

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

SESSION 1947—48

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23rd March, 1948.

Pursuant to adjournment the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock noon to-day.

Present:

His Honour Mr. G. B. EVELYN (*Speaker*), His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Deputy Speaker*), Dr. J. A. Le V. WILSON, Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. F. L. WALCOTT, R. G. MAPP, C. E. TALMA, H. D. BLACKMAN, M. E. COX, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., V. C. GALE, H. A. DOWDING, J. A. HAYNES, B.A., and D. A. FOSTER.

Prayers are read.

Messrs. WILKINSON and S. A. WALCOTT enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES

The Minutes of meetings held on the 9th and 16th March, 1948, respectively, having been circulated, are taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. LEWIS enters the House and takes his seat.

Mr. J. T. C. RAMSAY RESIGNS HIS SEAT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the honourable junior member for St. Peter (Mr. Ramsay) resigning his seat. I am satisfied as to the authenticity of the signature and shall direct that the consideration of the letter be made the first Order of the Day at the next meeting of the House.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have also received the Reports of the Inspectors of Trees of the parishes of St. Joseph and St. John for the year 1947.

PAPER LAID

Mr. ADAMS lays on the table of the House the Report on the Government Bacteriological and Pathological Laboratory for the year 1946.

NOTICES

Government notices are given as follows:—

Dr. CUMMINS: Special resolution under the provisions of section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's

Office Act, 1903 (1903-5) as amended by section 2 of the Colonial Secretary's office (Amendment) Act, 1947 (1947-24).

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to pay additional salary to those persons mentioned in Column I at the rates set out in Column II in respect of the period set out in Column III of the Schedule to the resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to place the sum of £180. 17. 9 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to pay to those members of the Police Force and Fire Brigade whose names are set out in Column I the amounts set out against their names in Column II of the Schedule to the resolution, being the difference between the old rates of pay and the new rates of pay authorised by the Police (Amendment) Act, 1946-25 and the Fire Brigade (Amendment) Act, 1946-26, in respect of the period from the 1st April, 1946, and the date of their death or retirement from the respective Forces.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Scheme of Government for the Christ Church Boys' Foundation School made by the Director of Education under section 32 of the Education Act, 1890 (1890-12).

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Scheme of Government for the Christ Church Girls' Foundation School made by the Director of Education under section 32 of the Education Act, 1890 (1890-12).

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the Government for the year ending on the 31st March, 1949.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to continue various expiring Laws.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year 1948 and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax.

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the money Resolutions of which notice has been given to-day.

Messrs. MOTTLEY and GARNER enter the House and take their seats.

QUESTIONS

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: To enquire of the Senior Member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House of Assembly:—

Will the Government give the reason for the Price Control Authority allowing an increase in the price of sugar sold for local consumption by approximately £2 6. 8. per ton?

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the Senior Member of the Executive Committee present at next meeting of this House:—

Is it a fact that certain Warders of Glendairy Prison have recently been declared medically unfit by the Prison Doctor?

(2) If the answer to the above question is "yes," is it a fact that these Warders have subsequently been examined by a Medical Board?

(3) If the answer to question (2) above is "yes," will Government state the outcome of each of such examinations?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the Government for the year ending on the 31st March, 1949, is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, a Bill to settle the rates of Income Tax for the year 1948 and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax is read a first time.

THE SPEAKER'S BONA FIDES.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I proceed to call the Orders of the Day I wish to inform the House that in connection with the subject matter of Order No. 1, I received a letter from the honourable junior member for St. Lucy in which he entirely withdraws any possible suggestion which I put on the construction of the letter which he wrote me a short while ago and which I communicated to the House at the last meeting. (Cheers). I personally feel that inasmuch as the honourable member has withdrawn any suggestion about my bona fides in giving my rulings, the matter should be allowed to drop and I hope the House will let it drop. There is another matter about which I should like to make a brief remark. The honourable member has raised certain points in connection with the Rules and Privileges of the House and the Power of the Speaker. Those are questions on which I feel that I should not give a ruling. There is at present a Select Committee revising the Rules of the House and at the next meeting of that Committee I intend to bring the matter up for discussion and decision.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. ADAMS: I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that not only now but always the House should follow the practice of the House of Commons and appoint the Deputy Speaker as Chairman of Committees and I hope the junior member for St. Lucy who is our Deputy Speaker will take the Chair as Chairman of Committees.

Mr. BRANCKER declines to accept the appointment.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the honourable junior member for St. Philip (Mr. Garner) be appointed Chairman of Committees for to-day's sitting.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to decline.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable senior member for St. Andrew has great influence in the House and

I am suggesting that he serve as Chairman of Committees to-day.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker,—I decline that honour. (Laughter).

Mr. ADAMS: I regret these refusals. I beg to move that the junior member for the City (Mr. Lewis) be Chairman of Committees for to-day's sitting.

Mr. HAYNES: I beg to second that.

The question that the junior member for the City be Chairman of Committees for to-day's sitting is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SYMMONDS enters the House and takes his seat.

ORDER WITHDRAWN

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to withdraw Order No. 1 which is a Resolution to the effect that the House disapproves of the action of the Deputy Speaker in insinuating that Your Honour has been actuated by personal considerations in your office as Speaker and is of the opinion that the honourable junior member for St. Lucy should withdraw, and apologize in writing for the accusation which he has made.

There being no objection, the honourable member is granted the leave asked for and the Order is withdrawn.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 60

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask leave to move the suspension of Rule 60 in order that I may take Order No. 3 as the first Order of the Day.

There being no objection the honourable member is granted leave to proceed.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rule 60 be now suspended.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that Rule 60 be now suspended is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House resumes Committee of Supply. Mr. LEWIS being in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE FOR MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—The Resolution which I propose to deal with is for the sum of £3,370 to supplement the provision in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1947-48 under Head XXIX, Miscellaneous Services, Item 5, Government Binding and Printing, by £1, 200; item 12, Government advertisements, by £1,120; and item 16, Expenses under the Cinematograph Film Censorship Act, 1940, by £50. The reason why I asked that this be taken as the first Order is because it is a matter of urgency and it is essential that we pass it as quickly as possible. The various newspapers and printeries which have been publishing Government advertisements and doing the printing and binding for the Government have been kept out of their money for some months now and I hope that the Committee will pass this Resolution without any further delay. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. Talma: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—I am not opposing the passing of this Resolution but I think I should not allow it to pass without making the observation that we are being called upon to vote very considerable sums of money from time to time for Government binding and printing. Today we are being asked to vote an additional £1,200—quite apart from the amount for Government advertisements—for Government binding and printing and I am wondering if the Government appreciates that instead of continually introducing Resolutions of this nature in the House for these large sums of money which is going into the pockets of private individuals, it should send a Bill to this House for the establishment of a Government Printery. There is too much of the taxpayers' money being paid to private concerns for Government binding and printing and you, Sir, will observe how lackadaisical they are about it. The Laws of Barbados for 1946 have only just come into persons' hands and when last, Mr. Chairman have you seen an up-to-date copy of the bound volumes of the Debates? I do not think I have seen one since that for 1942 and I do urge the Government not to be satisfied with the complacent introduction of Resolutions every now and again for Government binding and printing but to send this House something which we can appreciate, as far as the spending of the taxpayers' money for this purpose is concerned,—something in the nature of a Bill to establish a Government Printery, so that Barbados will no longer be regarded as the only West Indian colony that does not have a Government Printery. I have authenticated figures to show how much we have spent during the last ten years on Government binding and printing but I shall not deal with them now. I shall deal with them on a subsequent occasion. All of this money goes into the pockets of very wealthy, highly capitalistic concerns.

Mr. ADAMS: As an amateur printer and binder myself I appreciate what the honourable member has said. The Government has considered, is considering and will consider the question of establishing a Government Printery but I should like to tell the honourable member this: The Government has made enquiries from other West Indian colonies and even in a colony like Trinidad which has had a Government Printery for years, the *Trinidad Guardian* still does a great deal of printing for the Trinidad Government. It is not as easy a matter as the honourable member seems to think it is. I know that there are some members, even of the Government, who are of the opinion that if we can do our own printing we should not put it in the hands of a Company which, according to the honourable member, is highly capitalized but, as I say, it is not a matter in connection with which the Government can say immediately that it will do so or so. The Government does not favour one printer in preference to another. We all know that the present contractors cannot do all the work themselves and that they have to get other printeries to help them. I think that when we come to Head 29, in the Estimates for 1948-49, honourable members will realize that the Government has under contemplation actively the question of establishing a Government Printery.

The question that this Resolution do now pass is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Chairman reports the passing of this Resolution in Committee of Supply.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. TALMA in each case, the

Resolution is read a first and second time and is agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order is to resume Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates for 1948-49.

Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House resumes Committee of supply, Mr. Lewis being in the Chair.

HEAD XV—POLICE

The CHAIRMAN: When the House was last in Committee of Supply considering the Estimates, Head XV was being discussed.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman,—I wonder if I can get a little light thrown on item 51, Motor transport, £3,700. Last year we voted £4,400 for this purpose and honourable members will recall that that amount was for repairs and running expenses of nine motor vans and two cycles; provision was also included in that amount for the purchase of three vans and six motor cycles. I observe that, in connection with this amount of £3,700 which is asked for in the next year's Estimates, provision is included for the purchase of two new vans and two side cars for motor cycles. There is only a difference of £700 in the amount voted last year and the amount to be voted this year for this purpose and I am wondering if the member of the Government in charge of this Department could give us a little information about, for instance, the mileage which these vans do. Is there any truth in the rumour that they are doing only 9 miles to the gallon of petrol? And if we pass this vote, will it bring the motor transport up to strength? How many vans and motor cycles the Department will then have? One has to be very careful to see that this Department is not too extravagant; they require mobility of transport but we do not want a superabundance of vans; we do not want a van for every few men in the Force. The next item under this Head to which I should like to refer is 56, Fees and expenses for instruction in First Aid, £20. I notice that the explanatory note says:—"Medical fees for training members of the Force in first-aid and for the supply of equipment." Now, last year we voted a similar amount and apparently in 1946-47 only £1 was spent for this purpose. Has the £20, or any part of it, which we voted last year been spent? If the £20 or any part of it has been expended for training men of the Force in First-aid I would like to know how many men were trained or were given lectures. I have been informed that not a single man has been trained or given lectures but I would like to have that verified by the member of the Government in charge of this Department, although I appreciate the fact that if the money is not spent it lapses in the Treasury. Apropos to that, Sir, you will notice the next item—57—First Aid medical supplies and iron rations, has been reduced from £200 which was voted last year to £100 for the ensuing year and the reason given in the explanatory note for the reduction is that First Aid outfits to all stations and posts have been provided in last year's Estimates. I would be glad for the information as to whether any members and, if so, how many, of the Force were trained or given lectures in First Aid during this year and what is the proposal in respect of the next financial year; whether we are just voting this amount as a salve to our consciences or in truth and fact are actually doing something by way of training members of the Force in First Aid. If I may refer again

to an item about which I made enquiries last Tuesday—item 29, Arms and ammunition, £600, I will again press the Government for information as to why this amount has been increased from £350 to £600 after we reduced the amount during the consideration of the last Estimates, and to tell us how long this obsolete ammunition which is referred to in the explanatory note has been in existence and how much of the ammunition which is now in stock is actually obsolete. Before I support this vote or move for the reduction of it I would like to know how much usable ammunition is in stock; that information would help us to determine how much more money we would be willing to grant for this purpose.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman,—As regards item 20, Rent Allowance, £9,000, I think that it was on the occasion of the consideration of the last Estimates that I made reference to it and enquired whether the time had not come for the Government to have the Act so amended that the rent allowance to policemen can be increased. The amount—\$10—is frightfully small and I understand that under the law as it stands to-day a policeman who is single is not considered at all for rent allowance. That, to my mind, is a state of affairs which should not be existing to-day. Further, if a policeman and his wife are separated, the rent allowance is withheld, although that man may still have to support and provide a shelter for his children. These are anomalies which the Government should take steps to put right, and, in addition, it should have the Act so amended that the rent allowance can be increased. I come next to item 44, Expenses of Band Cadets, £1,120. I suppose everyone of us in this House has nothing but praise to shower on the head of the Bandmaster, a very competent and capable man who is doing admirable work in the colony but as regards the Band Cadets a change in the method of their employment is, in my opinion, absolutely necessary; they may work with the Band for five, six or ten years and receive no consideration until some member of the Band either resigns or dies. A youngster may be taken on straight from school and after his training for five or six years is completed, however competent he may be he cannot receive any monetary consideration until a member of the Band either resigns or dies. I think that that is an unsatisfactory state of affairs and I feel that the Government should give some consideration to it.

Mr. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman,—I notice that in respect of items 17 and 18 we are asked to vote £90 and £40 per annum for the Hospital Attendant and the Hospital Messenger respectively. I would like to know if these are the actual salaries paid by the Government to these employees or if they are supplementary to other amounts paid for other offices which are held by these particular individuals. And, in passing, I would like to say that as a new member of the House it is quite difficult to follow the notes to some of these items. Continually, reference is made in these notes to Resolution No. 64 of 1946 and as a new member I would be glad if a copy of that Resolution was available so that I would be better able to follow the amounts which we are being asked to vote.

