

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1960

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19th January, 1960.

Pursuant to prorogation, the 1956-61 Legislative Session was re-opened by His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Montague Stow, K.C.M.G., in the Council Chamber, Public Buildings, at 10 o'clock a.m. today.

The following Members of the House were present in their Chamber:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, junior member for St. Peter, (*Speaker*); Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, junior member for St. Lucy, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., junior member for St. Thomas, (*Premier*); Mr. W. A. CRAWFORD, senior member for St. Philip; His Honour Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., senior member for St. Joseph, (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E., senior member for St. Peter; Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, senior member for the City; Hon. R. G. MAPP, senior member for St. Thomas, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. T. O. BRYAN, junior member for St. Michael, (*Chairman of Committees*); Mr. F. C. GODDARD, junior member for Christ Church; Hon. F. E. MILLER, junior member for St. George, (*Minister of Social Services*); Mr. E. ST.A.

HOLDER, senior member for St. James; Mrs. E. E. BOURNE, senior member for St. Andrew; Mr. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., senior member for St. Lucy; Hon. D. D. GARNER, junior member for St. Philip, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. H. A. DOWDING, M.B.E., senior member for St. George; Mr. C. B. SEARLES, junior member for St. James; Hon. L. ST.A. THORNE, senior member for St. John, (*Minister of Education*); Mr. T. W. MILLER, junior member for the City; Mr. G. E. S. STRAUGHN, junior member for St. Joseph; and Mr. J. W. CORBIN, junior member for St. Andrew.

HOUSE SUMMONED TO OTHER PLACE

Honourable members being in their places, the Sergeant-at-arms entered the Chamber and informed Mr. SPEAKER that His Excellency the Governor was in the Council and was ready to receive the House.

Mr. SPEAKER preceded by the Marshal carrying the Mace cradlewise and followed by the Honourable members in pairs according to seniority, proceeded to the Council Chamber and waited on His Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency then addressed the two Houses of the Legislature as follows:—

• *Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:*

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

This is the first occasion on which it has been my privilege and honour to welcome the Members of both Chambers of the Legislature on the opening of a new session.

In a few weeks' time Barbados will be honoured by a visit by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal and it will be possible on that occasion for the Government and people to demonstrate their unswerving loyalty to the Crown.

Sir Robert Arundell left Barbados on the 7th July, 1959, before assuming duty as Acting Governor-General in Port-of-Spain and subsequently proceeding to the United Kingdom on pre-retirement leave. I am sure that all members of the Legislature will wish Sir Robert and Lady Arundell every happiness in their retirement.

I propose to follow the procedure which has been adopted on previous occasions and to review briefly the principal events of the past year and to outline my Government's future plans and proposals.

The Legislature

There has been no changes in the composition of the Houses of the Legislature during the past year, but I take this opportunity to refer to the well deserved honour conferred upon the Honourable F. C. Hutson by Her Majesty the Queen by the award of the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours.

The Constitution

During the year the Premier discussed with the Secretary of State for the Colonies proposals which had been made for a further measure of internal self-government in Barbados. These discussions were also attended by the Minister of Social Services, the Attorney General and myself. As a result of these discussions the Secretary of State for the Colonies has described in a despatch dated the 15th September, 1959, the revised constitutional arrangements which he will be prepared to recommend to Her Majesty for Her consent. These arrangements include a revision of the powers of the Governor, an increase in the responsibilities of Ministers and proposals affecting the Public Service. The proposals outlined in the despatch have been debated in both Houses of the Legislature and have been accepted, and, in accordance with the request made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a despatch will shortly be forwarded outlining precisely how it is proposed that the changes will be put into effect. In some cases the changes will be conventional, in others local legislation will be required or, subject to Her Majesty's consent, the Letters Patent and Royal Instructions will require appropriate amendment.

Ecclesiastical

I record with regret the retirement, owing to ill health, of the Right Reverend G. L. G. Mandeville, Lord Bishop of Barbados, which will take effect on the 1st February, 1960.

