

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 14th December, 1944.

The Council met at 2 p.m. the Hon. E. G. Woolford, O.B.E., K.C., Deputy President, presiding in the absence of the President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon Lethem, K.C.M.G., who presided at the evening session.

PRESENT:

The Deputy President, the Hon. E. G. Woolford, O.B.E., K.C., (New Amsterdam).

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr W. L. Heape, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. E. O. Pretheroe, M.C., K.C.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. E. F. McDavid, C.B.E.

The Hon. J. A. Luckhoo K.C. (Nominated).

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

The Hon. H. N. Critchlow (Nominated).

The Hon. F. Dias, O.B.E., (Nominated).

The Hon. M. B. G. Austin, O.B.E. (Nominated).

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

The Hon. J. Gon.alves, O.B.E., (Georgetown South).

The Hon. J. B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice.)

The Hon. J. W. Jackson, O.B.E. (Nominated)

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. A. M. Edun (Nominated).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Hon. C. P. Ferreira (Berbice River).

The Clerk read prayers.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 13th December, 1944. as printed and circulated, were presented for confirmation.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: In the first line on page 3 there is a clerical error. I move an amendment by the substitution of the words "The Colonial Treasurer" for the words "The Colonial Secretary."

Amendment put, and agreed to.

The minutes as amended were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: His Excellency may be here during the course of the afternoon.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

1945 ESTIMATES

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that the Council resolve itself into Committee for the purpose of resuming consideration of the following motion:—

That this Council approves the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1945, which have been laid on the table:—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: It was proposed to resume at "Head Education" but I very much regret to ask permission to recommit Head X—"Fire Protection"—which was completed last night, in order to make one small amendment.

Leave granted and Head recommitted.

FIRE PROTECTION.

Item 20—*Purchase of Trailer Pump for New Amsterdam fire Brigade, \$864.*

The COLONIAL TREASURER: When the Head was being considered last night I should have moved an amendment to that item to increase it by \$260 in order to provide for the freight on this equipment. That amendment is printed in the Appendix to the Supplementary Explanatory Notes, and I regret I did not move it at the proper time. I beg to move that the item be increased by \$266 and the amount carried out at \$1,124.

Question put, and agreed to.

Head agreed to with consequential amendment in the total.

EDUCATION

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: May I be allowed before you permit any discussion on the Head to make a few preliminary observations on the estimates as printed?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes,

Mr. LUCKHOO: Before asking hon. Members of Council to consider the estimates under the Head of Education I desire to express regret that I was not in my seat last evening, and I hope that my absence on that occasion did not cause much inconvenience to His Excellency who was present and to other Members of Council. I was detained in another County and did not return until a very late hour. In moving the favourable consideration of the estimates under this Head—Education—I desire to point out that it may be thought that this Department is costing Government a great deal of money, for on reference to Appendix "H" on page 48 one will observe that in 1934—the decennial period—the cost was \$377,550 while the estimated cost for next year is \$1,353,104, almost four-fold, but there are many reasons for that increase. First of all, a substantial increase is due to the revised salary scales of Teachers in aided schools, a sum approximating \$401,643 which is to be found on page 14 of the Details of Expenditure on this Head. I do not think that any Member of Council will say anything against that expenditure, because there has been for some time a consistent clamour for Teachers to be paid better salaries and, after a great deal of discussion over a period of two years, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has given his approval to the revised salary scales as proposed by this Council. Apart from that, the work of this Department has expanded a great deal and there are several items under the list of expenditure in the estimates which had to be provided for in view of the fact that consideration had to be given to men lower down the ladder in this particular Department. And I want to tell the Council at the very beginning that the Committee of this Council on Education has always kept an eagle's eye upon the rise of expenditure in this Department, and I can only say that nothing we have done has been done injudiciously. The Director of Education and his able assistant, the Deputy Director, have

done their best during the course of this year to keep the estimates down as low as possible.

Hon. Members will notice that under item 1 (a) "The Director" is put down at a sum of \$4,320, but the hon. the Colonial Treasurer will tell you that his salary has now been revised and placed at \$4,800 under the Civil List which has been passed by this Council. During the year the Chief Inspector of Schools and Assistant Director of Education has had his salary increased to a sum of £800 per annum or \$3,840, as shown in the Estimates for 1945. As I said before, the work of this Department has increased and it necessitated a trained person, apart from the Inspector of Schools, to be an officer of high rank. Hon. Members will notice that instead of a Senior Clerk for the coming year the estimates provide for a Chief Clerk, who has to keep in daily touch with the Head of his Department and who has a great deal of work thrown upon him in these times.

The Clerical Establishment is shown above the line. Previously, at least some of the Clerical Assistants were under the line, but in view of the fact that they will draw a higher salary, which becomes pensionable, they have been placed above the line. So also are the three Junior Attendance Officers who this year are below the line but who are now shown at item 1 (i) above the line on the Estimates. The Clerical Establishment has been increased by a personnel of four. This year it is eleven and next year it will be fifteen. No doubt hon. Members will observe on reference to Appendix "K" attached to the Estimates at page 14 that provision is made for an Assistant Master at \$960 per annum, and that has been due to the expansion of the Agricultural programme of the Government Training College for Teachers. It was approved by Legislative Council Paper, No. 20 of 1944, as shown on the Notes to page 14

of the Estimates. On that very page hon. Members will observe that under Personal Emoluments "Aided Schools" call for \$811,960 and "Colonial Schools" for \$44,076. I may point out that substantial increase has been due to the fact, as I have said before, that the salaries of Aided School Teachers have been revised and increased.

At page 15 of the Estimates hon. Members will find "Children's Breakfast Centres"—(a) Purchase of food-stuffs, wages, etc., \$13,685 and (b) New Amsterdam and other Centres—to be carried out at \$66,720. On reference to the Note to page 15 it will be seen that (a) is carried out at that figure to give effect to the scheme for provision of better meals for a greater number of school children in Georgetown, and (b) is the provision made for New Amsterdam and other Centres.

At page 16 of the Estimates under the sub-head "Miscellaneous," items 29 and 30—Grant to the Berbice High School for Boys and Grant to the Berbice High School for Girls—provision is made for the increments for the Staff and for the salary of a Teacher of Domestic Science. I take it that during the course of this debate hon. Members will urge, as I myself feel disposed to urge, that the Berbice High Schools for Boys and Girls should be controlled by Government rather than the members of the Staff being under the control of a Body which, however well meaning, cannot give the Staff adequate salaries for the work they are performing in the town of New Amsterdam. Those schools are the only recognised Secondary Schools there, and it seems to me, speaking for myself and other Members, that this Council will be justified in bringing to the notice of Government that these schools should be under the control of Government and that adequate salaries should be provided for the members of the staffs.

At page 17 of the Estimates, "British Guiana Scholarship—Allowances to scholars, \$5,900" I hope that someone will provoke some discussion on that item, because I feel the time is ripe when one British Guiana Scholarship per annum should be open to girls only. In the past we have had the Scholarship for boys and, I think, now that the field has grown wider a Scholarship should be earmarked for a girl and not to be awarded to a boy; if it lapses it must not be awarded to the boy who may be next in order of merit. I ask Your Excellency's permission to mention that during the discussion of these Estimates, and I do so in order that some consideration of this suggestion may be given by Members of this Council.

So far as page 18 is concerned—"Queen's College" — I feel that some other Member who happens to be a member of the Board of Governors will be more competent to speak upon this Head than I, and I say the same with respect to the Bishops' High School for Girls. Those are the main points as they appear on the Estimates for discussion, and I would invite this Council not to deal harshly with this Department because one can hardly show visually the success of such a large department. It is only time that will tell, and now that we have, as I suppose we ought to, a body of contented Teachers. I hope they will give all their time and attention in promoting the interests of those who attend their respective schools. With those few words, sir, I ask leave that the estimates under Education be considered.

Mr. LEE: I would like to speak on the policy adopted by Government. I would like, as I said last year, the Advisory Committee to carry on their task and to watch the proceedings in respect of the policy adopted by Government. But I would like to point out to this Government that the policy adopted by the Advisory Committee and Government is short-sighted. It is all well and good to give the Teachers

salaries on which they can be contended but, unless they have accommodation for the pupils and unless they have the necessary equipment whereby they can carry out their work, that payment to Teachers will be a waste of the Colony's money. I want to point out to Government that unless the Advisory Board bring their weight to bear on the Government to have the schools equipped—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member would not mind me asking him to refer to a particular Body. He is speaking of the Body which is known as the Education Committee.

Mr. LEE: Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not a Board.

Mr. LEE: It is not the Education Advisory Committee, but the one of which Mr. Luckhoo is Chairman.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: I am Chairman of the Advisory Committee of this Council on Education.

Mr. LEE: That is what I am thinking of, not of the Board. The hon. Member is responsible in this Council for the Education policy and from his address to the Council on Education for which I am very thankful, on behalf of the children I say to him as Chairman of that Committee to press upon Government the necessity to provide adequate equipment in the schools. I know that several parents cannot afford to buy books for the children to be properly taught by the Teachers. You train and pay the Teachers, but if you do not give them the equipment to apply their training then the policy is nothing at all; it is a waste of money by this Government. I urge upon the members of that Committee to press upon Government to have the schools properly equipped, as unless that is done it would be a waste of the Colony's money. Further the Advisory Committee should press upon Government that there should be more Attendance Officers appointed in

order that they should go around the districts and not only to go to the schools. Last year I said, and I repeat it again, that more Attendance Officers should be appointed to go into the several districts and see the number of children who are not going to school. They can do that if they live in the districts. I am talking of my constituency. I know several of the children there are not going to school. In the Island of Leguan several children do not go to school and when they do go the accommodation in the school is not sufficient or adequate. That is my grouse against the policy adopted by Government on the advice of this Committee. You start at the top instead of laying your foundation and building from the bottom. The policy of good salaries to the teachers and of adequate accommodation and equipment in the schools should go together so as to obtain efficiency and good results. Do that and within five years you will see the results. I urge upon Government that these Attendance Officers should be appointed in the several districts to go to the parents of the children of school-going age and to point out to them that they should send their children to school. It may be said that we have the Criminal Law to enforce the attendance of children at school. What is the use of enforcing that when the parents have not certain things for the children to assist them in their work at school? They prefer not to send them to school and to pay the fines to Government. That difficulty can only be remedied by the Attendance Officers pointing out to those parents what wrong is being done to the children in not sending them to school. Some hon. Members may have attended the Courts when several parents were taken there and the Magistrate tried to preach the doctrine of force. That is not the method to be adopted by a democratic Government; it should be one of persuasion and education of the people.

What has Government done in the matter of converting those schools into

Government schools? Is the policy of the Government or the Committee leading towards that? If not I would ask the Advisory Committee to reconsider its policy. The Chairman knows that a section of the island of Wakenaam has been clamouring for a Government School, and I would like to know whether Government is taking any steps in fulfilment of that request. If it is not, then I say that Government is not doing its duty towards the people of this country. There is no doubt that Government schools have proved successful, and under the able direction of the Director of Education they have shown the benefit to be derived from the control of education by the Education Department. I suggest that the Advisory Committee should carry out that policy and extend it to the whole country—not confine it to the populated villages.

