

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1950—51

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25th July, 1950.

Pursuant to adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 3 o'clock p.m. to-day.

Present.

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Mr. L. E. SMITH (*Chairman of Committees*), Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Messrs. D. A. FOSTER, R. G. MAPP, O. T. ALLDER, F. E. MILLER, M. E. COX, F. L. WALCOTT, G. H. ADAMS, B.A., D. D. GARNER, F. C. GODDARD, and J. H. WILKINSON, O.B.E.

Prayers are read.

Messrs. GILL, BRYAN and CRAWFORD enter the House and take their seats.

MINUTES.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the last meeting are not yet ready for confirmation.

DOCUMENTS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following:—

Message from the Honourable the Legislative Council returning the Bill to amend the Settlement of the Poor and Bastardy Act, 1897 (1897-6) with an amendment.

The Colonial Treasurer's Financial Report for the month of June, 1950.

PAPERS LAID.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,— I have the honour to lay on the table of the House the following Papers:—

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 6 Order, 1950.

The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1950.

The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) No. 3 Order, 1950.

The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) No. 4 Order, 1950.

NOTICES.

Government Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 6 Order, 1950" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 13th day of July, 1950, under the provisions of section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1950" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 13th day of July, 1950, under the provisions of section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) No. 3 Order, 1950" made by the Governor on the 13th day of July, 1950, under the provisions of section 2 (1) (a) of the Pensions Act, 1947.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) No. 4 Order, 1950" made by the Governor on the 13th day of July, 1950, under the provisions of section 2 (1) (a) of the Pensions Act, 1947.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution for \$4,500 to supplement the Estimates 1950-51, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1950-51, No. 11, which form the schedule to this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution for \$1,600 to supplement the Estimates 1950-51, Part II, Capital Estimates, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1950-51, No. 7, which form the schedule to this resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of 1 acre, 3 roods of land adjoining the site of the former Railway Station at Bathsheba.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to provide for the qualification and registration of voters for a Vestry.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to amend the Jurors Act and to set out the qualifications for Jurors.

Mr. ADAMS: Bill to provide for the regulation of Public Utilities. (Cheers).

Mr. ADAMS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to consider the Money Resolution of which I have just given notice.

Messrs, MOTTLEY, DOWDING and BETHEL enter the House and take their seats.

THE QUALIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR A VESTRY BILL AND THE JURORS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. ADAMS: In connection with the Bill to provide for the Qualification and Registration of Voters for a Vestry and the Bill to amend the Jurors Act, of which I gave notice a moment or two ago I should like to say this: I understand that the Other Place have postponed the consideration of the Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act because they felt that its effect would be to change the qualifications for vestrymen, that is to say, it would result in the repeal of section three of the Representation of the People Act which says that those persons who are qualified under that section have the right to vote for vestries and the substitution therefor of Adult Suffrage. That was never the intention of the Government. When attention was drawn to that phase of the matter in the House I pointed out that the Government had no intention, by a side wind, to abolish the qualifications for vestrymen by amending the Representation of the People Act and after some remarks by the senior member for St. James I agreed with him that it would be better to amend the Vestries Act by inserting in that Act the existing qualifications in section 3 of the Representation of the People Act. Similarly it was felt by the Other Place that the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill would have the effect of allowing every man of adult age to be a juryman. That, again, the Government did not intend and the object of these two Bills, of which I have just given notice, is to preserve the qualifications for vestrymen and jurors as they exist at present, it being clearly understood, as I pointed out, that the Government does not propose to ask this House to keep those qualifications indefinitely. In fact, a Bill that is about to come down to implement the recommendations in the Maude Report, recommends adult suffrage for the Vestries but that has to be dealt with when the Bill comes down. Similarly, the Government does not propose to let the present qualifications relating to jurors remain on the Statute Book longer than the House would allow them to remain. I had intended to ask permission to deal with these two Bills to-day, feeling sure that honourable members would not mind if they did not have copies of the Bill, so long as they were assured that the Bills were putting back the law as it stands at present. I am making this explanation with Your Honour's permission for the benefit of the Other Place as well as the public. I said on a previous occasion that it would be wrong for us to proceed with Bills to put back laws which have not yet been repealed. It is true that we have amended the Representation of the People Act and instituted Adult Suffrage but until the Other Place passed that amending Bill and the Governor assents to it and the Secretary of State for the Colonies declares that he is not going to advise its disallowance, the law remains the law. Therefore, we cannot proceed to-day with these two Bills until that is done and that is the only reason why I do not ask the House to proceed with these two Bills. I hope that the Other Place would pass the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill by Tuesday next and that we would meet on that day, pass these two Bills and send them to the Other Place the same afternoon, so that the law affecting the qualifications of vestrymen and jurors would be put back as it is to-day. I make this statement in order to make it clear that the Gov-

ernment has no intention of smartly interfering with Vestry or juror qualifications until the Legislature says whether they want them changed or not.

NOTICES

Other Notices are given as follows:—

Mr. CRAWFORD: Of the following Address:—

*The House of Assembly
To
His Excellency the Governor*

The House of Assembly respectfully request Your Excellency to send to this House legislation to provide that all property now owned, or hereafter to be acquired, by the Government of this island, be liable to payment of the same rates of taxes, parochial or otherwise, as any other property of a similar nature and value in this island would be liable.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. ALLDER: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House of Assembly:—

1. Is it true that the building known as the St. Margaret's Combined School in the parish of St. John has been inspected by the wood ant Inspector during the year 1948 and reported upon as being in a very bad condition?

2. It is true that recently the School managers of the said School have had to condemn the said building as being very dangerous?

3. If the answer to the above questions is in the affirmative, will the Government state:—

(a) Why has nothing been done to save this valuable building from total destruction by Termites?

(b) When will the Government take steps to have the building put in a safe condition, in view of the fact that the pupils and staff of this School live in fear of receiving broken limbs from the fastly deteriorating top floor and stairway?

Mr. CRAWFORD: To enquire of the Senior member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House of Assembly:—

1. Is the Government aware that the ration allowance accorded the staff of the Government Industrial Schools is considerably less, in fact, less than half of that given to the staffs of other Government institutions?

2. Will the Government,

(a) state the reasons for such disparity,

(b) take steps to place the ration allowance of these employees on the same basis as those of other institutions?