My Government intends that negotiations for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican Church in this Island will be finalised during this session.

The Federation of The West Indies

His Excellency the Governor-General and Lady Hailes paid an official visit to Barbados from the 21st to the 24th June, 1959, and it is hoped that Their Excellencies will be able to pay another visit to Barbados before long.

My Government was represented at the important Inter-Governmental Conference which took place in Port-of-Spain in September, 1959, to review the working of the Federal Constitution. Since then delegates from Barbados have been participating in the two representative Working Parties set up as a result of that Conference to deal with constitutional, political, economic and social matters.

I take this opportunity of expressing the hope that the Federal Prime Minister, who has recently been convalescing in Barbados, will be fully restored to health before long.

Financial Position

Final figures for the financial year 1958-59 show Revenue of \$23.7 million and Current Expenditure of \$20.7 million giving a surplus of \$3 million on Current Account. Capital Expenditure amounted to \$9.4 million of which \$1.3 million was met from revenue and surplus, \$7.5 million from loan funds and \$0.6 million from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. The General Revenue Balance stood at \$6.4 million at the beginning of the Current financial year, as compared with \$3.9 million a year previously.

The Budget for the current financial year showed Revenue of \$21.7 million and Current Expenditure of \$21.1 million.

In comparison with last year the Revenue at the end of November, 1959, fell short by \$0.7 million from that collected for the same period last year, while Expenditure for the same period exceeded the amount for last year by \$0.7 million, and although it is too soon to give an indication of the outcome for the year, these figures show that it is impossible to expect the large surplus that was achieved at the end of 1958-59.

The Deep Water Harbour continues to be the largest item of capital expenditure, i.e. 54% of the current year's estimated expenditure. The monthly expenditure on this project has varied between \$1/2 million and \$.83 million. Agriculture accounts for 9% of the estimated expenditure while Communications accounts for 8%. Towards the cost of the New Hospital, Colonial Development and Welfare Grants totalling \$3.3 million are expected; the balance of the cost of \$5.8 million being met from Labour Welfare Funds and General Revenue Balances.

The Government's local issue of \$2 million 5 3/4% stock at 98 1968/73 which opened on the 12th May, 1958, was taken up in full and closed on the 15th May, 1959. The latest issue of Government debentures for \$2.5 million 5 1/2% stock at 98 1968/74 has met with favourable response.

Public Loans

The period of the current Development Plan will expire on the 31st March, 1960, and my Government has under preparation a further Plan for the next five years. In preparing this plan my Government will enlist the services of Mr. G. W. Cadbury, who for four years was United Nations Adviser to the Government of Jamaica, and who has arrived in the Island to advise the Government on this and other economic matters. Priority in the new Plan will be given to the completion of the construction of the Deep Water Harbour and the construction of the new General Hospital. In considering other priorities, my Government will consider the advice tendered by Mr. Cadbury.

Development Plan

With the abolition of the United Kingdom Supplies and Services (Transitional Powers) Act, 1945, on the 25th March, 1959, and the lapsing of the Defence (Finance) Regulations, 1940, under which local Exchange Control Regulations operate, the Defence (Finance) Regulations (Re-enactment & Validation) Act, 1959, was enacted on the 18th April, 1959, to keep in force these Regulations with effect from 25th March and validate acts done thereunder. It is expected that the Federal Government will shortly assume this control under Federal Legislation.

Exchange Control

The achievement of Customs Union and Internal Free Trade in the West Indies will have a considerable effect on the trade and development of Barbados. My Government is therefore anxious that Customs Union should come into being as soon as possible and active consideration is being given to the problems which will emerge from its establishment.

Trade

During the year Barbados became a party to the International Wheat Agreement. A new Rice Agreement was negotiated between the West Indies and British Guiana and came into force on the 1st October, 1959.