My next point is that the report of the Franchise Commission shows that there are many illiterate persons in this Colony. The modern tendency is to educate such people. In all democratic countries the Government has assumed the responsibility for the education of such people so that they might read newspapers and pamphlets issued by Government and listen to speeches on the radio. I am not saying that some of those people cannot do so now, but it should be the policy of the Government to educate them. What has the Advisory Committee recommended to Government with respect to the education of illiterates on the sugar estates? It is the Committee's duty to advise and the Government's duty to see that illiterate people are educated in some way. In a certain country, for every 100 persons who are illiterate there is one person appointed to teach them, and it would be very profitable to this Colony if Government adopted a similar policy. In a few years we would be able to remove the stigma of illiteracy in British Guiana.

The next point is that I would like to have a definite decision as regards the

erection of a new Queen's College. What is Government doing about it? I am a member of the Old Boys' Association and I hear of this and that being done, but I would like a public announcement about what is being done. Government is very dilatory in its policy as regards secondary education. Other Colonies are getting grants for secondary education. What is Government doing as regards pressing for similar grants? Even if the cost is \$550,000 and this Colony has to bear \$275,000 of it while the balance is provided as a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, I am sure every Member would vote the money and the work could be started. My friend says "No." He ought to realize the benefit he has derived from secondary education.

Mr. de AGUIAR: None at all. I have not been favoured with the secondary education to which the hon. Member referred. I happen to be a primary scholar.

Mr. LEE: I do not know whether my friend went to Queen's College or not.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I have just said "No." I went to no secondary school at all.

The CHAIRMAN: I remember that Mr. de Aguiar left school at a very early age.

Mr. LEE: That is why he does not realize the value of secondary education (laughter), and why he says "No" to an expenditure of \$275,000. I am asking Government to declare its policy and to say whether it has made application for a grant towards the erection of a new Queen's College. Sooner or later the Berbice High School will be expanding. Is Government providing a playground for the students who will be attending that school? I would ask the Advisory Committee or the Board of Governors what are they doing about it? They must think of the future otherwise money is being thrown away.

The Carnegie Trade School has proved a success, but is Government thinking of extending its operations to the several districts, instead of confining them to New Amsterdam and certain parts of the East Coast? I am appealing to the Board of Governors to extend the work to the various districts. I know it would cost money but in five years' time the results would be compound interest.

I would like to know whether any application has been made to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies for the erection of primary schools in the Colony. If no application has been made I ask that steps be taken immediately in that direction. It is also necessary that houses be erected near the schools for the head teachers. Are we asking for grants for that purpose?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The answers to the hon. Members's numerous questions have been most ably given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, but I would like to say straight away what the position is as regards Queen's College. The position is that the Governor in Council considers that of the two schools—the Bishops' High School for Girls and Queen's College—the Bishops' High School should have priority in that the existing building is very dilapidated; plans have been prepared, a new building can be erected on the existing site, and much of the material is available. As regards Queen's College the site is available but the plans are not yet prepared, for the reason that the Director of Public Works was originally asked to prepare a plan for a school of 300 pupils, which he did. He was then asked by the Governing Body to prepare a plan for a school of 400, which he did, and later he was asked by the Governing Body to prepare a plan for a school of 600. The Director of Public Works has given an estimate of the cost today to build in local material

a new Queen's College to accommodate 600 pupils, and the way he got that estimate was to add a proportion to the plan for 400. It was urgent that we should get some estimate as soon as possible.

With the consent of His Excellency I have written to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare and told him that we must first build the Bishops' High School because we can do that as soon as he and his advisers agreed to the plan.

As regards the cost of the new Queen's College I have given to Comptroller a figure which is not far short of that quoted by the hon. Member and stated that when he could give us an idea of how much he was prepared to contribute, and in what form, we could reach a decision. That is how the matter stands, and it is being actively pursued.

Mr. DIAS: This is a very entertaining discussion, and I have listened to it with great interest, especially the opening speech of the hon. Member on the other side of the table. Some people are inclined to think that because one criticizes the Education vote he is opposed to education. Others who are more sensible do not take that view. It is quite open to anyone to say whether he agrees with the estimates as presented, or to suggest something which he thinks would produce the results which the estimates aim at achieving. In my view this Colony is at the present moment, and under the conditions I propose to refer to, wasting a considerable sum of money on education, and I will say how. Are the children getting the benefit of the education which these estimates seem to aim at providing? Merely giving children the teaching we pay for is not sufficient in my view. I have always maintained, and I still maintain, that there should be alongside of these estimates a proposal by Government to purify the atmosphere in

which the children live from day to day. Look at their homes. Their conduct is reflected in their frequent—in fact daily visits to the Magistrate's Court. One sees them in all sizes. I have lived next to them myself—those tenement rooms where foul language is used in the presence of children most of the time. I have heard all sorts of things from them. I have seen children passing my office on their way from school, and one could hardly believe that they had come from school, because the language they used was not taught there in school. They learn it in the surroundings in which, unfortunately, they lived.

I would like to see this vote reduced by half and the other half spent in cleaning up these tenement yards and giving people respectable dwellings. Clean up the homes so that children would not hear bad words, and let the teaching at home go together with the teaching at school. As long as things continue as they are today this Colony will be ruined as far as education is concerned. Children are entitled to be educated and to get all the State can give them, but it is no good wasting money by teaching them on the one hand and not looking after the homes in which they dwell after leaving school. Is there a Member who can contradict what I say about what happens in these tenement yards? I lived next to one and the tenants woke me at 5 o'clock in the morning with vulgarity. What is the State going to do; just vote money for education in the primary schools? Is that all the State is going to do? What would we have been if in our own homes we heard the vulgarity these children are compelled to hear? Let us place ourselves in their position. We would not have been in the position to criticize them. I do ask Government to consider this aspect of the problem. I am prepared to support any estimate for the purpose of educating children. We cannot spend too much to bring up good citizens, but unless we

make arrangements for purifying the atmosphere in which those children live we will never get the benefits we are seeking. How Government has been so blind for so many years I do not know. I do not grudge one penny of this estimate, but I say that Government is wasting money because the children are not getting the benefit one expects them to derive from this expenditure on education.

Mr. EDUN: Somehow I am a product of the primary education given to me by my country, and I am proud of it. Somehow I have also acquired a knowledge of other languages, such as Urdu, Arabic and Hindi, and I am proud of those languages and their literature. In those days primary education was on a solid foundation. I have not entered the door of Queen's College or of a secondary school, yet I think I should not be ashamed of myself as a product of the primary education given me by my country. There was an incident in my life which I shall never forget. It occurred in 1910 when an hon. Member of this Council, who is still here today, thought it fit to hand me a Public Free Library ticket into my hands. It has Sesame of knowledge of men, the world and things. That hon. Member happens to be the Second Nominated Member, the Hon. Francis Dias, and I want to thank him today for having put that Library ticket into my hands. It has brought me the success I have achieved so far in my life. I do not think he recalls the incident. I feel that if our primary education could start from that point, on the solid basis. I would be content to support the policy as adumbrated today by the Education Department.

I do not think I need apologize for repeating myself on educational matters. We approved in Finance Committee, and subsequently in Council, of increased salaries for teachers, which I think they deserved, but I think they were contingent on the promise of the

Imperial Government to erect schools in the rural districts—to provide more accommodation and equipment. On such a foundation we could build up healthy citizens. I am of the opinion that the present policy of the Education Department is very good indeed, but I agree with the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Dias) that something more ought to be done to save our children from the bad influence of their environment and of the cinemas. The American films which are shown here ought to be censored and restricted. I cannot say more than that.

I want to vote every penny asked for in this estimate because I am hoping to build citizens like myself from the primary education system in this Colony. I say we are building on an excellent foundation, and I think the Education Department should have my blessing at this period. From 1945 I expect the Department to do better. There is need for better text-books. I do not consider the West Indian Readers the best kind of books for the primary schools. I remember reading the Royal Readers, the Century Readers, and the Graphic Readers. They were excellent books, full of intellectual thought, and something worth while reading. I see enough cheap trash in the present text-books to make my heart sick. I am asking the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to examine these text-books.

On a previous occasion the Director of Education, in reply to my speech, said that Government was examining the possibility of adult education, a subject which is closest to my heart. Unfortunately, the pioneers in that direction are not the democracies, as my friend the Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) stated a while ago. Adult education originated from an ideology other than that of the democracies—that of the USSR. There is nothing wrong in following the good example of anybody. I am asking in all earnestness that now that they are getting

more money the teachers should put their shoulders to the wheel and endeavour to educate the youth of the Colony for better citizenship.

Mr. JACKSON: It goes without saying that the education of the children of this Colony is dear to my heart, and whatever efforts are made to carry it out on proper lines must have my hearty support. So far there has been no violent criticism of the education policy of the Colony worthy of note. The rambling, ranting statements of the Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) puzzled one to decide whether to attack him or to point out his mistakes. He lashed out against the education policy of Government which he said is initiated by the Advisory Committee on Education, and he spoke of no effort being made to equip the schools and provide proper accommodation for children. The hon. Member speaks without a knowledge of facts and of what is being done at the present time by Government in the interest of Education. He speaks of no attempt being made to build Government Schools all over the Colony, and he uses that as an omission on the part of Government and the Advisory Committee, but possibly he is not aware that in connection with the Hammond's Report suggestions on those matters are being gone into, and apart from the fact that there is no intention on the part of Government to build Government Schools all over the Colony—and that has not been suggested by the Hammond's Report—the hon. Member seems not to know that efforts are being made to improve the accommodation for children in the schools and also to improve the equipment. So far as accommodation is concerned and the repairs to buildings, there is a sum voted each year for that purpose, and already some of the worst schools have been reconditioned. That is evidence of Government's wish that the children should be educated in pleasant surroundings. So far as equipment of the schools is concerned, if the

hon. Member had been following the trend of events and had been visiting the schools in the Colony he would have seen that there has been considerable improvement in the equipment of the schools. He will notice that from a grant each year suitable benches and desks are provided, and the children of the present day are working under improved conditions as compared with the children of the past.

I would like to say also regarding the matter of accommodation in the schools, if the hon. Member were to apply to the proper Authorities he would be put, perhaps, in possession of the amount of accommodation that has been provided during the past year and in the present year in order that there might be increased accommodation for the pupils of the schools. The hon. Member refers to what he regrets—the fact that there are large numbers of children who are not attending school—and he suggests that more and more and yet more Attendance Officers should be provided and they should be made to live in the districts in order that more children would attend the schools. I wonder if during the hon. Member's visits to the various constituencies in the Colony, as he had been in the habit of doing, he has ever spoken to the people and advised them to send their children to school? I wonder whether he has ever performed the duties of an Attendance Officer when visiting the various constituencies? I may mention the fact that in my own day as a schoolmaster I have been my own Attendance Officer. The system then to my mind was very slow and I, as a teacher, made myself acquainted with the parents of the children attending my school and did my best in order to get the children into the school. There were numbers of teachers in those days who did the same. I have as a matter of fact succeeded. I think it is a mistake to look entirely on the Attendance Officers to drive the children into the schools. At present there is

a system of Parents' Associations, a system which has been adopted all over the Colony. We have the parents and teachers combining in the interest of the children and meeting at regular intervals and infusing interest in the work of Primary Education among even those who do not send their children to school. An organization of that kind, to my mind, will be far more beneficial in persuading the parents to send their children to school than any number of Educational Officers. In these Parents-Teachers' Associations the handiwork done by the children in the schools is made a very pleasant feature of their work and at the annual meetings the work is exhibited, and it is remarkable what excellent work is provided by the children. I do urge Members of the calibre of the hon. Member for Essequibo River to visit the schools and see the real and practical work done in them. It is all very well and good to come into this Council and make statements against the work that is being done in the Primary Schools, referring to them as not being sufficient, and not seeing the results from them. Let Members visit the schools and, I am positive, they will be satisfied that some solid work is being done.