Mr. ADAMS: I hope the honourable member who has just sat down will not consider me offensive when I ask him this question. What does he think we pay a Clerk for—and a handsome salary too? Could not the honourable member go to the Clerk and get a copy of the Resolution? I am sure that the Clerk is not so overburdened with work that he would not be able to search for a copy of the Resolu-

tion and give it to the honourable member. As regards the particular Resolution to which he referred—No. 64 of 1946—I think it fixed a fresh salary scale for these employees and I imagine that the £90 represents three-quarters of the new salary which is paid to the Hospital attendant. As regards the Hospital Messenger, he must be doing something else for which he is being paid because no member of the subordinate staff is at present being paid a salary as low as £40 a year; he must be a policeman who receives his ordinary salary and gets this amount as something additional. As regards the remarks of the junior member for St. Lucy, it is difficult for me to tell him anything more in respect of the motor vans. I remember having stated the exact position in respect of the vans during the consideration of the last Estimates and even since then. I remember having stated the amount of mileage they gave and having read a Minute from the Commissioner of Police as to the true state of affairs. I remember also the junior member for St. James having commented on the fact that the vans lasted very long, having regard to the amount of travelling which they did.

The CHAIRMAN: The junior member for St. Lucy is enquiring about the mileage which the new vans give to the gallon of petrol.

Mr. ADAMS: I heard something yesterday along the lines the honourable member has mentioned and I wish I was given notice of his question. I also heard the rumour that the mileage is much less than was expected. The information which I have—it is not official—is that the sellers of the vans locally said that they would give such and such mileage but they have not come up to that expectation. It is not a question of any fault on the part of the Commissioner of Police or the drivers or the Government. As regards item 56 I cannot give the honourable member any more information than what is stated in the explanatory note. It seems that £1 was spent in 1946-47 in purchasing some sort of equipment but the actual training in First Aid did not take place. The Government has put the amount back in the Estimates for next year, hoping to have policemen trained in First Aid during the financial year 1948-49. As regards the ammunition I have gone very carefully into it apart from being the Leader of the House, because I myself entirely agree with the attitude of those members who feel that the Police Force should not be a semi-Army. I thoroughly agree with Supt. Calver that the Police Force should be a Police Force and that if we want a Volunteer Force or a Caribbean Regiment we should make provision for the establishment of either the one or the other. But until we implement Superintendent Calver's recommendations I suggest that we would be perfectly in order to allow things to remain as they are. I repeat that, to my mind, it is abominable that a Police Force should be other than a Police Force, that is, a Military Body, but, Sir, we have no Volunteer Force; we have no Caribbean Regiment; we have no implementation, as yet, of Supt. Calver's recommendations although we should proceed to do that as speedily as possible; therefore, I suggest we would be perfectly in order to pass this vote for ammunition. After all, it is part of the general policy throughout the British Empire, not merely Barbados, that the members of the Police Force should be taught to shoot and shoot straight. There may be times when you may have to protect yourselves against possible armed intruders and, therefore, you have to train the policemen to shoot. I am not unaware that in some colonies the policy is to make the Police Force a subsidiary

military body but member of the Government or no member of the government I am not going to advocate anything in which I do not believe. Speaking for myself and for the other members of the Executive Committee from this Chamber, we feel that the Police Force should be kept principally for the purpose of preserving law and order in the ordinary way.

As far as this particular vote for ammunition is concerned I did not know what I know now. I too thought that inasmuch as money was being voted from year to year for the purchase of ammunition, there was a surplus; but that is not the position. The position is that stocks of ammunition are very low, judged by the standard laid down nearly twenty years ago which has been constantly followed; all the present ammunition is of the 1938 stock, is no longer serviceable and should be dumped. It is dangerous to use any of that ammunition for any purpose whatever. At present there are 568 rifles on issue to the Police Force and in accordance with the laid down scale of 500 rounds of ammunition per rifle, the Police Force should carry, according to a Minute by the Commissioner of Police, 284,000 rounds. The Force is no longer armed with Lewis Guns. At present, there are only 103,000 rounds of .303 ammunition in stock in the Magazine and another 23,000 rounds on order through the Crown Agents for the Colonies and not yet received, making a maximum of 126,000 rounds during the next six months. This means that even taking the maximum stock, the laid down stock is deficient by 158,000 rounds. There is less than half of what is laid down as the standard nearly twenty years ago. The quantity of ammunition for the Force for annual musketry training and competitions is about 20,000 rounds altogether, with an annual grant of 14,000 rounds to the Barbados Rifle Association, making an annual turnover of 34,000 rounds. All the ammunition held by the Police is of the 1938 supply and it is obsolete. The experts say that in tropical climates, ammunition which is eight years old should not be used but should be dumped. That is why the Government has included in this estimate the sum of £488 for the purchase of 61,000 rounds of ammunition to replace present stocks. At the present moment we have 103,000 rounds which should be dumped and it is, therefore, suggested that for the next six years 61,000 rounds be added annually. This quantity will cost £488 and the remaining £112 is for the purchase of spares, oil, flannellets and other materials. As far as this vote is concerned, honourable members may be assured that the members of the Government are no more militaristic than they are.

The CHAIRMAN: I take it, from the honourable member's explanation, that no ammunition has been bought since 1938 and that the amount voted for that purpose since then have lapsed.

Mr. ADAMS: The actual ammunition that exists to-day is the 1938 stock and of the £600, £488 will be used to purchase only 61,000 rounds; the 103,000 rounds we now possess will be dumped. The item to which the senior member for the City referred is fixed by law, nevertheless I will tell him that the question of rent allowances or emoluments will be dealt with by the Civil Service Commissioner. As regards the Band everybody is anxious to see that it is kept at a high level and the Government is adding a few Cadets to it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Evidently the honourable member has not been listening to my remarks. I have not said anything about adding a few Cadets to the Band. What I said was that young boys are taken on to be trained in the Band and after they have been

trained, they remain in the Band with no hope of receiving a stipend until some bandsman resigns or dies. I am not criticizing the training of these Cadets. All they receive during their training is rations and uniform and after they have been trained they are given no opportunity to become members of the Force until a Bandsman resigns or dies; they must either go or continue to work for an indefinite period for nothing.

Mr. BRANCKER: The senior member for St. Joseph referred to the standard that was laid down twenty years ago and he also stated that until we implement Supt. Calver's recommendations, we shall presumably carry on this principle that was laid down twenty years ago. But, Mr. Chairman, the point is: how long will it be before we implement the recommendations of Supt. Calver? Twenty years ago, a standard was laid down and it would appear as if we have to go on for another twenty years before this very important part of Supt. Calver's Report is implemented. I must say that this is one of the most objectionable features of the Police Force and I believe that the men take strong exception to the militaristic part of it. There are certain persons who want members not only of the Police Force but also of the Volunteer Force to salute them and I understand that they, more than anybody else, are holding up the implementation of the Calver Report because of these militaristic sounds which sound so musical to their ears. The idea seems to be that the Force will continue to be conducted on the basis of what was laid down 20 years ago when the Force was a pseudo-militaristic body. The honourable member said that 568 rifles are on issue and that the ammunition which is of the 1938 stock is very low. Judging from the time between 20 years ago and to-day, it is clear that that standard is outmoded. I would like the honourable member to have another check made of the ammunition at present in stock. I will be frank with him and tell him that I have information about the quantity of ammunition in stock—how much is obsolete and how much is not. I will also assist him if he needs my assistance in making the check. As regards the motor-vans, the rumour is that the vans are giving only 9 miles to the gallon of petrol and I am wondering if the type of vans which the Government has in mind, so far as these two new vans are concerned, is of the same type which gives less than 9 miles to the gallon. We really cannot allow this impression to gain ground that all the police have to do is to ask for vans and if the vans which they get are not satisfactory, they can ask for others and get them. If the present type of van is not giving the mileage that was expected, it is the Government's duty not to buy any more of that type. I have, every year since I have had the honour of being a member of this House, questioned item 53, Special Services. I am wondering if there is anything the senior member for St. Joseph would care to add to what the Government's spokesman has stated every year as to the purpose to which the Government applies this grant for Special Services; it is something we need to know much about as it is used, I understand, for the Criminal Investigation Department. Any information this Government would be willing to give this House in the matter will be appreciated.

Mr. ADAMS: The honourable member has answered himself. There are special hush-hush services that every State would have to go in for and they would completely destroy the whole object of an investigation if they let it be known beforehand that So and So has discovered that So and So is smuggling

or breaking a law. I do not think the honourable member would need me to say more than that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I want to support the remarks of the junior member for St. Lucy with regard to the allegation that quite a large quantity of ammunition is being and has been thrown away. It would appear that there is a waste of money somewhere, as far as this item is concerned. I wonder, Sir, whether any step has been taken, so far, to provide a uniform more in keeping with conditions in the tropics for the members of the Police Force and I think we are entitled to some statement as to what efforts are being made to implement the Calver Report. Sometime earlier this year I asked questions in this Chamber with regard to what the Government was doing in the endeavour to implement all, or nearly all of the more practical recommendations in the Calver Report. A few weeks ago replies were tabled to the effect that "the detailed investigation of the Calver Report which the honourable member—assuming that they mean myself—agreed should be undertaken in collaboration with the Commissioner of Police, is now being undertaken by his successor on the Executive Committee." That statement is a deliberate falsehood and I am amazed at the Government sending it down to this Chamber. Later on, I will go into the matter more fully but I want to say at this stage that it is high time that some steps be taken to implement the more practical recommendations in the Calver report. Superintendent Calver began his investigation in October, 1945, and presented his Report early in 1946—over two years now—and we are yet to be told what the Government intends to do with regards to the recommendations which he has made. There is no point in spending money to bring experts here to investigate conditions in government departments if we are going to pursue a policy of negation after their Reports have been available to the public. This is a matter to which we, occupying a position as we do, should see that some attention is paid. I do not propose to go into it more fully to-day, since I am expecting very shortly to be able to initiate a debate on the entire question of conditions in the Police Force and then I shall hope to be able to deal with such things as the necessity for doing away with some of the horses which are at present used by the Police Force and which are costing us over £2,000 a year for fodder alone. If we mechanize the Force I do not see the necessity for keeping so many horses and £2,000 a year for fodder is by no means a small sum of money. Then there is the question of clothes allowance and laundry allowance, both of which need attention and on both of which we can effect some economy if we implement the recommendations in the Calver Report. There are a few remarks I want to make also in connection with the Harbour Police and the way in which their salaries and conditions of work compare with those of the Land Police but I propose to postpone these remarks because it does appear to me that there is a lot of work to be done if we are to finish the Estimates to-day. I am surprised to see so much time spent on this particular Head.

The question that the sum of £22,546 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XVI—PRISONS

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £6,195 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman,—I should like to call attention to item 21, Maintenance of hospital £300, in order to state that I thought it was the intention of the Government to do away with the Hospital at District "A" and have the patients accommodated at the General Hospital. I realize that what I have stated refers to sick policemen and not to sick prisoners.

Mr. ADAMS: The matter is still under consideration. The Government tried to see if it could arrange with the Directors of the General Hospital to have a special ward for policemen but that apparently was not successful and the whole question is under consideration in connection with possible extensions at the present General Hospital until we build a new hospital. At least, the Government used to think—I do not know if its members have changed their minds—that policemen who are ill get better attention in a general ward of the General Hospital than they would in the hospital at Dist. "A". This particular item 21 does not affect the greater problem of cases that should go to the General Hospital; this only affects cases that should be dealt with in the hospital at Glendairy Prison.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On this question of prisoners I am wondering whether, in view of the unemployment that exists in the island, it would not be a wise thing to cease having prisoners doing work outside of the prison and let that work be done by persons who are unemployed. I am not condemning the principle of allowing prisoners to work but at least I feel that the work which they are put to do at various government institutions should be given to people who are unemployed.

Mr. GARNER: Item 17, Provisions, £3,750. The explanatory note states:—"Cost of rations for prisoners. Increase due to increase in prices. Includes also the cost of materials used in making bread supplied to Lunatic Asylum and Lazaretto" I am wondering whether the Government should not increase this amount, so that some of this good bread which is being made at the Prison could be sent to the Government Industrial Schools. I am very emphatic about that. I pointed out a short while ago that the boys at Dodds get two biscuits a day and that that is not sufficient to keep their bodies together to do the work which they have to do. I have seen some of the bread which is made at the Prison. I have not been confined there myself but I have seen some of the bread. If it is good enough for the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum and adult prisoners, it must be good enough for the juveniles. Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that the boys at the Government Industrial School are given no bread; they go hungry; they get no bread; they get two biscuits and as I have said on a previous occasion I give my dog more than two biscuits. If you give the boys only two biscuits they must steal and that is what I want to bring forcibly to the notice of this Committee. These boys have to do laborious agricultural work in the sun all the time and that calls for something to keep their bodies together. You cannot send a man in the field to do laborious work all the time without proper sustenance. I have done some of it too and I know that you have to have something good in your stomach to keep the body up. I think this Government should decide at once to let some of the bread that is baked at the Prison go up to Dodds for the boys up there. I hope it will see to it because it is an evil that needs to be remedied.

Mr. ADAMS: I am instructed, on the very latest possible instructions, that the boys at the Government Industrial School do get bread sometimes.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I want to refer to Item 16, Ten matrons (£50—5—95). I thought that some provision would have been made for increased emoluments for these matrons whose salaries start at \$20 a month each in a day like to-day and who have to be at work from five o'clock in the morning. I do not want to delay the passing of this Head but I do want to draw attention to this particular item.