In the latter part of 1959 controls were removed from the importation of most commodities from all sources except China, Japan and the Soviet Bloc. This was in accord with the general liberalisation policies of the United Kingdom and the countries of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation. At the same time the Token Import Schemes for the importation of goods from Canada and the United States of America were abolished. The controls which remain are necessary either to fulfil my Government's obligations under inter-West Indian Agreements or to protect local industries.

Barbados was represented on the Trade Mission from the West Indies which visited the United Kingdom in July, 1959. Results of this Mission have been encouraging and a visit to Barbados by a Trade Mission from Canada in January, 1959, was also very successful.

Since the enactment of the Pioneer Industries Act, 1958, considerable encouragement has been given to industrial development. During the past year thirty-eight applications for pioneer status have been received covering various industries. The Barbados Development Board continues to stimulate local and overseas interest in industrial and tourist development and to make loans to industrial enterprises and to hotels. In addition, two factories are being built at the Board's Industrial Estate. Since its inception in 1957 the Board has approved loans totalling \$1,200,000.

Industry

In pursuance of my Government's policy to encourage the development of industry, legislation to permit duty free importation of raw materials and machinery has been enacted.

My Government recognises that cheap and reliable sources of power are essential to the development and expansion of industry. It is hoped that the acquisition of the Spring Vale gas well in St. Andrew will enable the Natural Gas Corporation to expand its services. My Government has also been exploring other possible sources of power and has held discussions with a firm interested in the erection of a Nuclear Power Plant.

**Tourist
Development**

The Tourist Board has promoted advertising and publicity especially in the United States of America and Canada and has concentrated on encouraging tourists to visit the Island in the summer thus ensuring that hotels are full throughout the year. During the past year the number of visitors arriving in Barbados rose from 24,788 to 28,689, while hard currency earnings from the Tourist trade exceeded previous records amounting to \$7.06 million as compared with \$5.54 million in the previous corresponding period. A greater number of cruise ships visited the Island and as a result of the boom in the Tourist industry and the concessions offered by the Hotel Aids Act, 1956, ten new Hotels and several extensions to existing hotels are in the process of construction.

**Labour and
Employment**

No reliable statistics of employment are available but the Employment Exchange continues to play an important part in the placement of persons in local employment. 1,332 persons were placed in employment in 1959 as against 1,239 in the previous year.

At the end of 1959 there were 1,759 unemployed persons in the register compared with 1,162 at the end of 1958.

Emigration, both permanent and temporary to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America continued to provide opportunities for employment abroad. My Government continues to find work for and to provide loans to emigrants.

Government loans during 1959 totalled \$186,396. 464 Government sponsored workers left the Island for employment in the United Kingdom during the past year as compared with 359 in 1958, and, in addition, 2,353 others not sponsored by Government went to England. 42 girls emigrated to Canada under the Canadian Domestic Scheme for West Indian workers and the Canadian Government has agreed to permit a similar number to enter Canada in 1960. At the end of the year there were 1,446 workers on contract in the United States of America as against 1,223 in 1958.

In an endeavour to maintain the high standard of earlier batches of workers recruited by the London Transport Executive, my Government instituted a scheme for the training of persons desirous of obtaining employment with that body. Six training centres have been established and a representative of the Executive recently visited Barbados at the invitation of the Government. These steps have already resulted in increased numbers proceeding to the United Kingdom for employment with the Executive.

My Government has submitted to the Barbados Workers' Union proposals for the payment of ex-gratia amounts to persons likely to be displaced as a result of the construction of the Deep Water Harbour and will continue discussions with the Barbados Workers' Union on the matter shortly.

Discussions are in progress between representatives of Employers, Workers and the Government in connection with the establishment of a Provident Fund for workers in the sugar industry.

Progress has been made in the task of revising labour legislation in the light of the report by Mr. C. O. J. Matthews of the International Labour Organisation. My Government intends to introduce some of this legislation, including that on Workmen's Compensation, during the new session.