There is one matter to which I would like to refer, and that is the matter referred to by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Dias. No one regrets more than I do the tendency on the part of the children to copy the habits of the persons whom they meet on the streets and who poison the atmosphere with foul words. The children adopt what they hear in the streets and in the sordid surroundings where unfortunately they live, and I do feel, sir, that some solid work can be done if efforts are made to remove the evil by punishing severely the men and women of lewd tongues and habits, sending them where they cannot be seen and heard by others. But with regard to the tenement houses where the children are forced to live at the present time, there is certainly a pro-

ject to provide better housing conditions in the rural districts. But, sir, Rome was not built in a day, and all these things cannot be accomplished overnight. I am positive that once we are satisfied—and we are all satisfied—that the sordid surroundings in which the children move and live have a detrimental effect upon their lives and character, and once that is recognised in process of time these places will be removed and better housing conditions will prevail. It cannot be said that the system of Education is responsible for these untoward conditions. It cannot be said also that the Teachers are responsible. But this I do know that efforts are being made not only by the Teachers but by organizations to remove the evil. These Youth Organizations that are being formed are doing and will continue to do good work among the people themselves, and before long we will be able to see the results of the efforts that are being put forward for the benefit of the children.

The amount spent on Primary Education may be regarded as a large one, but the reason why it is attracting the attention of those who feel that the Colony can hardly bear the burden of providing it is because in the past the Teachers did not receive salaries commensurate with the work they had to perform. Now that the conscience of Government has been aroused, Government is certainly right in doing what is required, and the fortunate position in which Primary Teachers are placed at present, I am sure, is the result of hard work on their own part, on the part of those who are interested in them, and on the part of those who have the interest of the Colony at heart. Let us spend money on Education and, I am positive, in the long run we will pat ourselves for what we are doing in this direction.

Before taking my seat I would like to compliment the hon. Member for Essequibo River on the happy

conditions in which he received his education. I compliment him on being able to enter Queen's College so that he may have a secondary education, but I shall venture to say that there are times when persons have run through colleges but the colleges have not run through them. I would like to say further that in our general method of approach, in our general dealing with matters that come up before us, in our general conduct and bearing here one can see the results of the education we have received. Be that education primary or secondary or education from a University, it must enter into our lives and it must animate our actions in the right way and make us appear in public not obnoxious to anyone but rather pleasant to those with whom we live and move and have our being. I think, sir, that a tribute should be paid to Primary Education in this Colony. I think, sir, that those who have not had the benefit of a secondary education and who have not entered Queen's College, as the hon. Member for Essequibo River, but who are in a position to convince the public and to convince this Council that the education that they have received is woven in their lives and enables them to conduct themselves on proper lines in the different spheres of their activities, ought to be satisfied and we ought to give credit to Education in general, and as we live and move we continue to be educated. Unless education is seen in our lives and actions, unless we have assimilated it, then the education to us has been wasted.

Mr. LEE: I would like to reply to certain remarks made by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Jackson.

Mr. EDUN: To a point of order! Are we in Committee?

Mr. LEE. We are in committee. Perhaps the hon. Member does not know the Rules. I would like to point out to the hon. Mr. Jackson and this Council that when in his younger day the hon. Member used to visit the

homes of the parents in order to educate and encourage the parents to send their children to school, as he said, I was then a child. If the hon. Member remembers rightly Mr. Boston used to visit my father's home in order to encourage my father to send me regularly to church.

Mr. JACKSON: I did not say in my youthful day. I retired from active school teaching when I was sixty-two and a half years old, and I had been doing that from the beginning to the end of my teaching career, not only in my youthful days.

Mr. LEE: I am glad to hear that because it shows that the policy adopted by the schoolmasters who had the control of the education of the children in the past was a better policy than that adopted now. They had thought it their bounden duty to see that the parents send their children to school. Are they doing it now? They are, however, receiving more money now. My hon. Friend knows, and that only too well, that many schoolmasters are living in Georgetown and attending school on the West Coast Demerara. They travel every day to and from school. Can they encourage the parents to send their children to school?

Mr. JACKSON: I rise to a point of correction! The hon. Member says there are many schoolmasters living in Georgetown who are conducting schools on the West Coast Demerara. That is not true. There may be one or two, but there are not many.

Mr. LEE: I travel every morning by the ferry steamer and see them. It can be seen and a check can be made. At least my hon. Friend does not live in Georgetown and travel down the Coast as I do. I meet them on the stelling. There are at least six of them. I do not know, however, if they are in charge of schools. The policy adopted by the old schoolmasters proved successful. If the policy adopted by the Advisory Board is that the

parents be approached either by an Official of the Government or by the schoolmasters themselves, it would be the better policy to encourage a better attendance at the schools. I do not know whether my hon. Friend is serious and honest in his conclusion. I would like him to visit the school at Windsor Forest which remains unfinished and see how the children have to attend school. Is it fair to the children? The hon. Member is Manager of the Frederickburg School. Let him tell me that the children there are provided with books sufficiently to be educated by the Master in charge. Many of the parents cannot afford to provide the children with clothing. The Master may be very good and brilliant but if the children are not provided with books how can they be educated? I am telling this Government that the policy adopted by it is short-sighted and one-sided. You are providing desks and benches—all of which are absolutely necessary—which can not be provided by the Denominations because they have not the funds. That is why I say Government policy should be that each school should be under Government control, the equipment in the school should be adequate and the children should be provided with books.

Then there is this other thing, which is an eye-sore. I go to Providence Court once a fortnight, and when the school on the opposite side of the road is out I see the children go into the canefields and take their breakfast under the trees. That is because Government does not provide the schools with proper amenities. The Masters of the schools are not teaching the children in the proper manner. They are being better paid now and I am glad they are satisfied with their pay. Therefore let us get down to real work and get results. I can take you, Mr. Chairman, to two schools in my constituency and show you how overcrowded they are. Whose fault is it? It is not the Denominations because they have not the money. It is Gov-

ernment's fault. It is Government who should see that there is accommodation for the children in the schools. It hurts the hon. Member because in his conscience he knows that the policy of Government is not the correct one. That is why I blame the hon. Member, because he knows that what I say is the absolute truth.

The CHAIRMAN: I would suggest to the hon. Member that he should secure a copy of Mr. Hammond's Report on Education in the Colony and examine it. I can tell him that for the past year or more a very wide Committee representative of the Denominations and private persons—religious bodies of all kinds and persons interested in education—has been sitting frequently and examining all those questions. It is known as the Educational Development Committee. It is divided into several sub-Committees and all those questions raised by the hon. Member require very careful consideration. The hon. Member must bear in mind that all the buildings in which the schools are kept formerly belonged to the Denominations. Even if the Denominations are still clinging to the buildings there should be some form of control. Dual control of the schools is a very vexed question, and it is being examined by that representative Committee. There are a good many subjects to be discussed. I do not think the hon. Member would mind me saying so. The hon. Member is sufficiently acquainted with the difficulties that Government is endeavouring to overcome. It is a very big question that one can speak for days on. Have you got Mr. Hammond's Scheme?

Mr. LEE: When the estimate is going up \$1,000,000 and things are not so good, on whom must the blame be put?

The CHAIRMAN: The Educational Development Committee during the last two years has proposed to give free text books and free meals to the

school children in England. It is not the case here because we never thought of it. It is a very big question.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: I think if the hon. Member was keeping abreast of the times he would have known that Government has applied for grants for new schools and that the Education Department is carrying out a survey in the various parts of the Colony in order to ascertain the number of children of school-going age so that the question of building new schools or enlarging those already in existence can be considered. I do not know whether the hon. Member has provided himself with Mr. Hammond's Report. If he has, I do not know whether he has read it or digested what has been written there, as surely if he did he could not have spoken in the heated way he did a moment ago. I think if we discuss the matter in a calm and dispassionate way he would be able to do something for the children of the Colony.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Luckhoo, has invited discussion on the proposal to have a special British Guiana Scholarship for Girls. I have spoken myself on it for many years. I feel that my views are well known. I think it would assist the Authorities if there is some expression of opinion as to the advisability of what is a very important proposal.

Mr. GONSALVES: As the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Luckhoo, has said, the question of accommodation has engaged the attention not only of the Education Committee but also the Advisory Committee and it has been dealt with in Mr. Hammond's Report. I am not quite so sure the Director himself has not at some time or other dealt with the matter. It is not correct to say the Committee has not been doing anything. The matter has received attention and it has been before Government. The hon. Member for Essequibo River at the very commencement of his speech said that the money voted for the increased salaries

to Teachers is a waste of money because of those other things. It seems unfortunate he did not stress that point at the time when the Council was asked to vote the increase of salaries and try to persuade Government not to vote the money as it would have been a waste. Now that the money has been voted I do not think it is right to come back now and say that it is a waste because of so and so.

In regard to the complaint made by the hon. Mr. Dias I think most of us agree that the behaviour of some of the children outside the schools is not all that is desired, but it seems to me that it cannot be directly placed at the door of the Education Department or the Education Committee.

Mr. DIAS: I did not blame the Committee or the Education Department. I said it was a waste of time teaching the children what is good—

Mr. GONSALVES: I did not say that the hon. Member directly blamed—

Mr. DIAS: Directly or indirectly.

Mr. GONSALVES: I am not saying that the hon. Member directly or indirectly blamed the Department. Now that we have a Social Welfare Organization I think that is the body which has to be attacked for the condition of things that exists—the behaviour of the children and the loose language we hear about the City. If the Police Department is not able to control it then it seems to me to be far more difficult for the Education Department or anyone else to do so. It seems to me that the Social Welfare Officers are the people from whom some help must be expected.

On the question of a separate scholarship for girls I support the suggestion. I did so before the Committee and I do so to-day. I agree also that it should be definitely laid down that in the event of a girl not reaching

scholarship standard the scholarship should lapse and not be awarded to a boy.

The CHAIRMAN: We are in Committee, and the hon. Member might indicate what, in his opinion, should be the value of the scholarship. Government would like to know.

Mr. GONSALVES: I think it should be of the same value as the scholarship for boys. It is possible that a girl might like to take up engineering as a profession. I do not think there should be any limitation of choice, except where it is obvious that a girl cannot qualify in a particular branch of study. Generally speaking I think the scholarship should be as open as that for boys.

On the question of the control of the vote of the Department the hon. Nominated Member has dealt fully with that matter, and I hope his statement will be accepted. Like Mr. Jackson, I am a member of the Education Committee, and being also on the Advisory Committee we have an opportunity to revise any opinions we may have formed on the Education Committee. In other words we have had an opportunity to scrutinize these estimates twice.