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

In consequence of the circumstance that the Vestry of St. Philip find it financially impossible, except by borrowing money for the purpose, to provide public baths and latrines in the parish, and in view of the fact that the provision of public baths and latrines is not specially the obligation of the local authorities, will the Government make the necessary funds available to the Vestry, by way of a grant, for the erection of at least two (2) such baths and latrines in the said parish?

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

Will the Government please state what proportion of the colony's allocation of £800,000 from Development and Welfare Funds has been already expended and give details of such expenditure?

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

Is it a fact that Island Constables were called upon to do special police work and perform duties of an extraordinary nature during the disturbances of 1937?

2. If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government please state whether they received extra remuneration for same, and, if not, why not?

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

In view of the necessity for providing assistance for the general improvement of housing conditions throughout the colony will the Government take early steps, in consultation with the sugar producers, to establish machinery for the purpose of imposing a cess at the rate of 50 cents per ton of sugar manufactured in the island,—the funds from such levy to be used to help the working classes to construct, repair or improve their homes?

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

Is the Government aware of the acute discomfort experienced daily by members of the Fire Brigade at Coleridge St., in consequence of structural and other defects in the building which they occupy?

2. Does the Government propose to construct and equip a new Fire Brigade headquarters,

3. Arising out of the fact that the Probyn Street site, long regarded as the likely area for a new Fire Brigade headquarters, has now been converted into a central bus terminus, if the answer to Question No. 2 be in the affirmative, will the Government please state the proposed locale of the new Station?

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

In consequence of the considerable increase in the Cost of Living since the time when they were originally fixed, will the Government take steps appreciably to increase the amounts allowed to married and single persons as exemption from the payment of Income Tax?

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

Will the Government cause to be published at the earliest date possible, figures showing the distribution and ownership of land in the colony on the basis of one hundred (100) acres and upwards?

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

In view of the Colony's accession to the Economic Co-operation Agreement, will the Government please state whether it has any plans for application for assistance from Marshall Plan Funds to which the country is now entitled, for the purpose of large-scale irrigation as part of our agricultural development programme, or for any other purpose?

Mr. MAPP: To enquire of the senior member of the Executive Committee present at the next meeting of the House:—

What amount of Income tax has been paid by (a) companies, (b) firms and (c) persons engaged in trade in this colony in the years 1940-50.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, a Bill to provide for the qualification and registration of voters for a Vestry is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, a Bill to amend the Jurors Act and to set out the qualifications for jurors is read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, a Bill to provide for the regulation of Public Utilities is read a first time.

DOG LICENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS, with leave, postpones the further consideration of the motion for the second reading of the Bill to amend the Dog Licence Act, 1902.

SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL POSTPONED

Mr. ADAMS, with leave, postpones the further consideration of the motion for the second reading of the Bill to amend the law relating to Separation and Maintenance.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BOOK OF REFERENCE AND PLAN OF THE EX- TENSION OF WATERWORKS IN ST. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Michael,—To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Book of Reference and Plan of the proposed extension of waterworks in the Parish of St. Michael.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—This Resolution seeks to give the Waterworks permission to instal four standpipes and four hydrants on that part of the Bay Estate which has been already developed. Sometime ago the Housing Board, after the southern part of the Estate was developed, decided, among other things, to instal standpipes and hydrants in that area. Well, as is laid down in the law, Sir, before the Waterworks can proceed to instal these pipes and hydrants, it is necessary that a Resolution be passed by this House approving of the extension and this Resolution is for that purpose. I am sure that every member of this House is in favour of an improvement in the water supply system as rapidly as possible and without any further ado I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

Mr. BETHELL: Although I am quite in agreement, Sir, with the installation of these standpipes and hydrants at the Bay Estate, yet it is quite surprising that since 1937 the Government started to lay a water main with some of the same 4 inch pipe from St. John's almshouse to Cliff Cottage and has not yet completed that work. Sir, that pipe was put halfway between Cliff Cottage and St. John's almshouse and up to this day, the work has not been completed. I am not against the supplying of water to the Bay Estate because I think it is a necessity but I must draw to the attention of the Government that there are about 60 houses in Coach Hill and 47 houses in

the Cliff Cottage district and the great majority of the people have to depend on one standpipe about three quarters of a mile away from the nearest house in Coach Hill for their supply of water. I am hoping that in view of the fact that they started to lay this main since 1937—thirteen years ago—with this same 4 inch pipe they will endeavour to complete the work so that the people in Coach Hill and Cliff Cottage would be able to get a proper supply of water (Cheers).

Mr. GODDARD: There is only one observation I would like to make in connection with this proposal and it is this: Instead of putting one tap to a standpost I suggest that you put two taps. The expenditure in connection with the installation of a standpost is really in the digging of the pit for drainage purposes and the concrete work and if two taps, instead of one tap, were fixed to a standpost they would certainly relieve the congestion that takes place at a standpost. I do hope that my suggestion will be investigated by the proper Authority with the view of seeing whether it can be put into effect. Another thing Sir, is this: Many of the standposts throughout the island have served their purpose. When they were first installed there were not so many tenancies in existence and to-day some of those standpipes are hardly ever used. I know that if you put a law on the Statute Book it is difficult to have it removed but many residents have been to me and suggested that these standpipes be removed and installed at suitable and appropriate sites in tenancies where they are needed. I am thinking of one at Worthing where there is no tenantry. That standpost could be removed and put in the back where there is a tenantry and where it could serve a more useful purpose. There is another at the corner of St. Lawrence Gap; that could be removed and installed on the other side of the street where it would serve a more useful purpose. There are many others like these and I hope, I repeat, that these suggestions will be investigated by the proper Authority.

