

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

\* *Wednesday, 7th December, 1932.*

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Governor, SIR EDWARD DENHAM, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., President, in the Chair.

### PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G.

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

The Hon. T. T. Smellie (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

The Hon. T. Millard, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer.

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

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

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

The Hon. E. F. Fredericks, LL.B. (Essequibo River).

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

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

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

The Hon. Q. B. de Freitas, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Surgeon-General (Acting).

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

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

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

The Hon. A. E. Seeram (Eastern Demerara).

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

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

The Hon. G. E. Anderson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

### MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 6th December, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

### ORDER OF THE DAY.

#### HOUSING OF OFFICERS.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS, on behalf of Mr. WOOLFORD, asked the following questions:—

1. How many Public Officers are in receipt of house allowances?

2. What posts are held by such officers?

3. Where are they now stationed?

4. How many of these officers actually occupy dwelling-houses, and how many do not?

5. Specify in each case what sums are paid by such officers in respect of the dwelling-houses occupied by them, and what sums are drawn by those who do not occupy such houses?

6. Is the Government aware of any cases where such officers do not occupy dwelling-houses, but nevertheless have drawn the allowance intended for such purposes? If so how long has the Government been so aware?

7. If the answer to the latter portion of the preceding question is in the affirmative, what explanation, if any, has the Government to offer for permitting such officers to draw these allowances?

8. How many officers have during the past three years been transferred from one district to another and have since been deprived of either the duty or house allowances previously enjoyed by them?

9. Are there any Public Officers in the districts to which any of the officers referred to in the previous question have been transferred to enjoying either duty or house allowances?

10. What are the posts held by these officers?

11. What reasons, if any, has the Government for withholding either the duty or house allowances in the cases referred to in question 8, specifying in each case the particular reason for doing so?

12. Are there any cases where appointments have been made with the privilege of free quarters and where the appointees are not occupying the accommodation provided for them? If there are any such cases will the Government specify the posts held by such officers and furnish the reasons for the non-occupation of the quarters in question?

13. Has the Government in such cases paid any amounts for the accommodation of such officers? If so, will the Government furnish the amounts paid in each case?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. C. Douglas-Jones) replied as follows:—

1. Sixty-four.\*
2. and 3. Medical—
  - Government Ophthalmologist, Public Hospital, Georgetown.
  - Radiographer, Public Hospital, Georgetown.
  - Assistant Radiographer, Public Hospital, Georgetown.
  - Assistant Resident Surgeon, Public Hospital, Berbice.
  - Steward, Public Hospital, Georgetown.
  - Steward, Public Hospital, Berbice.
  - Government Pharmacist, Public Hospital, Georgetown.
  - Dispenser, Public Hospital, Berbice.
  - Matron, Public Hospital, Berbice.
  - Night Matron, Public Hospital, Berbice.
  - Laboratory Assistant, Leprosy Hospital, Mahaica.
  - Senior Dispenser, Public Hospital, Georgetown.
  - Assistant Matron, Public Hospital, Georgetown.
- District Administration, Berbice—
  - 5th Class Clerk, New Amsterdam.
- Department of Agriculture—
  - Agricultural Superintendent, Vreed-en-Hoop, West Bank, Demerara.
  - Agricultural Instructor, Rose Hall, Corentyne, Berbice.
  - Agricultural Instructor, Cove and John, East Coast, Demerara.
- Poor Law Department—
  - Matron, Alms House, Georgetown.
- Public Works Department—
  - Resident Engineer—Pure Water Supply Scheme, Georgetown.
  - Well Driller, at place of operation.
- Post Office—
  - Wireless Operator, Bartica.
- Public Health Department—
  - One Government Medical Officer of Health, Georgetown.
  - Two Assistant Government Medical Officers of Health, 1 at Georgetown and 1 in Berbice.
  - Two County Sanitary Inspectors, 1 at Georgetown and 1 in Berbice.
  - Four Sanitary Inspectors, Class II., 1 at Georgetown, 1 at Bellfield, 1 at Rose Hall, Coarentyne, and 1 at Sudlie.
- Prisons—
  - Thirty-one Warders, 26 in Georgetown and 5 in New Amsterdam.

\* NOTE.—In addition, \$120 per annum is paid to each married County Sergeant-Major and Lance Sergeant-Major—total \$600 and \$36 per annum each to other ranks and stations where quarters are not available—total \$13,788.

- One Baker, Georgetown.
  - One Schoolmaster, New Amsterdam.
  - One Accountant, Georgetown.
4. Medical—
    - (a) Eleven.
    - (b) Two Officers occupy apartments.
  - District Administration, Berbice—
    - (a) One.
    - (b) Nil.
  - Department of Agriculture—
    - (a) Three.
    - (b) Nil.
  - Poor Law Department—
    - (a) One.
    - (b) Nil.
  - Public Works Department—Pure Water Supply Scheme—
    - (a) One.
    - (b) One.
  - Post Office—
    - (a) One.
    - (b) Nil.
  - Public Health Department—
    - (a) Seven.
    - (b) Two. Of these, one is to be transferred to New Amsterdam and one has just arrived in the Colony.
  - Prisons—
    - (a) Thirty-four.
    - (b) Nil.
  5. Medical—
 

	per annum.
(a) Government Ophthalmologist ...	\$ 480
Radiographer ...	360
Assistant Radiographer ...	360
Assistant Resident Surgeon, Berbice ...	300
Steward, Public Hospital, Georgetown ...	300
Steward, Public Hospital, Berbice ...	240
Dispenser, Public Hospital, Berbice ...	180
Night Matron, Public Hospital, Berbice ...	120
Laboratory Assistant, Leprosy Hospital ...	180
Senior Dispenser, Public Hospital, Georgetown ...	240
Assistant Matron, Public Hospital, Georgetown ...	180
(b) Officers who occupy apartments—	
Government Pharmacist ...	300
Matron, Public Hospital, Berbice ...	180
District Administration, Berbice—	
(a) 5th Class Clerk ...	300
(b) Nil.	
Department of Agriculture—	
(a) Agricultural Superintendent, W.B., Demerara ...	300
Agricultural Instructor, Rosehall ...	180
Agricultural Instructor, Cove and John ...	192
(b) Nil.	
Poor Law Department—	
(a) Matron, Alms House ...	120
(b) Nil.	
Public Works Department—(Pure Water Supply Scheme)	
(a) Well Driller ...	\$ 300
(b) Resident Engineer ...	360
Post Office—	
(a) Wireless Operator, Bartica ...	180
(b) Nil.	