Mr. LEE: On the question of a separate scholarship for girls I heartily endorse the views expressed by the hon. Member for Georgetown South (Mr. Gonsalves). I agree that it should be of the same value as the scholarship for boys for, after all, the expenses of a girl appear to be greater. If she desires to take a degree at Oxford she will have to pay higher fees than a boy who could go to another University where the fees are not so high. But why shouldn't a lapsed scholarship for girls be awarded to a boy who is next in order of merit?

I would like to remove the impression of the hon. Member for Georgetown South that I suggested that the

money spent on education is being wasted. What I said was that the policy of the Government would cause that money to be wasted. I do not say that the teachers are not deserving of the increased salaries, but if they work in a half-hearted manner how can we get results from the money expended? I have not a copy of the Hammond report, but I will endeavour to get one and read and digest it as my friend suggested.

Mr. deAGUIAR: The debate under this head so far has not been very much unlike other debates I have listened to in this Council many times before. We have had the usual clamour for improvements in various directions, despite the fact that there has been what I will describe as a considerable awakening in this Colony, particularly in the last few years, on education questions. On the other side we have also had the usual criticism that the amount of money being spent on education is considered in certain quarters as a waste of money. My own view is that there is a lot to be said on both sides. It is true that so far as our educational system is concerned there can be considerable improvement, but I happen to be one of those who would be content to see progress proceed slowly but surely. I agree that unless there is careful planning of our expenditure the charge that is being levelled at Government that the money being spent on education is wasted will be justified.

I happen to be one of the members of the Committee which considered the emoluments of teachers, and whose recommendations were contained in a Sessional Paper which was considered and accepted by this Council. But when I was considering the question I expressed the view at the time—I have expressed it since, and I express it again today—that my chief concern was the application of the recommendations contained in that report. I mention that because I regret to find that some of the things I thought of

at the time have come to pass, and it seems to me most regrettable. Here I would pause to say that if the charge is levelled against the Government that money is being wasted, the instance I am about to relate furnishes abundant proof that there is waste, despite the fact that those recommendations were put up in very good faith and with the best intentions in order to provide reasonable salaries for teachers. One of our biggest difficulties when that question was being considered was the avoidance or removal of what appeared at the time to be causing considerable dissatisfaction among teachers as a whole—the existence of what might properly be described as payment by results or, to use the proper term, payment by average attendance. Of course it means the same thing.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is mistaken. Payment by results was a system by which the teacher's salary was based on the number of scholars who passed an examination.

Mr. de AGUIAR: That is quite true, but there is a very thin distinction. I think it means the same thing.

The CHAIRMAN: The present system is one by which the salaries of teachers are based on average attendance and not on the results of examinations. The children may never pass an examination.

Mr. de AGUIAR: That was one of the difficulties that had to be overcome: It was felt that the suggestion put forward by the Committee and accepted by Government and this Council would have met the case, but my submission is that the case would never be met under the application of the proposals. The position to-day is—and I have it on very reliable authority—that a head teacher of a small school, say with an average attendance of about 60 or 80 pupils, is drawing a salary higher than that of a head teacher of another school with an

average attendance about four or five times larger. I can assure this Council that that was never intended at all. Another example that was put to me was that in the case of one particular school the head teacher found himself drawing a salary below that of his assistant. Is that correct? It cannot be, and it certainly was never intended to be so—certainly not in my mind and not in the mind of my colleague who is a Member of this Council. While I would not like to speak for the Director of Education I can hardly conceive that it could have been in his mind that such a situation would have come about.

I will give another example which will perhaps focus the attention of Government on the seriousness of the situation. There is another school within my knowledge where the number on roll is about 600 or slightly more. The average attendance is about 400. The position in that school to-day is that the head teacher is drawing approximately \$10 or \$12 per month more than one of his assistants who was only appointed in April of this year, whereas the head teacher has the record service of about 27 years. That is bad enough, but what would be the position if that head teacher remained in that school for another three years. I think I am right in saying that in about three years' time the assistant teacher will be drawing a higher salary than the head teacher of the school. I know the answer I will get but I wish to say immediately that, so far as I am concerned, it will be wrong. The answer is going to be what I regard as a distinction without a difference. I want to anticipate the answer that will be given to me in order to make my point perfectly clear. I presume the answer will be that on the one hand the head teacher is probably in what is known as the second or third grade, whereas the assistant teacher has passed through mass production (I do not use the term very critically) and has had the privilege of obtaining a certificate for Grade A or I, or Class I or Class II,

and that because of that certificate that assistant teacher is a better teacher not only in respect of educational qualifications but because she (the assistant teacher I refer to is a lady) can maintain the discipline of the school better than a man who has had 27 years' experience.

That is where the money is being wasted. I do not know whether the first Nominated Member who spoke had that in mind, but if he did I agree with him. That is definitely wrong and was never intended, and that is why when those recommendations were put up, I was at pains to point out to Government and this Council that whilst I supported the recommendations I wanted to make my position perfectly clear—that the application of these recommendations would mean the success or failure of them. I suggest that unless the matter is taken in hand immediately the recommendations put up by the Committee in order to improve the conditions of service of teachers will fail, and in about three or five years' time we will find ourselves in the same chaotic condition as has been existing for the past several years. We will find that there will be an all-round clamour by teachers themselves for a re-consideration of the whole matter, and I fear that when that time comes it will be found that our expenditure under this head would be most likely increased by a very large sum indeed. I suggest that if that should come to pass the hon. Member's remark would be correct, that the money being spent on education is being wasted.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: May I interpose to assure the hon. Member that what he has referred to has been looked into by the Director

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am very grateful for that explanation and therefore I do not propose to pursue the matter. I am glad to hear that the matter is being investigated, but I would like to express my personal regret that the cause should have arisen at all.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: To a point of order. I must point out, and I would like to read the words of the report which states:—

5. The payment of head teachers' salaries by average attendance was considered to be most unsatisfactory for several reasons, and the Committee has endeavoured by its recommendations to obviate payment by this method. The question of payment by enrolment was also considered but similarly found unsatisfactory.

The Committee thereupon put up certain recommendations which included grades of teachers, and which have been adopted by the Council and by the Secretary of State, and are now being put into effect. If there are defects resulting the Director of Education will do his utmost, I am sure, to remedy those defects. But with the greatest respect to the last speaker I think it shows rather a mistake in the recommendations than a mistake in their adoption, because the Director really has no discretion in carrying out the recommendations of the Committee. I am sure the hon. Member will agree that if the Director now goes into the question he may quite easily find a means to remedy the defect which has been explained. I do not think the fault lies with the application of the recommendations, but with the recommendations themselves. Of course nobody is infallible.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I should like to add that I was the officer selected by Government to move the resolution which authorized these salary scales, and I invited the Council to adopt the report to which, as the Colonial Secretary has said, the hon. Member was a signatory. There was no reservation in that report and, therefore, the salary scales, as applied today, are entirely on the basis of that report which has been adopted by this Council.

The CHAIRMAN: Adjustments can be made by means of transfer from one school to another, but I hope that

will not necessarily be the result, because it would mean entire dislocation.

Mr. de AGUIAR: The explanation given by the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer does not take the point any further. Perhaps I may be allowed to say that it is true that of the persons who signed the report at least one of them was a primary scholar, and he was dealing with primary education. He therefore thought that primary consideration would be given to the report. I explained that the recommendations are there and are substantially correct, but I went further and made my point perfectly clear. I said then, and I repeat again today, that the recommendations were clear, but the trouble arose in the application of those recommendations. It is no good telling me now that a mistake was made by the authors of the report, and that means would be found to remedy the defects. It does not appeal to my commercial sense at all. My answer to that would be that you will find it extremely difficult to remedy something when the damage is already done. I would like to ask a question. How is it proposed to remedy the situation now? Is it proposed to reduce the salaries paid to those certificated assistant teachers, or is it proposed to increase the salaries of the head teachers to whom I have referred? I would like to have an answer to that question. The point I am making is this: that if those officers who were charged with the responsibility of putting those recommendations into effect had borne in mind the point that was made, that great care should be taken in the application of those recommendations, this difficulty would not have arisen.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: To a point of order! The Director of Education had no authority but to carry out those recommendations. Nobody could rectify an error found out in practice. I think the hon. Member accepted the assurance of the Direc-

tor that the matter is being gone into. No doubt a further recommendation will be put to Government. You cannot blame the Government. The Director had no option.

Mr. de AGUIAR: If it is going to be said that I cannot blame the Government I must say that I am not blaming Government at all. What I am saying is that there is a simple method of making out a pay-sheet. Let us go into the details.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am enjoying this. There are nearly 1,600 school teachers. It is not so simple to put into operation various revised salary scales affecting so many persons. I am asking the hon. Member to let us agree to differ as to the responsibility, and let us agree to get it right as soon as possible.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I will agree, provided I am allowed to make one last point. This is where it hurts, and this is where it hurts the taxpayers of the Colony, of whom I am one. Much as I regret what has occurred, I cannot excuse any officer of Government who is charged with the responsibility of preparing a single pay-sheet for a school—and I have seen one. I had it in my possession only a few days ago. It says "John Brown, head teacher, x dollars. Mary Jones, assistant teacher, y dollars" at a higher rate of salary. It is the very plain fact for any primary scholar like myself to understand. Am I asked to accept the excuse that in such circumstances the attention of Government could not be drawn to the fact that there was something that needed going into and remedying before damage was done?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Director of Education applied for a legal officer to be seconded for the purpose of straightening out those defects but he was told it was impossible to cond a legal officer. I told the Director to get on with it, and I think he

has a very difficult job in applying these new scales. Let us agree to differ and agree to put it right.

Mr. de AGUIAR: Very well, sir.

The Council resumed and adjourned until 8.30 p.m.

NIGHT SESSION

8.30 P.M.—

The Council resumed, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon Lethem, K.C.M.G., President, presiding.

COLONEL STANLEY'S VISIT TO THE WEST INDIES.

The PRESIDENT: I would just like to invite the notice of hon. Members to the announcement over "ZFY" this evening regarding the visit of the Secretary of State to the West Indies. I have exchanged a personal cablegram with Colonel Stanley who states that owing to the absolute necessity of being back in Parliament at an early date after the resumption in January he will not have sufficient time, as he had hoped, to visit all the West Indian Colonies and British Guiana. He will only visit the Western Group—the Bahamas, British Honduras, Jamaica and Bermuda. If hon. Members heard his Message they would have understood, if not I would just repeat that he had to abandon it as the time at his disposal being so short that his visit to all the Colonies, the Eastern as well as the Western group, would only enable him to spend a very short time in each Colony as to be valueless. A visit of one or two days to this Colony would be scarcely worthwhile. He proposes on the next occasion when he is able to leave England to visit the Eastern Group including British Guiana which will give him rather more time than he would have had, had he come on this occasion. This announcement should have come out at

6.45 o'clock this evening.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I desire to inform Your Excellency that the Head—Education—is under discussion at the present moment and hon. Members are addressing the Council generally on the education policy.

The PRESIDENT: We will then proceed in Committee.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the 1945 draft Estimates of Expenditure at Head VIII—Education.