Mr. ALLDER: I cannot help observing the policy which is involved in the extension of the water supply system in this island. I must preface my remarks by saying that I appreciate very much the extension of the service to the Bay Land but I am also hoping, Sir, that similar extensions will be made in other districts of the island. You can see from the arrangement of the Government, that there is a tendency to be partial in the erection of new standposts. In the last Estimates, Mr. Speaker, this House granted \$50,000 for the extension of the water supply all over the island. Of that \$50,000, \$25,000 was allocated to the extension of the supply in the parish of St. Michael and the other \$25,000 was allocated to the extension of the supply in the other parishes. Well, Sir, St. Michael and the City are supposed to have a population of about 80,000 people. The population of the island is said to be around 200,000 people and it shows you, Sir, that around 120,000 people would have to be satisfied with just as much money for the extension of the water service as the 80,000 people who live in the metropolitan parish and the City. It is the prevalent feeling that anything can do for people who live outside the metropolitan area, whether it be in Barbados or elsewhere in the world. It is a joke—to have things done in this way—because we all know that the distance between one standpipe and the next in the country districts is so great that the people find it very difficult to get an adequate supply of pure water whereby they can carry out their domestic scores; it is also responsible for people preparing meals for their respective families

so late at night after they come home from a hard day's work. I say that it is not fair to spend half of the total grant in St. Michael alone. As my colleague has said, thirteen years ago they started to lay a 4 inch main in the parish of St. John and they stopped. The excuse was that due to the War, it was difficult to get materials. Well, since the War we have been able to get materials and private individuals who are erecting residences in districts which only a couple years ago were considered as isolated, are able to avail themselves of the use of the service practically overnight. Not that I feel that the service should not be extended to them but the question is "which do you consider is of the greater necessity?" It is true, Sir, that the Department makes money from the service rendered to private individuals and does not make money when an additional standpost is erected in a district; but, nevertheless, we have got a responsibility upon our shoulders to see that social amenities are extended to all and sundry in the island, regardless of class or colour. Personally I feel that the case of the people in the rural districts should be given primary consideration. Now that we have an officer whose salary is very high and who is here for a period of three years, we should see to it that the facilities are granted to him within a reasonable time, so that he could do as much work as possible within the short period for which we agreed that he must be here. I understand, Sir, that more materials are needed and that the grant of \$50,000 for the extended service all over the island is inadequate. I feel that if the matter is gone into and the Government finds that the amount is too small, it should immediately send down a Resolution for the remainder which might be suggested by the technical side of the Department, so as to help them to be able to get as much from the officer whom I have just mentioned in as short a time as possible. There is another point which I would like to raise and it is that these private installations which are being carried out now are costing the individuals more than is considered reasonable. I am told, Sir, that they charge exorbitant prices for just crossing roads and installing water on adjacent lands where houses are being built. I know a case in which the Department was called in to repair a leaking tap and when the bill was sent in, the materials cost 12 cents while the cost of labour was something like \$1.60. It was felt that the total was too high because the material cost only 12 cents. One can see the logical argument in giving the Department all the materials that they need, in order that this officer who is here on contract for three years would be in a position to give us an extended service not only in St. Michael but all over the island, so that when the time is up for him to go we will have had the kind of water service which we hoped for.

Mr. COX: Mr. Speaker,—So far as the point raised by the junior member for St. John is concerned I would like to assure him that Mr. Parfitt and now Mr. Garrod are doing their very best to improve the water supply, not only in the parish of St. Michael but through the island and I promise him that I shall draw his complaint to the attention of the Chief Engineer in the hope that he would try to speed up work in connection with the extension of that main of which the honourable member has just spoken. It is hardly necessary to say anything in respect of the point raised by the senior member for St. John because I doubt whether there is any other honourable member who would support his view about the Government being partial, as far as the extension of the water supply system is concerned. We all know that the parish of St. Michael has at least 77,000

inhabitants and, as a result, the provision of water must be greater, in proportion, than the provision in other parishes. As regards the point he raised about the cost of installation of water to private individuals he has admitted that the Department supplies the materials at a cheap rate and that the cost of labour is the difficulty. It is, therefore, not a question of the high cost of materials but of the high cost of labour and I am sure that the honourable member is one who claims to be interested in seeing that labourers get good wages.

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

THE POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Police Act, 1908.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask that the senior member for St. Thomas be allowed to take charge of this Order.

There being no objection, the honourable member is allowed to proceed.

Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—Consequent upon the change in the names of offices of certain members of the Police Force—the Chief Inspector, for instance, used to be called Sgt. Major—certain changes are also necessary in the Police Act. These changes relate to uniforms, quarters, and house allowance. Honourable members are well conversant with those changes and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive are read and are agreed to.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Chairman reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded in each case by Mr. Cox, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

EXCUSE FOR ABSENT MEMBER.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT offers an excuse for the absence of the honourable junior member for the City (Mr. LEWIS).

THE FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1933.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—I ask that the senior member for St. Thomas be allowed to take charge of this Order.

There being no objection, the honourable member is allowed to proceed.

Dr. CUMMINS: The "Objects and Reasons," Mr. Speaker, clearly set out the purpose of this Bill. It is to do with the marketing of margarine. The law requires that a manufacturer, importer etc. of margarine shall have on every package containing margarine

the word "Margarine" branded or durably marked at the top, bottom, and sides thereof in printed capitals letters not less than three quarters of an inch square. The local manufacturers of margarine have pointed out that it is impossible to comply with the law in respect of one-pound and half-pound packages of margarine and this Bill seeks to reduce the size of the word to be printed on these small packages. I feel sure that reduction in the size of the word will not mean the reduction in the quality of the contents of the package. A careful watch will be kept to see that the quality of the contents is not in conformity with the size of the word on the package. I beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I beg to second that.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 are read and are agreed to.

On the motion of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motions of Dr. CUMMINS, seconded in each case by Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

THE SALE OF COTTON (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Peter,—Second reading of a Bill to amend the Sale of Cotton Act, 1906.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker,—Some years ago there was a large acreage planted in cotton in this island but today it is merely a trickle. The number of inspectors which are provided under the Act was necessary in 1906 but not in 1950 when so little cotton is being planted. So it is felt that the number of Inspectors to be appointed should be left in the hands of the Director of Agriculture. The principal amendments are the changing of the word "parish" to the word "area" and an increase of the rates of pay to eight cents per hundred pounds. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. COX: I beg to second that.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, seconded by Mr. Cox, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive are read and are agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, seconded by Mr. Cox, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, seconded in each case by Mr. Cox, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