The question that the sum of £6,195 be voted under this Head is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XVII—GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

The items and the respective amounts to be voted are read.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman,—I would like to ask leave to make certain amendments to this Head. I want to insert a new item to be numbered 28, Improvement of Water Supply, £125, and another new item to be numbered 29, Provision of Radios, £95. The Committee that sat on the Government Industrial Schools made certain recommendations, some of which will take some time before they are carried out, and as honourable members are aware, the sum of £10,000 has been put in the Estimates under Capital Expenditure for alterations to the Government Industrial Schools. The Committee recommended the building of a Borstal Institution for boys in the adolescent stage, that is, between 17 and 21 years old and it is proposed that Summervale should be used for the purpose and a new Industrial School for Girls be built somewhere else. That has to wait for some time perhaps but there are certain improvements which can be made at the earliest possible opportunity. The Government proposes to instal two radios at a cost of £95 and also to have certain wells cleaned with the view of improving the water supply in order that more kitchen gardening may be done. The Deputy Director of Agriculture who is a member of the Committee estimates that the sum of £125 would be required to do the necessary cleaning, digging and pumping tests of the wells at the schools and the Committee approved of the estimate and asked the Governor-in-Executive Committee to put it in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1948-49. As far as I remember, there was one well, the sinking of which was given up after a time and Dr. Senn suggests that if they went on digging to a depth of 40 ft. more, they may be able to tap water in that particular area. However, the proposal now is to clean these old wells and dig them deeper and in that way it is hoped that an additional source of water will be supplied and more kitchen gardening undertaken. If there is a surplus of vegetables, the other Government institutions will be supplied with them. I beg to move that the sum of £9,112 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir,—I notice, in connection with item 21, that only a sum of £10 is provided for tools and implements. The inference to be drawn from that is that there is very little work being done, from the point of view of teaching trades to the boys of the school. I think that more provision should be made for the technical training of the boys. At the Institute in Jamaica which corresponds to Dodds—Stony Hill—there is a very fine workshop where the boys are taught carpentry and joinery to a high standard and as a matter of fact, so well equipped is that shop that boys from the surrounding districts go there to learn trades without any stigma being attached to them. If even we were to provide a

technical school in Bridgetown, it does not necessarily follow that all the young people in the country districts would want to avail themselves of the opportunity to come to Bridgetown and two or three small technical schools outside the City might serve a very useful purpose. I think we might make a beginning at the Government Industrial School, to train not only the boys there but also the boys in the surrounding districts, so that they might acquire some skill that will be of use to both themselves and the community later on. I am glad to see that we are making provision to interest the boys in music. At Stony Hill there is also a very fine Band. I do not remember the number of boys who comprise the Band but it is so well run that they almost collect as much as would provide themselves with instruments. Anybody who hears them play is almost moved to subscribe \$5 to their funds: they play extremely well. In time to come if provision is made at Dodds for improving the musical skill of the boys I have no doubt that their Band will also become self-supporting. Now, Sir, as regards item 24, After-care of boys and girls, the sum of only £45 is provided and that, in my opinion, is manifestly insufficient for this purpose. What is needed is an After-care Officer to check up periodically on those boys and girls who are discharged from the schools. If the matter is tackled in the manner in which it should be tackled, then £45 will be definitely insufficient. I am waiting to see exactly the over-all steps which the Government proposes to take in connection with the recommendation in the Arne Report because these schools have to go a long way if they are to reach the position occupied by similar institutions even in the West Indies. At Stony Hill to-day, boys and girls are actually taking the Cambridge examinations, the educational standard is so high that every year some of the pupils are entered for the Junior and the Senior Cambridge examinations. We have got to get away from the old stigma attached to these institutions and realize that they have an important part to play in the community and the sooner we are able to do so, the better it will be for the island as a whole. Reference has been made to the Borstal and the proposal to have a similar institution in this island. Honourable members will be surprised to know that we have actually had an English Inspector of Police in the West Indies who was a Borstal boy and several of the recruits for the Palestine Police Force are Borstal boys. So efficient is the training and so well equipped are the boys after they leave the Borstal Institution that they can be asked to fill a position of such importance and responsibility. I think the time has come when we should send one of our officers abroad to be trained in social work and come back and occupy a useful place in these institutions. We are accustomed to depend too much on imported experts and it is far better if we adopt the policy of training and equipping our own people to occupy positions of this sort. I hope very soon to hear that provision is made to send one of the officers of these institutions abroad for training in this kind of work.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I am speaking first on item 9. There are ten overseers at the Boys' Industrial School and honourable members see what is their rate of pay. I submit, Sir, that the job of overseer at this institution is one which necessitates long working hours. These overseers have to be on duty at night and while on night duty they are required to peg clocks. I do not know if I could manage that very well. Jobs in which people are required to break up their night's rest and peg clocks

should fetch more money and I am surprised, as I said last week, that this particular item has been overlooked. This is a question of labour and I cannot see why these long hours—I have the figures at home but I forgot to bring them along with me this morning—which these men have to put in have not been taken into consideration in computing their wages. It is true that they get \$8 a month as a ration allowance but that is practically nothing to-day when the cost of living is taken into consideration; it is infinitesimal. These salaries are quite inadequate; they work out at \$36 per month and I am wondering what is the feeling of this Committee on the matter because I should like to move that the further consideration of this particular Head be postponed in order to give the Government some time to rectify it. I do not see how we, sixteen Labourites, can sit here and vote salaries like these when we consider that that these men have to work such long hours—

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the honourable member to observe that this is an item which has been fixed by law and that the salary scale for these overseers has been revised by Resolution No. 64/1946 which has been approved by this House.

Mr. GARNER: Yes, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: I take it also that the salaries of these overseers will be gone into by the Civil Service Commissioner Mr. G. H. Adams, C.B.E. The honourable member may act as he thinks best but I am appealing to him on the strength of what I have mentioned.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I thought of that too but it seems to me that none of us know, up to now, which way the wind is blowing. We do not know if he is going to recommend that there be retrenchment; so it is my duty to point out to the Government the defects in this particular Department in the hope that the Commissioner will recommend something better. I cannot sit idly by and let it pass; it is my duty to call attention to it. It must be impressed on the Government that this is not a proper wage for people who have to work such long hours, so that if the Commissioner did not recommend anything in the favour of these men, the Government would be bound to do something on their behalf because the principal members of the Government are Labourites and that is the keynote of my argument: these men have to peg clocks and they are only getting \$36 per month! That is not enough. Agricultural workers do far less responsible work and get more money than that. It is not fair to these men I feel that I am in duty bound to ask that the further consideration of this Head be postponed. Recommendations take years to be implemented. I am told that there are some recommendations which have never seen the light of day and I am not willing that that should happen in the case of these fellows in the parish of St. Philip. I hope that the other Labourites in this House will support me and see that the Government do something more for these overseers \$36 per month is no money to-day, especially for a man with a decent family. I formally beg to move that the further consideration of this Head be postponed and I am hoping that this Government will do something at once in the matter.

At this stage, 2 p.m., Mr. SPEAKER resumes the Chair and adjourns the House until 2.45 p.m. in accordance with Rule 40 (a).

REPLIES LAID

On re-assembling,

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the replies to questions No. 36,

standing in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter.

SUSPENSION OF RULES 61 (A) AND 61 (B)

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to move the suspension of Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) in order to resume Government Business.

There being no objection, the honourable member was granted leave to make the motion.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) be now suspended.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker,—Inasmuch as I will be in the Chair, if we reach the respective Heads of the Estimates, I should like the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to explain under the Head "Department of Highways and Transport" why the amounts have been placed under the column "fixed by law" and also to tell me if he knows who is responsible for the fixing of the car parks especially those around the Post Office, because they have deliberately put a car park at the entrance to the door of the Post Office on the west side. With regard to the Head "Public Works Department," I would like to know whether any provision is made for overtime pay for those who put up the chain around this building in order to ensure that we have a certain degree of quiet. In connection with the General Hospital, I would like some member of the Government to explain whether there has been any suggestion by the Radiologist to increase the charges for work done in that Department and if so whether any increased revenue has been budgeted for.

The question that Rules 61 (a) and 61 (b) be now suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the House adjourned for lunch, we were in Committee of Supply on the Estimates for 1948—49.

THE ESTIMATES 1948—49

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply on the Estimates, Mr. LEWIS being in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When we adjourned for lunch, Head XVII of the Estimates was under consideration and the honourable junior member for St. Philip was speaking.

Mr. GARNER: Mr. Chairman,—I was speaking on item 9, "Ten Overseers, £355" and I was wondering if anything could be done immediately with regard to these Overseers. I go now to item 24, "After-care of boys and girls, £45. This is a very paltry sum especially when you see that in respect of item 25 the sum of £100 has been provided for travelling expenses; they do not think of the after-care of the boys and girls as they think about the travelling expenses. We have made great mistakes in the past; we have not thought of giving these boys a chance of rehabilitating themselves in life after they have left the Institution. I am going to make a very bold statement which may be challenged by many. I think that the law should be repealed so that boys and girls should enter these Institutions without having to commit a crime. These Institutions should be brought so up to date as to be homes for children and not allow them to commit crimes before they can enter these Institutions. There are many boys who are destitute and that Institution should be a training home for them. I know that there are about four or five boys in my district who should be sent to the Institution provided that it is a home for destitute children, and

no stigma should be attached to it. Personally, I do not believe that the people who started the Institution meant it to be what it is today; it is only a prison now. I do not want to say some of the things that I know because people will say that they are personal. I have a wealth of information in connection with this Institution because I have my lines of communication to that place. I know that boys have been put into the cells because they looked at the Acting Superintendent in a manner which he did not like. I questioned him about it and he said that it was dumb insolence. I could give this Committee the shock of their lives as regards some of the things that go on at this Institution. I think it is well that we take a serious look at this Institution because in this Island the economic condition is very bad and these boys and girls will always be with us. I am going to make another bold statement here now. All the boys and girls up there look like me and where there is a mixed community and you get one section of the people in these Institutions, something is wrong. A gentleman was honest enough to tell me this: "I had my boy going to the Lodge School and in a certain neighbourhood he threw stones in somebody's house and the poor man came to complain to me." That gentleman said: "My child could have been sent to Dodds too." He is willing to help me to get something done. If a case had been made, he would have been able to pull wires. These unfortunate boys cannot pull any wires and I say: let us make this Institution a home away from home. The most of this state of affairs is economics; these children are there because their parents are destitute. I am not making any second reading speech but it is a fact that if this school were made up to date and the right person was there—I hope that no Government will think of putting the acting Superintendent as Head of that Institution because he is an absolute misfit for that. When he puts children in a cell and gives them air fifteen minutes a day and say that he wants to reform them I do not see how he could be Head of that Institution. I repeat that this £45 for the after-care of children is not enough because the children who leave these Institutions cannot place themselves in certain positions. They cannot get any work because the stigma is there; nobody wants to hire a Dodds boy too quickly; everybody is afraid of him. You really have to give these boys a start in life if you want to rehabilitate them. As regards item 21, "Tools and implements, £10, that is only a begatelle. I do not know what tools £10 can buy. All these boys should be given training so that when they leave the place they can work as carpenters, joiners or whatever their trade is. Apparently the school has deteriorated and no attention is paid to these things now. I understand that the Chairman of the Committee in connection with this Institution is against giving the boys any bread and if he is not willing to do that, I am very sorry. I should like to do unto others as I would that they should do unto me. I hope that the Committee will go into the various aspects of the Institution. I repeat that there is a stigma attached to this Institution and the Acting Head of the Institution treats the boys as young prisoners. We want for the Head of this Institution a properly trained man who knows something about dealing with juvenile delinquents. In many cases there is also adult delinquency and a lot of that is caused by parents who were in circumstances over which they had no control. These boys and girls are "unfortunates": some of them are brighter than a lot of others who are not there. It is the initiative of these boys and girls which has brought them to trouble in many cases and if they

were given an opportunity to recoup themselves they could make great citizens. Many children would steal but they have not got the ambition to do it. I hope that something will be done so that the amount provided for the after-care of these boys and girls will be made tangible and not this mere bagatelle which is now allowed.

Dr. CUMMINS: I think I should say a few words in connection with this Head of the Estimates. The honourable member who has just sat down has made certain criticisms firstly in respect of the salary of the Overseers; but he knows, and the Committee has been told not later than last Tuesday, that the question of salaries paid from the Treasury is being gone into by Mr. Adams, the Civil Service Commissioner, and the Government could not single out these Officers at the Government Industrial Schools for special treatment. They will be treated in the same way as others who draw their salaries from the Treasury. As far as the After-care of boys and girls is concerned, I am glad that the hon. member realises that that is a case for the Advisory Committee which is now sitting and I am quite sure that the matter is under active consideration and when the next Estimates come before the House the honourable member will see a much greater amount provided. Before I sit down, I should like to say that last Tuesday the honourable member made certain charges against the Acting Superintendent of these Schools and he has made charges against him again to-day. Last Tuesday the honourable member charged that the Acting Superintendent compelled boys to pull a lorry laden with grass from Seawell to Dodds. I am not blaming the honourable member because, naturally, he has to tell us what has been told to him. He probably did not take the trouble to investigate the matter as he should have done. I communicated with the Acting Superintendent about this matter and I have before me a statement by him as to what actually happened on that occasion, as well as signed statements from three members of the staff who were in charge of the boys. I will not read them verbatim; I will just give the substance and any honourable member who wants to see them may do so. As far as I am informed, this lorry had a breakdown and they were trying to get it to go on. The driver would tinker with it and it would go a little distance and then stop again. At one time they were short of gasoline and the Acting Superintendent borrowed two gallons from Seawell and this tinkering and stopping went on for quite a while. When the lorry got to a place on the border of St. Philip and Christ Church it was getting late and the Acting Superintendent stopped and gave the boys some refreshments (A MEMBER: Including bread or biscuits?) and he went on to Dodds. It was getting very late and the boys volunteered about four o'clock that they would pull the lorry with the grass. The Acting Superintendent related the story to some of the other boys who already had their meals and they had compassion on these boys and they went and pulled the lorry in. To say that these boys were compelled to do so is not true. There are signed statements by three members of the staff who can testify to the fact that these boys volunteered to get in the lorry, as it was getting late instead of wasting time on the road, so that they could get their meals.

