the \$10,432,000 5 per cent. Loan raised in 1929, both issued in the United Kingdom.

The former Loan is redeemable on and after 1st July, 1942, with final redemption date 1st July, 1972, and the latter on and after 1st August, 1949, with final redemption date 1st August, 1969. Hence conversion is not possible in respect of these loans until 1942 and 1949 respectively.

Were it possible to convert these loans on the basis of 3 per cent. the saving effected in interest payable in the United Kingdom would amount to \$328,320 per annum—a sum which would go far towards securing a permanently balanced budget.

This situation is all the more unfortunate because it is clear that the low interest rate on public borrowing now ruling is associated with the industrial depression and the low prices obtainable for primary products; and while the Colony suffers from the latter it is unable to take full advantage of the former.

I shall now summarise the budget for 1935 which the Honourable the Colonial Secretary will deal with more fully when the Annual Estimate is laid before you this afternoon.

The draft estimates of Revenue for 1935 prepared on the basis of existing taxation show a total available ordinary revenue of \$4,810,329 compared with the revised estimate of \$4,957,199 for the current year.

The difference is principally due to anticipated reductions in Internal Revenue under the heads "Income Tax" and "Estate Duty."

The collections under the latter head during the current year have been swollen by an abnormal receipt from one large estate, while under the former head it has been necessary to make allowance in the estimate for 1935 for a considerable reduction in the yield of the tax owing to the fall which has taken place in industrial and trading profits in the current year.

The Revenue of 1935 will however be assisted by a "windfall" in the form of a surplus on the Sinking Fund for the repayment in July of the loan of \$933,600 to which I have already referred. It is expected that their will remain at credit of the Sinking Fund after repayment of the loan a sum of \$200,000.

The total Revenue available for the 1935 Budget will accordingly be \$5,010,329. But this total can be further supplemented by the surplus balance of \$122,557 which, as I have explained, it is expected will be brought forward from 1934.

The draft Estimates of Expenditure for 1935 which will be submitted for your consideration have been prepared on a somewhat different basis to that of preceding years, in that separate provision is no longer made for special expenditure on works in relief of unemployment.

Considerably increased provision has been made in the main heads relating to expenditure on public works and several items have been introduced in the Estimate which, although necessary in themselves, are principally justifiable as unemployment relief measures. Items of this character in the draft Estimate total some \$150,000.

Provision is also made for extraordinary expenditure amounting to over \$206,000, in connection with the programme of the Transport and Harbours Department, for renewals and replacements (including a new ship), and for additional capital requirements.

Provision is also made to an amount of \$34,000 for the continuance of the Pure Water Supply operations.

You are aware of the drastic reductions and economies effected by Government during the past few years. The effect of these continued and progressive economies has already begun seriously to affect the administrative machine of the Colony. I have represented the position to the Secretary of State who has agreed to provision being made for essential increases of staff in certain departments, particularly revenue earning departments, and also in the District Administration.

As regards the District Administration it is proposed to fix uniform scales of

salaries for District Commissioners as at present the salaries paid to these officers vary according to the rates which they drew prior to appointment to the District Service.

It is now proposed to fix the salaries of the two senior District Commissioners at £650—£25—£800 and the others at £500—£25—£650. It is also proposed to appoint two Assistant District Commissioners with salaries at the rate of £400—£20—£500 per annum. These officers will normally be attached to the East Coast and Berbice Districts for training for appointment as District Commissioners.

It is also proposed to strengthen the general staffing of the District Administration, especially in the case of the Georgetown Office, by the appointment of additional clerks. It has been found that owing to inadequate staffing considerable revenue is lost to Government through non-collection.

Provision has been made for increases in staff in some other departments, particularly the Customs Department, in connection with which representations have been made to Government by the Chamber of Commerce, and in the Audit Department where it is necessary to keep the staff up to full strength in order to cope with the increased work due to greater activities of Government.

The total of the draft Estimate of Expenditure including all the extraordinary and additional items to which I have referred is \$5,514,474.

As I have already stated the Revenue available amounts to \$5,132,986. On this basis there would therefore be a deficiency of \$381,488 to be made good.

I have communicated the position to the Secretary of State, and have been informed by him that provision will be included in the United Kingdom Estimates for a loan-in-aid to this Colony of £80,000—£384,000, of which £35,000—\$168,000 will be specially earmarked towards the cost of railway and steamer renewals and replacements.

The actual amount of the loan-in-aid will, of course, be settled on approval of the final Estimate as passed by you.

The Secretary of State has not been able to approve of the discontinuance of abatements on Civil Servants' salaries, and the levy will be continued during 1935 at the existing rates.

The necessary legislation for re-imposing the salary abatements, the Excise Duty on Sugar, and the Bill of Entry Tax and a motion for the surtax on Tonnage and Light Dues will be laid before you.

Mention was made in May last of the improvement which has become manifest in the Post Office Savings Bank position, which improvement has, I am glad to inform you, continued. The total deposits on the 5th November, 1934, were \$2,033,097—an increase of \$289,801 since the 1st January, 1934. The number of depositors has increased from 36,799 to 41,842 during the same period. I regard this improvement as extremely gratifying as it is some indication of improving economic conditions.

This uninterrupted increase in the Post Office Savings Bank has taken place in spite of deposits having been restricted to \$1,000 per person in any one calendar year.

The encouragement of thrift, particularly among children, is the aim of the Post Office Savings Bank, and shortly the use of money boxes known as "Home Safes" will be available in addition to the existing facilities for saving.

It has been necessary to provide extra clerical assistance in the Savings Bank headquarters, Georgetown, in order to cope with the large increase in the number of deposits and withdrawals.

There has been an increasing demand for telephones, and the volume of traffic handled by the various exchanges has increased apart from any increase due to recent additions in the number of subscribers.

You will be asked to approve of the introduction as from 1st January, 1935, of the half-penny postage rate for every 2 ozs. for the inland transmission of printed papers, book packets, circulars, Christmas cards, invoices, receipts, and similar postal matter. It is hoped that the adoption of this reduced postage rate

will lead to freer use of the postal services by business firms and others and so offset the loss of revenue which will result from the reduction.

A new pictorial series of thirteen British Guiana postage and revenue stamps was placed on sale on the 1st October, 1934, and five additional denominations of Inland Postal Orders have been introduced for the convenience of the public.

An electrical date stamping machine has recently been installed at the General Post Office, Mails Branch, Georgetown, with the object of advertising the Colony by means of post marks on letters.

There has been a reduction in telegraph revenue compared with the corresponding period last year. This is almost entirely due to a reduction in traffic to and from the Essequibo District.

Government's policy is to encourage the use of radio telegraphy, by increasing radio stations in the interior. These will play an increasingly important part in the internal development of the Colony.

I am glad to be able to inform you that there has been an appreciable increase in the receipts from Customs duty for the period of the year to the 31st of October last, compared with that to a similar date for last year.

The details of the Colony's trade will be submitted to you in the budget statement which will be made by the Colonial Secretary. I need not therefore refer to them.

As you are aware quota restrictions on cotton and artificial silk piece goods were introduced as from the 7th of May last. These quota restrictions have had the effect of reducing considerably importations of these textiles from Japan; but there has also been a large decline in importations, mainly of cotton goods from the United Kingdom, while importations from foreign countries, which were not in effect restricted by the quotas, have also shown decreases. The falling off of cotton importations from the United Kingdom is due to the abnormal importations which were made in 1933, resulting in the carrying over of large stocks into 1934.

It is interesting to note that the im-

provement in receipts from Customs duties may be attributed to the increased activities in the mining areas.

During last August the Comptroller of Customs represented this Colony at a Customs Conference of West Indian and other West Atlantic Colonies which was held at Bermuda. The Conference was the outcome of a resolution which was passed at the First West Indies Conference, held in Barbados in 1929, and its object was to attain greater uniformity and improvement in the laws and regulations relating to Customs procedure and practice.

The report of the Conference, to which are appended a draft model Customs Ordinance and draft British Preferential Tariff Regulations, was submitted through the Governor of Bermuda to the Secretary of State, who is at present in communication with the Board of Trade and the United Kingdom Customs Department in regard to the recommendations contained in it. A copy of the Report will be laid on the table at a later date.

The floods early in the year seriously affected the East Coast Demerara Railway. For days the track was under water, and it was only due to the energy displayed by the staff of the Transport and Harbours Department that a daily service to New Amsterdam was maintained. Considerable expenditure had to be incurred on the re-construction of several sections of permanent way.

I regret to state that the sugar and rice crops will not be as great as those of last year, due to damage to estates by the floods and the delayed rains in May and June. As a result, the revenue derived from goods traffic will be less than that which was anticipated.

The transport facilities to the interior offered by the Bartica-Potaro road service are being increasingly appreciated. 7,187 passengers and 525 tons of goods were transported during the first 9 months of the year. The revenue collected on the whole service to date this year is \$21,256.72 greater than for the same period last year.

The increasing traffic necessitated the lorries in service being increased by 12. Included in this number are a station

wagon and two passenger vehicles. If the same rate of progress is continued after the opening of the Tiboku section, it will be necessary further to increase the number of lorries and to provide additional accommodation for the increasing number of passengers.

The dredger which was ordered this year is expected to arrive in the Colony early next year.

The health of the Colony has been normal, and the activities of the Medical and Health Departments have been well maintained.

As you are aware, I recently appointed a Committee to "enquire into the administration and general organisation of the Medical Service of the Colony and to advise what steps should be taken to improve it." The Committee is now conducting its enquiry, and its report will be laid before you as soon as it is available.