THE PAYNE PENSION BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Joseph,—Second reading of a Bill to authorize the payment of an additional pension to William O'Brien Payne.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,—If honourable members read the Objects and Reasons of this Bill

they will see that by reason of the fact that the Government has brought to this House from time to time matters of a similar nature this is now almost an established principle. This Bill seeks to pay an additional gratuity and pension to Mr. Payne who used to be the senior Road Overseer in the Department of Highways and Transport. In 1921 he was appointed a Road Overseer in the service of the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Michael, in which capacity he served until 1927. The functions of that Board were taken over by the Central Road Board and he became an Overseer of that Board and in 1945 when the Department of Highways and Transport became a Government Department he served with them in a similar capacity until May, 1950, when he retired. His services between 1921 and 1927 are not pensionable but inasmuch as the Legislature has, in the case of the late Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Douglas Haynes, accepted the principle that years of service with Parochial Authorities should be added to years of service with the Government of a similar, or even nearly similar, nature—similar in the case of Mr. Gibbons and nearly similar, you may say, in the case of Mr. Haynes—the Government feels that the Legislature would approve of the payment of this additional gratuity and pension to Mr. Payne in respect of his service with the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Michael. It is for that reason that the Government is asking the House to authorize the payment of this gratuity and pension which has been calculated in the usual way as if he had been entitled to those years of service. I do not think there is anything more I need say. The Legislature has had occasion before, as I have said, to consider this point and because the Legislature seems inclined to be willing to combine parochial service with Government service for the purposes of the payment of a gratuity and pension, the Government feels that it will be willing to grant this on this occasion. I, therefore, beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRYAN: I do not know, Sir, if I am in order but before the question is put I would like to ask the senior member for St. Joseph—I am not opposing the Bill—if this principle of taking into consideration the period that an individual has worked with the Central Road Board will be extended to others. It has been brought to my attention that there are persons who have worked with the Central Road Board but who, on retirement, have not had their periods of service taken into account in the computation of their pensions.

Mr. WILKINSON: I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill. It so happened that I was associated with Mr. Payne when he was appointed by the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Michael and afterwards when he was employed by the Central Road Board and I can assure honourable members that as far as I know he has been a most efficient officer. He deserves a pension for the time he served with not only the Central Road Board but also with the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Michael before their duties were taken over by the Central Road Board.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,— I think it only fair to say that Mr. Payne was a very faithful and energetic servant and I do not know if it is altogether right that the Government, as it is constituted now, should have to wait for the occasion to arise to come to the House of Assembly to make arrangements for the payment of a gratuity and pension to a retired officer. The years for a procedure of this sort have passed and there should be an understanding that an

employee of any government department is entitled to a pension on his retirement from the Service. I would like to emphasize, particularly for the hearing of the Leader of the House, that in future we do not have Bills of this nature before the House to grant pensions to worn-out workers of the Government when they retire. I think that it should be an understood fact that persons who work in government departments should be entitled to pensions without permission being sought from the House of Assembly to pay them pensions.

Mr. ADAMS: I am afraid that I have not given the House the exact position and I apologise for not having done so. Mr. Payne's case is not quite on all fours with that of Mr. Haynes. He was also employed by the Commissioners of Health of St. Michael. The real position is this: Mr. Payne's pension might have been computed on one of two bases (1) full service, that is, service with the Commissioners of Health, the Commissioners of Highways, and the Government, —full pension of \$1,261.60 per annum or reduced pension of \$946.20 per annum plus a gratuity of \$3,154, and cost of living allowance of \$91.32 per annum, or (2) service with the Commissioners of Highways and the Government—full pension of \$929.60 per annum, or reduced pension of \$697.20 per annum plus a gratuity of \$2,324 and cost of living allowance of \$79.92 per annum. The Vestry of St. Michael has agreed to contribute the difference provided that legislation is enacted to give Mr. Payne his pension in respect of his entire service and this Bill is for that purpose. The Vestry pointed out that it has no authority to pay a gratuity and reduced pension and has, therefore, decided to contribute the sum of \$332 per annum and cost of living allowance thereon at the rate of \$12.16 per annum. As regards the point raised by the junior member for St. Michael, it is a matter for the Legislature. If there be other persons in similar circumstances, the Government will take it that if the Legislature approves of this, the Legislature will approve of others in similar circumstances.

Mr. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker,— I rise to support the remarks of the junior member for St. Michael. I know the case of a Superintendent who was employed for years by the Central Road Board after it took over the duties of the Commissioners of Highways in St. Andrew and no consideration whatever has been taken of that man's years of service with the Central Road Board. I also agree with the senior member for St. George that there should be some method by which these poor, unfortunate people could be given some relief after they have rendered such valuable service to this island.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive are read and are agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS in each case, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

THE PUBLIC LANDS (SEAWELL) EXCHANGE BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. Jos-

eph,—Second reading of a Bill to authorize the Executive Committee to exchange certain lands, the property of the Government of this Island.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,— This Bill seeks to authorize the Executive Committee to exchange part of Seawell Plantation for part of Spencers Plantation for the purpose of extending the runway at Seawell aerodrome. It is a very simple matter. The respective portions of land are set out in the first and second schedules to the Bill. I do not suppose that anybody will have any objection to this proposal because it is a necessary exchange in order to complete the extension of the runway at Seawell. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, Mr. SPEAKER leaves the Chair and the House goes into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clause 1 is read and is agreed to.

Clause 2. The Executive Committee are hereby authorized and empowered to exchange the parcels of land of Seawell Plantation situate in the parish of Christ Church and vested in them and described in the First Schedule to this Act for the parcels of land of Spencers Plantation situate in the parish of Christ Church and described in the Second Schedule to this Act.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that that be Clause 2 of the Bill.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. GARNER: There is one observation, Sir, I would like to make and it is this: Now that the Government has decided to exchange these lands of Seawell Plantation for lands of Spencers Plantation, it will mean that there will be less arable land at Seawell Plantation to be worked and I think that it would be a good thing for the Government to consider how soon it is going to furnish the Manager of Seawell Plantation with a residence at Dodds Plantation. If you think the matter over carefully you will find that you are paying the Manager of Seawell travelling allowance and he really has more work to do at Dodds and Summervale than he has to do at Seawell; so I think it is wise that you should see to it at once that a residence is provided for this gentleman and you could even do away with the travelling allowance because he would be on the spot. I realize that a Committee has been functioning in respect of Dodds and Summervale but its members are a little bit too slow. I believe in swift action. I consider that this is the opportune time to make these remarks and I hope that they would be taken seriously because the Government could save quite a lot of money in travelling allowance and at the same time, the Manager who is an efficient Manager, could be able to do more work if he was housed on Dodds Plantation. I hope that the Chairman of the Reorganisation Committee will make it an urgent point to see that a house is built at Dodds Plantation for the Manager who now resides at Seawell Plantation and that my remarks will not have fallen on deaf ears.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The First and Second Schedules to the Bill are read and are agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the CHAIRMAN reports the passing of the Bill in Committee.