Mr. GARNER: In reply to the honourable member I should like to say that he has tried to save the Department but he has made things look worse. I can assure this Committee that anything which the honourable member has there has been done under duress, because the Acting Superintendent is a

proud tyrant, a bully, a man who needs as much reformation as Satan needs to be reformed so as to go to Heaven. The man at the Government Industrial Schools is a proud know-all, a good-for-nothing man. I want to tell this Committee that when the Acting Superintendent got back there these boys could not have eaten already and as regards their wanting to go and help their brethren pull a lorry, Mr. Chairman, not the Dodds boys I know. They were not going to volunteer to pull any lorry and then write anonymous letters about it. Every Dodds boy was talking about this thing. What the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has there has been done under duress, I repeat. The Acting Superintendent went on the spot with his automobile and don't you think that if he wanted to help the boys he would not have tied the lorry to his car or see about a plantation sending a lorry to assist in hauling the grass? The excuse given is no excuse for anybody to give; it was the business of the Acting Superintendent to send and borrow a lorry to haul the lorry not for the boys to pull it. But the Acting Head of this Department is a criminal and he has sent these things here under duress so as to belittle me. I have got the facts from people who saw it and from the boys; it was a burning shame. He drove off in his car like some mighty god and the Dodds boys were pulling the grass! What was happening with the Government funds that they could not pay for the lorry? The Acting Superintendent insisted that the boys pull this lorry up hill from Seawell. I repeat that I went there and interviewed him and he told me that because a boy looked at him he put the boy in a cell for fifteen minutes a day! I had to go and see Mr. Rankine, the then Acting Governor, so as to get the boy out so that he could get some fresh air. Do you think that the Acting Superintendent of these Schools is a fit and proper person for this job? I say that he should be sent to some other Department. You must have somebody with a tender heart, somebody who knows how to deal with delinquent children to do this job. This individual is too far from that. The people who signed these things did so, so as to save their jobs. I have got anonymous letters from the boys and from people who saw the incident and reported it to me as their representative. I could produce many witnesses in any tribunal to say what they saw happen. I could talk a lot more things here now. This individual has tried to use the Government to further his end and he is passing on gifts. If the correct thing is not done I will come back and give the House and the public all the facts at my disposal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I suggest to the honourable member that he will then be adopting a much better course.

Mr. GARNER: I will do that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed the honourable member some latitude and I think he has said sufficient about the matter. I think it would be better dealt with if he adopts my suggestion.

Mr. GARNER: I thank you.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I asked the honourable member if the boys had to pull the lorry to the Institution. If that statement is correct then I think the Government has to enquire into it. If these children were sent to pull this lorry from Seawell, an investigation should be made and let us not merely have these signed statements.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable junior member for St. Philip can be relied upon to bring the matter before the House again.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I take it that this statement has been made with some responsibility and that the honourable senior member for St. Thomas will see that something is done about it. Everybody knows what the distance from Seawell to the Government Industrial Schools is.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not think that too much emphasis can be put on this matter. It is obvious that the chauffeur returned to Seawell to borrow the two gallons of gasoline so that when the lorry broke down it was not too far from Seawell.

Dr. CUMMINS: I did not say that the chauffeur returned to Seawell; the Acting Superintendent himself took the gasoline from Seawell.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I understand that it was the driver of the lorry who went to Seawell for the gasoline and that he stopped and treated the boys.

Dr. CUMMINS: It was the Acting Superintendent who stopped the boys and got refreshments.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The boys were treated at a shop whether by the chauffeur or the Acting Superintendent at the border of St. Philip and Christ Church, and I presume that the honourable member means the shop at Oldbury, four or five miles, if not more, from the Government Industrial Schools and a part of the distance is uphill. I am amazed to think that if the Acting Superintendent himself were on the spot he could expect the boys to pull the lorry all that distance. It is an amazing occurrence; the information which I have on the matter is that which I have got from my colleague and there are certain aspects of it which I did not know before, and which I did not know were so grave; but judging from them I think that some proper investigation should be made into the matter. The traditional policy has been to regard Dodds as a kindergarten or nursery from Glendairy. The people who go there are fugitives and it has always been the policy to treat them as such. That, as has been emphasized by my colleague and by myself on more than one occasion, is not the policy on which this Institution should be run; and if as it has been stated, the Government has given a directive towards changing this policy, it certainly does not appear that this directive has been given in the right quarters if after it has been given, action of this sort is possible by the Acting Superintendent. I think that the Committee is rather fortunate that this matter has been exposed to-day and I sincerely hope that this will not be the end of it.

The question that the sum of £9,112 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XVIII—COMMISSIONERS OF CURRENCY

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £5,125 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XIX—ECCLESIASTICAL

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £825 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In connection with item 5, "Additional grant, £200" under the heading "Moravian Church" I would like to say that this House should not subscribe to any religious body which is more or less propagating religious discrimination. It has been drawn to my attention that a minister of this same Church to which we

give a grant-in-aid, refused to appoint a school teacher as Headmistress of a school and one of the grounds for it was that she belonged to a denomination other than the Moravian. I feel that that is a very serious thing; the amount of money is small but it is the principle that I am driving at. If we vote money belonging to people in this colony whether they be Moravians, Anglicans, agnostics or anything else to assist these people to discriminate against other people in the community, that is a very serious indictment. I feel that we should all have our religious beliefs and no one should be discriminated against. I beg to move that this item be deleted.

Mr. COX: I beg to second the motion. I associate myself with the remarks of the honourable member. I feel that the refusal to appoint this teacher in question to the school is an injustice not only to the children who would have had the benefit of so able a teacher as she is but to the island as a whole. To my mind, it is an insult; this individual was forbidden from trespassing on the premises by this Minister! If we are prepared to vote money to assist these various denominations, I think that at the same time these denominations should pay due regard to the fact that it is the taxpayers' money that is being voted. I am sorry that I cannot speak at length on this question because I know that it is difficult to get through these Estimates in the time in which we hope to get through them. I think that the Committee would do well to delete this item and let this Minister know that we strongly disapprove of his behaviour towards this individual. That would show that we do not intend to support anything of this kind.

Mr. HAYNES: I am strongly supporting this motion not because this is a question of the Moravian Church but to draw to the attention of the Government the position as regards the schools and the Church, whether it be the Anglican, Moravian, Wesleyan or any other Church. The schools should not belong to the Church so that they could be under its control. I think the Government should make some arrangement to rent these schools or buy them from the various religious bodies so that the schools can be free from the Church. I can tell this Committee that once these schools belong to the Church, you cannot get anything done at all, and for that reason whether it be the Moravians, Anglicans or any other religious body, something should be done in the matter. Every year we sit here and vote money to repair these schools, make them better buildings for the Church, not for ourselves, and one of these days we will be called upon to foot a big bill to pay for them. It is a most miserable state of affairs and I hope that the member of the Executive in charge of matters relating to education will put forward the matter of either renting these schools on a long lease from these parsons or raise a loan and buy them for the Government. This is a serious state of affairs and I am hoping that this item will be deleted as a mark of protest.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not think that honourable members should be so moved as to vote for the deletion of this item merely on what has been said by previous speakers. They should hear both sides of the case first; they should have all the facts before them before they agree to this motion. As regards the question of the Moravian Church practising discrimination, if it can be said that one religious denomination has never practised any discrimination, it is the Moravians. I say that unless we have the facts which have led up to the statement which has been made here this afternoon, how can we sit

here and say that this denomination is wrong? The honourable senior member for St. Andrew has not really studied the educational set-up otherwise he would not talk about making arrangements for taking away the schools—

Mr. HAYNES: I ask the honourable member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is my prerogative to say that the honourable member does not know what he is talking about. The honourable member does not seem to understand the position when he talks about our making arrangements to take over these schools. When certain people never thought of those who would have to go into these schools, the Moravians thought of building these schools for the purpose of educating children. They would have certain rules and why should we sit down and refuse to give them this grant without hearing both sides of the question? There seems to be a deadlock between the Education Board and the Supervising Minister in this district. I may say that the particular Church or School in question is Mount Tabor. Whether it be the Anglican, Wesleyan, Moravian, Christian Mission or whatever denomination, there is the question of assisting not only in the school but also in the Church and certainly the Supervising Minister is entitled to know something as regards a teacher's religion. I do not think that honourable members would be well advised to withdraw this grant. There is no religion in this country which has done more for the people after the abolition of slavery than the Moravians.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable senior member for St. Andrew in his zeal for the disestablishment of the Church is certainly beclouding the issue. This entire debate is a beautiful illustration of the axiom that one fool makes many. What has the incident under reference to do with this particular Head? The incident referred to could be more appropriately discussed under Head 20 "Education".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Reducing the vote under this Head would be wrong?

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of course. If you are having an established Church in this colony, you should give a small grant to other denominations including the Moravians and Roman Catholics. When the Church is disestablished I presume that we will make small grants to these denominations. While I would heartily support the disestablishment of the Church, I want to make it clear that I would be willing even after disestablishment to make a small grant to the Churches. The Moravians would be the last people from whom I would take away a grant. Throughout the entire West Indies, the Moravians set the example of providing educational facilities and religious instruction for the majority of the people after the abolition of slavery and even before. They have done more for the social and educational enlightenment of the people than any other denomination in the West Indies. If the incident which gave rise to this motion is founded on fact, certainly the Government have in their hands the power to remedy the situation in any manner. If they are maintaining these schools, putting furniture in them, providing them with equipment, paying teachers' salaries and pensions, should they not take steps to assume complete control of the schools? If the Government maintain the schools and still allow somebody else to control them, that is their fault. What the Government should do in order to prevent such a situation from arising again is to see that they control the policy of the schools which they maintain and whose teachers they pay. They should not let the religious denominations, merely because they own the buildings and do not contribute to the expenses of the school, have the final say in the formula-

lation of the policy by which the school is governed. That is not fair. This matter should be dealt with when we come to consider the Head 'Education' and the Government should be called upon to give some express statement as to whether or not they intend to carry on this state of affairs; but we have no justification, even if there were incidents like the one mentioned taking place, to discontinue this grant to the Moravian Church. One swallow does not make a summer and any person should be disciplined for his shortcomings and remedial action taken, but the correct action would not be to discontinue the grant to the Church. We should be holding ourselves up to ridicule by every person throughout the West Indies if purely on the ground mentioned we supported the motion for the discontinuance of this grant to the Moravian Church.

Mr. SYMMONDS: We are asked to vote this additional grant of £200 in addition to a grant-in-aid of £400 which makes a total grant of £600 relative to the Moravian Church. A paltry £50 a month is contributed towards the maintenance of a religious Body which has done and continues to do a considerable amount of work on behalf of the spiritual welfare of a large section of the population of this island. We have just voted under the Head "Prisons" a total sum of £13,222 and if for no other reason than to continue our efforts to reduce—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Under the Head we voted £6,195 and the rest is provided by law.

Mr. SYMMONDS: The total amount is £13,222. If for no other reason than to continue our effort to reduce the amount we find it necessary to spend per annum on the maintenance of persons guilty of committing crimes in this colony, I think it is a very good economic principle to spend this paltry sum of £50 a month to assist a denomination which has been doing good work in this country. But there is another aspect of it, you have State schools and Denominational schools. You have the Anglican Body controlling the greatest number of schools, you have the Wesleyans controlling the second largest number of schools and you have the Moravians controlling a smaller number, and perhaps when we come to consider the vote on education that might be the appropriate time to discuss the merits or demerits of the various Denominational schools. But I take it that the amount of work done by the Moravians in their Sunday Schools as apart from the amount done in the State schools might be a better measure by which we can assess whether this Body deserves this annual grant of £200 or not. Until the State has taken over complete control of every Denominational school in this colony it would be most unfair to put any compulsion on the Moravians who control only a few schools. I take it that in every Denominational school some latitude is given to the Supervising Minister to see that the particular religious bias for which his particular denomination stands is adopted as a means of religious education in his particular school. In my view it would be wrong to have a Moravian Minister to accept an absolute atheist as Headteacher of his school when the Moravians control just a few schools. The honourable member on my right is laughing; any foolishness that I may talk he might be able to wipe away with his wisdom. We have been told that the Minister in charge of one of the Moravian Churches did not appoint as Headteacher of one of the schools someone who is not a member of his denomination; in my opinion, as long as the State has not taken over complete control of the Denom-

inational schools, any minister who is in control of any particular school is quite within his right to appoint a teacher of his denomination to the school. He would be a lunatic if he accepted an Anglican as Headteacher of his school especially when the Anglicans were not showing the same reciprocity as the Moravians. As long as the State continues to use the Denominational schools the least it can do is to continue to pay some respect to the wishes of the particular denomination which happens to be the pioneer in the establishment of elementary education in this island, and which long before the Government thought fit to start public elementary schools, took the task of educating the masses. It is because of that that I would strongly recommend that honourable members should not listen to the advice tendered here to-day to refuse the grant of this paltry £50 a month towards the welfare of a large section of this community. This is an age in which we are paying Welfare Officers to look after the well-being of the masses and there are other religious denominations in this island whose Ministers are doing welfare work. There is the Salvation Army, the Roman Catholics, the Church of God and the A.M.E. Church, which I hope to see receiving grants-in-aid at some future time, because their Ministers are truly welfare workers in this community; it is because of the religious teaching which they give to the masses of the island that the Barbadian has earned such a good character when he goes to work abroad. I again counsel honourable members not to refuse this grant to the Moravian Church.

Mr. HAYNES: The honourable senior member for St. Philip and the honourable junior member for St. George have been drawing a red herring across the trail.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I object to that.