## Public Health Department—

(a) Government Medical Officer of Health ...	...\$ 480
Two County Sanitary Inspectors, each ...	360
Four Sanitary Inspectors, Class II., each ..	180
(b) Two Asst. Government Medical Officers of Health, each	480

## Prisons—

(a) Accountant	312
Baker	144
Schoolmaster	84
3 Warders, each	144
9 Warders, each	120
2 Warders, each	108
1 Warder	102
11 Warders, each	96
2 Warders, each	90
3 Warders, each	72

## (b) Nil.

6. No. In the two instances mentioned in the reply 4 (b)—Medical—apartments are regarded as being in the same category as a dwelling-house. The same remarks apply as regards the Resident Engineer, Pure Water Supply Scheme.

7. See answer 6.

8. Department of Agriculture—One. The Agricultural Instructor, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

9. No.

10. See answer 9.

11. Department of Agriculture—When serving as an Agricultural Assistant in the Pomeroon District, the officer now serving as Agricultural Instructor, New Amsterdam, was allowed to occupy a Government house at Marlborough, free, but it was no condition of his substantive post that he was entitled to a free house. He also received a duty allowance owing to his having to live in an outstation. On his transfer to New Amsterdam, Berbice, this duty allowance automatically ceased.

12. Medical—Two acting Government Medical Officers attached to the Public Hospital, Georgetown, who, by nature of their appoint-

ment, are entitled to free bachelor quarters are permitted to reside outside the hospital compound as they are married.

Poor Law Department—Yes. The Matron is entitled to free quarters under the terms of her appointment, but on account of the need for increased accommodation at the Alms House the quarters were taken over for conversion into wards and an allowance given in lieu thereof.

Post Office—One. The Wireless Engineer, on appointment as Wireless Station Superintendent, since combined with the Wireless Engineer's post, was required to occupy Government Quarters in the Wireless Compound. Six months ago on health grounds, and owing to the deterioration of the quarters and roads in the Wireless Compound, he was given permission by Government to reside elsewhere at his own expense.

13. Poor Law Department—See answer 5.

## COLONIAL TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS, on behalf of Mr. SEERAM, asked the following question:—

Give a comparative statement for the years 1930, 1931 and 1932 to 31st October showing as follows:—

(a) The total expenditure and income of the Colonial Transport Department exclusive of the steamers.

(b) The revenue received from Motor-buses—

Plying (1) Between Georgetown and Rosignol.

(2) Between New Amsterdam and Skeldon.

(3) Vreed-en-Hoop and Parika.

(c) The revenue received from (1) Petrol, (2) Lubricating Oils and (3) Motor Accessories.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

(a) For 10 months, January to October, in each of the years.

Expenditure.	1930.	1931.	1932.
East Coast Railway	...\$ 203,215 40	\$ 192,831 26	\$ 208,251 61
West Coast Railway ...	57,342 55	56,393 05	55,674 46
Bartica-Potaro Road Transport		1,213 55	7,501 25
Harbour Services		26,400 82	24,945 72
Motor Bus, Georgetown	624 64	633 35	
	\$ 261,182 59	\$ 277,472 03	\$ 293,273 04
Receipts.	1930.	1931.	1932.
East Coast Railway	...\$ 210,896 98	\$ 170,157 41	\$ 221,157 87
West Coast Railway	54,702 36	45,903 75	49,104 66
Bartica-Potaro Road Transport		2,760 19	9,637 33
Harbour Services		100,921 73	107,439 30
Motor Bus, Georgetown	590 58	340 72	
	\$ 266,189 92	\$ 320,083 80	\$ 387,339 16

(b) The Revenue received from Motor Buses plying:—

	1930.	1931.	1932 to 31st October.
(1) Between Georgetown and Rosignol	\$ 9,335 00	\$ 7,535 50	\$ 3,728 68
(2) Between New Amsterdam and Skeldon	5,938 38	6,102 85	7,645 00
(3) Between Vreed-en-Hoop and Parika	544 19	1,340 00	1,450 00

(c) Statement showing the Revenue received from

	(1) Petrol	(2) Lubricating Oils	(3) Motor Accessories.
1930	\$ 155,361	\$ 24,177	\$ 9,454
1931	161,052	21,178	8,126
1932 (Jan. to Oct.)	127,512	17,432	4,873

## PUBLIC NOTARIES BILL.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Hector Josephs): I move that "A Bill to provide for the appointment of Notaries and to regulate the duties of the office of Public Notary" be read the third time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

## EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Mr. MILLARD (Colonial Treasurer): I move that "A Bill to continue certain expiring laws" be read the third time.

Professor DASH seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

## RICE (EXPORT TRADE) BILL.

Professor DASH (Director of Agriculture): I move that "A Bill to make provision for the establishment of a Board with powers to regulate and control the price and exportation of rice produced in the Colony" be read the third time.

Major CRAIG seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

## BITTERS AND CORDIALS BILL.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs): I move that "A Bill to amend the Bitters and Cordials Ordinance by requiring a licence for the manufacture of sweets" be read the third time.

Mr. MULLIN seconded.

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

Bill read the third time.

## ORDERS DEFERRED.

Order VII.—Motion by Mr. Fredericks that legislation be provided for a transfer of the hearing of cases from Mazaruni to Bartica—and Order VIII.—Motion by Mr. Eleazar for a loan of not less than £5,000,000 for the construction of a railway into the hinterland—were deferred.

## OUTPUT OF FOREST PRODUCTS.

The following motion stood in the name of Mr. Eleazar:—

THAT a return showing what is the output for each of the years 1925 to 31st October, 1932, (and their respective values) of the following products from the interior:—Bauxite, Balata, Diamonds, Gold, Timber, be laid on the table of the Council.