Mr. de AGUIAR: At the adjournment this afternoon I was dealing with certain anomalies that crept into the payment of salaries of certain Head-teachers as the result of the Wight Committee's Report. But, sir, during the discussion or during the time I was making a remark the hon. the Colonial Secretary rose from his seat and said that he agreed with me whilst at the same time disagreeing with me. I do not propose to pursue the point any further except to say that I accept the announcement that was made that the points raised would be thoroughly enquired into. And may I add that the hardship that had been created would be remedied at a very early date. I make that request because I feel sure that if we—when I say "we" I mean "Government"—want the satisfaction which I happen to know at present exists among the teachers to continue—and I hope it will continue for a very long time—early steps should be taken to remedy the hardship I have referred to.

When the Chairman of the Advisory Committee was speaking generally under this Head this afternoon, he referred to the proposal that was under consideration I believe or had been suggested for the award of a special scholarship for girls. He has invited comments from Members around this table

as to the wisdom of introducing this scholarship. Certain Members have spoken before me and although I believe all of them did not make any particular reference to the matter, I would like to assure my hon. friend on my left (Mr. J. A. Luckhoo) that when the time comes to bring forward that proposal I have no doubt it will receive support from this Council. There is a lot to be said in support of this Colony introducing a special scholarship for girls. One has only got to look back or around at what is happening today to find the number of important jobs that are being carried out by women in the United Kingdom and even in this Colony. There can be no doubt that the time has come when the men of the world must realize that the women are entitled to equal opportunities, and it seems to me, therefore, that the introduction of the higher award of a scholarship in this Colony should be earmarked for the purpose, so that we can hope to educate some of our girls for these high posts. For myself, I hope that when it comes to the question of higher education we in this hemisphere will not only content ourselves merely with the award of these valuable scholarships to our students, but that the time is not too far distant when it will be found practical to set up the organization which is referred to generally as a University in these parts so that we can do the training ourselves. I think there is a lot to be said in favour of training the youths of these parts in our own locality so to speak. Most of them, if not all, have to carry on their normal life in these surroundings, and it is just as well that in such an institution they may be able to introduce certain conditions which will be appropriate and which will also mean the upliftment of these Colonies. I think, sir, that such an institution is already in the minds of the Authorities, and my only reason for referring to it at this stage is to express the hope that in a very short while we will advance beyond the thinking stage and try to do something that is practical.

A good deal has been said during your absence this afternoon. Certain Members attempted, at least one hon. Member—I think it was the hon. Member for Essequibo River, as usual—to advocate a system of Government Schools. I would like to say that as far as I am concerned I am not 100 per cent. an advocate for such institutions, although I must say that I would like to see a sprinkling of them here and there. We already have a few of them, and I do not think I would discredit the idea if a few more were set up, but I think it is well that we should not encourage the idea that the wide introduction of Government Schools in this Colony will be the best thing for our youths. I have no doubt, sir, that there are faults in the denominational system, but I think on the balance the scale is heavier, very much heavier, in favour of that system and I hope it will continue. I have said in this Council before that to my mind it is extremely difficult to expect any educational system to succeed unless there is some religious background, and when I say “religious background” I do not only mean the saying of prayers and things of that kind, but if I may describe it in this way as a higher religious influence that one cannot hope to achieve by merely saying the morning and evening prayers at school. Although there are certain faults in our denominational system, I think that what we ought to try and do is to remedy those faults that are found in the hope of strengthening the system and so maintain that religious background which I and, I know, quite a number of people of this Colony feel is so desirable. I must repeat, it does not necessarily follow that I would not like to see an increase in the number of Government Schools but we must proceed very slowly on that score.

Reference was also made to adult education. I would like to say, sir, that whether that is an obligation of the State or not I still believe it is a highly controversial matter. Speaking from my

knowledge of what I have read here and there, most of the things I have read inform me that when it comes to adult education it is more a question of voluntary organization and voluntary effort. It is well for Members to remember the phrase: "Each one teach one", and I think when it comes to adult education in this country, perhaps, steps might be taken to encourage that being done. As I say, the question of the State providing the means for adult education is a highly controversial matter, and I have no doubt it will not receive the favour that, perhaps, the hon. Member for Essequibo River may think. It is his view and of course he is entitled to express it. As far as I am concerned, it is my duty to say to the Government the things I have said in the hope that both sides of the picture will be taken into consideration. I have one or two minor matters to refer to, but as they deal particularly with specific items that appear on the Estimates I do not propose to prolong the debate any further, but to deal with them as the items are reached.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: Representation has also been made to me on similar lines as the observation of the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) in so far as the dissatisfaction of the teachers throughout the Colony over the salary scales. The hon. Colonial Secretary having given an undertaking, I take it the matter will be fully gone into. I think a case has been fully made out by the hon. Member for Central Demerara, and I hope that at an early date the question will be fully gone into. I may just mention, sir, that it is not only those that the hon. Member for Central Demerara complained about. In going through the matter other anomalies will be found. We will also find that in a school which has an average of about 80 children, prior to this new scale the Headteacher who happens to be a first class certificated teacher drew a salary of \$55 per month. Under the new scale his salary will be increased, I

think, by 100 per cent. which means he will be drawing a salary of \$110 per month. Similarly in a school with an average attendance of 400 children the Headteacher with the same class certificate will be drawing the same salary of \$110 per month. The salary scale has been fixed on an incremental basis with a bar somewhere. What I would like to have reconsidered is this: The Headteacher of a school with an average of 80 children will be more likely to pass that bar because his responsibility is far less than the Headteacher of the school with an average of 400 children and, therefore, in process of time the Headteacher of the smaller school will pass the bar and reach the maximum while the Headteacher of the larger school whose responsibility is greater, I presume, will remain at \$110 because of the difficulty he may have in passing that bar so far as the general efficiency of the school is concerned.

It is not my desire to criticize the system which has been abolished for the present one, but what is the difference? I think we were told over and over again that a good many of the people in this country have laid too much stress on certificates or the passing of examinations. But what do we see? The present system of salary scale does not conform with that view of the Education Department, because the salary scale is based upon the certificate the Headteacher holds and also the Assistant Teacher. That has caused the anomalies complained about by the hon. Member for Central Demerara. Turn it in whatever form you like it amounts in the end to nothing short of an examination result though it may be of doubtful character. For a Headteacher to get his increment and to pass the bar he has to get two or three consecutively good certificates from the Inspector. Does not that amount to another form of the Inspector's examination of the school? I may be accused of being a product of what I may call the ancient system, but I cannot see the use of the modern system. Nevertheless having

been brought up under the ancient system I would not be too far wrong if I advocate it as being a better system than the present one. As I say, it amounts to nothing short of an examination because the Inspector examines the children, and takes the general condition and everything in relation to that school before he issues a certificate. I hope the present system will work well as is anticipated by the Education Department and the Advisory Committee.

Another matter I would like to be included in the reconsideration of this salary scale is the salary of the Assistant Inspectors. What do we find? It may happen, I am sure, that a Headteacher will be drawing at sometime or other a higher salary than an Assistant Inspector. I do not think that was the intention. The headteacher of a school, as the hon. Member for Central Demerara has stated, and an Assistant Teacher of a school will be drawing more salary eventually than an Assistant Inspector and that, I think, is an anomaly which should be remedied.

I see the hon. Member for Central Demerara was very very cautious in saying that he would not advocate 100 per cent. Government Schools. I think he ought to have been a little bit bolder. If the system of Government Schools is not good do not have a sprinkling of them anywhere at all. If it is not good put it away altogether, but I am sure he will find it difficult to get support of this Council or to get the support of the country in any endeavour favouring Denominational Schools instead of Government Schools. I think the consensus is in favour of Government Schools. (Voices: "Question?") I foresee another anomaly which, I think might be brought to Government's notice, no doubt from another quarter. You will find, sir, that the Manager of a school will be drawing less salary than the Headteacher. That is an anomaly which is not Government's responsibility but

it is an anomaly which, I must say, is not a happy one, and I am sure that representation will be made from other quarters in respect of that, so I need not worry myself about that anomaly. As I say, I take it that Government has recognized these anomalies and, as stated by the hon. the Colonial Secretary, the matter will be gone into. I do hope that, with the assistance of the Advisory Committee, these anomalies will be remedied.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I just wish to point out to the hon. Member for Western Berbice (Mr. Peer Bacchus) that these criticisms and recommendations which are now being made about the salary scale of school teachers are rather late. The hon. Member knows he supported it when the matter was debated in this Council. As regards dissatisfaction amongst the school teachers I would like to recall to the hon. Member the paper I read last night which is the copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the B.G. Teachers' Association held on the 25th October, expressing appreciation and thanks for the increases recently approved for primary school teachers. I only desire to remind the hon. Member of that. As regards the Assistant Inspectors, their salaries on the Estimates were adopted by the Government in Council in accordance with the majority vote.

Mr. ROTH: This debate on Government's education policy having now lasted 2½ hours, it is not my intention to prolong it unduly. There is, however, one point I should like to mention, and that is the question of the control of private schools. Hon. Members will recollect that during the debate on the Education vote for 1944 I raised the question. Therefore I will not repeat the argument I used then as I understand a Committee has been appointed to consider the question. I would, however, ask Government to inform the Council as to what is the position now.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO. With respect to the control of private schools a Bill has been drafted and, I believe, sent to the Union of Private Schools for its consideration.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I may add for the information of the hon. Nominated Member that only this morning a Committee for secondary schools, functioning under the Educational Development Committee, of which I am Chairman, spent at least half an hour considering what their recommendations might be, and Mr. Luckhoo, who is the Chairman of that body, has promised to furnish the Committee with a memorandum on the subject. He proposes to have a meeting with the other schools, and will tell us what decision has been reached, or what recommendations they may be inclined to make.

I may mention generally that there are about 3,000 pupils being taught in various private schools. I am speaking, of course, of secondary education, and it is their complaint that not only have they not got the accommodation afforded at Queen's College, but it is their wish that they should be assisted by State aid—by subvention of some kind. It is a very big question indeed, and I hope the hon. Member will have some patience in the matter, because it is not at all likely that a decision will be reached for some considerable time.

Mr. JACOB: Unfortunately I was absent during the afternoon session and I did not hear the whole debate on educational policy. I am speaking this evening not as a member of the Advisory Committee but as a Member of this Council representing the District I have the honour to represent. I understand that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee invited the Council's opinion with regard to an additional British Guiana Scholarship for girls. I believe I raised the question on the Advisory Committee recently, as to whether proposals would be put before this Council in the Draft Estimate we are considering now for this additional scholarship,

and I do not know whether I got a specific answer that it would be done. Looking through my papers I came across minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee held on November 3, 1943. Under the heading "Estimate, Education Department, 1944" this is recorded in the minutes, and I ask your permission to read it:—

"Mr. Jacob proposed that two British Guiana Scholarships should be given each year, one for boys and one for girls. The Chairman supported the proposal and suggested that if no girl reached scholarship standard the second scholarship should be awarded to the next in order of merit (if qualified, to boy candidates.) After discussion it was agreed that if no candidate qualified for either the girls' or boys' scholarship the scholarship and, if necessary, a re-vote be considered the next year, and that the recommendation should be made to Government accordingly in regard to the Estimates for 1945."