The House resumes and on motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded in each case by Dr. CUMMINS, the Bill is read a third time and is passed.

THE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE POOR AND BASTARDY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,— I ask leave to deal forthwith, under Rule 262, with the amendment of the Other Place to the Bill to amend the Settlement of the Poor and Bastardy Act, 1897.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,— The amendment of the Other Place is the insertion of the word "paid" between the words "be" and "by" in the line before the last of sub-section 2 (2). I beg to move that this amendment be now read a first time.

Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

The question that this amendment be now read a first time is put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motions of Mr. ADAMS, seconded in each case by Dr. CUMMINS, the amendment is read a second time and is agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. ADAMS, seconded by Dr. CUMMINS, the House is adjourned until 5.30 o'clock p.m.

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY WELCOMED BACK

On re-assembling,

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, — Before the further business of the afternoon is continued, I want to do something which I omitted to do earlier. On behalf of the members of this House I want to say how glad we are to see that our Clerk has recovered, we hope fully, from his recent illness to be with us again. We all know how energetic an official of the Législature our Clerk is and we were all sorry for the occasion which caused us to give him leave recently. We hope that now he has come back to us he will be spared for many a long year to help us in our work as legislators and to cheer us in those occasional moments, when things are oppressive, with his ever-ready smile.

Mr. WILKINSON: We on this side of the House are delighted to see that the Clerk is back with us and looking not so corpulent which, of course, is better for him. I am sure that every member of this House welcomes the Clerk back here.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the Clerk is unable to reply in this Chamber, I take the opportunity on his behalf to say how much he appreciates the very kind words of welcome which have been spoken on his account. All of us are very happy to have the Clerk back with us and sincerely hope that he will be spared for many more years to continue as Clerk of this ancient Assembly.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. WILKINSON: Mr. Speaker — I ask leave to proceed with Order No. 40 on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business as the first Order of the Day under this Head. This Order stands in the name of my colleague and I do not think that it is a controversial matter; it is a Bill which seeks to authorise the Vestry of St. James to erect and equip a Dispensary on lands of the Vestry near the dwellinghouse called "Folkestone" instead

of in the yard of the Almshouse as mentioned in the St. James Parish Loan Act, 1948.

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

**ST. JAMES PARISH LOAN (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1950**

The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business was called:—Second reading of a Bill to amend the St. James Parish Loan Act, 1948 (1948—31).

Mr. WILKINSON: As I said, this Bill seeks to give the Vestry of St. James permission to erect and equip a Dispensary near the dwellinghouse "Folkestone." The Vestry have found that it would be much more convenient to have the Dispensary situated near "Folkestone" than in the yard of the Almshouse, which site is only a few yards from the Almshouse. The Bill also seeks to extend the time for commencing the repayment of the money to be borrowed under the provisions of the Parish Loan Act, 1948, from 1949 to 1951. I have much pleasure in moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Mr. WILKINSON, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

On a similar motion, the Preamble was postponed.

The four clauses of the Bill were read and passed.

The Preamble was read and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. WILKINSON, seconded by Mr. GODDARD, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Mr. WILKINSON, seconded by Mr. GODDARD in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

QUESTION

Mr. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, — I ask leave to give notice of a Question.

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

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

What amount of Income Tax has been paid by (a) companies, (b) firms and (c) persons engaged in trade in this colony in the years 1940—50.

**ADDRESS RE USE OF TRACTORS
BY THE PEASANTRY**

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable junior member for St. Thomas:—To move the passing of an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the use of Tractors by the Peasantry.

Mr. SMITH: This Address is a very simple one and it needs very little talk in connection therewith. As far as I can see, the Address speaks for itself. It reads as follows:—

**THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
TO
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR**

The House of Assembly is of the opinion that for the convenience of the Peasantry, motor tractor should be made available at each Agricultural Station for the ploughing of fields of the Peasantry, who cannot afford to purchase tractors for use on their own small plots of land.

The House urge that His Excellency as soon as possible, initiate the necessary action with a view to placing at each Agricultural Station at least one tractor for the benefit of the small holders.

This Address seeks to improve the tilling conditions of the peasantry of this colony. It is a well known fact that land which is ploughed mechanically gives a better yield of canes and food than when it is tilled by ordinary labour, and the only chance which peasants will have of getting such a modern method of tilling would be in case the Government places a tractor at each Agricultural Station. It is also a fact that a small peasant owning an acre of land will not be able to get the use of one of the large plantation tractors to till his land because it is said that it will not pay to have a tractor to till this small portion of land. Some of the factory owners say: "We would come to your aid if your canes used to be sent to us". A tractor owner has said that he will not allow his tractor to go into the hills, but I thought that a tractor could go to all parts of the country. I repeat that the only way the peasants will be able to get the assistance of this modern tilling is if the Government helps them, and I do not know how the Government will give this assistance. The money provided by the Rehabilitation Fund is spent by the large plantations in getting convenience for hauling canes and tilling the land; a peasant who reaps about 50 or 60 tons of canes will only get about \$4.80 out of this Fund and that amount will not even buy a fork. Even then he cannot get that money to help him to buy a fork; so that the only hope which a small landowner like myself can have of getting the assistance of a tractor is if the Government takes steps in the matter. I feel it is high time for the Government to take this matter seriously and really and truly come to the aid of the peasants of this colony. I have been informed that land which is ploughed by a tractor yields about 5 or 6 tons per acre more than that which is tilled by the ordinary agricultural fork. I will not go any further in this matter than to ask the Government to consider this Address and send down the necessary Resolution for the purchase of these tractors for the use of the peasantry as soon as possible, and have them installed at each Agricultural Station so that the peasants will be able to have their land ploughed as well as other people. Some very good work is being done at these Agricultural Stations but the Instructor needs help and that help can be supplied by the provision of these tractors. I have been told by some honourable members that I have to be very careful about having the use of tractors because they might put people in my constituency out of work; but that cannot happen in my constituency because the people in my constituency are intelligent. (Cheers). We will not cause any hardship to labourers by the use of these tractors; the land in my constituency is heavy and after a shower of rain the labourers complain that they cannot use agricultural forks. That is why I have taken it upon myself to try to ease the workers by asking that these tractors be provided. I

have very much pleasure in moving that this Address do now pass.