The return asked for having been laid on the table, the motion was discharged from the Order Paper.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

## COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The Council resolved itself into Committee and resumed consideration of the draft Estimates of expenditure to be defrayed from revenue for the year 1933.

## X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The post of Radiographer is vacant and it will therefore only be necessary to vote the minimum salary. I move that the item be carried out at \$1,680 instead of \$2,160.

Question put, and agreed to.

Dr. DE FREITAS (Surgeon-General): We have to provide for the passage of the new officer. I move the insertion of a sum of \$192 for that purpose.

Question put, and agreed to.

## HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: With respect to the item "Honoraria to two Dental Surgeons, \$1,200," I should like to know whether Suddie is to have any service in regard to dentistry.

Dr. DE FREITAS (Surgeon-General): No appointment has been made either in Berbice or Essequibo, only at the Public Hospital, Georgetown.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: While I do not charge Government with any intention of discrimination, you cannot provide dental

service for one part of the Colony and not the other.

Mr. FREDERICKS: I think some arrangement should be made by which the two Counties should receive some benefit. The Ophthalmologist goes to the Counties occasionally and I see no reason why the Dentists should not go there. There is greater necessity to look after the country people because they have not the advantages of the people in Georgetown. Some attempt should be made to give them even casual visits.

Dr. DE FREITAS: The two Dental Surgeons employed at the hospital are part-time officers. The Ophthalmologist is a permanent officer.

On the suggestion of the Surgeon-General item 7 (Drugs and Medical Appliances, \$17,000) was reduced to \$16,500.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Mr. AUSTIN: I understand that the Government Medical Officer of Health will be drawing less emoluments than one of his assistants. That seems to be an anomaly.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Speaking from memory one of the Assistant Medical Officers of Health, who was retrenched from another Colony, was appointed by the Secretary of State to a vacancy here. I think he was appointed at the salary he was getting in the Colony from which he was retrenched, and his immediate salary is higher than that of the Medical Officer of Health, but as the Medical Officer of Health earns his increments his salary will be greater than that of the Assistant.

Mr. AUSTIN: In the meantime he is losing about £50 per annum.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Secretary of State in a despatch says he will deal with the emoluments of the officer later. There is an anomaly and I am glad that the hon. Member has called attention to it. Certainly on the face of it it is somewhat hard on the senior officer, but I think he quite recognises the position.

Dr. DE FREITAS: I move that item 7 (Approved Sanitary Works, \$1,500) be reduced by \$500 and item 10 (Education,

Propaganda and Health Campaigns, \$300) be increased to \$800.

Mr. SMELLIE: I should like to know how you are going to provide for sanitary works with \$1,000 when you have spent \$1,500 for years.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: A good many areas have been improved with this vote and it is not necessary to do that work again. There is considerable work that can be done, but the work that should be done cannot possibly be done for \$1,500. Money has been provided for pumps to drain the Thomas lands and that will probably relieve this vote of a certain amount of expense. A good deal of the work done in Georgetown is done by prison labour and in that way the votes on labour can be reduced.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### Item 11—Bicycle Allowances.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: In 1931 the expenditure was \$595. The approved estimate for 1932 is \$768 and the estimate for next year is \$1,056. I should like to know how many Sanitary Inspectors received allowances in 1932 and the amount paid to them from fines in the Magistrates' Courts.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There has been a re-arrangement of the Inspectors in the different classes. The Surgeon-General might be able to indicate why \$1,056 is required next year.

Dr. DE FREITAS: Formerly the proceeds of fines were paid into the Department to pay travelling allowances. There is a new arrangement by which all the fines will be paid into the Treasury and the Inspectors will be given a bicycle allowance of \$2 each.

#### HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I ask leave to revert to the head of Hospitals and Dispensaries to suggest the advisability of reconstructing the building known as the Seamen's Ward. Not only is it in a bad state of repair but it is hardly habitable and I understand that a portion is not being used at all. It is a very old building of Dutch design but extremely useful, but a large number of people who would ordinarily like to go

there are unable to obtain the necessary accommodation.

Dr. DE FREITAS: The hon Member has made a very good point. The building is in a very unsatisfactory condition and out of date. The Resident Surgeon has suggested that a new building should be erected to replace it and provide additional accommodation. The present accommodation is not sufficient or satisfactory. The Public Works Department has reported that the building is beyond reconstruction and a new building will have to be erected.

Major CRAIG (Director of Public Works): The building, in my opinion, is past repair. In the programme that I am preparing for the expenditure of the \$35,000 that we have received from the Imperial Government, I have put in the reconstruction of the Seamen's Ward as the first building to be taken in hand. I estimate that the sum required for that will be \$20,000. The building requires immediate attention. It would be a waste of money to try to do anything to it and it should be rebuilt at the earliest opportunity.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am obliged to the hon. Member for raising this question again. He mentioned it on a previous occasion when the Council was informed of the extra money given by the Imperial Government for the maintenance of public buildings. I wrote a minute on the subject suggesting that it should be dealt with and early steps taken. I think it would be quite possible to do something out of the Unemployment Relief Fund. There is a balance for buildings and I will see that the matter has the earliest attention.

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Major BAIN GRAY (Director of Education): I have instructions to use the whole premises of Queen's College for the school. A sum of \$480 must therefore be provided for a house allowance to the Principal.

Question put, and agreed to.

Item 2—Grants to Schools, \$321,500.

THE CHAIRMAN: I know there is reason why a number of the Elected Members are away. I also know that this is an item

on which many of them desire to express themselves and I am prepared to allow consideration of it to be postponed.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I am asking that it be postponed on my own account because I have in mind a scheme that I think will solve the difficulty that has arisen. I have given the matter very careful consideration for a long number of years. I have seen this vote grow from \$150,000, when I was a member of the Board of Education, to its present figure. I should like to submit my scheme to the Director of Education, and before going any further I want to be satisfied about certain figures. I am hoping that it may be possible to adopt my scheme and so avoid a discontinuance of the maintenance grants. It opens up a very wide question and I am not willing to incur the odium of such a debate without some consequential result. It is a very debatable question and everybody should be given a full and free opportunity for discussion. The scheme is workable and will save several thousand dollars a year.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Director of Education will, I am sure, welcome any scheme for a solution of the question. The matter is of great interest to the Colony and I would prefer myself that it be deferred. Perhaps the hon. Member will give the Director of Education an opportunity in the very near future of knowing what the scheme is, and I suggest that the Director gives him all the figures he may require.

