

FIRST SESSION

1947-1948

MESSAGE No. 5.

Honourable Members of Legislative Council,

Honourable Members will recall the undertaking given in my Address at the first meeting of this Council to place before you at an early date proposals for a new long-term guarantee to purchase all locally grown foodstuffs at increased prices, with a view to the encouragement of increased food production within the Colony.

2. I now have the honour to place before you the prices, shown in the second column in the Schedule hereunder, which it is proposed that Government should guarantee, for the next three years, to purchase all farmers' produce of good quality. These prices, which have the full support of the ad hoc Marketing Committee and the Executive Council, have been decided on after careful consideration of the estimated cost of present-day production of the various commodities and are, in no instance, higher than those now being paid by the Government Produce Depot.

3. While therefore the present proposals should not in any way affect the cost of these commodities to the consumer, they ensure for the farmer a reasonable price for his crops over a long period.

4. For purposes of comparison, the 3-year minimum guarantee prices, which expired on the 31st of August, 1947, and the Government Produce Depot 1-year guarantee prices, which will expire on the 14th of July, 1948, are also given hereunder.

5. I invite Honourable Members to approve of the proposals in paragraph 2 above.

SCHEDULE

Crop	Proposed 3-year guarantee £ per lb.	Recent 3-year guarantee £ per lb.	Present 1-year guarantee £ per lb.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Cassava - sweet	1.25	0.50	1.25
Corn (maize)	2.75	2.00	Nil
Eddoes	1.75	1.25	1.75
Plantains	1.50	1.00	2.00
Sweet Potatoes	2.50	2.00	2.50
Tannias	2.50	3.14	3.25
Yams	3.50	3.00	4.50

C. C. WOOLLEY

Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
British Guiana.  
19th February, 1948.  
(M.P. 140/7/3/10/11).