Mr. BETHELL: I beg to second that. I am very pleased to see that the honourable member has brought forward this Address, and I would like to say that the intelligence of the people of St. Joseph must be a lot better than that of the people of St. Thomas. It is really difficult for the Head of the Administration to decide what should be done: here we have the honourable junior member for St. Joseph asking that more tractors be brought in, and the honourable junior member for St. Thomas has an Address on the Order Paper asking that no more tractors be brought in. (Laughter). I feel that the honourable junior member for St. Thomas realises that the situation is a baffling one. I am supporting this Address because it is no secret that the peasant who owns half an acre of land has to pay twice or three times as much to till that land as it would cost the estate owner. As regards tilling land by the use of the plough as against that of the fork, that is like chalk and cheese; one is done mechanically and the return is ten times more than the other. I speak as a small estate owner and I say that a tractor has never put any labourer out of work; it has not cost any labourer a day's work. If this Address is passed—if the honourable junior member for St. Thomas does not counteract it—I think it should be left to the Director of Agriculture to decide how many tractors should be bought. I feel that two or three big tractors would do better work and would be more economically run than seven small ones. I hope that this Address will be passed.

Mr. CRAWFORD: This is a matter which should have the support of most hon. members of this House if not all, but it is a matter which has to be approached with a certain amount of caution. I want to join issue with the honourable junior member for St. John when he says that the introduction of machinery has not displaced agricultural labour in the colony. I do not think it is accurate to say that, since from my own experience I know that on many plantations throughout the colony to-day agricultural labour is employed after the crop for three and sometimes four days a week at the maximum. It is true to say that the introduction of machinery on the sugar plantations has, to some extent, displaced the employment of manual labour on these plantations. It is not debatable that the introduction of more machines will displace more manual labour; unless and until avenues of employment are found to absorb the workers on sugar plantations, who are displaced as a result of the introduction of machinery, there must be an increase in unemployment in the colony. On the other hand, those of us who know anything about this matter will agree that the machinery does perform a more efficient job than manual labour and at considerable economy in cost; that is where the small holders are obviously most entitled to the benefits which can be attained from the use of the mechanical instruments suggested in this Address. The small holder is at a great disadvantage; generally speaking, he has to pay much more for labour than the big plantation owner, he does not receive a fair price for his canes and his position is infinitely worse than that of the plantation and the sugar factory owner; he is the forgotten man in the sugar industry. The workers in the industry have, in the past, received protection which ensured their fair share of wages and if at the moment there is no satisfaction where that part of the industry is concerned, that is a matter for which the remedial machinery exists. In so far as the small holder is

concerned, being unorganized, completely at the mercy of the manufacturer and with no protection from the State, his is an unenviable position. There is not one sugar factory in this colony, so far as I have been able to ascertain, who has paid for canes in the past year the price which the sugar industry would have afforded; and there are very few small holders who, after deducting the cost of labour and the high cost of fertilisers and agricultural instruments, have been able to get anything left for themselves out of the price which they got for the canes which they reaped during the last crop. Therefore, I repeat, that anything which we can do to assist the small holders to equate revenue with expenditure, and indeed to cultivate their holdings with some measure of profit, it is our obligation to do so: and this Address in so far as it seeks to carry out this laudable object, should receive the unqualified support of members of this Chamber. I should like to point out that on the general topography, the physical characteristics of St. Joseph differ fundamentally from those of the other parishes; the solid conditions to which the honourable mover of the passing of this Address refers in respect of St. Joseph are completely foreign to Christ Church, St. Thomas, St. Philip or St. Lucy, but the average conditions of the small holder remains the same, and anything which we can do to improve the situation we should certainly do as speedily as possible. As we know, the monies which now accrue to small holders out of the Rehabilitation Fund have remained, for the greater part, untouched, in consequence of the conditions surrounding the payment to individual peasants of any amount to which they are entitled. As is well known, in order to qualify for any amount in respect of the tonnage of canes produced, the peasants have to satisfy the Authorities that they are spending the money on capital expenditure. Very few peasants on their own can afford to buy a tractor or mechanical equipment of any sort; that is beyond their resources and therefore it is not surprising that many of these small amounts have had to lapse or remain undrawn by the peasants who are entitled to draw them because the unfortunate peasants cannot satisfy the Authorities that the money will be expended on capital expenditure. Therefore my own view is that in the implementation of this Address, the Government might well consider using the funds which now accrue to small holders out of the Rehabilitation Fund, to purchase the tractors since, as I said earlier, most of these small holders cannot draw the money to which they are entitled out of this Fund. Either that should be done, or if the Government itself advances the money to purchase these tractors, the small holders should be allowed the use of them free of cost, and the monies which have accumulated and are accumulating in the Rehabilitation Fund should be utilised for the maintenance and replacement of these tractors. Many a small holder would be only too glad to get the few dollars to which he is entitled as a result of the quantity of canes which he produced during the year. I think that what I have suggested is as good a way to assist the small holder as any other, in reducing his production costs and allowing him to enjoy in some measure the sweets of the sugar industry. It is necessary for us to concern ourselves in the final analysis with the conditions of agricultural workers in those parishes which, unlike St. Joseph, do not suffer from the physical conditions referred to by the honourable introducer of this Address, and expedite every possible means we can in order to provide employment for agricultural workers who are displaced by the introduction of

machinery in these parishes. There can be no question that much unemployment has resulted in many parishes as a result of the introduction of modern equipment.

Mr. DOWDING: Every time I looked at the honourable junior member for St. Joseph for the past few years I have felt what a solid member of this Chamber he is. (Hear, hear). The honourable member has shown his solidarity in more ways than one and each one of us should give him praise for having brought forward this Address. The peasants of this island produce approximately 145,000 tons of canes per year and that is a worthwhile contribution to the sugar industry; they suffer, and have been suffering for the past number of years, where the tilling of their land is concerned. It is not a question of the displacement of labour; it is a question of being able to plough land at the correct season of the year. In order to get the best results from land, it should be ploughed during the dry season; the dry season is our crop season and at that time of the year it is impossible to think of getting other than some type of machinery for carrying out that most necessary part of cultivation. Before this Address is implemented it will need a great deal of study because this Island is divided into soil groups, and each group requires a different kind of tilling. Some groups require no tilling at all, some require a heavy tractor while others require a medium light tractor, and it would be necessary to find out the different types of tractors which would have to be placed at different points of the island. Up to the present the peasants' land has never been ploughed and the results are not as good as those from land which has been ploughed. To-day some of the peasants are able to get the loan of a tractor from neighbouring estates and many of them are taking advantage of that; but there are many areas which are not so served by plantations and the land in those areas is in need of being ploughed. I sincerely hope that the solid efforts of the honourable junior member for St. Joseph will bring to fruition something of which the peasants are in great need.