Item 21—Guiana Scholarships, \$6,245.

Dr. SINGH: Parents of pupils are anxious to know how the Scholarship is awarded, whether on the percentage basis or on the aggregate number of marks. It is very important to know what the boys were told at the College of the basis on which the Scholarship would be awarded. If they were told that the award would be made on the aggregate number of marks and pupils offered less than the maximum number of subjects these pupils are to be blamed for their folly, but I do not think a pupil would be so blind to his own interest as to offer less than the maximum number of subjects. On the other hand, if they were told that the award would be made on the percentage basis—and many of them were told so—Government should

see its way to award a Scholarship to at least one of the two boys who gained the highest percentage of marks at the last examination.

Major BAIN GRAY: The Scholarship is awarded on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners of the Oxford and Cambridge Examination Board. They recommend the candidate considered most deserving of the Scholarship. This year the candidate recommended has the highest number of marks. He took the full number of subjects, eight in all, while it is true that some candidates did not take the full number. I am not in a position to say what any particular boy was told, but it is a fact that some candidates from the College did take the full number of subjects. One boy who gained the highest percentage in seven subjects has petitioned Government for special consideration and that petition will be considered by Government in the ordinary way. That is how the position stands to-day.

Item 35—Visit of Dr. W. T. B. Williams, of Tuskegee University, \$100.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suggest that this item be deleted.

Major BAIN GRAY: I move that the item be deleted. The cost of this visit is being borne by the Jeanes Fund and certain expenses by the Carnegie grant which the Colony has received. It may be possible at the end of the visit to ask the Council for a small honorarium to the doctor, but in the meantime it is not necessary to provide this vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the Colony is very fortunate in securing a promise of this visit from a responsible and much respected teacher on the staff of Tuskegee, without cost to the Colony. It was suggested that he should be given an honorarium at the end of his visit and I do not think it is becoming or seemly to put in \$100 as an honorarium before he arrives. I am sure the Council will appreciate his work and would much sooner vote an honorarium to him separately.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The expenditure on dietary in 1931 was \$1,430. For this year the estimate is \$1,600 and for next

year it is also \$1,600. I should like to be told what is the expenditure to the end of November.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The figures for 1931 are those of the actual expenditure; the others are only estimates. The additional sum of \$170 is not a large margin when you are dealing with an estimate of what it would actually cost. The price of dietary varies in the course of a year and we must have a margin. This year rations have been examined by the Medical Department and a slight variation has been made, and I think the inmates of the school are getting better food but we have not increased the estimate to meet the cost.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I am not suggesting that the estimate should be cut down or the dietary scale reduced but was commenting on the fact that a larger sum is provided than for 1931. Foodstuffs have dropped considerably in price.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The estimate in 1931 provided for \$1,700 and in the light of the actual expenditure we were able to reduce the estimate to \$1,600. For 1933 it remains at the same figure. I have not the figures of the expenditure to the end of November, but I will try to get them and let the hon. Member know.

Mr. FREDERICKS: I want to make some observations in respect of item 6 (Clothing and Bedding, \$500). The great idea at the present time is to help the Onderneeming boy to get on in the world as the average boy in the community. Every step is being taken to remove from him the stigma of a prisoner. Two Sundays ago I attended a service in Essequibo and noticed several boys going to the confessional. While quite well clad they were distinguishable from all the other boys in that they wore no shoes. It struck me at the time that at an institution like Onderneeming the boys ought to be given something to put on their feet on Sundays. Every labouring boy on a Sunday tries to put something on his feet, and if the Onderneeming boy is to escape the stigma of appearing as a prisoner we should remove that stigma. I have heard somebody call them the "unredeeming boys"; I hope they will be the redeemed boys.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I join in the appeal of the hon. Member.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is certainly a matter that might be looked into. We know that the wearing of shoes is a prevention against Ankylostomiasis and might suggest that the boys wear shoes rather oftener than on Sundays. The matter will be looked into and, if necessary, a supplementary vote will be asked for.

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Mr. SEERAM: I gave notice of some questions with regard to the Guiana Scholarship and the Director of Education has been good enough to supply me with a copy of the replies.

THE CHAIRMAN: The item has been already discussed. The hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo asked a question about it and the Director of Education gave a reply. I am sorry that the hon. Member was not here as it would have saved the time of the House.

Mr. SEERAM: I ask that the item be recommitted.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am not prepared to recommit an item that has been discussed. Perhaps the Director might state again for the benefit of the hon. Member his reply to the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo, and if the hon. Member then has any further point to raise he can do so.

Mr. SEERAM: I ask that the Director be not asked to reply now as the hon. Members would be unaware of the replies to my questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may bring forward his point, but I ask him to be brief.

Mr. SEERAM: I am grateful for the consideration, sir, but would be more grateful if you would leave over the item. Other Members would like to join in the discussion. The points are so important that I am sure, when brought before you, you will give them some consideration.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Director of Education explained that a petition has been sent in to Government and I think it would save time if the hon. Member and other Members would see the Colonial Secretary and Director of Education. The hon. Member may discuss the matter outside the Council, in the first instance,

and if he thinks he should do so he may afterwards discuss it by way of motion.

#### POST OFFICE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move that item 1 (39)—Rural Letter Carriers, \$7,152—be amended to read 17 at \$168 and 12 at \$156 and the total carried out at \$7,176. That is done to secure a better delivery service in the Corentyne district and two letter carriers will be paid at the higher rate for extra work.