Mr. HAYNES: The point is, Mr. Chairman, that I would have spoken about the disestablishment of the Anglican Church under this Head but you would have ruled it out of order. The Moravian Church has thrown the stone which the others will soon be throwing and the matter should be brought to the notice of the Government. I am told that the Moravian Pastor at Mount Tabor went so far as to prevent the Director of Education from trespassing. The last two speakers told us that the Moravian Church was the pioneer in education in this island. Probably that is so but we now have a Department of Education and for that reason the Church should have nothing more to do with education except in respect of the Sunday School to which no one would object. They should not be dictators so as to be able to say that this or that person should not enter the schools. Honourable members do not realise the seriousness of the situation. I am counselling both the honourable junior member for St. George and the honourable senior member for St. Philip to see my point of view and vote to suit in the matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I have no desire to regard anything that the honourable senior member for St. Philip has said because I know him too well. If I were voting for a priest I would ask about the man's religious faith as the honourable junior member for St. George has said; but a man's particular denominational belief has nothing whatsoever to do with his qualification as a teacher. If there was a saint and he was too ignorant to become a headteacher you could not appoint him to any school. Everybody's taxes pay the school teachers in this island and it is nonsense for any-

body to go into the history of the Church which started education in this island. None of us is going to be ungrateful to the Church which started education here but none of us is so stupid as not to know that a religious belief should not be the deciding factor as to an individual becoming a head-teacher of a school. When the honourable junior member for St. George says that a man's particular religion should have something to do with his qualification for appointment as a teacher, that is childish in the extreme. If you had an agnostic but he was a good teacher would you not appoint him to teach in a school because of there being a particular religious bias? It is only because of a personal explanation by the honourable senior member for St. Thomas to me, it is in consideration of that alone, that I will withdraw the motion. I do not come here to represent friends in any respect. Any friend of mine who cannot respect my independence can keep his friendship. I have friends who are Moravians. I have nothing against the gentleman concerned but the matter referred to has been drawn to my attention—something with which I do not agree and I say that I am not going to be a party to any group of individuals who want me to say something in order to retain the friendship of any individual. I have lived long enough by myself that I can die by myself. No Moravian friends of mine should believe that I am raising the matter because I am against the Moravians. I contend that the man is wrong; this particular teacher is one of the brightest teachers in the island because she came first in an examination on one occasion and that is a credit to this island. When a boy wins the Barbados Scholarship no one asks about religion. It is not a question of one swallow making a summer; if you subscribe to the principle of this thing there is no end of it. I beg leave to withdraw my motion on the personal explanation which the honourable senior member for St. Thomas has given me outside the House.

Mr. SYMONDS: We have just voted the sum of £135,720 under the Head "Police" and £13,222 under the Head "Prisons". This is not an educational matter; this is a question of religious teaching and the matter of spending £50 a month is in no way related to any elementary school. All I want to emphasize is that it is a good economic principle to spend £50 a month or more in this direction.

Dr. CUMMINS: The honourable senior member for St. Peter has said that I gave him a personal explanation in this matter and I think I should say something about it on the floor of the House. I just want to say that the Government has already dealt with the matter. It was brought before the Government and the Education Department and the Government has made it quite plain to the Education Department that religion must not play any predominant part in the making of appointments to schools. (Hear, hear). When the Education Board existed what the honourable junior member for St. George said about ministers choosing people of their faith obtained, but now that there is a Government Department it has been made clear—and the teachers have endorsed it—that religion must not play any predominant part where making these appointments is concerned.

There being no objection, the honourable senior member for St. Peter was granted leave to withdraw his motion.

The question that the sum of £825 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XX—EDUCATION

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £211,032 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am speaking in connection with item 31, "Barbados Scholarships, £1,973", and item 33 "West Indian University, £4,000" under Sub-head V, "University Education." For some time now the Government has been asked about making greater provision for University Education. In this island there is only one Barbados Scholarship awarded and in Trinidad there are three Scholarship awards. My contention is that education is a sound investment and if you make provision at the bottom you should also make provision at the top. It is the desire of parents to send their children to secondary schools, but it is a very difficult task for a poor person in this community who wants to further the education of his child. I think that Barbados should fall in line with other colonies and grant more Scholarships. We have now a West Indian University but no provision has been made for awarding any scholarships to this new University. I think that it is a big oversight to start your own University and not make any provision for awarding scholarships to that University. I feel that now this West Indian University has been established provision should be made so as to give boys and girls in Barbados the same opportunity as those in the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom. The Government has not paid sufficient thought to the University grant.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have a few comments to make on this Head and I start with item 16, "Training of Teachers, £2,100." One must appreciate the fact that the first real attempt that has been made by the Government to do anything real for people of the type of teachers has been in the establishment of the Teachers' Training College at Erdiston, but a visit there will reveal that the furnishing is very shocking. I discover that the students have to sleep six inches from the floor on a mattress with a spring and a piece of pine under it. There is the antiquated system in use. In connection with item 22, "Elementary Schools Sports Grant, 15," the amount would appear to be too small when one considers the interest taken in physical education, and I think that the grant should be increased. The most important items on which I want to speak are items 25, "Second Grade Exhibitions", 27, "First Grade Exhibitions for Boys" and item 28, "Primary to First Grade Exhibitions". I observe that only £800 is being spent in awarding exhibitions by the Government and in St. Michael the sum of £600 is spent. If that is so then the Government should increase the amount of money which they spend in awarding exhibitions so that the number of scholarships awarded should be increased. I do not think that anybody can deny that. As regards the dental service, I believe that the question has been raised in this House already, but I hope that the Government will look very carefully into the matter because this service is rather antiquated. Relative to the attention to the children's eyes, the children are brought from all over the island to Bridgetown and I think that some arrangements should be made for the inspection to be carried out at the schools in a proper way. It is not so kind to have this type of service and then have the children trotting through the sun for it. I should like to see something done in connection with increasing

the number of scholarships, Primary to First Grade and so on, because if this money is increased the number of scholarships awarded will be increased as well in keeping with the people's desire for the education of their children.

Mr. GALE: In connection with item 17, "Repairs and enlargements of Elementary Schools, £7,000" and item 18, "Erection, maintenance, repairs and alterations to latrines of Elementary Schools, £6,000", the amounts appear to be large. I take it that the Public Works Department will be in charge of planning and looking after the repairs and erection of these schools which are run with public funds. We have a Public Works Department and whenever any school building is to be done we have to call in a man to advise us in getting this work done! I think that the Public Works Department should take care of all the repairs to schools and the building of Elementary Schools.

Mr. S. A. WALCOTT: In connection with item 16, "Training of Teachers, £2,100", I should like to draw to the attention of the Government that this amount is too large for the training of 32 teachers. I cannot say that the Principal and Vice-Principal of Erdiston Training College are getting too much money but they are not getting enough work to do. They should be doing more work. I repeat that too much money is being spent in training 32 teachers.

Mr. BRANCKER: I would like some information as regards item 26 (2) "Lodge School, £6,622." Before I can see my way to vote this money, I would like some information as to what is happening at the Lodge School. We are asked to vote, apart from the £500 which we are required by law to expend on that Institution, the sum of £6,622 and there is no disguising the fact that all sorts of rumours are rampant in connection with this School; therefore I would like to know what foundation if any exists for any of these rumours. Before I vote this £6,622 I would like to know whether there is any discrimination as regards the boarders at this school—whether coloured boys are accepted as freely in the boarding establishment as white boys either from overseas or locally. There are not many applications made from local coloured people because of the fees charged, but I have heard of children of distinguished coloured parents overseas for whom there was never room at the boarding establishment of the Lodge School. When I say "distinguished" I mean of course distinguished so far as conduct, deportment and so on are concerned. In other words I am referring to children who it would be assumed that they would know how to conduct themselves if they were accepted as boarders at that institution. The question as to whether or not any racial discrimination exists at that school is one on which I would like to have some information. Happily there are three honourable members in this Committee who are members of the Board of Management of the school and I am sure that they would be more than happy to tell us what is really taking place at this school. Is there any discrimination at all between persons of different shades, races or colours at this school? I know that those three honourable members who are members of the Board of Management of the school will enlighten us to the best of their ability on that matter. I have no doubt that the honourable members for St. John and the honourable junior member for Christ Church are in close contact with parents or guardians of boys attending this school and can tell us what is said about the treatment accorded to these boys. As far as the Headmaster is concerned, I understand that he does his best to eliminate this racial discrimination which appears to rear its head at this Institution. Mr. Evans is a man who would do all he can

to stamp out this racial hatred. With regard to item 23, "Nutrition for Elementary school children," I see that the sum of £20,556 is proposed to be spent this year and it is less than the amount which was voted last year. During last year when the prices of articles were lower than they are to-day we voted £21,129 but this year we are asked to vote a smaller amount. I was looking forward to being asked to vote an amount considerably in excess of what we were asked to vote last year in connection with this item because I was hoping that the Government contemplated providing a much better and a more adequate and satisfying meal for these school children in the middle of the day. I was also looking forward to provision being made for supplying this meal during the vacation periods in suitable cases where the parents could not supply it themselves. I am asking the honourable senior member for St. Joseph to explain the reason for the decrease in the amount to be voted for this item, nutrition.

Mr. COX: In connection with item 15, "Grant-in-Aid to Public Elementary Schools, £113,860," I want to draw to the notice of the Government that there is some dissatisfaction existing at the elementary schools relative to schoolmasters and schoolmistresses having to pay to have the schools cleaned. I do not know whether that is true or not but if it is true I think it is high time that the Government should employ janitors to keep these schools clean. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said on more than one occasion that the school children should be allowed to assist in sweeping the schools and so forth. I have nothing against that provided that all the children will be called upon to do it in rotation; but as regards scrubbing the school, I think the Government should employ a few women to keep the schools clean and relieve the teachers of the burden of having to pull their pockets and pay for this scrubbing, if that is the case. As regards the question of dental treatment, I have raised the question sometime ago; I have not had the privilege of discussing it yet but I have been told—and the Government has replied in the affirmative—that during the vacation periods children are not given free extractions of teeth. I think that provision should be made whereby school children should at all times be able to get these extractions free. I also understand that there is some dissatisfaction existing among those who are responsible for extracting the teeth of these school children. I understand that the remuneration paid for doing this work is totally inadequate and the best service is not given as a result of proper remuneration not being paid for it. I suggest that the Government pay attention to the points which I have raised with a view of having the various conditions remedied.

Mr. MAPP: I do not want to prolong this debate unnecessarily but I look forward to the reply from the Government Spokesman to these questions especially the question of medical examination of elementary school children.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the item as regards that?

Mr. MAPP: Item 15. The last speaker spoke in connection with that item. I happen to know that although provision is made for the medical examination of elementary school children, the children are not regularly examined. That is to say that there is no set period of time by which examinations must be carried out and I think that is a state of affairs which calls for correction. If a child is examined to-day, there should be some system by which at a stated period, it should be re-examined and not at any haphazard time. There is a proper system of examination in other countries and the same thing should be in operation here. As far as dental treatment is

concerned, I hope that that will be extended and that treatment will be provided for any ailment from which these children may be suffering. As regards item 16, "Training of Teachers, £2,100", some reference has been made to Erdiston and I hope that the Government Spokesman will enlighten us as to the correctness or otherwise of this matter. I understand that as a result of the staff arrangements being made at Erdiston, an acting Inspector of Schools was appointed recently and the teachers from the Teachers' Association protested against that appointment. I do not know if I am correct in raising the matter under this item but I hope that the Government Spokesman will tell us if any notice was taken of that protest from the Teachers' Association. After all it is a responsible Body which has protested against that appointment and the protest must have been based on some good reason. I understand that the teachers objected strenuously to the type of individual who has been appointed to act as Inspector of Schools. I was a teacher myself and I admit that there were some teachers of the old type—I do not accuse this particular officer—but I understand that he is like the old type of person which the teachers had to endure. There was the type of teacher who had nothing in common with those teachers who thought that the time had come for a radical change and there is hardly a worse type of teacher that you can come across than the type which teachers have had to endure in the past. I hope that the Government Spokesman will say whether the Government has taken any notice of this protest, bearing in mind the type of Government which is in power to-day and the responsible Body which has made the protest. With regard to item 37, "Incidentals £75" I understand that teachers from certain country areas have to come to Bridgetown for all kinds of packages and implements which they have to take back to those areas. No suitable arrangements are made to assist these teachers in taking away these packages and they have to get them to the schools for which they are responsible however they can. I think that is a very disgraceful state of affairs and some arrangement should be made to have these packages taken to the schools and relieve the teachers of that burden. Perhaps as more and more equipment for the schools will be ordered, a van might be purchased by the Department for the transport of this equipment. The sum of £100 a year is being spent for the transport of Pay Clerks and that and other incidental expenditure could be saved if the Department had a van at its disposal. The expenditure thus saved could be used in the maintenance of the van. The capital cost would be more but not the recurrent expenditure and the teachers would be saved all this trouble. Relative to item 29, "Grant for Evening Classes £1,000," I would like to know what is being done as far as these evening classes are concerned. Some time ago I saw an advertisement in the Press calling for instructors in certain things. I do not know if any applications were made and I do not know what arrangements so far have been made for starting these evening classes. I would like to know if the Director of Education has any ideas at all in respect of this matter. Some ideas have been put forward about organising these classes; the matter has been in the air for a very long time and it is high time that we get down to something practical about it. I understand that the Director of Education has some experience in organising classes of this type in the Army and we could do a lot of work here in this regard. There are ex-servicemen who could be taught certain subjects