Steady progress has been made in increasing and improving potable water supplies; in preventive measures for the improvement of Public Health; in the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis; and in Maternity and Child Welfare work.

In May last you approved of a Public Health Ordinance, which was brought into operation on 1st November.

The Colony was favoured by visits by Miss Bailie Violet Robertson, C.B.E., in December, 1933, and by Dr. P. J. Kelly, C.B.E., in April 1934. As a result of Dr. Kelly's visit it is hoped that funds will be forthcoming to develop certain branches of the work of the Medical Department.

At the invitation of Government, Dr. A. M. Walcott, a representative of the Rockefeller Foundation, spent a few weeks in the Colony during September in order to conduct investigations on the subject of Yellow Fever, thus completing a survey made in neighbouring countries.

In October, Dr. R. G. Cochrane, Medical Secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, during a visit to the Colony lasting twelve days, investigated the incidence of leprosy. Government is grateful to Dr. Cochrane for the advice and assistance which he gave, which

are of great value in the control of this disease, and to the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association for making Dr. Cochrane's visit possible.

The main problem of educational administration has been to provide, from the funds available, the staff, accommodation, and equipment required for the increased number of children attending the primary schools. Out of 178 fully aided schools 121 have reported increases in their average attendance during the present year. These increases have been well distributed over the Colony but are most striking in Georgetown and the Corentyne District.

This general increase has been continuous since 1930. Since that year there has been an increase in average attendance of over 6,000 children, of whom approximately 1,500 have been added during the school year ended 31st August, 1934. The figures now reached—47,544 pupils enrolled and 33,185 in average attendance—are the highest ever recorded in the history of the Colony.

The need for increased staff has brought the total number of teachers and pupil teachers in fully aided schools up to 1,016. Among those recently appointed there are twenty-nine trained teachers from the Teachers' Training Centre, who have been appointed to fill the vacancies for certificated teachers arising from death, retirement and other causes.

Thirty-five pupil teachers have also been appointed, and as there are many candidates entering for the Appointment Examination, it has been possible to require a higher standard from all applicants.

In order to increase the number of qualified teachers in the country schools, a number of the teachers trained at the Teachers' Training Centre have been sent to various districts, where the number of such teachers has hitherto been very small. The need for trained women teachers is particularly great, and twelve additional women have been admitted to the Teachers' Training Centre for a one-year course.

Included among these are three East Indian candidates, whose admission is due to the generosity of Mr. F. Kawall, who has provided bursaries for this purpose. Four bursaries were offered but only three

were awarded. The admission of these students marks an important stage in the educational progress of East Indian women in the Colony.

During the year substantial progress has been made in regard to the improvement of school buildings, furniture, and other equipment. Sixty-seven schools have received grants for furniture, and thirty-five schools grants for buildings. Several of these have been almost entirely rebuilt or have been considerably extended to provide increased accommodation.

Wherever increased accommodation was provided it was immediately filled by pupils awaiting admission.

The Government Primary School in Georgetown continues to be filled to its utmost capacity. There are 726 pupils enrolled, and steps are being taken to build an annexe for the Infant Department on the site of the old offices of the Department of Agriculture.

The percentage of attendance at this school, which is seldom less than 80 per cent. and is often over 90 per cent. shows that when hygienic and attractive buildings and equipment are provided in suitable surroundings, a high percentage of attendance can be maintained.

A special effort is made to teach the children to be thrifty, and the school's Savings Bank now has 533 depositors whose balances aggregate \$1,176.

In addition to the students of the Teachers' Training Centre, several teachers from other schools have also been attached to the Government School for periods of instruction.

Many Governing Bodies have expressed a desire to have in their schools teachers who have served on the staff of this School, and to meet their wishes three assistant teachers have been permanently transferred to denominational schools to strengthen the staff of the schools concerned.

It is hoped by these and other means to ensure that the methods followed in the Government School will be brought into general use in the primary schools.

In 1933 there was inaugurated a system of appointing certain Head Teachers to conduct the annual examinations of pupils in schools which, in the opinion of the Education Department, would benefit by an external examination. This was continued during 1934. The pupils of seventy schools were examined by nineteen Head Teachers and, except in a few instances where particular difficulties have arisen, the system seems to be giving general satisfaction to the parents, the teachers, and the Governing Bodies of the schools concerned.

Every encouragement has been given to various forms of practical instruction so far as funds permit. The first annual competition for school gardens took place this year. Among the gardens established and supervised by the Agricultural Department, Friendship Methodist School took first place, closely followed by Stewartville Congregational School. Among the gardens which do not receive grants from the Agricultural Department, Wortmanville Roman Catholic School came first. Special prizes were awarded to Christianburg Church of Scotland School, and Hosororo Roman Catholic School. All the awards were made on the recommendation of the officers of the Agricultural Department who visited the gardens.

To encourage the teaching of sewing in the schools, arrangements have been made to ensure that every school which is attended by senior girls shall receive a regular supply of sewing materials from the Department, thus enabling them to give more time and attention to this important subject.

At the annual examinations 308 senior girls qualified for the Primary School Needlework Certificate. As an experiment, boys and girls who had regularly attended the courses in Woodwork, Gardening, or Domestic Subjects, were encouraged to take one of these subjects in the Primary School Certificate Examination instead of the General Knowledge Paper. Fifty-four boys took Woodwork, twelve boys took Gardening, and thirty-three girls took Domestic Subjects.

At the Trades Centre for Youths at Kingston, the number of pupils in the day classes has been increased to forty-six, and

the staff has been strengthened by the appointment of an Assistant Instructor.

All men students at the Teachers' Training Centre attend the Trades Centre for instruction in Woodwork, and the evening classes in Technical Drawing and Motor Mechanics continue to be well attended.

The Carnegie Trade Centre for Women was formally opened in February by Mrs. J. Bertram, wife of Mr. J. Bertram of the Carnegie Corporation whose death I regret to say has recently occurred

The number of girls seeking admission continues to be more than sufficient to tax the resources of the Centre in respect of both staff and accommodation.

Assisted by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York two officers of the Department, Mr. Ducker and Mr. Bannister, were enabled, in company with other delegates from the West Indian Islands, to attend the Fourth Summer Seminar in Education at Yale University, from 30th July to 7th September.

The number of pupils at Queen's College continues to increase—the number on roll at the beginning of the school year in September 1934 was 271—an increase of 37 over the number on roll at the corresponding period last year.

In the Sixth Form there are thirteen pupils preparing for the British Guiana Scholarship Examination in 1935, thirteen preparing for the London Intermediate Arts and Science Examinations, and three working for the First Medical Examination of the University of London.

Considerable changes have occurred in the personnel of the Staff during the year. The Secretary of State has sanctioned the appointment of two additional masters to help with the advanced work of the School.

I had the pleasure of opening the new Physics Laboratory and Manual Workshop on the 17th of September. Alterations are now being made to the Chemical Laboratory and when this is finished there will be accommodation for 40 pupils both in the Chemical and in the Physical Laboratories.

The University of London has recognised the Laboratories at Queen's College as being efficient for the purpose of conducting the practical examinations in Chemistry, Physics, Botany and Zoology for the Intermediate Science and First Medical Examinations. Suitable arrangements have been made with the University authorities for the invigilation of the practical examinations.

Government is grateful for the assistance given by the Board of Governors, which has recently been appointed to advise on all matters concerning the College.

The sugar industry is still suffering from the low world's price of sugar and also from the floods in the early part of the year followed by droughty conditions which, I regret to say, have resulted in reduced yields on many estates. The sugar industry as a whole is to be congratulated on the manner in which it has been able to maintain and to increase in many instances its cultivation. There is a probability that the last sugar estate in the Essequibo district, namely Hampton Court, will, owing to economic conditions, be closed down shortly. The question of providing employment for those who have, in the past, been in the habit of seeking work on this estate, is receiving attention by Government. I am appointing a Commission to examine and report upon the position which will be created in the Essequibo district owing to the closing down of Plantation Hampton Court, and I trust that, in the light of that Commission's report, it may be possible to relieve the distress which at present exists in that district and which is certain to increase.

Sugar experimental work has continued to receive the active support and approval of the industry. In addition, the Colonial Development Fund has maintained its grant of £900 for two years as from June, 1933—June, 1935. Soil surveys which have proved of great value are being continued, reinforced in some instances by special grants from Imperial Chemical Industries and local firms. The variety and manurial trials have been maintained and in some areas increased. Results indicate the superiority of the seedlings, Diamond 10 and P.O.J. 2878. The position of D. 625, the standard cane of the Colony for many years, is no longer un-

challenged. In addition to the two varieties mentioned, a number of new seedlings, bred at the Station in recent years have shown themselves definitely superior as plant canes while their performance as ratoons is still being investigated. Full reports of the work done have been published in the Sugar Bulletins of the Agricultural Department and also in the Agricultural Journal which made a welcome re-appearance during the year.

Encouragement has been given to the extension of cane farming. The generous treatment given by sugar estates to cane farmers, especially in regard to the price at which their cane is purchased, has substantially assisted this important activity of the small farmer.

I am glad to inform you that the Amazon fly, a parasite of the moth-borer of sugar cane, has been successfully introduced, liberated and recovered in the field on several estates. This introduction was effected by the collaboration of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, the Colonial Development Fund and the Sugar Producers' Association. The general establishment of the parasite in all areas will, it is hoped, be successfully accomplished before long.

Government is much concerned at the present position of the Rice Industry. The industry is suffering as are others, by the low price of the commodity. It has long been established that this Colony can, in addition to supplying its own requirements of rice, supply, to a large extent, the markets immediately available in the neighbouring Islands in the Caribbean Sea. It has, however, become increasingly evident that, in order to enable the growers of rice to obtain a better price for their produce, it is essential to establish an organisation, charged with the duty of marketing all the rice available for export.