Mr. FREDERICKS: I wish to refer to the unreliability of the Post Office as a medium of transmitting money. I know of one or two instances of money sent through the Post Office getting into the hands of somebody other than the person to whom it was addressed. From the number of complaints I hear the thing is becoming a public scandal. In the Money Order Department there should be a detective who will act as a deterrent.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is a matter for regret that complaints are received in regard to the unreliability of the Post Office, but I understand that recently, at all events, they have not been so numerous as in the past. We have to look at it from how these complaints can arise and how money purporting to have been sent through the post does not reach the addressee. As regards the detective, that has been considered. I am informed that last night a letter carrier was arrested by the Police at Beterverwagting for some thing of this nature. What I think happens is this. Mr. "A" writes to Mrs. "B" and says "I enclose \$5 to you." Mrs. "B" receives the letter but not the \$5 and she at once forms the conclusion that the money has been extracted at the Post Office. These letters are produced as evidence that the money was sent through the post and presumably placed in the envelope. We have no means of proving that the money was actually placed in the envelope, but we have evidence of postal packets showing no signs of being tampered with. I think it would be unfair to blame the Post Office in every case brought to their notice where the accusation is made that money has been lost in the transmission of the letter through the post. Every available step is being taken to stop these complaints. I regret to say that in some cases they are true, as is shown by the case to which I have referred, but it must

be realised that it is a very difficult matter, especially where actual cash is sent through the post. The proper way of transmitting money is by a Postal Order and if that form is adopted we shall have less complaints.

Mr. FREDERICKS: When I said "unreliable" I did not mean to impute anything to the Post Office as an institution. Everybody knows that there is a regulation that forbids the transmission of coin through the post. In some cases cheques and Money Orders have been taken.

Mr. WOOLFORD: The case referred to by the Colonial Secretary is somewhat rare. It more frequently happens that Mr. "A" remits money to Mrs. "B" and those are the cases in which the temptation is always stronger. What seems to me to be unfair is that when money disappears and no trace can be discovered of the actual culprit, it is assumed that everyone is to blame and when restitution is ordered everyone through whose hands the postal packet passes is made to pay. It is a hardship that a person who could not possibly have had access to the packet itself, but is merely concerned with watching its transmission from one branch of the Post Office to another, should be made to pay for the fault of anybody. I understood the Colonial Secretary to say that the proper way of transmitting money is by Postal Order. I think he meant Money Order. I am going to suggest that notices be put up in prominent places at every Post Office informing the public that Money Order is a more desirable method of transmission than any other. I also think that Postmasters should suggest to persons purchasing a Postal Order that they inscribe the name of the payee in the space for that purpose. Instead of having a detective in the office—a course I should regret to see—I suggest that the Postmaster be instructed to help people to take care of their remittances.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am informed by the Postmaster General that notices are posted at all Post Offices recommending that the name of the payee should be put in. There are two alternative methods of transmitting money and sending by Money Order is the safer method. The loss of money between Post Offices is quite a different matter. We

lose a considerable sum of money sometimes. Last year two cases occurred very close together and certain officers came under suspicion. Very careful investigation was made. A list was made of all the officers who could possibly have had anything to do with the transmission of the bag and of those who handled it at the Post Office and it was obvious that one or other of those officers had taken the money. It was decided to make the officers who had any connection with it refund the money in proportion to their salaries on a basis which the Postmaster General submitted. For some months now we have had no similar case and I think the action taken is bound to have some effect.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I am suggesting that the Postmaster should put in the name of the payee in the orders. A notice would have no value and it should be a direction in the case of country Post Offices to insert the name of the payee in the case of a person buying a Postal Order.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I understand from the Postmaster General that district Postmasters have already been instructed to do exactly what the hon. Member has suggested and I shall ask the Postmaster General to remind them of that instruction.

Mr. SEERAM: I notice that certain Letter Carriers are on the Fixed Establishment and others are not. I am informed that there has been a procedure in the Postal Department by which Letter Carriers and Relief Clerks were promoted to the Fixed Establishment after giving 20 years' service. This year a period has been put to that practice and by that decision, I understand, there are a few persons who stand to suffer. I am going to appeal to Government to consider the cases of those men who happen, I am informed, to come within the provision of that practice by a few months. The discontinuance of the practice works an extreme hardship on these men, who have worked strenuously in the Department and rendered valuable and faithful service. There is another point. There is less opportunity for promotion of these men to-day. Before the period of retrenchment there were more offices and more Postmasters and opportunities for promotion of Letter Carriers and Relief Clerks as Postmasters. With the closing of Post

Offices it has been made more difficult for them to get promotion. As promotion is so remote the only hope of these men is to be automatically placed on the Fixed Establishment after 20 years' service. The amount involved is not very much and it creates a great hardship on a class of men who deserve consideration.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The matter will be considered.

Item 8—Conveyance of Mails—Foreign and Inland, \$21,000.

**MR. DE AGUIAR:** I desire to call attention to a matter on which representations have been already made in another quarter. The charge on letter mails by seaplane is 30 cents at the south point whereas it is 56 cents at the north point. I should like to know whether the increase is due to an increase by the Pan-American system. The reply was that the Northern Governments were absorbing the difference. That is not strictly correct.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** I understand that the increase is mainly due to Exchange. A portion of this expenditure is also due to the seaplane mails arriving on Sunday morning and letters having to be delivered and overtime paid, but the increase is mainly due to the variation of Exchange. The Pan-American Service receives the whole amount except so much as would be charged by the Post Office at letter rate.

#### TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPHS.

**MR. WOOLFORD:** Maintenance of telephone communication between Blairmont and New Amsterdam is dependent upon the availability of the services of the Postmaster at Blairmont. If the Post Office there is closed there is no means of communicating with New Amsterdam. Through the courtesy of the authorities at Blairmont people have been allowed from time to time to use the telephone there, but it is obviously impossible for the manager to place his telephone at the disposal of all and sundry, or anybody's disposal at all. It would be a distinct benefit if communication could be obtained, especially in the case of illness, and I suggest that an automatic instrument be placed at Blairmont and a small charge made for the use of it.