Mr. MAPP: Now that we are all standing on such solid ground I think it is time that we have a different ploughing than we have had so far in this debate. The members on the opposite side agree to the passing of this Address with such relish that we must wonder what solid load is to be lifted off their minds that they can be so joyful. If we agree to the passing of this Address, it is not because those of us who have found that the introduction of tractors in the sugar industry has caused an advantage to the industry, have changed our views; it is because we feel that since tractors have been introduced and have been helpful to private owners in the sugar industry, there is no just reason why they should not be helpful to other owners who cannot bear the brunt of labour expenses as well as the big owners can bear it. That is the one reason why I am in favour of this Address. The honourable junior member for St. John seemed to have read the Order Paper incorrectly because he has said that I have there an Address asking that tractors be kept out of the island; but there is no such Address on the Order Paper. There is on the Order Paper an Address asking that the effects of mechanization in the sugar industry on employment in the industry should be studied and that measures be taken to relieve the ill effects caused by mechanization. I still maintain that point of view. Recently steps were taken in Puerto Rico which is more highly industrialized than this colony, to set up a Committee to go into a similar matter. I feel that this ques-

tion of unemployment in the sugar industry caused by the introduction of tractors is a problem which cannot be lightly passed over. The introduction of tractors is in the interest of higher productivity—a most important factor in the economy of this island—but it can have very serious effects on employment. We all agree that in so far as this type of mechanization increases production and thereby strengthens the economy of this island, we should be in favour of it, but at the same time we should agree that in a colony where there are very few avenues of employment and in an industry where there is employment, all steps should be taken to offset the ill effects which the introduction of these mechanical aids can bring about. Much of the Rehabilitation Fund has been used in buying ploughs and tractors for the benefit chiefly of the big plantations. There is no doubt about that because only a little over \$300 has been paid out to the peasants and there are over 30,000 owners of holdings of about a quarter of an acre of land or less; therefore very few of these peasants have received any share of this Fund and in what way they have received it we have not been told. It is a fact that in recent years the peasants have been faced with a heavy increased cost of production; the cost of labour has been increased, so has the cost of fertilisers and the peasants' receipts from the factories have not progressed in any way with their expenses. The peasants are therefore definitely in need of assistance. I have been reliably informed that the output from the factories was on the basis of 10 to 12 tons of canes to a ton of sugar, but in the past two crops the basis was reduced to 8 tons of canes to a ton of sugar. I have been informed that these figures have been returned by the factories themselves; if that is so, we can judge the extent to which the peasants have suffered when they were told that they are being paid on the basis of 10 or 12 tons of canes to a ton of sugar, when in fact the factories are making a ton of sugar to 8 tons of canes. You can imagine the extent to which the peasants have lost. So long as we are not guided by any official statistics taken by the Government, so long as there is no firm basis of payment for peasants set out by the Government, so long will the peasants receive amounts based on sympathy and goodwill on the part of the factory owner.

I hope that with the implementation of this Address which undoubtedly will be passed, there will not be any delay on the part of the Government in making provision for a proper basis on which the peasants will be paid for their canes. It is a long time now since Professor Shephard reported on this matter; a Committee of the House was appointed to consider the recommendations which were made and the Committee reported. The honourable Mr. H. A. Cuke was a member of that Committee, his views were given and although years have passed, nothing has been done in the matter. A member of the Government thinks that I am referring to a Bill which was brought down by a former member of this House, but I am not referring to that Bill; I am referring to the recommendations of Professor Shephard in connection with which members of the Committee appointed to consider them felt that the peasants would lose if those recommendations were implemented. There is nothing to prevent a recommendation from being made to the Government to employ a statistician who can really and truly give us figures concerning the sugar industry—figures on which some proper and just basis can be worked out whereby peasants will be paid for their canes. If Professor Shephard's recommendations favoured the sugar producers more than the peasants, then the Government should have this impartial expert on whose findings they could base their proposals. Lest it be thought that we are

speaking with our heads in the clouds, I say that efforts on that score have been made in other colonies. It is very strange that as far back as 1947, before the owners of sugar factories were helped by the Rehabilitation Fund, the production expenses were far less than those of British Guiana; they paid less for their canes and their profits were much higher than those of sugar manufacturers in other colonies. Those facts are based on figures collected by the Caribbean Commission. So long as the peasants are not paid on the basis of figures collected by the Government, so long will they be robbed of their correct price by the sugar manufacturers of this colony. I think that this is an Address which we can safely commend to the Government; it is an Address which the Government should not find any difficulty in implementing. The funds at their disposal are very adequate for the purpose.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: There are some points which have been made and which should be answered. It is not true to say that the Government has regarded the peasants as the forgotten people; if the peasants were forgotten before this Government was in office, we are not responsible for that. If you make a thorough investigation into what has taken place within recent years it will be found that this Government has encouraged the peasants. We know that the peasants are an unorganized body of people in Barbados and matters cannot be easily adjusted by a speech in the House. Honourable members are aware of the political effectiveness of certain speeches, but from the scientific point of view what is politically effective cannot always be considered in terms of the person who makes the speech. The Government engaged the services of somebody who knows about agricultural requirements and when the economist made his recommendations, the other economists in this Chamber found that the recommendations were not workable. There was a difficulty found in connection with Professor Shephard's recommendations as contained in his Report. I would suggest to the Head of the Administration that a panel be set up so that useful advice could be obtained and the Government would not have to bring anybody out here. The honourable junior member for St. Thomas says that he has read about the price being paid for canes in British Guiana in the Report of the Caribbean Commission—

Mr. MAPP: On a point of order. I do not know if the honourable member is speaking from his imagination, but I never said that I saw the price of canes in that Report.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am sorry that I misinterpreted the honourable member. I should like to say that we have a Co-operative Officer here and I think that everyone will agree that the peasants have been receiving assistance through the scheme which has been put forward and it has been of benefit to them. Money has been voted in respect of these Agriculture Stations and even today one can see that these Stations were set up primarily with the object of helping the peasants who contribute something to the economy of the island. It cannot be said of any member of this Government that he has ever done anything whereby it could be said that the peasants have been treated as a forgotten people; anything which can be done to help the peasants to improve their production will be done. It must be remembered that with greater productivity on the part of the peasants you must also have the means of marketing. It must be remembered also that the peasants are the greatest producers of livestock; 75% of the meat which is used in this island is produced by the peasants, and many a peasant who rears his stock has to make a

sacrifice on the altar of pecuniary circumstances. We do not want to encourage an industry unless we are prepared to make the scope of marketing as good as it is for production; it is necessary to have a good co-operative scheme for production and for marketing purposes. I do not think that anybody would disagree with the object which the honourable junior member for St. Joseph has in mind in this Address, but I do not think that the Government should be pinned down to placing these tractors at the Agricultural Stations. The location of tractors would be on a different basis from that on which the Agricultural Stations were erected.