The Rice Marketing Board, working in close co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, has been of great assistance in this direction, but the time has arrived when something further is required, and I am hoping that, with the assistance of all those interested in the rice industry, Government will be able to introduce legislation to safeguard the export market for rice.

One of the most essential requirements in the export of commodities such as rice is that it should be not only properly graded, but that buyers should have confidence in the certificates issued. It is essential therefore that efficient grading should be maintained at all costs.

Research and experimental work with varieties and new types continue to show progress. To ensure the efficiency and continuity of this work the Secretary of State, on the advice of his Agricultural Adviser, has approved of the permanent engagement of a Plant Breeder who has hitherto been paid from the Colonial Development Fund.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to record the appreciation expressed by the Secretary of State of the valuable work done by the Agricultural Department for the benefit of this industry.

The Copra Products Legislation, introduced with a view to stimulating the coconut industry by increasing production and consumption of locally manufactured edible oil has not proved entirely successful, and further consideration is being given to its provisions with a view to ensuring greater assistance to this industry.

The production and distribution of budded citrus has received full attention during the year; the increased rate of output has been maintained while growers are being encouraged to establish nurseries of their own with departmental assistance.

The citrus station established in the North West District has now reached the producing stage and a careful study is being made of the performance of each tree.

A quantity of grapefruit has been supplied both to the British Guiana Fruit and Canning Company and the Carnegie Trade Centre for experimental canning.

The British Guiana Fruit and Canning Company, which has established a pineapple cultivation up the Demerara river, sought and received valuable aid from the Department's technical officers.

The question of a banana industry has been further closely investigated and the visit of representatives of the United

Fruit Company at the invitation of the Director of Agriculture, has helped to clear the air very considerably. The Colony should be grateful to these experts for the time and attention given to the problem.

Certain useful information has been obtained as a result of experimental shipments of mangoes, both Julie and Buxton Spice, and as a result arrangements are in progress for organised shipments next season.

During the year only one outbreak of contagious and infectious disease among mules was reported.

The improvement in the breed of cattle, especially of milk animals, has continued to indicate the value of the Holstein-Friesian bulls, bred or imported by the Department.

Help from the Colonial Development Fund in the shape of a loan of £1,500 free of interest has recently been made available as a revolving fund for the purchase in England of pure-bred bulls, notably of beef type. Local stockmen are availing themselves of this offer. The animals will be acclimatized at the Government Stock Farm before being distributed.

Cattle on the Coast suffered severely during the floods and where losses were heavy, notably of working oxen, farmers were assisted in replacing their losses from other districts.

An Ordinance has been enacted to provide for the establishment of an Advisory Board of Agriculture; the members have recently been appointed. It is anticipated that such a body, with members representative of the several agricultural industries, will serve a useful purpose.

Two District Agricultural Committees, of which the Director of Agriculture is Chairman, began to function during the year and have provided avenues for discussion and ventilation of small farmers' problems, and the important feature of the district agricultural work during the year was the increased attention given to the efficient operation of the Co-operative Credit Banks and the extension of their usefulness for providing credit facilities under the difficult conditions prevailing.

The ravages of the floods and the unfortunate breach which took place in the sea defences at Nog Eens on the East Coast, Demerara, together with a large programme of building construction and repair work undertaken for the relief of unemployment, have added greatly to the work of the Department of Public Works.

The chief works undertaken have been the paaling off of portions of the road between La Bonne Intention and Buxton, extensive repairs to the decking and abutments of the Canje Bridge, Berbice, a new bridge over the Dartmouth side line trench in Essequibo, and three greenheart kokers constructed on the Barima road in the North West District.

The re-construction of the Mahaicony bridge is now nearing completion and the Mahaica Creek bridge is now being rebuilt.

The public buildings which have undergone extensive repairs are the four blocks at the Mental Hospital; the Public Hospital, New Amsterdam; the Public Hospital at Suddie; and certain wards at the Alms House, Georgetown.

The damage to the sea defences on the East Coast, Demerara, is little short of a calamity. The collapse of the sea wall is due to the rapid fall in the level of the foreshore between Triumph and Buxton, the cause of which is believed to be a subsidence in the sea bed a few miles seaward of the centre of the area affected. Soundings taken at regular intervals indicate this quite clearly. More recent soundings, I am glad to say, disclose that this portion of the sea bed is now filling up.

The fall in the level of the foreshore occurred so rapidly opposite the point where the subsidence was greatest, that it outstripped all measures that could be taken to underpin and otherwise secure the concrete sea wall, which was, in consequence, undermined.

The breach at the present time extends from Good Hope to Lusignan and the length of the wall which has collapsed is approximately 3,000 feet.

A new sea wall of the "independent" type is being built, to close the breach, from a point 850 feet east of the Good

Hope koker for a distance of 5,650 feet eastwards to join a new wall—3,200 feet in length—now being built to replace the existing earth dam between Lusignan and Buxton.

The cost of these works, including temporary second line defences to prevent flooding of the coast lands, amounts at date to \$254,000.

Credit is due to the Department of Public Works for the efficient manner in which the reconstruction of the sea wall is being undertaken.

On the West Coast, Demerara, the programme of extension of permanent concrete sea defences, replacing earth dams, and obsolete and defective wooden and concrete groynes and koker runs, has been continued.

A total length of 1,916 feet of new sea wall and 3,546 feet of the new type of groynes and koker runs have been built during the year.

The expenditure on these works has amounted to \$37,000.

In addition to these works, a total sum of \$63,604 has been spent on ordinary maintenance of sea defences throughout the Colony.

Government is grateful to the Sea Defence Board, assisted by Mr. G. O. Case, Consulting Engineer, for the able manner in which the difficult problems of sea defences are being dealt with.

Under the Pure Water Supply Scheme new wells have been drilled for, and at the expense of the Sugar Plantations Wales, Diamond and Providence.

A new well is in course of being drilled at Britannia, West Coast, Berbice. The wells at the following villages have been re-conditioned:—Belladrum, Belfield, Buxton, Beterverwagting, Kitty, Agricola and Grove. Re-conditioning of the wells at Rosignol and Clonbrook is now in progress.

The cost of these operations to date has been \$25,000.

From grants provided by the Colonial

Development Advisory Committee the distribution by pipe lines of water from new and re-conditioned wells was continued.

A total of 18½ miles of pipe lines has been laid in the following areas:—D'Urban Park, Georgetown; Belfield, Bachelor's Adventure, Buxton, Agricola and Grove, in East Demerara; Stewartville, Good Intent and Wales in West Demerara; and Belladrum on the West Coast of Berbice.

The year's work brings the total length of pipe lines for the distribution of well water, throughout the Colony, to 34½ miles.

The cost of water distribution to date this year has been \$17,800.

The construction of the Branch Road from mile 74 on the Bartica-Potaro Road, in the direction of Tiboku was continued from mile 5, which was reached last year, to the Yaiema River at mile 26, and is now open to traffic to this point, the cost having been approximately \$118,700 to date.

The work on the building of the bridge over the Yaiema River is in hand and advanced construction parties are at work as far as mile 35.

As a direct result of the floods, a serious breach occurred at the relief weir of the Tapacooma Conservancy, Essequibo. The final and effective closing of this breach cost \$12,000, and the completion of certain works in connection with the extension of the Tapacooma Conservancy cost a further sum of \$3,800.

Other special flood relief measures were the construction of Ferro-concrete sluices at Good Intent and Stanleytown, West Bank, Demerara, the cost including other works connected therewith being \$6,500.

In addition to these works the Engineers of the Public Works Department collaborated with District Commissioners in the execution of a number of works undertaken to repair damage caused by the floods.

Experiments with concrete strip roads are being undertaken on the sea Wall Road, Georgetown, and at Onderneeming,

Essequebo. Details of the cost of this type of road are being examined. It is possible that strip roads may solve the problem of the coastal roads, the maintenance costs of which, due to increasing motor traffic, have now reached a high figure.

The high price at which gold has remained for some time has encouraged the prospecting of the extensive gold bearing areas in the Colony. Although there has not been any marked increase in the output of gold during the past year, the prospects for the future are encouraging, and considerable interest in the development of dredging areas is manifest. It is hoped that during the coming year there will have been established in the Colony at least one or two dredgers of a modern type, as well as other types of modern machinery designed to deal economically with alluvial gold bearing ground.

World conditions still remain unfavourable for the diamond industry and there has been a small reduction in the output of diamonds during the past year. A revival of the industry can only be looked for if and when the world's price for diamonds improves. Skilled Engineers and Geologists of a large London syndicate have prospected areas in the Mazaruni and Cuyuni districts and their activities have indicated that further development is more likely to be made by relatively small units than by large capital enterprises.

It is now possible for men to take their families by road into the interior without having to face the dangers of river transport.

Government has under consideration proposals which may encourage men to move from the crowded towns and villages on the coastal belt to the interior and to establish themselves there. Government is prepared to give out land in approved localities free of rent for two or three years, (and at a small rent thereafter) where men can erect their houses and cultivate their farms, which being in the vicinity of the gold and diamond fields should enable them readily to find employment there either as claimholders, tributors, or wage earners. There is little doubt that the interior offers avenues to men, who are willing to settle there, of earning

a good livelihood. Active and ambitious men would be well advised to explore these avenues, rather than remain in overcrowded towns and villages in expectation of schemes for relief of unemployment for which funds are no longer available.