**MR. PEER BACCHUS:** I wish to mention that there is no flat rate for telephone

service in the County of Berbice. Renters pay one rate and a trunk rate in addition for every call. That is very unsatisfactory. I ask that the matter be considered and the County placed on the same lines as other districts and a flat rate quoted.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** With regard to the point by the hon. Member for New Amsterdam, the position can be met by providing a telephone booth with an automatic slot machine. After office hours anybody wishing to telephone can go in and use it in the same way as any other automatic booth. If it is decided to do so item 1 on page 97 (New lines and apparatus for extending existing services, \$750) should be increased by \$140. With regard to the point raised by the hon. Member for Western Berbice, certain parts of the Colony are on what he called a flat rate. Such places are connected direct with the Exchange and are part of it. Western Berbice is too far away and is not included and renters have to pay a trunk call of one shilling. There are certain places connected by a semi-automatic system with Georgetown for which no extra charge is made.

The Committee adjourned for the luncheon recess.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** When the Committee adjourned I was pointing out that by installing a semi-automatic apparatus at Buxton, Belfield and Mahaica it is possible for these places to get into direct communication with the Georgetown Exchange. Renters in these areas have no extra trunk fee to pay but an increased rental is charged for the telephone in those districts. Other parts of the country which use the ordinary trunk call pay one shilling. What I understand the hon. Member wants to know is whether Western Berbice cannot have the same service as Buxton, Belfield and Mahaica.

**MR. PEER BACCHUS:** I am paying \$32 per annum as rental for the telephone instrument in my house and every time I use the telephone I have to pay a shilling as a trunk call.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** That is in accordance with the regulations at the present time, but I will ask the Postmaster-General to go into the matter and discuss it with Government. We may then be able to make some arrangement,

Mr. SEERAM : Renters in Georgetown can speak to persons at Mahaica, Belfield or Buxton without extra charge, but if these renters are at Mahaica and would like to speak to their own office or anyone in Georgetown they have to pay a shilling. I think that is a great hardship. The privilege might be extended to renters to use the telephone anywhere free of charge, provided it is on the automatic circuit. Facilities should also be permitted to lawyers to use the telephone at country Courts when engaged on business at those Courts. At present we are allowed to use the 'phones at the police stations attached to the Courts but are made to pay the shilling.

Mr. BRASSINGTON : The service in Essequibo is very indistinct. It strikes me that there must be something wrong with the service there and some expenditure is needed. The service is bad at Wakenaam but on the Essequibo Coast it is still worse. It is almost impossible to hear anybody on the other side. By the time the five minutes allowed for the use of the telephone have expired, one has not got his message through as all the time is practically taken up in trying to get the person at the other end to hear what is said. At Danielstown it is difficult to get continuous communication throughout the day. The Post Office there has been retrenched and the work is carried on by a Postal Agency which is opened between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Telegrams are received but they are not sent throughout the day, and that creates some hardship especially in cases of urgent business.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : I gathered that the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara wants that renters of telephones in Georgetown, especially lawyers, should be allowed to use the telephones at Police stations free where they are semi-automatic. I do not know why lawyers should have a privilege over business men, especially when they are at those stations in the interest of their clients. I presume that they are there in the ordinary course of business and earn money thereby. The telephone service in this Colony is one of the cheapest in the world. I do not think Government would be justified in reducing the cost of facilities, which are very considerable in a Colony of this size. I do not think anybody can deny that the telephone service as a whole

is very well conducted and that subscribers are very well served. How can the hon. Member justify the suggestion that one class of business men should be exempted from paying the trunk call while other classes of business men are not ?

Mr. SEERAM : My first point was that it should apply to all renters irrespective of whether they are lawyers or business men or otherwise. My next point was with reference to lawyers, but I did not suggest that it should be limited to renters.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : I thought the hon. Member referred only to lawyers who are renters of telephones. Now I understand that he wants to extend it to all lawyers whether they are renters of telephones or not. I do not think that the hon. Member hopes that his request can be granted. Last year the hon. Member for Essequibo River asked that facilities be provided at Police stations to the public to use the telephone there at a charge of a shilling. That has already been granted and is in operation and I have heard no complaint with regard to it. But we cannot go on paring down the apple in this way. The telephone service, as I said, is a very efficient one. It costs a certain amount of money and we cannot afford to lose the small amount of revenue collected for trunk calls. The telephone service in Essequibo is maintained by using the telegraph line during some hours of the day. Sometimes you can hear and sometimes you cannot hear, but I submit that some sort of telephone service is better than no service at all. It would cost about \$30,000 to establish a telephone cable between Georgetown and Suddie.

Mr. WOOLFORD : Since speaking this morning I have been given to understand that there is a telephone service at Blairmont which is open to the public. If that is so, and if no restriction is placed upon people to go into the Police compound, no expenditure need be incurred. I have other requests to make and perhaps the money might be kept for them. In connection with this matter I hope the Police will understand that the telephone is a public telephone and there will be no restrictions about entering the Police quarters. The service may be maintained without an automatic at present.

THE CHAIRMAN : I do not think the

Colonial Secretary gave any undertaking that provision will be made but that the matter will be considered.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** I said that if it is thought desirable to erect a telephone booth it would cost \$140. The Postmaster General now tells me that there is a telephone booth at Blairmont which could be used by the public on payment of a shilling. I will see the Inspector-General and ascertain if there is any difficulty about the public using the stations, especially at night.

**Mr. FREDERICKS:** If you are at New Amsterdam and want to communicate with Rosignol station there are no means of doing it. That is a matter that also wants looking into.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** That matter is being looked into.

**POST OFFICE—EXTRAORDINARY.**

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** Item 3 (Technical improvements to Radio Services, \$500) must be increased by \$1,100. This \$1,100 is lapsing this year and is really a revote.

Question put, and agreed to.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

**Mr. WOOLFORD:** May I ask that consideration of items 1 (11) (13) be postponed? The Member for the division (Demerara River) is not present and I myself would like to say, for the moment, I can see no reason for the transfer of these officers to the Fixed Establishment. I think that in every case where a change of that kind takes place some reason should be given for it.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The reason can be given, but if the hon. Member prefers that the items be deferred that can be done.

**Mr. WOOLFORD:** I am asking that the items be not debated on insufficient information.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I think the statement might be made now.