and something more practical than what I have seen already could be done by way of evening classes and adult education. I would like to know if any plans have been made to do more than what has been done in the past. It is true that Barbadians have never been strenuous enough in their efforts in this direction and we have not had leaders coming forward in connection with the organisation of these classes. We have very few people who have had any experience in this kind of work. If we can find some practical scheme whereby youths can be assisted in respect of these classes I have no doubt that this money will be expended, as a matter of fact we will have to vote more money under this Head from year to year and we will get somewhere as regards these evening classes. They are a crying need in this island. In connection with item 38, "School Care Committees, £100," I would like to have some information about these Committees; I have never heard of them before. The name implies that they are to take care of schools but I do not know how they do that. The note says that this amount is to meet the costs of stationery, administration, etc., in connection with the establishment of School Care Committees, but that does not tell me what they are and what work they are doing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that the medical, visual and dental treatment of elementary school children appears as item 2 of Sub-head (11) of Head XXIII on page 45 of the Estimates. Honourable members will therefore have an opportunity of discussing that item when we come to that Head and I ask them to refrain from doing so under this Head.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am sure that it would be extremely interesting to have the Government explain what impelled it to the decision to amalgamate the Headships of some of the elementary schools in this island. I speak with special reference to St. John where the current decision is to amalgamate boys' and girls' schools under a single Headship. As honourable members are positively aware, this suggestion has been made with regard to other schools in the colony and some attempt has been made to implement it. I would like some explanation as to the reasons which impelled this decision. I should like to endorse the remarks made by the honourable senior member for the City with regard to the paucity in the number of scholarships awarded by the Government to Secondary and First Grade Schools.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is a matter of law.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I appreciate that but it is a matter for adverse comment that whereas the St. Michael's Vestry expends £600 per annum in the provision of scholarships, the Central Government only expends £800 in this regard. As a matter of fact, I recall that the number of scholarships originally envisaged in the education code has never reached its full quota. I do not remember the exact wording of the paragraph at the moment but I know that we have to provide quite a number of additional scholarships before we reach the number which was originally proposed in the code. There is also a matter to which I have repeatedly drawn attention in this House, the matter of the provision of scholarships from the elementary schools to Queen's College. There was a time when such scholarships were provided, in the early 19's, but in consequence of an accident which took place at Queen's College in connection with a girl from St.

James, the provision of these scholarships was discontinued. It is high time that we again take steps to enable bright girls, whose parents cannot afford to pay for the education of their children at Queen's College, to attend there at the expense of the Government. There is a great deal in what the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has said with regard to racial discrimination at the Lodge School, and the matter certainly deserves some investigation on the part of the Authorities concerned. Then there is the question of Erdiston. I have never been in favour of a separate training school for Barbadian teachers in Barbados; I have always thought that our teachers would have been far better off if we had joined a scheme for a Central Training College for teachers at some specific place in the West Indies rather than each colony having a small inefficient training centre. Since we have started the College we have to give it a trial although it would appear that we have started off with the wrong foot. Even in connection with the appointment of the Principal of the College, although the gentleman in question might be quite suitable for an office in the Department of Education, it is a moot question as to whether or not he has the qualifications which fit him as a trainer of teachers. A lot of people are interested in the matter and it might be helpful if the Government would state the special reasons for giving this post to the present incumbent. Remarks have been made by a previous speaker in connection with dissatisfaction having been engendered as a result of the more or less arbitrary manner in which the vacant post of Inspector of Schools was filled consequent on the promotion of an Inspector in an acting capacity at Erdiston. There are those who feel that they have been by-passed indiscriminately and the matter, in my opinion, should have been made an issue long before. Perhaps there might have been some reasons of which the public and the teaching fraternity were not aware and which justified the acting appointment but it would serve a useful purpose if those reasons were made known to the public. Finally, as regards item 23, "Nutrition for Elementary School children, £20,556", I appreciate that this sum is appreciable, as a matter of fact, on a rough calculation it bears about the same proportion to the entire expenditure on education as the whole educational vote bears to the expenditure of the colony for the whole year. It is roughly speaking one-eighth of the total vote for education and the education vote is one-eighth of the total expenditure. Although I appreciate that this sum is quite an appreciable one I do think that we might consider seriously the possibility of extending the scheme right through the holidays. At present the scheme is not carried on after the end of the school term and no provision is made for affording any nutritional assistance for children at the schools. I notice that in Puerto Rico the nutrition scheme is carried on whether the children are in school or not. Although extending the scheme during the holidays would increase our expenditure by at least 25%, I think that we would do well to consider the possibility of doing so.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I would like to add a few remarks to those which have already been made relative to the amount to be voted under this Head. I speak in connection with item 15, "Grant-in-Aid to Public Elementary Schools, £113,860", and I want to say that in this regard public funds are being absolutely mis-spent and misappropriated. (A MEMBER: Shame!) If an examination were to be

held by any outside Body as to the children attending the elementary schools in this colony to-day, it would be seen that because of the continuance of the muddled system of age-grouping the teachers of these schools are unable to give that service which ought to be expected from the expenditure of so heavy a sum in the cause of educating these children. What is happening, Mr. Chairman? I understand that an enquiry has been sent out to the various schools — I suppose some member of the Government can enlighten us on it — and teacher after teacher has said "We can get through with age-grouping if we are given more staff; if we have compulsory education, if we are given greater facilities." It is as plain as daylight that we are spending this money in a way in which no businessman in creation would spend his private funds. We are not getting one-half, not even one-third of the value educationally for the amount which we spend. This matter has already been aired in this House and I had hoped that in these Estimates some provision would have been made for an increase in the number of elementary schools not only to provide work for many of the unemployed but to get the necessary accommodation in respect of the early introduction in this colony of compulsory education which has been shelved year by year by members of this honourable House. It would not bankrupt this Government — it would not burden this colony unduly if we made immediate provision for the employment of additional teachers for staffing the various schools in order to introduce compulsory education in this colony immediately. It is a definite reproach against any set of men who give advice in these matters if they continue shelving the matter of compulsory education in this colony. I say seriously that it is time for an impartial outside Commission to be set up so as to investigate the evils resultant from the continuance of the practice of age-grouping in elementary schools without supplying the necessary facilities for which all the teachers clamour, the necessary staff, the additional accommodation relative to the introduction of that prerequisite—compulsory education—without which you cannot prevent the recurrence of the entry into schools of children at irregular ages. This £113,860 is being frittered away through the muddling of those who are in charge of education in this island. Member after member in this House has expressed his disapproval — in fact it is true to say that a substantial majority of the House have expressed severe criticism and complete disapproval of the continuance of this muddled system and yet the advisers of the Government continue to support the expenditure of so large a sum of money in this most unbusinesslike manner! Two-thirds of this sum of money is being thrown away under the present set up. The next item upon which I would like to touch is item 26, "Grant-in-Aid (1) Harrison College, £5,585." We are asked to expend this amount of the taxpayers' money, money which has come out of the pockets of every labouring man in this colony, who buys a pint of rice, and then you find set up at Harrison College a system which in effect debar the labourer's child from being given the facility of obtaining that higher education which is dear to the hearts of thousands of working people in this colony today. The evidence of hundreds of private schools in the various parishes proves that there is a rebirth in learning in this colony and it is a crying shame that in spite of protests made by political leaders on the various platforms, no additional accommodation is being provided at Harrison College for the education of a greater number of children of the working people. You have there a large assembly hall unused

for many years; the Headmaster clamoured for an assembly hall because of the value of such a hall in the training of children. But it would be of far greater benefit to the children of working people in this colony if there was no hall in which the children could assemble and class rooms were provided temporarily for an additional number of children and later on you could erect an assembly hall, because in the meantime there are hundreds of children who are being turned away owing to the fact that there is no desire to make use of the additional accommodation which is there. There are the old laboratory buildings which could be used for providing this additional accommodation and I find that this sum of money is to be voted and there is no gesture being made to accommodate the number of children who are being turned away. In addition to this there is the continued policy of superannuation in which they tell you that any boy who attains the age of 16 years in the third form must leave school at the end of the school year with the result that Barbadian boys who have been turned out of Harrison College are being received in the schools in the neighbouring colonies. This is a deplorable condition at Harrison College in respect of which we are asked to vote £5,585 to perpetuate the continuance of this muddled system in education which has one result—barring the ambitions of the working classes to fit their children for the battle of life in which, as has been well said by an eminent English statesman, in these postwar years it will be a question of the survival of the fittest. We have hundreds of youths being turned out of the schools with a keen desire to learn and they are growing up with a grudge and a sense of injury in their minds against those who administer the educational policy in this island. We are sowing the seeds of eventual discontent in this colony, which will bear fruit to our entire detriment. The same thing may be said in connection with item 24, "Grant-in-aid (1) Combermere School, £11,685." There again you have a large assembly hall being unused when it could be utilized as class rooms so as to prevent the turning away of many children whose parents desire to have them educated there. As regards item 29, "Grant for Evening Classes, £1,000," that is a very commendable item in itself but if we view it in the light of the present muddling in elementary education, I say that we are preparing more and more work for teachers of evening classes when we are failing in our duty to fit young people at the time when they can best imbibe tuition. I want to support the idea expressed by those honourable members who feel that the number of scholarships ought to be increased, and I hope that this criticism of the deplorable muddling in elementary education in this island and the continuance of the lack of interest in providing proper accommodation at Harrison College for the number of people who desire to send their children there will awaken the Government to a realisation of their absolute criminality in this matter. A crime is being committed against the aspirations of people in this island and if no notice is taken of it then it will be a matter for the common people to decide.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Much of what the honourable junior member for St. George has said is irrelevant. The erection and enlargement of schools is provided for under capital expenditure.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I said it deliberately because I know that it is relevant.

Mr. ADAMS: I do hope that the common people will be headed by the last speaker in their march to the Education office. I hope that honourable mem-

bers will see that while it is their duty to draw anything to the notice of the Government, they will also realise that we have only two weeks more before the consideration of these Estimates must be completed. We are now at Head 20 and there are 42 Heads to be considered. Today we have considered only 7. What is the good of talking about age grouping today? And I invite honourable members in drawing matters to the attention of the Government not to use twenty words when two will do. I want to say that the members of the Government are not deaf and dumb. Barbados is a small place and any rumour which is started in one place will reach the ears of the members of the Government. Honourable members should assist in getting through the Estimates by reading the notes on the page opposite the various items. The notes refer to the "Policy for Education" and all the information for which I have been asked today will be found under the appropriate Head. There are one or two important matters to which I shall reply and I will begin by saying that nothing which has been said by way of criticism is anything as strong as what members of the Government have done as regards certain things that have been referred to. We have heard the rumour about racial discrimination at the Lodge School and the members of the Government will hit hard at any racial discrimination at any school; we will hit hard at Moravians, Anglicans, Wesleyans or any other Bodies who show any discrimination on grounds of religion. Surely the Government is entitled to be credited with having a little intelligence; even if our intelligence is as low as the average of the remaining members of the House, give us the credit for that at least. These items were sent down after consideration. We have heard the rumour about the Lodge School and we feel that in a country like Barbados anything like racial discrimination must be stamped out by the Executive as well as by the Legislature. I do not think it is necessary to reply to some other things and the proper answer to them is that a lot of these things need careful and minute examination. I am not saying that we are spending too much on education; I am at one with those who feel that we should extend Educational facilities, but this 'local preacherish' attack as if the Government is not doing anything can best be met by saying that there is no colony in the whole of the Caribbean area which has spent as much on education or as a higher percentage of literacy than Barbados. In Jamaica where the percentage of illiteracy is 50 or 60, ours is 3 or 4. Let us bear that in mind. As regards the remarks about the Barbados Scholarship, the Nutrition Scheme, and so on, these things require a lot of working out. As to the supply of meals for school children, it might be better to raise people's wages so that they can provide these meals for the children themselves than for the Government to provide them. I do not say that is the definite policy of the Government, but it is a matter for consideration. As regards dental treatment, my recollection is that the Government has sent down the reply to a question asked in that connection. We have no information that children suffer as a result of non-attention by dentists; it is true that the dentists have been doing work during the vacation periods although the terms of their contract did not provide for that. With regard to awarding scholarships to the West Indian University, there are two different points of view. This is a matter for further consideration, the University being now in its infancy. The question as to whether or not we should have more scholarships abroad or scholarships to the University is still being consider-

ed. The question of increasing the local scholarships is out of order; the Vestries Act says how many scholarships should be awarded and the Act would have to be amended. There is nothing to prevent any member from moving the passing of an Address in that respect. I am at one with the honourable senior member for the City; I have discovered that in 1940 notice of an Address was given by me asking for the provision of more scholarships to Queen's College. There are so many things to be done that only the most pressing can be attended to immediately. As regards other questions I should like to remind honourable members that the Governor-in-Executive Committee initiate legislation, they do not administer or make appointments. Sometimes I see things which make me see red, but they are nothing to do with the Executive Committee. We advise on legislation; we do not appoint school teachers or Inspectors or Prison Warders or anybody else; so that when it is asked why does the Government not give an explanation as to this or that matter, the remarks cannot be addressed to the members of the Assembly who form part of the Executive Committee. I agree with the honourable senior member for St. James who said that 32 teachers seem to be a small number to be trained at Erdiston. I raised the question with the Director of Education and with Mr. de Syllas when he was drawing the plans at Erdiston and it was thought best to begin with 32 teachers. I would like to say, as I often say, that I believe in appointing a first-class man to do a job. Listen to his advice and he is more likely not to go wrong than an indeterminate body of laymen. In connection with the furniture at Erdiston I promise the honourable senior member for the City that I will go into the matter and enquire whether the teachers have contracted pneumonia by lying so near to the floor. Honourable members can make their criticisms, but do not let us spend three quarters of an hour on matters especially when they have already been mentioned.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The sarcasms and innuendos in the remarks of the last speaker might amuse some people but the remarks have been unsatisfactory on the whole. From what we have been told the members of the Executive Committee went through these items with a fine-teeth comb and they know that there is room for improvement. They have agreed with them and we should agree with them too. But this is not the Reichstag; if the honourable junior member for St. George or any other honourable member feels that the principle of superannuation is wrong, if they are discharging children from schools before these children finish their education and these children are being taken by similar schools in the West Indies, and we are not making any provision for secondary education, or if superannuation is wrong in principle and we are not taking any steps to provide for compulsory education, are we not justified in emphasising these matters in season and out of season if the Government persistently refuses to pay due attention to them? If we are to take the honourable senior member for St. Joseph seriously, this country is in a very peculiar position. The Executive is hitting hard at the racial discrimination at the Lodge School but it still goes on. The Mount Tabor incident reveals some very regrettable aspects but still the Minister was allowed to go his own sweet way and the Government is taking no steps for the future to see in respect of these schools in connection with which the Government provides the salaries of the teachers, keeps the buildings in good condition, pays the teachers' pensions—even although

the actual buildings may be owned by the denomination—it has control in so far as the policy of the schools is concerned. If the Executive is hitting very hard against these things and still they go on, the only conclusion that we can draw is that the Executive is absolutely impotent. If the Government cannot even discipline a Minister or have some say with regard to an unsatisfactory appointment at the Training College, or with regard to the conditions obtaining at the Lodge School for which we are voting money, who controls the Lodge School, the Education Department or Erdiston? Do they control themselves? We have come to a very bad state of affairs; the people who are believed to be the instruments of policy hit hard, the condition remains the same and they do nothing about it. (Cheers).