There has been a slight improvement in the world's market for bauxite. This has been reflected in an increase during the past year in the export of bauxite by the Demerara Bauxite Company. This, I am glad to observe, has given increased employment.

The geological survey was continued under the loan granted from the Colonial Development Fund. Extensive areas were examined and mapped in detail in the Kaburi, It ki, Okuwa, Honey Camp, Issano, Seemang, Karanang and Kuribrong section of the Bartica Tiboku-Potaro triangle. The Director of Geological Surveys also visited the Mazaruni—Puruni District, and examined certain areas including the Wynamu workings, and the territory for a distance of 25 miles northwards towards the Cuyuni river. The reports on these surveys with accompanying maps will shortly be published and should be of considerable value to prospectors. Two survey parties have examined the Potaro-Siparuni area, and the Director is in the Rupununi District investigating reported discoveries of gold there and the geological conditions generally.

The experiment in seasoning local timber, principally crabwood and deterna, has been continued, eighty thousand feet board measure having been produced up to 31st October while sales amount to a mixed total of ninety-three thousand feet board measure at an average price of just under 7 cents per foot.

The majority of this timber has been supplied to the Public Works Department and used principally in the new offices of the Department of Agriculture, the new laboratory at Queen's College, and in alterations and repairs to the Public Hospital, Post Office and Alms House.

The seasoned timber has proved satisfactory, there being no shrinkage even where it is exposed to severe conditions.

A quantity of school and other furniture was made from wood supplied to the Education Department at the Trade Centre.

Sample lots of timber have also been supplied to various firms mainly for use on sugar estates.

A small quantity of less well known timbers has also been sawn up for experimental purposes. These timbers occur in commercial quantities in the Colony.

Field work has necessarily been restricted by lack of funds, and has been confined largely to experimental work in the growing of teak, mahogany, cedar and other native trees. A small expedition examined the Mahaicony area where deturma was reputed to occur in large quantities, but it was unfortunately found that this is not the case, though there are moderate supplies for the local market.

The indications are that the export of greenheart and other forest products, except balata, will be maintained this year.

The Police Authorities continue to urge that the Traffic Regulations be revised and you will agree, I am confident, that the time has arrived when such a revision should be undertaken.

A model ordinance for the guidance of Colonial Governments is now being prepared by the Secretary of State after consultation with the Minister of Transport, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, and the Accident Offices Association.

The introduction of legislation will be deferred pending the receipt of the proposed model ordinance which it is hoped will be received in the Colony early next year.

Investigations are being made which will, I hope, lead to the establishment of an efficient and up to date omnibus service in Georgetown.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the crimes of shop-breaking and burglary show a decrease as compared with last year, particularly in Georgetown, but the number of young persons of both sexes who resort to petty crime is a matter of grave concern. The solution of this problem presents great difficulties, and is one which must continue to engage the attention of Government,

Every effort is being made to encourage prisoners in the gaols to learn trades such as tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry, and painting, and much useful work has been done.

The conduct of the prisoners has been exceptionally good although a few serious breaches of prison discipline have occurred.

On the 21st of September, you agreed unanimously to the proposal that His Majesty's Government should inform the League of Nations that there is land available in this Colony which appears *prima facie* to be suitable for settlement by the Assyrian people, and that they would be welcomed by the inhabitants of this Colony.

Since then the Commission sent by the League of Nations to investigate the possibility of such settlement, consisting of Brigadier General J. G. Browne and Signor Giglioli, has arrived in this Colony and has proceeded to the Rupununi District.

As soon as any pronouncement in this connection is made it will be communicated to you.

The Colony, in company with others in the British Empire, has joined in humble and sincere congratulations to Their Majesties the King and Queen on the recent marriage of their son Prince George to Princess Marina of Greece.

Our labours upon these and all other matters I humbly commend to the blessing of Almighty God.

In His Majesty's name I now declare the Fifth Session of the Second Legislative Council of British Guiana to be duly opened.

Mr. CANNON: I have much pleasure in asking you, sir, to accept our grateful thanks for the very lucid review of the Colony's affairs. There is, however, sir, one little regret that I have to express in connection with your speech, and that is that this is the last occasion on which Your Excellency will preside at the opening of this Council. I think, sir, that there is hardly an individual in this Colony who will not regret your departure. I have to ask you, sir, to be good enough,

as is customary, to have your speech printed and circulated.

THE PRESIDENT: I adjourn the Council until 2.30 p.m.

2.30 p.m.

The Council resumed.

THE BUDGET.

DEBATE ON ESTIMATES ADJOURNED.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. P. W. King, Acting): I move:—

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

1. After listening to His Excellency's address this morning, Honourable Members will have fresh in their minds the information contained therein regarding the budget now before Council and the policies of the past, present and future reflected in the budget.

It will be my endeavour, therefore, to provide Honourable Members with detailed information and comparisons so that it will be possible to appreciate fully the major considerations to which attention has now been invited and to follow up in detail all matters with which the budget is concerned.

THE COLONY'S TRADE.

2. The total value of the trade of the Colony exclusive of transit trade, to the 31st October this year was \$14,064,000, Imports being \$6,783,000 and Exports \$7,281,000, as compared with \$14,437,000 (Imports \$6,787,000, Exports \$7,650,000) to the same date in 1933. There has therefore been a decline in the aggregate trade amounting to \$373,000 of which exports are responsible for \$369,000.

EXPORTS.

3. The very considerable falling off in the Colony's export trade is attributable to the effect of the heavy January floods and the later short drought period on the rice crops of the Colony. The value of the exports of this cereal during the first ten months of the year was \$473,970 or \$434,371 less than the value of the total

shipments during the corresponding period in 1933.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

4. The total quantity of sugar exported to the 31st October this year was 108,223 tons of which 69,167 tons found a market in the United Kingdom and 39,017 tons in Canada. During the corresponding period in 1933 exports of this product aggregated 98,520 tons, the quantities shipped to the United Kingdom and Canada being 63,473 tons and 35,013 tons respectively.

5. The sugar quota allowed this Colony by the United Kingdom for the financial year 1st April, 1934, to 31st March, 1935, is 60,000 tons as compared with 51,100 tons in 1933-1934 and 46,900 tons in 1932-1933. The general preference granted to Colonial sugar was reduced from 4 shillings and 8.8 pence to its old rate 3 shillings and 8.8 pence per cwt. and the special preference granted in respect of the limited quantity admissible under the quota has been increased from one shilling to three shillings per cwt., making approximately a total preference of 6 shillings and 8.8 pence per cwt. The object of this re-adjustment of the preferences was to re-direct to the Canadian market colonial sugars which were being attracted from Canada to the United Kingdom. It seems very likely that this desired result will be achieved for there has been a considerable falling off in exports to the Mother Country and a corresponding increase in the shipments to Canada within recent months.

6. The quantity of rum exported was 943,328 gallons compared with 682,177 gallons in 1933. Over one half of this quantity, viz., 598,082 gallons, was shipped to the United Kingdom and nearly all of the remainder (289,529 gallons) to New Foundland.

7. Molasses exported in the period under review showed a decrease when compared with the exports during the corresponding period in 1933, the quantities shipped being 4,795,882 gallons and 5,850,630 gallons respectively. Canada took 2,033,980 gallons or nearly double the shipments to that country in 1933, while the exports to the United Kingdom were 2,708,786 gallons, or slightly over one-half of the quantity shipped thereto in 1933.

8. The exports of rice at 31st October totalled 12,115 tons while the quantity exported during the corresponding period in 1933 was 24,704 tons. There was a slight improvement in the price level which had been declining in recent years. It has risen from an average of \$36.49 a ton in 1933 to \$39.12 a ton in 1934.

9. The quantity of coffee exported was 565,984 lbs. valued at \$33,443, or just over one-half of the exports of 1933, when 1,038,177 lbs. valued at \$72,850 were shipped. Exports to Canada were only 133,615 lbs. compared with 390,500 lbs. last year. Holland and Norway were the purchasers of 347,225 lbs. Prices were slightly less favourable than in 1933.

10. The number of coconuts exported at 31st October was 1,930,284 valued at \$25,663 compared with 1,290,874 valued at \$16,449 in the corresponding period of 1933. The exports to Canada (1,497,537 nuts) were nearly double the quantity shipped to that country in 1933.

11. Copra exports on the other hand fell off during 1934; only 600 tons, all of which went to the United Kingdom, being shipped as compared with 921 tons last year.

MINING INDUSTRIES.

12. The Diamonds declared to the 31st October for payment of royalty totalled 34,372 carats as against 37,860 carats for the corresponding period last year.

The decline in export comparing 1933 and 1934 for the period to the end of October was from 40,603 carats to 34,711 valued at \$431,723 and \$375,491 respectively. The 1934 price level is about the same as in 1933. The total export for the latter year was 50,904 carats valued at \$551,947.

Although there was a decrease in the production of diamonds, there was an increase of \$1,237.47 in the amount of royalty collected due to a change in the incidence of taxation from 35 cents a carat royalty and 6 per cent. Export Tax to 50 cents a carat on gem stones and 15 cents on borts with similar rates payable as Export Tax. This will result in a corresponding reduction in the Export Tax.

13. The decrease in the output of diamonds has been more than offset by the

increase in the production of gold in 1934 which is some 1,638 ozs. above the output in 1933 as at 31st October. The increase in royalty to that date is \$1,410.13. The output of 21,406 ozs. to the end of October this year is higher than any output during the past 15 years and is principally due to the increased demand for gold abroad and to the construction of the Bartica-Potaro Road which, apart from providing safer and easier access to the Potaro District, has resulted in the discovery of new fields within that District. The output from the Potaro District to the end of October was 10,483 ozs. compared with 8,319 ozs. in 1933.