**Professor DASH:** Item 11 (Agricultural Superintendent, West Demerara) is an officer who was appointed by the Secretary of State on probation for two years,

at the end of which time he would be put on the Fixed Establishment if his services were satisfactory. His services were satisfactory and we had to carry out the terms of the appointment. One Superintendent is involved in item 13. The other has been an officer of the Department for many years who was placed on the Fixed Establishment by resolution of this Council.

**Mr. BRASSINGTON:** I ask that the item relating to the Agricultural Superintendent for Essequibo be left over. Notice has been given by the hon. Member for Georgetown North of a number of questions, some of which will have a good deal of bearing on the votes for Anna Regina, and I am asking that an opportunity be given for those questions to be answered.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** The answers to the questions are now in proof and will be laid on the table to-morrow. I suppose this will be the proper head under which to discuss Anna Regina, because the estate is under the control of the Agricultural Department, but there is no actual item upon which it can be properly discussed.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** We had better leave over the staff in order to deal with that point. The hon. Member will be in order in raising the question on the votes for Agricultural Superintendent for Essequibo or the clerk in charge at Anna Regina. The items will be left over for further discussion as I think the scheme should be fully discussed.

Item 13—Purchase, Production and Distribution of Seeds and Plants, \$3,500.

**Mr. PEER BACCHUS:** In view of the low price of padi, I am asking Government to consider whether they should not sell seed padi to farmers at the same rate farmers are selling. I take it that Government are selling the seeds for the benefit of the industry and they might consider the advisability of allowing farmers to get them at the same rate as they are getting for their padi.

**Mr. SEERAM:** The Bill passed yesterday makes provision for a charge on rice. I understand that the grading fee will not be payable but the fees to be charged under the Ordinance will be collected. Would that affect the position of the Grading Inspector and those connected with that office?

Professor DASH: The Rice Grading section, as represented on the Estimates, has nothing to do with the Bill just passed. The Marketing Board will collect its own fees while those fees are payable for rice grading. The suggestion with regard to item 13 is a valuable one. We have not lost sight of the fact that, owing to the low price of rice, farmers may be in difficulty in finding ready cash to buy selected seed padi at a higher price than might seem to them to be profitable. We have a scheme, which I hope to put into force for the new planting, which will provide an opportunity for the utilisation and distribution of seed to farmers on somewhat different lines. We are trying to arrange for the loan to growers of select seed to be returned when they reap their crop of seed of the same quality and standard that we loan them. If that seed is not up to mark they will be charged a price commensurate with the price of the padi. I think that will be found satisfactory to the rice growers.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I notice that there is no provision for the resuscitation of the "Journal" of the Board of Agriculture. I always looked forward to receiving that publication. There was always a lot of valuable information in it. I would like to have a definite promise that it will be re-started. I do not think it is a good commentary on the Colony that it should be without a good Agricultural Journal and the sooner it is revived the better.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am glad to hear the appreciation of the work of the Department by the hon. Member. In other Colonies I visited appreciation was expressed with regard to the "Journal." The point about the price of padi is an important one and I shall ask the Director of Agriculture to bear it in mind.

Item 17—Grants in aid of Agricultural Associations, Exhibitions and Competitions, \$1,000.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: May I ask Government if they propose to hold any exhibitions next year in any of the three Counties? It is a very long time since we had an exhibition in Essequibo. I should like to hear something of the programme of the Department as regards these shows during 1933.

Professor DASH: We have during the past two or three years spent a great deal of this vote on competition. I found when I came here that there was a great deal of work to be done from the cultural point of view with regard to exhibitions. I was struck by the poor types of material that was frequently found at some shows I attended. We therefore decided to concentrate more on field competition to interest farmers on the kind of produce they should show. The programme of shows has not been worked out for 1933 but the matter is under consideration. We have participated in the Workers' League and other exhibitions, but we had no district show such as the hon. Member has referred to. We had a small show at Buxton which the farmers operated themselves. That is the type of show the hon. Member refers to. I am hoping that as a result of our educational campaign in the districts, from the point of view of cultural, handling and exhibiting of plant products, we shall be able to make considerable progress in this matter in future.

Mr. SEERAM: Item 18 (Rice Grading Expenses) has been increased from \$500 to \$2,000. That seems to be quite a large figure. Questions were asked about the fees for rice grading and the answers showed a large excess over expenditure. I am sure Government did not intend this to be a revenue collecting department, and it seems strange that there should be so large an increase of the vote.

Professor DASH: I interrupt the hon. Member, on a point of correction, to inform him that part of the item is a transfer from wages of boys. There is a reduction of \$800 there.

Mr. SEERAM: I suggest that the grading fees be reduced by 50 per cent. That would induce millers and exporters to offer a little higher price for padi. We are hoping that the Ordinance passed yesterday will be the means of increasing the export of rice. If that is the case that will mean more revenue from grading fees, and it might be possible to reduce those fees even as a temporary measure.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The object of the questions I asked in connection with rice grading was to elicit information of what was the revenue over a given number of months and also the expenditure, the

idea being to suggest that if the revenue was greatly in excess of the expenditure a reduction should be made in the fees charged. When the rice grading section was embarked upon it was distinctly understood that the fees were not to be a source of revenue but to cover the expenses of running the department. The revenue being in excess of what was anticipated a reduction should be made in the charges for grading and other expenses. The answers to the questions show that Government is making a considerable profit, and I anticipate that the revenue will be greatly augmented owing to the larger quantity of rice exported.

Mr. BACCHUS : I rise to support the suggestion of a reduction of the rice grading fees. I remember myself it was stated at a conference that it was not a revenue raising department, and it is only fair that Government should give some relief in the present state of the industry. Any reduction of the fee would be appreciated.

Professor DASH : When the rice grading section was started the idea certainly was that there should be no large amount of revenue over and above what it cost to run the section. At that time it was difficult to gauge accurately what export figures were likely to be and Government could not afford to be out of pocket. A small fee was charged, which it was felt the industry could afford. Last year we collected something like \$6,500 from rice grading fees. This year we shall probably do a bit more—I hope we will at any rate—but with increased exports we have to provide more facilities for examination. We are making provision for the shipment of rice from Springlands and we are going to be faced there with providing accommodation for the storage of rice and grading facilities, and to meet charges of that kind I do not think there is going to be anything in hand. While I admit that the industry is in difficulties, the charge is reasonably low bearing in mind the equipment necessary in the grading office. We cannot afford to be out of pocket and if there is anything at credit the industry would benefit from it.