Mr. ALLDER: I am in favour of the passing of this Address but there is a little anomaly with which I would like to deal. There are seven Agricultural Stations in this colony and there are rendered at these Stations certain services from which some peasants in some parishes do not benefit. This Address says that these tractors must be kept at the Agricultural Stations; I am fearful that if you limit the placing of these tractors to these Agricultural Stations some of the parishes in which there are no Agricultural Stations will not get any service from the tractors. There are over 30,000 peasants in this island and a few tractors will be needed to accommodate them. What I feel should be accepted as an amendment is that the tractors should be made available to all the peasants throughout the colony. I suggest therefore that all the words after the word "to" occurring in line 2 of the second paragraph of the Address be deleted in order to insert the words "making such tractors available to all small holders throughout the colony." There is some difficulty as to the places where these tractors should be kept but I think that that matter can be settled. I do not think that the honourable junior member for St. Joseph should quibble over the suggested amendment since it stands to guarantee that the services of these tractors will be extended to all the peasants of this island. These Agricultural Stations are so few as compared with the various parishes that it would be somewhat difficult for the services of these tractors to be extended far enough if they were localised at the Stations. I feel that this amendment is one which should be accepted: all the peasants have contributed to the Rehabilitation Fund and no peasant should benefit at the other's expense because of an Agricultural Station having been erected in his parish.

Mr. GARNER: I must support this Address because I know the hardships which the peasants suffer in order to work their land. I have, first of all, to make my position very clear. I did not always share the view which I am now supporting, whether it was from emotional instinct or the desire to have the workers safeguarded. I had my semi-prejudice against the complete mechanization of the sugar industry. I must admit now that events have proved very conclusively that in order to increase the production of sugar in the colony and in order to raise the standard of living of the people generally, we must do something by way of mechanization. I feel that I would like to have that statement recorded because on more than one occasion I have spoken against the entire mechanization of the sugar industry. I must say that I am in agreement in this particular case because I know that even at this late hour certain peasants have not had their small plots cultivated on account of the cost of labour which is now available. I feel that if the Government would implement this Address, a great service would be rendered to the peasants because all the plantations now have their instruments for ploughing, grass cutting

and many other lines of activity; and surely if the peasants are to survive, they too must have some sort of mechanization. It is true that perhaps if the peasants were organized and they could co-operate, they would do better; but in the absence of being able to pool together they will have to be dependent upon the good graces of the Government to provide them with machinery. One honourable member has suggested that the use of this machinery should be given free, gratis and for nothing, but I doubt very much that that will be done because it will cost a considerable amount to purchase the machinery and also to maintain it, to buy replacements and so on. I do not think that the peasants would object to paying a nominal price for the work which these tractors would do. I do know that the peasants are in great need of such assistance and if something is not done and done quickly, many peasants will not be able to cultivate their land in the future. This is a fitting case for priority in the absence of the peasants having their own co-operatives. By the way, some time ago I understood that a Co-operative Officer was in this island and I am sorry to say that I have not heard anything from this gentleman. I want to know what is his work and what steps has he taken to bring about a success of co-operatives in this colony. If this gentleman is not qualified for the job then he must be told so and let him go; but there is room for such an officer in this colony because people must have the co-operative spirit. The co-operative spirit is lacking and that has made the peasants what they are today; there is no co-operation and everybody is suspecting the other. Let us have a Co-operative Officer and let us have proper marketing facilities; so that when we have an established industry in any line, the peasant will be assured that the article in the production of which he has put so much energy, will be sold at a remunerative price. That is perhaps the reason why some of the peasants "go under"; they cannot market their vegetables when they produce them. I wonder how much we are paying this Co-operative Officer; I would like some member of the Government to tell me where this Officer is and what is his work. If this Officer were active around here the peasants would have had a few meetings in the various parishes trying to organize something; this Officer would have been urging the peasants to get together and they would have been ploughing their fields ever since. I would really like to meet this Officer; perhaps he is one of those people who do everything *in camera*. I should really like to know what this Officer's duties are; is he to work among the peasants? Does he not come out in the limelight

sometimes? Even Rip Van Winkle came back but this man does not seem to awake from his slumber. With regard to the Rehabilitation Fund, I have tabled a question asking the Government to simplify matters so that the peasants can get what is due to them from this Fund. However, I am going to move an amendment to this Address; it is an amendment which will change the text of the Address as moved. I beg to move that all the words of the Address be deleted and the following words be substituted therefor:—

"The House of Assembly is of the opinion that for the convenience of the Peasantry motor tractors should be purchased by the Government and placed at the disposal of the Peasants for the purpose of cultivating their lands."

I hope that the honourable junior member for St. Joseph will agree to that amendment.

Mr. FOSTER: I have great pleasure in seconding the amendment moved by the honourable senior member for St. Philip.

Mr. MILLER: Several amendments have been made to a simple Address and I feel that when the Address goes to the Government the regulations will have been so changed that you will not be able to recognize the privileges. I am in favour of the peasants being granted the use of tractors, because I feel that it is the peasantry who is responsible for the middle classes and it is the peasantry who, for all the centuries, has borne the brunt of the development of the colony. It is the peasants who supply the colony with the vegetables and most of the milk if not all the milk. I feel that we should help the peasants with the use of tractors, but there need not have been so many amendments made to a simple Address.

Mr. SMITH: I accept that amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Address as amended do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it. I will ask the honourable junior member for St. Joseph to present this Address.

Mr. SMITH: As Your Honour pleases.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to this day week, the 1st day of August, 1950, at 3 p.m.

Dr. CUMMINS seconded the motion which was agreed to, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.