The quantity of gold exported to that date was 21,536 ozs. valued at \$505,768 compared with 20,557 ozs. valued at \$479,225 for the same period in 1933, the total export in that year being 27,075 ozs. valued at \$633,247. The price level has been well maintained.

14. Mining operations for Bauxite continue to be somewhat curtailed. The export figures, however, show a slight increase. At 31st October, 1933, the exports amounted to 28,035 tons valued at \$210,651 as compared with 41,883 tons valued at \$263,636 for the same period this year. The total export in 1933 was 35,916 tons valued at \$263,953.

FOREST INDUSTRIES.

15. Exports of balata continue to decline. The exports at the end of October this year were 144,608 lbs. as against 467,094 lbs. for the same period in 1933.

16. Timber exports to 31st October were 130,981 cubic feet as compared with 180,225 cubic feet in the corresponding period for 1933.

REVENUE.

17. The revenue from locally manufactured Rum was in 1933 \$473,082 compared with \$471,173 in 1932. At the 31st October this year an amount of \$379,461 was collected compared with \$383,587 collected for the corresponding period in 1933. The Revised Estimate for the current year under this head is \$475,000.

18. The amount collected from excise duty on Sugar in 1933 was \$158,854 and it is estimated that the collection for the current year will be \$159,820.

19. The total revenue collected under Customs Duties was, in 1932, \$2,390,004 as compared with \$2,570,411 obtained in 1933. Of an estimated revenue of \$2,458,000 there was collected at 31st October last an amount of \$1,159,597 which represents an increase of \$80,539 over the amount collected during the corresponding period in 1933. There have been increases under the sub-heads Ad Valorem, Specific (excluding Wines, Spirits and Malts) and Specific (Wines, Spirits and Malts), of \$20,538, \$53,836 and \$12,093, respectively, while small increases are noted under the sub-heads Bonded Warehouses (\$946) and Miscellaneous (\$1,368). Export duty yielded less revenue, to the extent of \$5,013, than in the corresponding period in 1933, due to the decline in the exports of Diamonds and Balata.

20. Included in the revenue collected by the Customs Department is that derived from the Bill of Entry Tax which for the period under review produced this year \$173,286, as against \$176,514 in 1933,—a difference in favour of 1933 of \$3,228.

LEGISLATION.

21. The following Ordinances relating to Customs have been enacted this year:—

- (a) The Customs Duties Ordinance 1934, providing for increases in the rates of duty on lard and lard compounds, manufactured tobacco (not including cigars, and cigarettes), and tobacco in leaf of less than 25 per cent. moisture, as well as for the insertion in the fourth schedule of the item “chemicals and other substances of British origin or manufacture for use in the tanning of hides”;
- (b) The importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance, 1934,—an ordinance regulating the importation of cotton and artificial silk textile goods from foreign countries; and
- (c) The Customs Duties Ordinance (No. 2 of 1934) whereby the general tariff rates of duty on apparel of various kinds, including boots and shoes, were increased.

INCOME TAX.

22. Income Tax collected in the year 1933 amounted to \$362,037 and was the highest annual yield from this source since

the tax was introduced in 1929. It is expected that the estimate of \$300,000 for the current year will be realised. I may explain that the collections for 1933 were augmented by a “carry-over” of some \$30,000 from the assessed returns of previous years while that for 1934 will include only some \$15,000 from previous years' returns.

REVENUE, 1934.

23. The original estimate of Revenue for 1934 totalled \$4,792,181 and the revised estimate has been placed at \$4,957,199—an increase of \$165,018 on the original estimate but a decrease of \$1,750 compared with the actual Revenue of 1933.

24. In addition, there will be brought to account as Revenue of the year a sum \$338,481 the proceeds of various special Colony Reserve Funds which have been realised to maintain a balance between Revenue and Expenditure.

25. These special receipts were to have been augmented by two items appearing in the Estimate under the headings “Release from Sinking Fund Loan Ordinance No. 6 of 1916 on conversion of 6 per cent. Bonds” and “5 per cent. Loan Stamp Duty Account.” The Council is aware that subsequently to the presentation of the Estimate for 1934 it was decided not to transfer the former item to Revenue but to employ the sum available in reduction of the new loan required for the purpose of the conversion operation. Also the proposed transfer to Revenue of the 5 per cent. Loan Stamp Duty Account was questioned on legal grounds, and it was decided to retain this fund intact for the purpose for which it was established out of loan funds, viz., to cover the cost of Stamp Duty on British Guiana Stock transfers in the United Kingdom.

26. The total of the revised Estimate of Revenue available for 1934 including Extraordinary Receipts is therefore \$5,295,620.

EXPENDITURE, 1934.

27. The revised Estimate of Expenditure for 1934 totals \$5,260,061—an increase on the original estimate of \$78,079. The principal excess, amounting to \$67,000, occurs under the head Transport and Harbours Department, and is due to a

carry-over of annuity charges from the previous year and to a decrease in earnings from goods traffic.

The revised Estimate allows for Supplementary Estimates already approved by Council, and as far as can be foreseen, for such further excess votes as will require to be submitted for consideration and approval of Council.

SURPLUS.

28. A surplus balance of \$87,038 was brought forward from 1933 which will be increased to \$122,657 as a result of the working of 1934. His Excellency emphasized in his address this morning that this surplus is not to be regarded as the product of normal Revenues over Expenditures. It represents, in effect, the balance of the proceeds of special reserves and other funds brought to account as current Revenue in order to maintain a balance between Revenue and Expenditure, and limits as far as possible calls upon the Imperial Exchequer for assistance in respect of normal budget requirements.

SPECIAL EXPENDITURES FROM IMPERIAL GRANTS AND LOANS.

29. The figures I have given do not include the transactions relating to receipts and payments on Unemployment and Flood Relief Works and Colonial Development Fund Schemes as these are treated as self-balancing items in the Estimates.

His Excellency explained in his address that the total expenditure on Unemployment and Flood Relief Works will, it is anticipated, amount to \$363,219 for the year met from Imperial Grant of \$34,619 and loan-in-aid of \$328,600 while expenditure financed from the Colonial Development Fund is estimated at \$163,314 for the year.

PUBLIC DEBT.

30. Honourable Members have been kept fully informed of the transactions relating to conversion and redemption of public loans carried out during the year. The total of the Funded Public Debt at 31st December, 1933, amounted to \$22,187,538 with a liability to the Colonial Development Fund of \$345,731. It is expected that the Funded Debt will amount to \$21,081,925 and the debt to the Colonial Development Fund to \$462,220, at the close of the current year.

The Council is also aware of the circumstances that have necessitated the resumption of borrowing from the Crown Agents to meet the cost of sea defence construction works in progress pending the raising of a loan in 1935, and has sanctioned such temporary borrowing from this source.

REVENUE, 1935.

31. The Estimate of ordinary Revenue for 1935 is \$4,810,329 or \$146,870 less than the revised Estimate for 1934. This decline, it will be observed, is almost exclusively confined to Head III.—“Internal Revenue” (\$120,320). The abnormal high collection of Estate Duty yielding \$70,000 in 1934 as against an average annual collection of \$20,000 and the reduction of the returns from Income Tax, estimated at \$80,000 owing to the fall which has taken place in industrial and trading profits as the result of the severe floods experienced early this year, account for this shortage.

“Salary Abatements” also contribute \$17,200 to the shortage and is due to the application of the revised rate of abatement throughout the year as against a half-year in 1934.

32. The other heads of ordinary Revenue have more or less been framed to approximate to the estimated receipts for 1934 and therefore call for no comment.

33. With the appropriation to Revenue as Extraordinary General Revenue receipts of \$200,000, representing the estimated Surplus after the redemption of stock issued under Ordinance No. 6 of 1886 maturing in July next, there will be a total available Colony Revenue of \$5,010,329.

EXPENDITURE IN 1935.

34. The Estimates of Expenditure for 1935 that have now been laid before Council have been subject in the main to severe economy control. As this Council has been informed from time to time the severity of the control has reflected in considerable and increasing difficulty in several Departments in carrying out the administrative and executive duties of Government. The position has now been reached that relief is essential and it will be noted that in a few Departments provision has been made for increases in staff. The Departments are chiefly those concerned with the collection of revenue and it is anticipated that increased collections

will more than offset the extra provision for salaries.

35. The Estimates of Expenditure for 1935 total \$5,514,474 against an estimated revenue provision of \$5,010,329, leaving a shortage of \$504,145 which is covered by a loan in aid from the Imperial Government of \$384,000 and an estimated surplus balance of \$122,657, leaving a small surplus on the loan in aid of \$2,512.

36. It should be helpful to Members when examining the estimates in detail if attention is drawn to the notable variations from the approved estimates of the current year.

Head I.—*The Governor*.—\$1,050 additional provision has been made under this head to provide necessary replacements and additions to the furniture, plate and linen, etc., at Government House.

Head II.—*Legislature*.—\$3,700 more than the current year's provision has been made against sub-head 2—"Registration and Election Expenses"—to meet the anticipated expenditure on the general elections to take place in the later part of 1935.

A sum of \$100 has been included to meet the cost of renovating this Council's table, the present condition of which is rather unsatisfactory.

Head III.—*Colonial Secretary's Office*.—Additional post of one Class I. Clerk has been provided in substitution for the post of an additional Assistant Colonial Secretary in regard to which a full debate was held in this Council at the last Annual Session. Provision for clerical assistance, \$2,880, has been deleted from this Head and a sum of \$1,440 has been placed under Head XXXIX.—*Miscellaneous*—to meet the cost of temporary clerical assistance which it is considered is more appropriate under the latter Head.