Mr. BRASSINGTON : What I fear is that the Department, finding that these

fees are going to give them revenue a good deal in excess of expenditure, will start employing more rice graders. At the end of the year it might be found that the revenue is \$3,000 in excess of the expenditure and if that is the position I think the fees should be reduced.

Mr. SEERAM : The fear expressed by the hon. Member is almost realised. We have provision made for a new examiner and also for further expenditure of \$700.

THE CHAIRMAN : I think the point will be met if Government undertake to prepare a statement by the end of the year showing the fees earned and the expenditure and lay it on the table.

#### MILITIA.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : I move in as item 17 (a) " Director of Music, \$1,500." The reason for the change from the old to the new title is to bring it up to modern military practice. The Bandmaster in the Army is now known as Director of Music and it is suggested that we should adopt the new procedure.

THE CHAIRMAN : Is it essential ?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN : Let it remain then as Bandmaster.

Question put, and agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : Sub-item (g) will now be reduced from \$240 to \$60, the amount it was before.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### SUBVENTIONS, ETC., MUNICIPAL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY : Item 1 (Estimated rates on Government property, \$63,000) is to be reduced to \$53,670. That is in accordance with the revised rates. Item 2 (For the supply of water to all the public institutions in Georgetown when required, \$7,434) is to be carried out at \$7,379.

Question put, and agreed to.

#### SUBVENTIONS, ETC., OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL.

Professor DASH : I move that item 21 (Recruitment and Training of Officers for

Colonial Agricultural Departments, \$816) be carried out at \$452. That is the sum the Secretary of State tells us will be sufficient next year.

Question put, and agreed to.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** I move in as item 57 "Grant-in-aid to Local Rifle Club, \$250." This was formerly an annually recurrent vote but was deleted from the Estimates in 1928. In view of the desirability of encouraging rifle shooting and the fact that the Rifle Club has been reconstituted, it is considered desirable to give them this subvention in future.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I hope the Secretary of State will approve of this small addition—in view of the fact that the Colony has just won two cups in inter-colonial competition. I think some appreciation ought to be shown.

Question put, and agreed to.

**Mr. FREDERICKS:** We have been asking for some time for a launch service between Wakenaam and the Essequibo Coast. It is true that times are very hard, but I do not think a vote for the purpose would exceed \$240. There is extreme difficulty to people travelling between the Essequibo Coast and Wakenaam and I am asking Government to consider the question of subsidising a launch service between Aurora and Wakenaam. At one time the urge was the appointment of a doctor, but I do not urge that now. I am informed that there will be no difficulty in finding somebody to run the service.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** I will have a note made and go into the matter with the Transport Department and see whether it can be done.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The matter will be considered by the Board and if they recommend it I will be prepared to bring the matter before the Council.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** It was the intention of Government to move in an item at this stage to provide for trade representation in Canada. The matter has already been referred to by me in the course of this session with reference to remarks made by

the hon. Member for Demerara River and other Members in the debate on the question of Customs preference and in regard to the necessity of maintaining a liaison with Canada and pushing our products there. I thought it would perhaps be very advisable for us to have a Trade Representative in Canada. We were asked to join with the West Indies in the employment of a Trade Commissioner, but we felt at the time that British Guiana would do better to have its own representative. The suggestion was made by the Canada-West Indies League, who are good friends of ours and whose Journal is well known in this Colony, that their Secretary, Mr. Collier, who is also well known to us, might be appointed our representative in Canada. I think the matter requires further consideration. We have to be very careful in choosing a representative and to be sure that our representative will be recognised by the Canadian Government as an agent with whom they can work, is well known to them and one with whom they are prepared to have separate dealings and negotiations with regard to preferences or trade generally. I think it would be a mistake to rush into any agreement until we are quite certain that the Canadian Government considers that we have made a wise choice. In saying this I make no reflection on the Canada-West Indies League, and nothing of that kind is suggested, but until I communicate with Canada and receive a reply I think it better to defer this question. In the meantime I hope to obtain the approval of the Secretary of State to some effort on our part at any rate, especially at the present time when timber and rice are of such vital importance to this Colony.

#### PURE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME.

**Mr. SEERAM:** I wish to call attention to the unsatisfactory flow of most of the wells on the East Coast. At the present time there is a good deal of suffering on account of the flow of these wells, which in many cases is so slow that the people cannot get water. The position is not a satisfactory one and something should be done.

Major **CRAIG** (Director of Public Works): The matter referred to is one which has given Government anxiety. A programme is being prepared now which will be met by the moneys granted to the

Colony by the Imperial Government for the reconditioning of those wells that have ceased to flow. In addition to reconditioning the wells the distribution of the water from them will be taken up at the same time and carried through when the wells are reconditioned.

THE CHAIRMAN: I hope the Council appreciate the fact that the grant of \$24,000 for reconditioning wells has been accompanied by a promise of its renewal for five years, provided, of course, that we maintain our revenue and keep our expenditure down as we are doing at present. I hope that if there is a balance the Imperial Government may be able to permit us to go still further because the question of wells is of very great importance.

ROADS, RIVERS, CREEKS AND  
PORTAGES.

Major CRAIG: I move that item 19 (Rupununi Cattle Trail, \$2,000) be increased to \$8,000. To the item will be

attached the note: "Under a new agreement the Rupununi Development Company receives \$1,500 for maintenance of the upper end of the trail from Annai to Kurupukari; the lower end from Kurupukari to Takama being under the supervision of the District Commissioner. All tolls are collected by Government and the estimated revenue for 1933 is \$7,000."

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. SEERAM: A sum of \$5,000 has been allocated for a road in the Mahaicony district, which I am informed will greatly relieve unemployment. I am told that there is a piece of road that would be of great value in encouraging the milk trade and regulating prices in Georgetown.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member would let me have the details I will consider the matter.

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