The Advisory Committee went into the matter and made a specific recommendation in 1943, that in the 1945 Estimates an amount should be voted for an additional scholarship for girls. I express disappointment that it has not been done, and I trust it is not too late to insert an additional sum in the Estimates for 1945, either now or before they are finally considered, or in a supplementary estimate, so that it might come into force next year.

Mr. LUCKHOO: May I be permitted to assure the hon. Member that in my opening remarks I invited discussion on this matter because, with Your Excellency's leave, when the item is reached I propose to move in an amount for 1945.

Mr. JACOB: I am glad to hear that. That is so far as an additional scholarship for girls is concerned. The question of Government schools was also raised. I anticipate differences of opinion on that very vital matter, but I submit with all confidence that the majority opinion is in favour of Government schools. Government is proceeding along those lines, but as is custom-

ary, I think it is making haste far too slowly. I think that wherever there is room for a school—and there are lots of places where there is room for schools—Government schools should be put up. I do not say that children should be forced to leave the denominational schools, but I think if Government schools were put up, properly equipped and well staffed, the majority of children would travel miles to attend Government schools and leave the denominational schools alone. I therefore urge that Government schools should be erected at a faster rate than they are at the present time.

I understand that the question of adult education was also debated, and that my friend the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) is not certain whether Government should initiate the education of adults. I think the responsibility rests solely with the Government. When we consider that up to the present time three out of every ten children of school-going age are not in school through lack of accommodation and one or two other reasons, I think it is the duty of the Government to begin to educate adults. I would say that Government should begin to educate the youths. As a matter of fact those who have passed school-leaving age would be inclined to educate themselves if facilities were provided for them with some assistance from Government. I would not suggest that adults between 40 and 50 should be tackled at the present time. I realize the difficulties those of us who are in favour of such a system have to meet. The matter was discussed at various places, including the Franchise Commission, and I anticipate strong opposition from certain quarters, but I say that the majority opinion would be strongly in favour of Government doing something to educate adults, particularly those over 14 years.

It is within the knowledge of Government that in certain places in Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo at the present time children are not going to school because there are no school build-

ings available. If Government cannot do something for those children it might be difficult to do something for the youths and the adults. It is a problem which I urge Government to tackle expeditiously. I believe that recommendations have been made by various Committees, and I believe that the funds of the Colonial Development and Welfare organization would be available for something to be done in that direction. I hope that Government will be able to make a start next year, and that when a start is made it will proceed at a rapid rate. I understand that Jamaica and Trinidad (I cannot resist the temptation to say that we are on equality with them now) are getting grants, and I think a strong case should be put up to the Imperial Government, that now that we are a first class Colony like those other Colonies, and since they are being helped, and helped, I think, very lavishly (tremendously, my friend says) and that we should press our claim for this additional money to build schools, not only for children but for youths and adults. As a member of the Advisory Committee I will press that this matter be pursued very rapidly.

I have one or two other matters to raise but I think it would be better to raise them when we reach the particular items.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: The debate on this head has lasted for some considerable time, and I think it is the desire of the Council that the vote for Education should be passed this evening. The first point to which I wish to direct the attention of the Council is that made by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Dias, who spoke early this afternoon on the amount to be voted and the benefits which the Colony will derive from the expenditure of that sum. The hon. Member referred to the fact that the very first thing Government should tackle was the purification of some of the homes of the people of this Colony, in order to eradicate the foul language being used day after day by children,

not only in their own homes but in the streets and other public places. I do not think the blame is to be laid at the door of the Education Department at all, or even that of Government. I think that in the first place the parents of those children are to be blamed. They are the persons who should educate their children toward a better way of living and it seems to me that there is also a duty cast upon the Churches to speak to those parents at the proper time and to teach them how to conduct their homes. To lay the blame either at the door of Government or the Education Department does not seem to me to be justified at all.

Certain Members have raised the question of the erection of schools in the country districts, and the provision of homes for teachers and Attendance Officers. I think Members must have read quite recently that it is the intention of Sir Frank Stockdale to recommend a grant of \$200,000 over a period of six years for the erection of houses for teachers in the various districts.

The CHAIRMAN: Provision for schools. Houses for teachers are separate.

Mr. LUCKHOO: So that what Members are now asking to be done will soon be accomplished. With respect to the Attendance Officers spoken of by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee), it does not seem possible for Government to appoint so many officers to be able to station one in each district of the Colony. They are doing their work in their own way, and I feel sure that the Head of the Department, who is here, will tell the Council that everything is being done to send the children to the nearest school. I do not think the time is ripe, or will ever become ripe, for Attendance Officers to be stationed in every district of the Colony.

I was very pleased this afternoon to hear the remarks of the hon. the Sixth Nominated Member (Mr. Edun). He

said that the present policy of the Education Department is good, and I think Members who have studied the question of primary education in this Colony must agree with him. The only complaint he made was that the text-books or Readers used in the schools are not suitable, and that the Department should revert to the old Royal Readers, or some other Readers used in the past.

On the question of secondary education several Members have spoken, and I think Government is doing its best to assist some of the recognized secondary schools by giving them a grant or subsidy from year to year. I refer to the Bishops' High School for Girls and the Convent. I now understand that the grant to the Convent has been withdrawn.

Mr. WOOLFORD: A grant is being made to the Orphanage.

Mr. LUCKHOO: The hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) raised the question of the curious position of a few head teachers, but I think no blame can be attached to the Director of Education who has had to carry out the recommendations made by the Wight Committee with respect to the revised salary scales for teachers. If there are any defects in the application of these recommendations I think something will be done by Government to remedy them, and I can assure Members that the Director is at present dealing with the matter. I hope that will satisfy the hon. Member on my right (Mr. de Aguiar), who felt very strongly on the question when he spoke earlier this afternoon.

There is hardly anything more I could very well say, because I think the estimates under this head have been well received, in view of the discussion which took place this afternoon and early this evening. I hope that the various items will be passed without very much discussion, and consideration of the head will be concluded very early this evening.

Item 1e—3 Asst. Inspectors of Schools \$1,680 to \$2,160 by \$120), \$5,380.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I wish to invite attention to the salary scale of the Asst. Inspectors of Schools in order to make the point that it seems to me that this is a matter which might well receive some consideration. The position is that these Asst. Inspectors start at £350 rising to £450. I have no doubt that when this scale was fixed recently there was no knowledge of the scale proposed for head teachers in the various schools. On that scale head teachers will go to a maximum of £400.

The CHAIRMAN: A few of them.

Mr. de AGUIAR: That is the scale, but how many will reach that maximum is another matter. The post of Asst. Inspector of Schools is senior to that of a head teacher of a school. His duties are to supervise and generally to enquire into the conduct and general discipline of the school, and it is considered that both the minimum and the maximum of the salary scale for Asst. Inspectors of Schools should receive consideration.

The same remarks apply to item 1b on the next page, and whilst I am on my feet I may refer to it. It seems curious that the Assistant Mistress of the Government Training College for Teachers should receive a lower minimum salary than a trained certificated teacher, and quite likely her maximum salary will also be less. I think the two points I have made should be looked into. I am not pressing them today, but I do urge that some consideration should be given to them.

Mr. LUCKHOO: Consideration of the first point mentioned by the hon. Member is engaging the attention of my Committee at present.

Item j—Supervising Dietician, Children's Breakfast Centres (\$1,200 to \$1,440 by \$96), \$1,288.

Mr. EDUN: In districts like Windsor Forest, where the majority of the children are East Indians, I have been told by parents that they would prefer text-books instead of breakfast. I am wondering whether that may not be accepted as a policy.

The CHAIRMAN: I think you might raise the point at item 15.

Mr. FERREIRA: I would like to pay tribute to the officer who is carrying out the duties of Supervising Dietician, and I must congratulate the Department on the happy choice, because when the vote was passed last year it was rather a large sum, and I was sceptical as to whether the project could be successfully carried out, especially when I realized the difficulty in obtaining the necessary equipment so as to have these breakfast centres running in a satisfactory manner. I can assure the Council from my personal knowledge, not only in New Amsterdam but on the Berbice river of all places, where communication is rather difficult, that that officer has travelled through that district to Orealla, and her work has been successful and is greatly appreciated. I would like to pay tribute to the officer who has done a successful job.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Item 3—Expenses, Education Committee, \$64.

Mr. JACOB: I would like to have a little information. Are there travelling or other expenses? I think it would be well if Government considered the question of having one Committee only.

Mr. CREASE: This nominal amount of \$64 has been on the estimate for many years, and as a rule it is not touched.

The CHAIRMAN: Cut it down to \$5. I see a large number of increases and very few reductions.

Mr. de AGUIAR: The actual expenditure was \$5.

The CHAIRMAN: Somebody's train fare.

Mr. CREASE: Incidental expenses; probably a new chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Do they break the chairs? As you have only spent \$5 we had better reduce it to \$5 for next year.

EDUCATION—SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS
AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Item 1d—Resident Lady Superintendent (\$288 by \$24 to \$480), \$336.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I want to make an appeal in respect of this item. I presume that the sum of \$336 provides for an increment in 1945. The plea I was about to make is this. The hours of this particular employee are very long. I have been trying to work them out. I think they are something like nineteen hours a day. It does seem to be a very meagre wage. I do not want to interfere with the scale, but I am wondering whether Government can see its way to carry out the figure at the maximum of the scale so that the person in this particular post will receive some immediate benefit, otherwise it will take, I think, something like eight years for her to get to the maximum.

The CHAIRMAN: I will refer that to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the Director.

Mr. LEE: Under item 4—Books and educational supplies, \$550—I would like to enquire whether this sum is sufficient to meet the needs of the Primary Schools.

The CHAIRMAN: It is the Training College.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: With reference to the point raised by the hon. Member for Central Demerara with

respect to item 1(d) I think, sir, the suggestion made by him will find favour at least with my Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. WOOLFORD: May I suggest when adjustments are made in respect to the salaries of teachers but instead of giving effect to them as is apparently done by resolution of this Council supporting the recommendation of the Committee they appear in the Education Code. That is the authority to give effect to salaries of teachers. Therefore every teacher or person interested would look at the Code for the salaries. I suggest that the necessary amendment be made in the Code. That is the proper authority for the salaries.

Item 10—Grants, etc., \$58,030.

Mr. ROTH With regard to sub-head 10, during the last thirteen months I have been worrying the Department in connection with the necessity for a small school in the Potaro goldfields. I would be glad to know what the position is in that respect. I also would like to bring to Government's notice the necessity for a kindergarten school in Georgetown. Several parents have approached me about there being no first-class kindergarten school in the city. The need is very badly felt in some quarters. I ask that Government give the matter some consideration.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: With respect to the school for the Potaro District, that matter is being dealt with by the Committee. We have written persons there. We hope to be able to give a reply as early as possible.

Mr. EDUN: I am enquiring whether the Advisory Committee or the Department is considering the advisability of taking over or aiding the Mackay Memorial School at Wakenaam. That is a very vexed question. I do not want to take up the time of the Council now, as we have not progressed much for the

whole day. I think the Chairman of the Advisory Committee knows very much more than I do about this matter and now that the schoolmaster has been removed something ought to be done.