Mr. BRANCKER: The Government spokesman has not replied to my query as to why the amount asked for in respect of nutrition for elementary school children is less this year than that which was voted last year. The amount to be voted this year in respect of this item is £573 less than what it was last year and I should like to know the reason for this comparatively big reduction in the vote. As regards the Lodge School, I suppose one has to be thankful for small mercies and we must be grateful for the admission of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph that he has heard about the state of affairs at the Lodge School. We have been told that racial discrimination must be stamped out but I am wondering what more could be told this Committee. Apart from the feeling that racial discrimination must be stamped out, have any steps been taken to prevent it from going on? Surely we are entitled to know something about that. Honourable members are rather silent on this matter and I am wondering if the position of Government spokesman today is like the wise owl; the more he saw the less he spoke, the less he spoke the more heard. There are people who make it a point to send their children to the Lodge School and that is why we want to see that the Headmaster of the School gets all the support he can get, and that the Government is not merely sitting down complacently feeling that this racial discrimination is to be stamped out but is doing something to stamp it out. If an investigation is carried out and nothing discovered to be wrong we would be happy in voting this money and more with that assurance; but we would like to be told more than what we have been told. There are present in the Committee honourable members who are members of the Governing Body of the School and they can tell us something about what is happening. Have any instances been brought to the attention of the Governing Body by means of a round robin as to what is happening at this School? When honourable members remain so quietly one cannot but wonder what is really happening at the Lodge School. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph has said that he has heard rumours about the Lodge School and the Government feels that racial discrimination must be stamped out. That is not good enough; I really feel that members of the Government and those of the Governing Body of this School should let us know what is really happening there. They need not make any long speeches.

Mr. ADAMS: If the honourable member was a responsible person, he would not have made that speech. The Headmaster of the Lodge School is supposed to be running a boarding establishment and as such there has been some objection to coloured children, but that is nothing to do with the School. The

honourable member knows what his colleague on his left has told him but he has to throw mud, hit at the Government and waste time! He knows that it is nothing to do with the School. It is his friends of the Electors' Association, fathers of some of the children who are creating this racial prejudice at the Lodge School.

Mr. BRANCKER: Is the honourable member hoping to be taken seriously? He says that the Government is nothing to do with this matter.

Mr. ADAMS: The vote for the Lodge School is nothing to do with children going there to board, whatever colour they might be. The Headmaster is permitted to keep a boarding establishment. The Government is not in favour of any racial discrimination and I am told that the Headmaster himself is not in favour of it but people whose children are there are saying, "We will not have coloured boys there with our sons." The Government is most carefully investigating the matter, which is purely in connection with the boarding establishment. This matter has been discussed quite recently since it came to the notice of the Executive Committee and I repeat that it is nothing to do with the school itself. Obviously, it could not take place in the School itself.

Mr. BRANCKER: Some people do not like to be put in a position where they are required to give a straightforward and courageous answer on any point which has been queried. It is ludicrous to suggest that matter referred to is nothing to do with the vote which is now before us. What is the position? If we are not satisfied with the way in which the particular establishment is being run—I notice that the amount of £500 in respect of this School is fixed by law and we are asked to vote this £6,622—we can refuse to vote this amount. The honourable senior member for St. Joseph says that my colleague on my left has told me all about the matter but what about his colleague on his left? Has he not told him about it also? We have got the admission from them that they have heard about the state of affairs at the Lodge School and I say without reference to any party or individual that it is owing to us to be told what is the state of affairs at this School and we can reduce, by way of protest, the amount which we are asked to vote in respect of the running of the School. The School is run by a Board and by whom is that Board appointed? This School receives more in proportion to what is voted as regards other schools and that is why the vote should be subjected to the closest scrutiny. If we have that type of person who specializes in racial discrimination sending his son to the Lodge where he trusts such discrimination will be practised is not that all the more reason why we should decide whether we are justified or not in spending this amount which we are asked to vote today? Of course, they do not refuse anybody in the School on the ground of colour but the point is that if there was no school there could not be any boarding establishment, and if the boarding establishment is not being run properly, if there is not absolute impartiality in the matter we can mark our disapproval of it by reducing the amount which is proposed to be voted here.

The question that the sum of £211,032 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXI—DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE.

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £30,165 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: In connection with item 50, Motor truck upkeep, £300", I would like to know if the emoluments of the driver of the motor truck are included in this item. That used to be so some time ago, but what is the position now? Is his salary for next year based on what he received this year and last year? There is no note to this item and I would like to know whether any provision has been made for an increase of this driver's remuneration by way of increment or otherwise or if remains static.

Mr. ADAMS: Upkeep means upkeep and a moment's thought would have told the honourable member that people in this driver's class would have been provided for when Resolution No. 64 was sent down in connection with a revised salary scale for all these people under the various Heads in the Civil Service. The driver is paid out of this vote and he is paid in accordance with the salary scale as set out in Resolution No. 64 of 1946.

The question that the sum of £30,165 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXII—PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £2,476 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: In connection with item 15, "Upkeep Reading and Lecture Room, £55", there is no note about it and I would like to know whether the Government is proposing to do anything relative to the opening of the Reading and Lecture Room at night up to 10 o'clock and providing additional staff. This is a matter which has been brought up from time to time in this House.

Mr. ADAMS: We are providing for that and estimates are being prepared in that connection.

The question that the sum of £2,476 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXIII—MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS

(1) Office of Chief Medical Officer

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to move that the sum of £1,470 be voted under Sub-head (1) of this Head.

Mr. BLACKMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to.

(2) General Hospital

The amount to be voted was read.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of £90,538 be voted under Sub-head (2) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: I wonder if any member of the Government can give us any information in connection with the Radiologist, as to whether he has attempted to levy any fees for X-Ray services, and if so, what is the attitude of the Government in regard to that. Honourable members must have heard that the Radiologist does not seem to be satisfied with the terms and conditions which he accepted when he took the job.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I would like to draw to the attention of the honourable member in charge of matters relating to this Department that there is the possibility of increased charges being made at the

General Hospital for services rendered there. Today we are voting £90,538 out of the public revenue for the upkeep of the Hospital and I feel that it would not cost the Government anything more than this amount to allow the rates at the Hospital to continue as they are at present. People are already paying taxes and if better accommodation is given to them they very well deserve it. I merely hint that so that the honourable member in charge of matters pertaining to the Hospital will know for himself not to entertain any suggestion from any of the experts about raising the fees of the pay wards at the Tercentenary or Pay Ward "A". We are voting this money for the upkeep of the Hospital and there should not be any question of raising the fees charged.

Dr. CUMMINS: As regards the question raised by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, an attempt has been made by the Radiologist to increase his fees. The question has not yet been settled but I think we can safely say that this Government will not consent to any increase of fees. As far as the pay wards are concerned an attempt is being made to increase the charges and again I say that the matter has not yet been settled.

Mr. COX: I regret having to speak after the honourable senior member for St. Thomas but I would like to say that it is regrettable that no sooner than the Hospital Board has become defunct, attempts are being made to increase the rates charged at the Hospital. I have been told that the employees of the Department, or at least some of them, are very badly treated under the new administration. As far as the rates charged at the Hospital are concerned, as the honourable senior member for St. Peter has said, this Institution is being run with money which is collected from the taxpayers in this island, and that being so, there is absolutely no justification for increasing these rates. Another thing is this; I have heard from many people that the rates charged by some surgeons are high. It will be remembered that the maximum charge was \$100 and a plea was made by the surgeons that if they were given the privilege of removing that ceiling amount they might be able to perform some cheaper operations for the poor people and charge the rich people a little more. I have heard that that is not the case and that the system is not working satisfactorily. I would like the Government to go into the matter and find out whether it is true or not. I would like to lay some emphasis on this point; if the rates are increased it will be thrown at us that now this Labour Government is running the business of this island the rates have been increased and when the other people were running it, the rates were reasonable.

Mr. BRANCKER: As regards the matter of a ceiling amount relative to surgeon's fees, I understand that when the Hospital Board removed that ceiling amount, certain surgeons' fees reached astronomical heights and as much as \$400 was charged for an appendicectomy. I hope that the matter will be gone into so that these surgeons will not be able to charge any unreasonable amount for operations which are performed at the Hospital.

Mr. ADAMS: A libel action has been filed against a newspaper concern with respect to what has just been said by the honourable member. The statement is not correct.

The question that the sum of £90,538 be voted under sub-head (2) of this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

(3) LUNATIC ASYLUM

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £51,840 be voted under sub-head (3) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

(4) LAZARETTO

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £8,822 be voted under sub-head (4) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WILCOTT: There is in British Guiana an expert who seems to have discovered a cure for eprosy and I would like to know if the Government is making any efforts to get in contact with this doctor so as to make this treatment available for the relief of sufferers from the disease in this island.

Mr. COX: I should just like to say a word or two in connection with item 4, "Matron (175)." The sum of £50 is to be voted here and the note reads that she is provided with uniform and quarters and she receives £25 per annum in lieu of rations. I feel that the ration allowance now given to persons at the Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum is not sufficient. The point slipped me just now. The allowance is 2/- per day and we all know that that amount cannot go very far. In fact, I doubt whether it can provide tea and lunch. It will be remembered that in connection with the Hospital we decided to add a sixpence to the amount but I do not know if the Government kept to that amount. I suggest that the amount of ration allowance be increased since the cost of living is increasing every day.

Mr. SYMONDS: I support the remarks of the honourable member who has just sat down and I think it is a matter to which the Government would do well to pay some attention.

The question that the sum of £8,822 be voted under sub-head (4) of this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

(5) BOARD OF HEALTH

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £7,611 be voted under Sub-head (5) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: The amount to be voted relative to item 8, "Expenses under Vaccination Acts, £2,000" is rather high. The sum of £2,000 is a lot of money to be provided under the Vaccination Acts and I suggest that it would be safe to reduce it by £1,000. I do not think that we anticipate an outbreak of cholera or anything like that. I think we could reduce this vote.

Dr. CUMMINS: Only a few months ago there was a scare in connection with small pox in this island consequent upon an outbreak of the disease in the United States of America. There was some wholesale vaccination done here and I am not in a position to guarantee that such a thing will not recur during this year. If this money is not spent it will remain in the Treasury. I see no harm in voting this amount because the world is very small now and in a few hours you can get from Barbados to the United States of America and other countries. There may be another scare taking place not only in connection with small pox but other infectious diseases. The greater amount of this money is to provide vaccine lymph and to pay fees for performing vaccinations; we must have a fair amount of lymph in readiness. On the last occasion there was some hurry in the matter and we had to take action and then ask for support in this House.

Mr. WILKINSON: It seems to me that this estimate is too high. The sum of £2,000 is a lot of money for this item and I repeat that it would be

safe to vote £1,000. If necessary we can come back for more money; it is no use providing money which is not going to be used and I therefore beg to move that this item be reduced by £1,000.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not see that there is any harm in allowing this amount to remain as it is. As the honourable senior member for St. Thomas reminded us, we had to come here in a hurry on the last occasion and get a Bill passed and it was of the utmost urgency to get that Bill passed merely for the sake of providing a sum of money so as to have the lymph and to pay fees for performing vaccinations. We had to get sanitary inspectors and school teachers to assist in these vaccinations. We just want to have the money there in case any outbreak of small pox occurs; we want to be on the safe side. This was recommended by the Department of the Chief Medical Officer. If nothing happens the money will not be spent.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I think we should ask for this money if and when it is required.