Head III(a).—*Archives and Stationery*.—An increase of \$240 is shown against sub-head 1a—Superintendent of Archives. Government hopes soon to have available the services of a suitable person for the examination and custody of its archives. The provision for the post of a probationer—\$360—has been inserted as the volume of work in the Stationery Store is more than one officer can efficiently cope with.

Head III(b).—*District Administration Headquarters* and Head IV.—*District Administration*.—As His Excellency has informed the Council in his opening speech, it is proposed to fix the salaries of the two senior District Commissioners at £650—£25—£800 and the others at £500—£25—£650. It is also proposed to appoint two Assistant District Commissioners with salaries at the rate of £400—£20—£500 per annum.

Provision has been made for strengthening the general staffing of the District Administration, especially in the case of the Georgetown Office, by the appointment of additional clerks. The net increase in expenditure on District Administration for 1935 is \$5,405 which it is anticipated will be more than recovered by the additional revenue that will accrue as a result of the closer supervision that it will be possible to exercise.

Head V.—*Audit Office*.—The additional posts of one Class III. Clerk and one Probationer have been included to strengthen the staff of the Department which has been carried on for some time with an inadequate cadre.

The sub-head Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Allowances has been increased by \$160 to meet necessary expenditure on a full programme of audit inspections.

Head VI. (a).—*Treasury—Income Tax Office*.—The post of a Class I. Clerk has been substituted for that of a Class II.

Head VII.—*Customs Department*.—Provision has been made for an additional Class I. Officer and two additional Class III. Officers to meet the needs of the Department which has been working understaffed for some time. The Chamber of Commerce complained that clearance of goods was being delayed through inadequate staff in this Department.

Head VIII.—*Department of Lands and Mines*.—\$950 has been added to sub-head 10—Travelling, Labour and Equipment—to cover provision for travelling by the Sub-Warden, Potaro, consequent on the opening of the Station due to the revival of the gold industry. A reduction of \$500 has been made on sub-head 12.

Head IX.—*Forest Department*.—Certain re-allocations of expenditure against

“Other Charges” have been made and are explained in the notes.

Head X.—*Transport and Harbours*.—A sum of \$172,000 has been provided for expenditure on renewals and replacements. It is necessary now to provide for these items in the Annual Estimates in consequence of the appropriation to Colony revenue of the Railway and Steamers Depreciation Reserve Funds in the Colony's balance sheet printed in the front of the Estimates. It will be noted that \$384,000 has been provided in the United Kingdom Estimates as a loan-in-aid. Of this sum \$168,000 is to be regarded as a loan for Railway and Steamer renewals.

\$34,370 is shown as anticipated expenditure against sub-head 3—“Further Expenditure on Capital Account.” This is set out in detail on page 9 of Appendix A. in the Estimates.

The actual net deficiency for the year 1935 has been estimated at \$3,653 less than in respect of 1934.

Head XII.—*Supreme Court*.—Provision has been made for an additional Class I. Clerk and Probationer.

Against sub-head 13—*Furniture*—is an amount of \$1,075 or \$1,000 more than the usual provision which has been inserted for completing the replacement and renovation of furniture in the Law Courts.

Head XIII.—*Law Officers*.—The post of Clerk to the Attorney-General shows a saving of \$804, due to a new appointment on the revised scale of a Class I. Clerk. The sub-head “Temporary Legal Assistance” has been deleted.

Head XIV.—*Magistrates*.—The post of one Class II. Clerk has been reduced to a Class III. Two assistant clerkships have been created in place of one Class III. Clerk.

The items under “Other Charges” have been re-allocated to show the expenditure against each district.

Head XVI.—*Police*.—The post of one Warrant Officer (\$1,680 to \$1,920 by \$48), sub-head 1 j, will be vacant after 30th June, 1935, after which on a new appointment it will be placed “below the line.”

Provision has been made for a personal allowance of \$240 to Captain C. C.

Murtland, County Inspector, and for a duty allowance of \$360 to the Riding Master which was formerly a separate appointment.

There is an increase of \$1,000 under sub-head 3—*Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Allowances*—to cover expenses in connexion with Bush Rum raids now paid from this sub-head.

A sum of \$3,335 has been included under “Special Expenditure” for the purchase of a Motor Launch which is essential to enable proper Police supervision to be carried out in the Berbice River.

Head XVIII.—*Prisons*.—An amount of \$480 has been included as a special non-pensionable allowance to Colonel Bradburn as Inspector of Prisons.

The new appointments of five Third Class Warders have been placed “below the line.”

Provision has been included for a house allowance of \$360 to the Superintendent, Georgetown Prison, pending the erection of suitable quarters by Government. \$720 representing Station Allowances to Warders at the Mazaruni Station previously paid by the Forest Department is included under this head. Provision is also made for the payment to Temporary Warders for special duties, *e.g.*, supervision of prisoners under sentence of death, \$150. There are increases of \$500 under sub-heads 2—*Dietary*—and 3—*Clothing and Bedding*—and \$510 under sub-head 9—*Travelling Expenses*. Sub-head 15—*Freight*—has been increased by \$100.

Head XIX.—*Ministers of Religion*.—The head shows a decrease of \$2,327 which is the result of the progressive reduction of 10 per cent. annually which has been made from 1930 inclusive.

Head XX.—*Poor*.—There is a reduction of \$900 under sub-head 7—*Dietary*; and \$250 under sub-head 9—*Clothing and Bedding*. Special provision has been made at sub-head 24, for the maintenance, etc., of discharging inmates, of the Leprosy Hospital—\$2,500.

Head XXI.—*Medical Department*.—An additional Class III. Clerk and a Probationer have been provided for, to be employed in the Surgeon General's Office.

Provision is made at sub-head 1 k for

the payment of salaries to two Supernumerary Medical Officers, Public Hospital, Georgetown, at \$1,200 per annum each.

The subsidy payable to the Medical Officer, Mahaicony District, has been increased by \$480.

Head XXIV.—*Hospitals and Dispensaries*.—The post of one Issuer (\$240 to \$360 by \$24) has been transferred “below the line,” sub-head 1 (22).

At sub-head 1 (24) provision has been made for an additional Divisional Sister at the Public Hospital, Georgetown, for night duty and for relief purposes.

The sub-head 1 (30)—Nurses and Servants—shows an increase of \$2,062. There have been certain re-allocations under “Other Charges” and, under “Special Expenditure” provision has been made for the purchase of an electric motor for driving the printing machine at the Mental Hospital, \$156, and for the renewal of bedsteads at Public Hospitals, \$960.

Head XXV.—*Government Public Health Department*.—\$2,000 being an increase of \$700 on the current year’s provision has been inserted against sub-head 7—Sanitary Improvements of Government lands and compounds in Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

Head XXVI.—*Education Department*.—A personal allowance of \$240 has been included for Major Bain Gray, Director of Education—sub-head 1 (10).

Provision has been made for six months salary to a Woman Inspector of Schools, the appointment of which has been approved by the Secretary of State.

Sub-head 2—Grants to Primary Schools—has been increased by \$12,338 and is fully explained in the notes.

Items of note under “Special Expenditure” are sub-head 27—Passage of Woman Inspector of Schools—\$183; and sub-head 28—Visit of Mr. A. Wright—\$515.

Head XXVII.—*Queen’s College*.—A personal allowance of \$240 has been included for Mr. E. O. Pilgrim.

Sub-head 6—Maintenance of Grounds—has been increased by \$260 to include

expenditure on the upkeep of the new playing fields at Thomas Lands.

Sub-head 8—*Queen’s College Scholarships*—shows an increase of \$220. Two items under “Special Expenditure”—11. Equipment for Reference Library, \$600; 12. Equipment for new playing field, \$2,600, are worthy of note.

Head XXVIII.—*Industrial School*.—Sub-head 12—*Bakery*—shows a decrease of \$600.

Head XXIX.—*Post Office*.—Provision has been made for a personal allowance to Mr. F. Birkitt, Postmaster-General, \$240. Sub-head 8—*Conveyance of Mails*—Foreign and Inland—has been reduced by \$1,500 and sub-head 16.—*Cost of supplying stamps, etc.*, by \$3,300.

Head XXX.—*Post Office—Telecommunications Branch*.—This is a new head in the Estimates, which has been created consequent on the transfer of the Wireless Station to Cables and Wireless Ltd., which it is estimated will effect a saving of approximately \$9,000 annually. The opportunity has been taken in transferring certain posts and expenditure items previously shown under Wireless Section to effect a revision of salaries payable to the Subordinate Technical staff. These are fully explained in the notes.

Head XXXIII.—*Department of Agriculture*.—The salary of the Entomologist has been re-graded and the maximum increased by \$240 to bring it into line with the salaries of other officers of the Department.

The Agricultural Superintendents and Instructors have been grouped to facilitate transfers between the Districts and normal promotions.

A new post, “Plant Breeder (\$2,160 to \$2,880 by \$120),” has been included with the approval of the Secretary of State, as it is considered essential that the services of this officer should be retained in the Colony in view of the importance of the rice industry.

The post of one Probationer has been added.

Under the “Rice Grading Section” there is a small saving of \$352 consequent on the change of the holder of the office of Grading Inspector.

Sub-head 13 shows an increase of \$200 to provide seeds and plants for mining districts.

Head XXXIV.—*Government Analyst's Department*.—Two new items 10 and 11 appear under "Other Charges."

Head XXXV.—*Militia*.—The salary of the Bandmaster has been revised.