Again I want to draw Your Excellency's attention to Hindi and Urdu education and to enquire whether this matter has come to any head as yet. There is a certain amount of money which has been given by Government for Hindi and Urdu education. I think certain organizations are endeavouring to get Government to restore this little trifling sum in order to help them to carry out this education. I do not know what is the position today, but I think these things should be brought to a head—both the Mackay Memorial School and Hindi and Urdu education.

Mr. LEE: If I am permitted to say in regard to the Mackay Memorial School, I went into the question very fully with the Department and it was found that Government could do nothing as the school was just half a mile away from a Grant-in-Aid Methodist School. The residents of that area have pleaded with Government to consider whether it is not possible to have a Government controlled school there and so avoid having any denominational school. They are trying their best to raise funds for the purpose and, if necessary, hand it over to Government to do what it can.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: I am afraid we were unable to meet the request of the persons who wrote on behalf of the Mackay Memorial School, because there is an existing school in that area capable of accommodating all the children of school-going age and it would be a breach of the Regulations to support such a plea.

The CHAIRMAN: We will take a note of these comments.

Item 13—Upkeep Schools' Recreation Ground, \$500.

Mr. FERREIRA: I can only assume that this item applies to the schools in Georgetown and its suburbs. I would like to be correct in case I am wrong. If I am correct, I do think that New Amsterdam with a school population running into a thousand should be given some consideration. Lands are available but the children of New Amsterdam have just one recreation ground which is borrowed from the Police Department. The Municipality has large areas of land available, and I do think that a small grant will enable those children to have a suitable recreation and so keep them off the streets.

Item 15 — Children's Breakfast Centres, \$81,310.

Mr. EDUN: I am thinking whether in those districts where Indian children are in the majority and the parents do not wish to take advantage of the food supplied by the Centres text-books cannot be given the children instead. I want a reply to that, and I ask that it be given in writing so as to have it on record. I would also like to have a reply about the Hindi and Urdu education grant. I have not been told anything about it.

Mr. LEE: May I ask Government whether it can see its way to establish a breakfast centre for the Fredericksburg School, for the reason that it is attended by children from Maria Johanna which is about two and a half miles away and from Noitgedacht which is about one and a quarter mile away. Those children have to walk those distances to and from school and sometimes carry their breakfast with them to school. No accommodation whatever is provided in the school or in its immediate vicinity for those children to take their breakfast and I think if some accommodation is provided it would serve a very useful purpose in the education of the children.

Mr. JACOB: I was glad to hear the tribute paid to the Supervising

Dietician by the hon. Member for Berbice River and, I think, Government has given an undertaking that the amount provided for Breakfast Centres will be substantially increased. Last year when this matter was debated under a supplementary estimate, I pointed out the various places where these centres can be established. I am disappointed to find that nothing has been included in this estimate for 1945 for that purpose. As a matter of fact there is a decrease of \$1,700 and the explanation given in the Notes to the page reads:

The decrease of \$1,700 is represented by the transfer of the salary of the Supervising Dietician (\$1,200) to the pensionable establishment and removal of the cost of utensils already supplied (\$500).

I believe this Council would vote without hesitation an increased amount for Breakfast Centres and for books. I merely raise the point so as to find out whether there is any opposition so that the matter can be brought up in a supplementary estimate for an increased amount.

The CHAIRMAN: I announced yesterday that an application is going forward to the Comptroller of Colonial Development and Welfare. The application is in preparation.

Mr. FERREIRA: The question as regards Edinburgh and Friends is that unfortunately there is no kitchen up there. That is a very malarial area and, I think, the children there are more in need of a breakfast centre than in many other schools in the Colony. I have only this afternoon discussed with the Director of Education whether or not something can be done for those children, and he assured me that if a lorry was put at his disposal breakfast from the New Amsterdam Centre can be sent up to those two schools I am satisfied in my own mind that Government can between the Transport and Harbours Department,

the Produce Depot and the Mail Service obtain at least one truck for the purpose. I would ask Government to press either of those services to provide conveyance for the breakfast from the New Amsterdam Centre to those two schools which are the most needy in this Colony.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure the Director will take notice of that.

CARNEGIE TRADE SCHOOL FOR WOMEN.

Mr. LEE: The salary of the Principal, \$2,400, is placed below the line. Last year it was above the line. Is it a mistake?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The Principal of this Institution is serving under an agreement and is not pensionable directly from this Government but a contribution is made towards the Pension Scheme. I think it is shown as item 28 on the same page—"Contribution under Teachers (Superannuation) Act 1937, U.K. in respect of Principal."

Mr. LEE: I take it then that the placing of the salary on the Fixed Establishment in the 1944 Estimates is wrong.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The fact that any particular post is shown above the line is immaterial if the Officer is serving under an agreement. There are many instances of that throughout the Service.

Mr. LEE: If that is so, I plead that she be appointed permanently. She has done useful work. You should go and see the work she is doing there. I plead that she be appointed permanently.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is not her wish.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: have a few minor amendments to move. Item (a)—Secretary (\$720 by \$60 to \$960)—after some consideration it is

decided to ask this Council to approve of the maximum of the salary scale being increased from \$960 to \$1,200. Similarly item (b)—5 Senior Instructors (\$720 by \$60 to \$960)—the maximum be increased to \$1,200. Item (e)—5 Junior Instructors—I move that the one at \$480 by \$60 to \$600 be placed above the line and the maximum of her scale be increased from \$600 to \$720. This salary scale with the maximum I have stated are in accordance with the Clerical Grade, and it is considered that the responsibility of these particular Officers is as great as that of those of the Clerical Grade. Consequently the change and increase in the total of the several items from \$4,020 to \$4,560. There is no actual increase in the expenditure at the moment. It is just a change in the maximum figure but the consequential increase I have stated is because one item has been placed above the line on account of the increase of the maximum salary. I also move the deletion of item 26 because at the last meeting the Council approved of the introduction of an item under Head—Agriculture—to provide for the maintenance of the grounds of this Institution.

Amendments put, and agreed to.

Item 29—Grant to Berbice High School for Boys, \$4,848.

Mr. FERREIRA: The Chairman of the Advisory Committee mentioned the desirability of bringing the Berbice High Schools under Government control. I can assure you that it will meet with the satisfaction and approval of the teachers who at present are dissatisfied with the rates of salary scale which are much lower than those paid either at the Bishops' High School for Girls or at Queen's College merely for the reason that the Authorities cannot afford to pay adequate salaries. I would ask the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to take steps to have these schools, if it is possible, brought under the control of

Government. The Berbice High Schools in New Amsterdam take the place of Queen's College and the Bishops' High School in Georgetown, and I see no reason why Berbice should not be supplied with adequate educational facilities. Berbice is a large County and contributes a large portion of the revenue of the Colony, and it is distinctly, hard that parents in that County should have to send their children to Georgetown to be educated. I therefore ask that immediate steps be taken to adopt the suggestion as made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee into force.

The CHAIRMAN: It will be considered. Are you prepared to face an expenditure of \$20,000?

Mr. FERREIRA: If you are doing it for Georgetown I can see no reason why the same should not be done for Berbice.

The CHAIRMAN: We took over the Bishops' High School at \$4,000 and it is now costing us \$29,000. Can we afford it?

Mr. EDUN: I am at pains to understand how some Members can blow one way and then another way. I think firstly Government ought to be concerned with Primary Education. Now that Secondary Schools are springing up all over the Colony, I think we should encourage Private Schools by making certain regulations. I do not think we can take over any other High School in this Colony from now on.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I am supporting the views of the hon. Member for Berbice River. I am glad he has not taken much time to change his views when he questioned my remark that the majority of people in the Colony will vote for Government Schools. I am pleased that it has not taken half an hour for him to change that view and advocate the taking over of the High Schools in Berbice. I support his views

wholeheartedly. It is not a question of \$20,000 being well spent. It is not only a matter of controlling but taking over those schools.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no doubt the Chairman of the Advisory Committee has it in mind, but not for the present year, 1945, that we are considering.

Item 32—British Guiana Scholarship, \$7,574.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: I understand it is rather too late to move in an amount for the year 1945 with your permission, as the examination for the scholarship is held in June or July following. It will require some time to frame regulations, if Your Excellency accedes to the request that another scholarship be granted for girls only.

The CHAIRMAN: We will put it up in due course.

Mr. LEE: Here you have girls competing for the British Guiana Scholarship under the same regulations as the boys now. You are not creating a lower standard for girls; you are only adding another scholarship and saying that it is to be for girls exclusively. How then we cannot vote the money now? Why wait for new regulations to be made? Are we going to lower the standard or are we going to keep it at the same old standard? I feel that the money can be voted now and the girls fall under the same regulations as the boys.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: If it happens that a girl does not qualify at the examination for this year, the vote would lapse. I think there is no harm in placing it on the estimates. It will be a good gesture to show that Government is genuinely disposed to give an additional scholarship for girls.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The creation of a new scholarship for girls must be formally made. The scholarship

is not paid for one year. The proper procedure is to pass a resolution creating the scholarship. You cannot undertake to vote the amount only for one year. How do you know that next year the Council might not change its mind and decline to vote the amount for the next year? The scholarship is tenable for three years. I suggest that this Council pass a resolution creating the scholarship and leave it to the Governor in Council to make the regulations setting out the terms of the scholarship, and not merely vote an amount on the Estimates for one year.

Mr. LEE: Would the regulations be new and different from those now in force?

The CHAIRMAN: If you create a scholarship you must create it for three years.

Mr. EDUN: I just like to endorse what the hon. the Colonial Treasurer said. I am beginning to fear that we cannot start now as there are things which must be considered beforehand. I am wedded to free Primary Education, and the day may come when we can give to every child with a little brains secondary education free, *gratis* and for nothing. That is what I am looking forward to but not now. We are just wasting time pushing up this scholarship.

The CHAIRMAN: I congratulate the hon. Member on his sentiments. They are exactly mine.

Mr. LEE: Here we have the Government complaining that there are not sufficiently trained people for certain technical work in Government Service, and here on the other hand a majority of us are willing to give opportunities to girls to be qualified and this Council is saying we must delay another year.

The CHAIRMAN: Put forward your resolution and we will take it in that form.

Mr. JACOB: This is what I quarrel about. In 1943 the Advisory Committee recommended to Government that in the 1945 Estimates an additional scholarship should be provided. When I was speaking early in the general debate the hon. the Fourth Nominated Member, who is Chairman of the Advisory Committee, assured this Council that when we reach the particular item the money will be voted in. Now I see a complete somersault. I see the hon. the Colonial Treasurer is saying, like the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, that it cannot be done now as regulations have to be made. Then the hon. the Colonial Treasurer says a resolution has to be passed. Well, sir, I am not going to press it—in fact we cannot press it—as Government is against introducing the amount, but I am going to ask Government to do what it can to let the amount come under a supplementary estimate in 1945, so that the additional scholarship can be awarded. If this Government assures this Council that it will do that, it will be satisfactory. On the other hand the Chair has congratulated the hon. the Sixth Nominated Member on his attitude in not having an additional scholarship. I am puzzled; I am amazed.