Mr. ADAMS: On the last occasion when a person was sent to the Hospital the porter and everybody had to be segregated and it was sheer luck that the same thing did not happen here as happened in the United States where people were infected. I say that it is better to be cautious. I should like to remind honourable members that the House may not be in session and an epidemic of small pox may occur. What is the good of saying that we should wait until something happens?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: None of us has any control over this matter; this is a case of making adequate provision for an emergency. If the money is not spent then it remains in the Treasury. What is the use of saying that we should only vote £1,000 and if you want another £1,000 we can come back for it? It appears that some honourable members would like us to be in the position where we make no adequate provision for an emergency and then when it happens to ask: "What kind of Government are you that you did not make any adequate provision for this? You have not made any adequate provision in an island of this size against small pox which is a disease that will spread." We must make adequate provision for cases of emergency.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not agree with that argument. I could use the same argument and ask what provision has the Government made for dealing with contagious diseases? You go through the items under the Head "Medical Departments" and you do not see one item relating to isolation. Whatever you have for dealing with any contagious disease, there is nothing for controlling the spreading of the disease. It is a joke to say that when there is an outbreak of any highly contagious disease the House may not be in session; the House could be summoned within 24 hours to vote the money which is required. I do not see how it could be argued that because we reduce this item by £1,000 we are being parsimonious. I have been told that this stuff does not last for very long: if a number of persons are vaccinated, that is supposed to last for a period of five years and I do not see that there is anything wrong in reducing this item by £1,000.

Dr. CUMMINS: That is a bad argument because, as far as I, know, every member of every household in this colony was not vaccinated during the scare in connection with small pox a few months ago.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the full significance of saying that this amount is authorized by law?

Mr. ADAMS: The amendment Bill which we passed a few months ago changed the fee for performing vaccinations from one shilling to 11 cents

or 14 cents, and that was an amendment of the old Act which authorised the payment of medical practitioners for vaccinating people and the amount is now fixed by law. The argument of making the money available now is better than that of waiting until you want it. In the next item provision is made for the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases. I accept the reduction of the item so as to save time.

The question that the sum of £6,611 be voted under Sub-head (5) of this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

(7) GOVERNMENT BACTERIOLOGIST AND PATHOLOGIST

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £1,155 be voted under Sub-head (7) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

(8) PORT HEALTH OFFICER

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £159 be voted under Sub-head (8) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

(9) GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL

The item and the amount to be voted was read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £30 be voted under Sub-head (9) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

(10) MATERNITY HOSPITAL

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £3,380 be voted under Sub-head (10) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. WILKINSON: I do not know if my information is correct; I understand that there was a matron waiting for months before this Maternity Hospital was opened. I would like to know if a matron has been obtained to replace her.

Dr. CUMMINS: We have a Matron there.

The question that the sum of £3,380 be voted under Sub-head (10) of this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

(11) OTHER MEDICAL SERVICES

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £3,023 be voted under Sub-head (II) of this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In connection with item I, "Grants to ten parishes for venereal diseases work £1,583", it has been brought to my notice that the way in which this work is done leaves much to be desired. If you want to stamp out venereal disease, which is a social disease, it is hardly fair to run clinics in the way in which they are being run; to expect people to be attending these clinics all through the day. After all, people have a certain amount of pride and I think that the hours should be fixed in keeping with the working hours of the people as is done in certain colonies. There is no point in fixing the hour at 10 or 11 o'clock in the day when people have to leave their work and line up for treatment. This is a very antiquated way of running these clinics and I think that more consideration should be given to the people who must benefit from this treatment. Somebody ought to take some sort of interest in seeing about this matter; we should not just vote the money for carrying on this work. I hope that in the

near future we will see proper clinics set up in the various parishes and proper hours fixed so that people can attend these clinics without being held up from doing their work. I think that this is a matter about which the Government should think seriously.

Dr. CUMMINS: Before any other honourable member speaks on this matter, I should like to remind honourable members of the Public Health Bill which was introduced in this House and honourable members must have had their copies of this Bill which will soon be under discussion. Under this Bill clinics will be set up throughout the island and the treatment of venereal disease will be done under an altogether different system in the near future.

The question that the sum of £3,023 be voted under Sub-head (II) of this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that a total sum of £169,029 be voted under Head XXIII, Medical Departments.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXIV—VOLUNTEER FORCE

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £6,392 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: With regard to item 27, "Passages, £400" the note says: Passages for Adjutant and Wife, and Warrant Officer Instructor." I should like to know whether the Adjutant appointed is from abroad.

Mr. ADAMS: As far as I know, nobody has been appointed.

Mr. BRANCKER: There are officers here who might fill this job as a result of experience gained in the Army. This may be a chance for us to provide with employment someone who has had experience in World War II, but it seems as if we are getting an imported official.

Mr. ADAMS: This is a matter in which the Military is largely concerned. Some of us have the same views as the honourable junior member for St. Lucy but it was pointed out that the Military had a lot to do with the matter. I am under the impression that the old Volunteer Act makes it necessary for the appointee to be a member of the Regular Army. It is true that we have to start a fresh Volunteer Force so to speak, but the point is that we have been told by the Military that a great deal of difference has been made within the last two years as regards training and so on, and that officers who were demobilised at the end of the War are not necessarily good enough to-day where training and so on are concerned. Apart from the question of the War, we will have to appoint somebody from abroad.

Mr. BRANCKER: I notice that the Bill refers to the appointment as Adjutant of an officer in His Majesty's Regular Forces and I do not think that that precludes persons who have fought with the Caribbean Forces. I do not like the idea of creating offices here where there are officers who have been through the War and then providing passages for an imported official. I feel that we should try and provide employment for our officers.

Mr. MOTTLEY: We are paying the money although we have nothing to do with the appointments! In connection with item 10, "Armourer, £175", I am wondering if the Armourer has spent several years in the Volunteer Force and if his salary is the same

as that of the Orderly Room Sergeant. Is the Armourer the same person who has been there for many years?

Mr. ADAMS: I have had a talk with the Armourer and it is correct to say that he is the old Armourer doing the same work which he had to do. When the new Act is passed he will be re-appointed if he has not reached the pensionable age. As regards the Caribbean Regiment fighting in the last War, my impression is that the only shooting which they did was at the Drill Hall.

Mr. BRANCKER: I believe they did a little shooting in Egypt too. In connection with "Arms and Ammunition" I see that nothing is to be voted for the Volunteer Force. How will they make out without arms and ammunition? Are they going to borrow these from the Police Force?

Mr. ADAMS: In many of these things there has not been any finality as yet. My recollection is that we were awaiting information which would come from the War Office itself and we would be instructed as to the type of arms we should have. The reason for not putting in any sum in this connection, is that we do not know what the War Office will say, whether we will have Bren guns, Lewis guns, machine guns or anything else. We do not know what arms and ammunition will be supplied.

The question that the sum of £6,392 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXV—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £24,328 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Relative to item 16, "Upkeep of gardens and grounds, £160", I would suggest that in the several gardens in the City the necessity for more benches is very apparent, and I am wondering whether the Leader of the House could not get permission to supply more of these benches. One will notice people in these gardens looking around for somewhere to sit and the conditions need improving generally. I hope that several more benches will be provided in these gardens.

Mr. ADAMS: I promise the honourable member that we will get the Civic Circle to look around and give us some idea as to the extra number of benches needed. I quite agree with the honourable member.

Mr. MAPP: In connection with item 14, "Unestablished Staff, £3,757," last year I raised the question about this staff under the Head, "Department of Highways and Transport" and suggested that the Government should try to limit the number of its casual employees. I recommend to the Government that part of Mr. Dalley's Report in which he recommends the decasualisation of labour in Trinidad. This casual employment is typical of living in a state of insecurity; when people work for many years no provision is made for giving them proper pensions. I hope that the Government will give some consideration to this question. I know that some people remain in casual employment for about 15 years not knowing when they might have been knocked off. I think that after a person has worked for five years in a department he should have some measure of security.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am speaking in connection with Item 44, "Upkeep of Bandstand and Bay Street Esplanade, £288", and I am asking the

Government to erect a Bandstand in Speightstown. The people down there have been asking for a Bandstand ever since. We have a good Bandmaster and a good Band and it is no use merely sending the Band to the Almshouses when a spree is taking place. I do not think it would cost any large sum of money to erect a Bandstand in Speightstown; it would cost less money to maintain a Bandstand than a Police horse. As a matter of fact, the Bandstand will feed itself. We will be able to give the people proper entertainment and there will not be any reduction of the vote because we will not have to worry as to what is to be done with the Bandstand. I think that Bandstands should be erected wherever they are needed, but we want one in Speightstown particularly. I wonder now why the sun dial has been removed from the Fountain Gardens and has not been replaced.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I wonder if the Leader of the House can say what steps the Government is taking to provide the necessary sanitary accommodation at the Esplanade. People of all descriptions visit the Esplanade and there are no sanitary conveniences for them. (A MEMBER: What about the Sanitary Commissioners of St. Michael?) This is not a matter for the Sanitary Commissioners of St. Michael; they have no power to do anything in this regard. I think that proper sanitary accommodation should be provided there for the convenience of the people.

Mr. ADAMS: I will bring that matter to the attention of the Government.

Mr. BRANCKER: In connection with item 51, "Unallocated Stores Account, £2,000", this item was taken out last year. I notice from the note that there is to be payment into a suspense account which will be credited from other items under this Head as stores are used. I am wondering why the Government have tried their luck with this item again this year.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I am wondering if the sum of £20 is adequate in connection with item 53, "Life Saving Apparatus at Beaches". We are continually having cases of drowning at the various beaches and I am doubtful if this amount is adequate for this item. I have no hesitation in supporting the hon. senior member for St. Peter in his appeal for a Bandstand for Speightstown, and I hope that the Government will see the wisdom, now that the Police Band is playing such a useful part in the life of the community, of putting a Bandstand not only in St. Peter but in St. George and in the other parishes. I also hope that some consideration will be given to the very hard-working Bandsmen. I cannot get the figures from the Estimates but I understand that there are many Bandsmen who have given many years' service and who are being looked over so far as their emoluments are concerned. I think that they should be looked after in the same manner as they are catering to the needs of the community where music is concerned.

Mr. BRANCKER: I think that this sum of £20 is inadequate in connection with "Life Saving Apparatus at Beaches." The note to the item says that this sum is for the provision of life-saving apparatus at Worthing, Christ Church, and that arrangements have already been made for the provision of the equipment at Rockley. I would rely on the honourable senior member for Christ Church to look after Rockley in this regard, but there are places like Cattlewash and others which are more dangerous than Rockley and why has such a small amount been provided for Worthing? I remember reading of some fatalities at other beaches and this life-saving apparatus is something which should be kept up to date

and be for the benefit of the entire island. I again ask why has this item, "Unallocated Stores Account, £2,000," which was deleted last year been put in again this year?

Mr. TALMA: I rise for the first time today to attempt to explain the point which has been raised by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy relative to the life-saving apparatus. I must say that I am not at all satisfied with the apparatus which has been set up at the Rockley beach. I have some experience in life-saving and I must say that this apparatus will not serve any useful purpose. The honourable member can rest assured that I, as an old life-saver, will see that proper life-saving devices are set up at the dangerous beaches in the island.

Mr. ADAMS: Relative to item 51, "Unallocated Stores Account, £2,000," the Government considered the matter and felt even to a greater extent than last year the necessity for putting this item back in the Estimates. I do not want to say anything that would create any opposition to the Government but I think it is right to say that our opinion is that those honourable members who opposed the item being put in the Estimates on the last occasion did not know sufficient about the subject when they opposed it. If they had thought about it sufficiently they would not have opposed it. It is better to have this vote working in the way in which I described it should work last year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What about over-time pay for the persons who put up the chain outside this building so that we can have some quiet inside?

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know whether they are given any over-time pay or not. I will make enquiries about it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I know that they do not get any overtime pay.

Mr. ADAMS: They will be entitled to double over-time pay this afternoon. (Laughter).

The question that the sum of £24,328 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXVI—PENSIONS

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £57,670 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

HEAD XXVII—CHARGES OF DEBT

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £32,950 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

MOTION FOR REPORTING PROGRESS.

Mr. BRANCKER: I think we have done an appreciable amount of work; no arrangements have been made for providing us with dinner and at this stage, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress with leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. ADAMS: Let us finish one other Head of the Estimates and then adjourn.

HEAD XXVIII—SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS.

The items and the amounts to be voted were read.

Mr. ADAMS: I ask leave to make an amendment under this Head, namely, to delete item 29, "Subsistence allowance for Benjamin Skeete in

Spanish Honduras, £54", and insert the item "Subsistence allowance for Samuel Burgess in Ecuador, £26." Benjamin Skeete has died; Samuel Burgess is very old and the cost of repatriating him is such that it is better to pay this subsistence allowance for him and let him remain in Ecuador. Barbadians travel all over the world. The total sum to be voted under this Head will now be £28 less, that is to say, £33,525.

There being no objection, the honourable member was granted leave to make the amendment.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that the sum of £33,525 be voted under this Head.

Mr. TALMA seconded the motion which was agreed to.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS PASSING OF HEADS OF ESTIMATES.

Mr. ADAMS: I now beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing in Committee of further Heads of the Estimates with leave for the Committee to sit again. ..

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Thursday, the 25th day of March, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon.

Mr. SYMMONDS: I beg to second that. (Cheers).

Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to move as an amendment that the words "twelve o'clock noon" be deleted in order to insert the words "two o'clock p.m." Now that the lights have been installed we can sit indefinitely after two o'clock.

Mr. ADAMS: I am quite willing to accept the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: We not only have to get through with the Estimates but we have to pass the Appropriation Bill which will take more than an hour to be read.

Mr. ADAMS: Perhaps we could arrange for tea and we may have to provide for dinner. If we sit from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. it will be the same thing as if we sit from 12 noon until 7 p.m. It will certainly take no less than an hour for the Appropriation Bill to be read and then we also have to pass the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill. If honourable members meet at 2 p.m. they must be prepared to sit until 9 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we had better meet at the usual hour.

The question that this House do now adjourn to Thursday, the 25th day of March, 1948, at twelve o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.