Head XXXVI.—*Pensions and Gratuities*.—There is a total reduction of \$3,558 on this Head.

Head XXXVII.—*Subventions, etc., Municipal*.—Sub-head 1 shows a decrease of \$2,554. This figure is tentative only. There is an increase of \$365 on sub-head 4 to cover the cost of the return passage to England of the Superintendent of the Infant Welfare and Maternity Clinic, Georgetown, on the termination of her contract and the passage to the Colony of a new Superintendent. Sub-head 7 shows an increase of \$725.

Head XXXVIII.—*Subventions, etc., other than Municipal*.—Provision has been made under sub-head 5 for the revival of the contribution to the British Empire Cancer Campaign—\$480—which was made annually by this Government from 1924 to 1927.

The annual grant to the Imperial Institute shown at sub-head 10 has been increased by \$480.

Provision has been made under sub-head 24 for a contribution towards the Imperial Forestry Institute at Oxford, \$600, annually. This was approved by Resolution No. XII. of this Council dated 28th June, 1934.

There is a decrease of \$1,550 on sub-head 55.

Head XXXIX.—*Miscellaneous*.—Sub-head 18—Refunds of revenue—shows an increase of \$2,300.

Sub-head 22 shows an increase of \$2,000 which is covered by dividends of Savings Bank investments paid into revenue. The increase is due to larger deposits now being made by the public.

Sub-head 25 shows an increase of \$2,600.

Sub-head 28—Temporary Clerical Assistance—has been transferred from Head III.

\$2,400 has been inserted at sub-head 29 to cover expenses in connexion with the celebration in the Colony of the twenty-fifth anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the Throne.

Head XL.—*Public Debt—Charges*.—This head shows a reduction of \$37,664.

Head XLI. a)—*Pure Water Supply Scheme*.—The salary of a Well Driller, \$2,880, has been included. This will be recouped from proprietors of private properties on which this driller will work.

There is an increase of \$300 on the salary of the Assistant Driller at sub-head 1 (4) and provision has been made at sub-head 1 (5) for a house allowance of \$300 to the Assistant Driller.

Head XLII.—*Public Works—Annually Recurrent*.—Sub-head 1—Maintenance and re conditioning of Public Buildings shows an increase of \$35,600.

Head XLIII.—*Roads, Rivers, Creeks and Portages*.—This head shows an increase of \$35,680.

Head XLIV.—*Sea Defences*.—This head shows an increase of \$10,715.

Head XLV.—*Roads and Bridges—Extraordinary*.—This head shows an increase of \$42,990.

Head XLVI.—*Public Works—Extraordinary*.—This head shows an increase of \$30,814.

37. It will be noted that the special sub-heads for service allowances throughout the Departmental Estimates have been removed as they are now considered part of Officers' emoluments and are shown against the appropriate salary items.

38. There is no provision in the Estimate for unemployment relief.

39. Provision for expenditure amounting to \$283,388 has been made under Head L.—Colonial Development Fund Schemes.

40. It is noteworthy that increases on "Public Works" Heads (Heads XLII., XLIII., XLIV., XLV., XLVI.) total \$155,799 and that under Head X., Transport and Harbours, \$206,370 additional expenditure (other than provision for the annual net deficiency) has been budgeted for. These two amounts total \$362,169 or only \$19,319 less than the loan-in-aid allocation of \$381,488.

41. This brings me to the end of my remarks on the details of the budget before you, the framing of which has been a task of some difficulty having regard to the revenue position and the many important outstanding matters involving expenditure which have had to be temporarily held over.

Mr. SMELLIE seconded.

Mr. McDAVID (Acting Colonial Treasurer) moved that the debate on the motion be adjourned until Tuesday, 11th December.

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Debate adjourned until Tuesday, 11th December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SURTAX ON TONNAGE AND LIGHT DUES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am the bearer of the following Messages from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 4.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of a surtax of fifteen per centum being levied, during the year 1935, on the amount of Tonnage and Light Dues which shall be collected under section eighteen of the Transport & Harbours Ordinance, 1931. This Surtax will not be levied in respect of any vessel which lands and takes away cargo not exceeding in the aggregate five hundred tons, or in respect of any sailing vessel of not more than three hundred tons net register.

2. Honourable Members will recall the passing of Resolution No. II. of the Legislative Council on the 14th of December, 1933, which provided for the collection of a temporary surtax of fifteen per centum on Tonnage and Light Dues during the current year.

3. The reason for the re-imposition of this surtax is that the Colony still requires the additional revenue to meet the estimated expenditure in 1935. The financial position has not sufficiently improved to allow of any taxation imposed during 1934 being reduced, and I accordingly invite the Council to approve of the collection of this surtax during 1935, after which the position can again be reviewed.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Officer Administering the the Government.

21st November, 1934.

CENT POSTAGE ON PRINTED PAPERS, ETC.

MESSAGE No. 6.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council

to approve of the following rates of postage being charged on printed papers, circulars, etc., posted in the Colony to destinations within the Colony as from 1st January, 1935:—

Printed Papers and Book Packets—

For every 2 ozs. or fraction thereof up to 2 lbs. maximum... 1 cent.

Circulars and Prices Current—

For every 2 ozs. or fraction thereof up to 2 lbs. maximum... 1 cent.

2. An anomaly now exists as regards the postage on Christmas Cards which may be sent out of the Colony for 1 cent each, whereas the charge for delivery within the Colony is 2 cents. The present minimum rate for printed papers, book packets, circulars, and prices current is 2 cents, and the reduction of the rate to 1 cent will, it is hoped, facilitate trade and increase the number of these items posted.

3. It is estimated that the loss to Government for the first year through the adoption of the above recommendations will be \$600 to \$700. This, it is hoped, will be recovered in two or three years' time by a larger number of such items being sent through the post.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Officer Administering the Government.

19th November, 1934.

EX-GRATIA AWARD TO MRS. BECKETT.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 3.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the payment of an ex-gratia award of £400 to the widow of the late Mr. J. E. Beckett, Agricultural Superintendent, North West District.

2. As Honourable Members are doubtless aware, Mr. Beckett died on the 24th of February, 1934, after a protracted illness of nearly six months resulting from an injury to his knee received while swimming at one of the outstations in his district.

3. Mr. Beckett's pensionable service fell short by three months and six days of the qualifying period of 10 years for the lump sum award to the legal personal representative of his estate under section 20 (2) (b) of the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204. The amount of the award would have been £400 had the necessary period of ten years been completed. Had Mr. Beckett accepted the Pensions Ordinance of 1933 his legal personal representative would have been eligible for an award of not more than the equivalent of one year's salary of the deceased—£600.

4. Mr. Beckett was a capable and conscientious officer who executed his duties with diligence and fidelity to the satisfaction of Government. He had a record of valuable service throughout, and by his death the Colony has suffered a considerable loss.

5. The circumstances of his case have been reported to the Secretary of State who has intimated that the Lords Commissioners of the Imperial Treasury have sanctioned the payment of an ex-gratia award of £400 to Mrs. Beckett, the widow of the deceased, and I shall be glad to receive the approval of this Council of the award being made accordingly. It is proposed that this payment be taken to include any sum which might be authorised to be paid under the Public Officers Widows' Ordinance, Chapter 206, which provides for the grant of one month's salary of a deceased public officer to his widow after his death where the officer is outside the scope of sections 20 to 23 of the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Officer Administering the Government.
22nd November, 1934.

INCREASED CONTRIBUTION TO SEA DEFENCE BOARD.

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 5.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the attention of the Council to the attached Estimates* of Revenue and Expenditure of the Sea Defence Board for 1935 from which it will be noted that a sum of \$56,810 is required as contribution from general revenue towards the Expenditure of the Board. This figure is \$6,810 in excess of the maximum annual contribution of \$50,000 fixed by section 18 (2) (a) of the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933, as enacted by section 2 of the Sea Defence (Amendment) Ordinance, 1933. This further amount can only be voted in pursuance of a Resolution by this Council approving of the payment thereof under the provisions of section 18 (2) (b) of the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933.

2. In accordance with the principle established by the sections of the Ordinance cited above, the contribution to be made from general revenue represents one-half of the estimated expenditure of the Board on Maintenance Works, Administration, and loan charges on advances to the Board for the construction of permanent works. With regard to expenditure on permanent works the Council has been kept informed of the prevailing abnormal conditions resulting in heavy expenditure on the East and West Coasts of Demerara and on the Essequibo Coast.

3. I accordingly invite the Council to approve of the payment to the Board of the sum of \$6,810 in addition to the maximum contribution of \$50,000 for the year 1935 and to authorise the necessary provision being made in the Colony's Estimate of Expenditure for that year.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Officer Administering the Government.
5th November, 1934.

*See Appendix A to Minutes of 5th December.

DECLARATION OF PENSIONABLE OFFICES.

Mr. McDAVID (Acting Colonial Treasurer): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Council:—

MESSAGE No 2.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to communicate to the Council the annexed copies* of my despatch dated the 14th of August, 1934, to the Secretary of State and of his telegram in reply on the subject of the declaration of pensionable offices in terms of Section 2 (a) of the Pensions Ordinance, 1933. This section is as follows:—

“Pensionable Office” means—

“(a) In respect of service in British Guiana an office which has been declared by the Governor with the sanction of the Secretary of State and the approval of the Legislative Council by a notification published in the *Gazette* to be pensionable: Provided that any office declared to be pensionable under this section may be declared at any time by the Governor with the sanction of the Secretary of State and the approval of the Legislative Council by a notification published in the *Gazette* to be no longer pensionable due regard being had to existing rights:”

2. For the reasons stated in the despatch it has been decided to rescind the recommendation previously made and approved by this Council that in future pensionable status should not be acquired until an officer reaches a salary of \$840 per annum. The position will be that an officer will attain pensionable status on appointment to a post in Class III. as was the case on appointment to the former Sixth Class now incorporated in Class III.