Mr. EDUN: To a point of correction! The hon. Member does not comprehend that you are supporting a principle in advocating that we should not rush things like that.

Mr. JACOB: That is what I quarrel about. I want to have some policy. Government is not in favour of giving this additional scholarship, and the slightest pretext gives it an opportunity of not doing so. I hope we will get on a little better after now.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: I must correct the remark made by the hon. Member. I have not made a complete somersault in this matter at all. I realize the difficulty which has been pointed out to me by the hon. the Colonial Treasurer. At the present time there is an open scholarship for boys and

girls. The object in moving a vote here is to provide a scholarship for girls alone, and that would require regulations to provide for a scholarship for girls alone. At present a girl can obtain a scholarship if she is placed first in order of merit, and that she could get in July next year.

Mr. JACOB: The hon. Member is a lawyer of the greatest skill in the Colony. I do not blame him alone; I blame the Government, but if he chooses to accept some of the blame that is a matter for him.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I suggest that a resolution might be made putting on record that this Council approves of the creation of a scholarship for girls.

EDUCATION—QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

Item m—*Allowance to Librarian, \$180.*

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am sorry to have to do it but this question of allowances always tickles my throat, so to speak. I see a new item has crept in under this head. It is true that the amount is only \$180 but I do not know whether it will go up. If someone on the clerical staff is performing the duties of Librarian why should he receive an allowance? If he does not look after the Library what else does he do?

The CHAIRMAN: I know nothing about it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I know the case very well. A very strong request was made by the Principal who assured Government that the lady in question, who happens to be the Secretary of the College, has a very responsible job. Apart from her secretarial duties she is also Librarian of the College, and runs the College book store. She also took charge of the physical aspect of the Library, looking after the printing of books and so on.

Her salary is on the normal scale of Grade B, and very low in the scale. Government thought a good case had been made out for this special allowance for looking after two libraries. I am very glad to support it.

The CHAIRMAN: By whom has it been put up?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: By the Principal of Queen's College.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am sorry I cannot accept the explanation. This question of allowances is something that must be carefully watched. To my mind this is the thin edge of the wedge. I formally move its deletion.

Mr. EDUN: I support that.

Mr. LEE: As a member of the Old Boys' Association I would like to point out the usefulness of the Library at Queen's College. What the Treasurer has said is true. The Librarian has a lot of work, and if the allowance is removed I suggest that her grade should be raised. I would prefer to see her put on a higher grade.

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: Like the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) I am also opposed to these allowances, but if the officer is worthy of an increase of salary and she is very low down in Grade B, give her an increment or two.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I am afraid that those Members who have spoken in favour of this item are not consistent. Let us turn over to the next page and see the salary of the Secretary to the Bishops' High School who, I believe, looks after all the posting of letters. The maximum of her post is \$720, while a Grade B Clerk in the Clerical Service goes to a maximum of \$1,200. I cannot see any reason to allow a special allowance to creep in under this vote.

Mr. CREASE: As a member of the Board of Governors of the College may I be permitted to say that the officer

referred to was in the first instance a Class III clerk, and has been employed at Queen's College for many years. She is more than an ordinary clerk. She is typist and private secretary, and looks after fees, accounts, school reports, the Library and several other matters. In addition to all this she is now secretary to the Board of Governors. It is felt that with all these duties, which are far more than those attached to an ordinary Class III clerk, she should be given some allowance for the additional work. It is a post which cannot be filled very easily. It takes a person some time to get into the work of the College, and in order to keep her there it was strongly recommended by the Board of Governors that some compensation should be given to her for this extra work.

The CHAIRMAN: Was this reviewed by the Advisory Committee?

Mr. CREASE: No, sir; it went to the Board of Governors.

The CHAIRMAN: Surely it should have gone to the Advisory Committee. Do you support it, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. J. A. LUCKHOO: I am against these allowances. If the lady is worthy of an increase of salary and she is low down in the Grade, give her an increment or two.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This, like other allowances, is somewhat misunderstood. You cannot rectify the position by giving somebody in the Service a double increment because she happens to be doing a certain job. You would create considerable discontent because, when that officer is transferred, she would have had a double increment. As I said in the case of the Clerk of the Councils, it is the common practice to give special allowances for special duties. It is really more economical. If somebody with higher pay is transferred to this post I do not

see why an allowance should be paid to such an officer, but so long as a lowly paid clerk is performing these duties I see no harm in giving this allowance. Members say "Pay a person properly but not by way of an allowance." I say an allowance is a more sensible way; it is more elastic and more economical.

The CHAIRMAN: I am going to refer this back to the Legislative Council Advisory Committee. It seems to me that it should have gone there in the first instance. I will refer the whole of the Queen's College vote to the Advisory Committee.

Mr. deAGUIAR: Special attention should be drawn to the fact that in this particular Department there are two persons in the Clerical Department.

The CHAIRMAN: When I appointed the Advisory Committees I hoped that they would have the whole business of going into the estimates before they come before the Council.

EDUCATION—THE BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I have risen to ask whether it is Your Excellency's wish that the estimates under this head should also go to the Advisory Committee?

The CHAIRMAN: I should say "Yes." There is very little on the page.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I see that the clerk is called Secretary. The previous designation was "clerical assistant," but there is no person in the Service performing the duties of a clerical assistant who could by transfer, say from the Secretariat, perform the duties these poor girls have to perform. The Director of Education has sufficiently explained the position, and I should be glad that the salary attached to the post should be raised. I ask that be also referred to the Advisory Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: We will refer both these heads to the Advisory Committee.

LANDS AND MINES DEPARTMENT.

Mr. WOOLFORD: A point arose during the discussion in Finance Committee which the Treasurer promised to take up with the Head of this Department. It relates to the idea that the greatest encouragement should be given to apprentices for the Land Surveyors' service. I see the Head of the Department here and I think he will confirm the view that frequent applications are made to his Department for survey work to be undertaken throughout the Colony, and his only reply is that he has not the available staff. There is plenty of work to be done, and as the hon. the Fourth Nominated Member (Mr. J. A. Luckhoo) knows, there are many disputes throughout the Colony which cannot be determined because there is no available Government Land Surveyor. I may mention that a Land Surveyor who had a large practice has recently died. I refer to the late Mr. Durham, whose surveys were regarded as being very accurate. There is also the case of a retired Government Surveyor who, owing to age, is not in a position to undertake more practice than he at present enjoys. I know of parents who are willing to encourage their children to become apprentices and to enter the Service even without pay, but there has been a considerable amount of hesitation by Government to take such persons into the Service. I suggest that the pay should be considerably increased. A case in the Supreme Court cannot be decided because we cannot get a surveyor to visit the *locus in quo* in the Mahaicony creek.

Mr. JACOB: I have not been able to hear with advantage all the pearls of wisdom that have fallen from the lips of the hon. Member.

Mr. WOOLFORD: N pearls of wisdom. I was making a practical suggestion. If the hon. Member would attend the Meetings of the Finance Committee where we sit cheek-by-jowl he would hear all I say.

Mr. JACOB: I am constitutionally against Star Chamber methods, and I attend meetings of the Finance Committee only when I find it very convenient to myself. My whole make-up is against Star Chamber methods. I gathered however, from the remarks of the hon. Member, that he wishes the vote of this Department increased. I hope I am correct.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I suggested that adequate provision should be made for land surveyors to be employed in the Government Service.

Mr. JACOB: I notice that in the items under "Fixed Establishment" there is an increase of \$6,480. In addition to that I believe the salary of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines has been increased on the Civil List by another £100, so that we can safely say that the estimate for next year is roughly \$7,000 more in respect of the Fixed Establishment. I want to see some compensating benefit. On the revenue side I find that the estimated revenue from rents for Colony lands in 1945 is \$12,000, as against the revised estimate of \$13,000 for 1944—\$1,000 less. The estimated revenue from Crown lands for 1945 is the same as that for 1944—\$28,000. I see some increased revenue is anticipated from Forests, Lands and Mines, but that is due, I believe, to royalty on timber, balata, etc.

I have always complained that sufficient use is not made of Colony and Crown lands which are available, and that applications are made to the Department of Lands and Mines from time to time but are not properly attended to. Thousands of people require lands for cattle grazing and cultivation, but through various devices

they cannot get those lands. I do urge that since Government is increasing the salaries of these officers we must get some compensating benefit from these lands. Lands which are easily accessible are not given to farmers. In some cases they are locked up by certain interests. The time has come when Government must go into the whole question. That is one of the reasons why I voted against the Civil List. The officers on the Civil List have instructions to keep these lands bottled up.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you say that?

Mr. JACOB: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: What does that mean?

Mr. JACOB: I have come to that conclusion because persistent applications have been made. I have been responsible for several applications. I have sent people to the Department of Lands and Mines over and over again for lands. I can name the places—the East Bank of Demerara, the Canals Polder, and the East Coast of Demerara. Those lands are not given to the people—why, I don't know. In some cases the applicants are referred to the people who actually control those lands and have their powerful interests abroad. I say I have a suspicion. If my previous statement that these officers have specific instructions is too strong, and objection is taken to it by the President, I will simply say that I have a suspicion.

The CHAIRMAN: Instructions from whom?

Mr. JACOB: From the Secretary of State.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall I ask him?

Mr. JACOB: I don't mind. I have made up my mind to speak very plainly

this year and next year, if I am still in the Council, because I am thoroughly disgusted with Government's methods. We cannot make any progress. You are increasing salaries but you are not expecting revenue. You are running the Colony into bankruptcy. I say that plainly. You are making no plans for the utilization of these lands.

Mr. ROTH: The estimated receipts from Forests, Lands and Mines for 1945 are about \$14,000 higher than the revised estimate of revenue for 1944.

Mr. JACOB: I must excuse my hon. friend. I took note of that and said that timber was responsible for \$10,000, and balata \$6,000. That is more than the figure quoted by the hon. Member. I must ask him to make sure of his facts before he attempts to correct me. I have not risen to speak on this matter haphazardly. I have been studying it for years. It is unfortunate that the Hansard reports of the debates are not available. There is some reason for not having the reports of those debates printed in time, so that reference can be made to them from year to year. I am very serious about this matter. We want to increase production of rice, livestock, coconuts, and every kind of thing. Fine lands are there. Just imagine in a country of 90,000 square miles people cannot get lands. I do not understand

this thing at all, and I strongly protest against the methods of the Department of Lands and Mines. I am glad the Commissioner is here, and I hope he will be able to explain the matter away satisfactorily.

Mr. FERREIRA: I wish to make one general observation. I think the time has come when the Department of Lands and Mines should be amalgamated with the Forestry Department. In several respects they overlap each other, with the result that this Colony wastes several thousand dollars. I think the hon. Member expressed himself fully when he said that lands are tied up. The question of leases, especially of land for cattle grazing, should be examined, and it should be ascertained whether the holders of such lands carry out the terms of those leases—whether they occupy those lands beneficially. If they do not then those lands should be taken away from them. I have in mind certain places which should be known to the Department of Lands and Mines. I am not suggesting that it is done with any intention, but I do not think there has been any real investigation. I think lands which are not beneficially occupied should be handed over to those who could occupy them beneficially.

At this stage the Council resumed and adjourned until the following day at 2 p.m.