3. The despatch also explains the reason for the decision that the pensionability of officers under the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, should as, under the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204, be indicated by the description of such offices in the Annual Estimates as being on the “Fixed Establishment” legal pensionable status being established by the publication in the *Gazette* of a Declaration to the effect that any office so described is a pensionable office.

4. It will also be necessary to declare that any office named in the Civil List Ordinance now in force or hereinafter enacted is a pensionable office under the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, as is the case under the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204.

5. The form of the Declaration will be as follows:—

“DECLARATION.

“In accordance with Section 2 (a) of the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, His Excellency the Governor with the sanction of the Secretary of State and the approval of the Legislative

*See Appendix B to Minutes of 5th December.

" Council hereby declares the following offices to be pensionable, that is to say,—

" (a) any office named in the Civil List Ordinance now in force or hereafter enacted.

" (b) any office named or described in the Annual Estimates as being on the "Fixed Establishment."

The effect of this Declaration will be to make all offices on the Civil List or described in the Annual Estimates as on the "Fixed Establishment" pensionable offices within the meaning of the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, but the rights of officers entitled to pension under the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204, who have not exercised the option that the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, shall apply to them will not, of course, be affected thereby.

6. I accordingly invite the Council to approve of the declaration in the terms proposed.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Officer Administering the Government.

1st November, 1934.

EX-GRATIA PAYMENT TO MRS. CROAL.

Mr. MULLIN (Commissioner of Lands and Mines): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 1.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the payment of a sum of \$288 to the legal personal representative of Mr. C. L. Croal, Class III. Clerk, Lands and Mines Department, who died on the 18th of April, 1934.

2. Mr. Croal, who was 28 years of age, had had just over 10½ years service under Government of which nearly 4 years were on the Fixed Establishment. His length of service does not entitle his legal personal representative, who is his widow, to any award under the provisions of the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204, which requires that the qualifying period of service for a gratuity shall be 10 years. Furthermore, Mr. Croal did not give the notice required by section 21 of the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, (No. 20 of 1933) that the provisions of that Ordinance should be made applicable to him. Had he done so, his legal personal representative would have been eligible for a gratuity not exceeding one year's pensionable emoluments.

3. Mr. Croal discharged his duties with diligence and fidelity during the time he was attached to the Lands and Mines Department. His conduct was exemplary and his work was of a high standard.

4. This case has been considered by my Executive Council, and with their advice and in view of Mr. Croal's satisfactory record in the public service, I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the payment to his legal personal representative of an "ex gratia" payment of \$288, the equivalent of six months' pensionable emoluments of the

deceased. It is proposed that this payment be taken to include any sum which might be authorised to be paid under the Public Officers Widows' Ordinance, Chapter 206, which provides for the grant of one month's salary of a deceased public officer to his widow after his death where the officer is outside the scope of sections 20 to 23 of the Pensions Ordinance, Chapter 204.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Officer Administering the Government.

27th October, 1934.

PAPERS LAID.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following documents:—

The Draft Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1935.

A copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State acknowledging the receipt of a telegram sent by this Government transmitting the congratulations of the Colony to His Majesty the King on the occasion of the betrothal of His Royal Highness Prince George.

A Schedule of petitions addressed to the Legislative Council which have been dealt with by the Executive Council shewing the decisions reached in each case.

A List of articles not exempt from duty which have been specially exempted by the Governor in Council under Article 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the Customs Duties Ordinance, Chapter 34, during 1934.

The Consolidated Half-Yearly Return of Immigrants residing on Plantations and in Public Institutions in the Colony for the half-year ended 31st December, 1933.

The Report of the Committee appointed by Sir Edward Denham in August, 1933, to enquire into and report on various matters relating to housing conditions in Georgetown.

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education) laid on the table the following documents:—

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider certain questions relating to the opening and closing hours of shops.

A Schedule of applications for gratuities from the dependents of deceased teachers.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motions:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 4 of the 21st of November, 1934, this Council approves of a surtax of fifteen per centum being levied on the amount of Tonnage and Light Dues which shall be collected during the year 1935 under section eighteen of the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, 1931.

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 6 of the 19th of November, 1934, this Council approves of the following rates of postage being charged

as from 1st January, 1935, on printed papers, book packets, circulars, and prices current, posted in the Colony to destinations within the Colony:—

Printed Papers and Book Packets—

For every 2 ozs. or fraction thereof up to 2 lbs. maximum... 1 cent.

Circulars and Prices current—

For every 2 ozs. or fraction thereof up to 2 lbs. maximum... 1 cent.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture) gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 3 of the 22nd of November, 1934, this Council approves of the payment of an ex-gratia award of £400 to the widow of the late Mr. J. E. Beckett, Agricultural Superintendent, North West District.

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works) gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 5 of the 8th of November, 1934, this Council approves of the payment of an amount of \$6,810 to the Sea Defence Board in respect of the year 1935 in addition to the maximum contribution of \$50,000 fixed by section 18 (2) of the Sea Defence Ordinance, 1933, as enacted by section 2 of the Sea Defence (Amendment) Ordinance, 1933, and authorises the necessary provision being made in the Colony's Estimate for that year.

Mr. McDAVID (Acting Colonial Treasurer) gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 2 of the 1st of November, 1934, this Council approves of the declaration of the following offices to be pensionable offices under the Pensions Ordinance, 1933, that is to say—

(a) any office named in the Civil List Ordinance now in force or hereafter enacted;

(b) any office named or described in the annual estimates as being on the "Fixed Establishment."

Mr. MULLIN (Commissioner of Lands and Mines) gave notice of the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 1 of the 27th October, 1934, this Council hereby approves of an "ex gratia" payment of \$288 being made to the legal personal representative of the late Mr. C. L. Croal, Class III. Clerk, Lands and Mines Department.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

ELECTION OF VILLAGE CHAIRMEN.

Mr. WILLS gave notice of the following motions:—

WHEREAS by section 34 (2) of the Local

Government Ordinance, Chapter 84, the power to appoint Chairmen of the several Village Councils is vested in the Local Government Board;

And Whereas in his Minute No. 2 on Local Government and Administration, dated the 6th December, 1931, addressed to the Legislative Council by Governor Sir E. B. Denham, intimation was given (page 4, para. 1) that Government had approved of the Village Committees (Councils) having the power to elect their own Chairmen;

And Whereas the Village Councils, in consequence of the said intimation, have been exercising the right of electing their own Chairmen;

And Whereas it is desirable that the practice of the Village Councils in electing their own Chairmen as aforesaid should be consolidated by, and have the sanction of, law:

Be it therefore Resolved,—That this Council recommends to Government the amendment of the Local Government Ordinance, Chapter 84, to provide for the Village Councils electing their own Chairmen, and that such amendment be introduced to this Council in time to permit its being passed into law before the new Village Councils enter upon their office for the year 1935 as provided by section 65 (2) of the Local Government Ordinance, Chapter 84.

SIGN-POSTS FOR COUNTRYSIDE.

WHEREAS there exist at the present time no sufficient or any suitable sign-posts along the countryside indicating the various villages and places of interest located thereon;

And Whereas it is desirable for the benefit of tourists and visitors to the country districts that an adequate number of such sign-posts should be erected:

Be it therefore Resolved,—That this Council recommends to Government the erection of a number of suitable sign-posts along the countryside indicating the various villages and places of interest thereon.

BALANCED DIET FOR LABOURERS IN THE INTERIOR.

WHEREAS the diseases of hemeralopia and beri-beri are prevalent among labourers in the interior;

And Whereas the said diseases are due to malnutrition caused by unbalanced diet;

And Whereas the scale of rations contained in the schedule hereto, presently in force, approved by the Commissioner of Lands and Mines under the provisions of the Mining Regulations and required to be furnished to every servant employed on a claim, is inadequate by reason of being unbalanced, and tends to perpetuate the diseases complained of:

Be it therefore Resolved,—That this Council recommends to Government, as a means of eradicating the said diseases, the taking of immediate steps to revise the said scale of rations by providing for a more balanced diet to labourers employed in the interior, and that such revised scale be put into operation as from the 1st day of January, 1935.

SCHEDULE.

“Weekly list of Rations required to be furnished to a servant on a Claim in accordance with Regulation 119 of the Mining Regulations 1924:—

Salt Beef	1 lb.
Sugar	2 lbs.
Flour	7 pints.
Salt Fish	1 lb.
Peas	1½ pints.
Rice	3½ pints.
Salt Pork	1 lb.
Biscuits	14 large or 1 lb.
Chocolate	7 sticks.

Provided that the employer may, in his discretion, substitute similar quantities of fresh fish, beef, pork and vegetables in place of salt fish, meat and peas.” (*Gazette* dated 23rd May, 1925, p. 1,126, Notice No. 429).

Mr. WILLS laid on the table the following petitions:—

(a) From Mrs. M. Yearwood praying

for a compassionate gratuity in respect of her services as laundress at Government House.

(b) From Frederick Phillips praying for a compassionate allowance in respect of his services in the Police Force.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is proposed that the Council meet to-morrow and sit on Friday until one o'clock. The debate on the Estimates will not be taken until Tuesday next week.

THE PRESIDENT: I trust that those arrangements will be convenient to hon. Members. If they wish to have more time to consider the Estimates it will be given.

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