The 1959 crop was 184,158.5 tons. As a result of negotiations recently concluded between the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Commonwealth representatives of the sugar industry, the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement was extended to 1967 and the negotiated price for 1960 reduced from \$216.48 to \$213.32 per ton. Under article 15 of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, the basic negotiated price quotas for 1960 will be increased by 3%. The Island's basic quota for 1959 was 127,265 tons but its allocation of the 3% increase has not yet been fixed. This is the first occasion since 1955 that there has been a drop in the negotiated price. The present world price continues to be substantially below the negotiated price.

Sugar Industry

Owing to the serious drought during the past year the crop for 1960, as at present estimated, is not expected to exceed 125,000 tons. The anticipated shortfall in the crop is a cause of great concern to my Government.

Work on the Deep Water Harbour progresses steadily and to schedule and there is every indication that the contractors will complete the harbour within the contract period which ends in August, 1961. The construction of the bulk sugar store is going ahead and the programming of the work is geared to permit a trial shipment of sugar to be run through the installation late in 1960, so that bulk shipment of sugar can begin in 1961.

Deep Water
Harbour

My Government has decided that initially the harbour will be administered by the Port Manager who will be assisted by a Harbour Advisory Board. This arrangement will obtain only during the formative period, after which my Government proposes to review the administrative arrangements so as to ensure the efficient administration of the Port.

Negotiations are in train with the Shipping and Mercantile Association in connection with the handling of cargo and with the Barbados Sugar Producers' Association Inc. regarding the operation of the bulk sugar installation.

The Consulting Engineers have submitted proposals to my Government in respect of works which will be designed to provide for the drain water which formerly flowed into the sea behind Fontabelle where there is reclaimed land. These works, my Government has been given to understand, will be able to cope adequately with the drain water which now flows along the existing drains to the sea.

My Government proposes in the coming session to introduce legislation governing the administration of the port.

Up to the end of last year approximately 150 acres of land have been reformed in the Scotland District. The progress made on this important project has been due largely to the energy and skill of Mr. L. H. Collett, Senior Soil Conservation Officer, whose period of service has recently expired. He has been replaced by Mr. J. Badcock of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

Agriculture

Every effort is being made to increase food production in order to feed the increasing population without increasing Barbados's dependence on imports. To this end local marketing arrangements are being improved.

A representative of the Milk Marketing Board in the United Kingdom submitted a report in September, 1959, on the local dairy industry and made proposals for its improvements which are now under discussion between the Ministry and local dairymen.

The Ministry also has under consideration a report from the Federal Marketing Adviser for improving marketing arrangements for local produce. It is expected that legislation in this connection will be submitted to the Legislature during 1960.

The experimental scheme for mechanical cultivation of small holdings has been terminated and an all island service is being introduced with effect from next month. The capital cost will be met from funds provided by the Legislature and by a contribution from the Capital Rehabilitation Reserve Fund.

Legislation will be submitted during the next year for amending the Peasants Loan Bank Act, 1936, with a view to further liberalising credit facilities to small holders.

An improvement in the conditions of the Island's beaches is already apparent as a result of the operation of the legislation enacted in 1958 to control the removal of sand. An Advisory Committee and a Beach Inspector have been appointed to assist in the administration of this legislation with the co-operation of the Local Government authorities.

My Government has under consideration further legislation to control the use of beach lands in the interests of the public.

The Fishing Fleet now contains 451 mechanically powered boats of which 56 were launched in 1959. 308 of these have been assisted by Government loans. Co-operation continues between the Fisheries Division and the Bellairs Institute of McGill University on fisheries research.

It is with much regret that I record the retirement of Mr. C. C. Skeete, O.B.E., Director of Agriculture, who has rendered distinguished service to agriculture in Barbados since his appointment in 1949. To fill his place Mr. A. deK. Frampton, C.M.G., Deputy Director of Agriculture, has been appointed.

Education

The programme for providing additional accommodation has continued and provision has been made to accommodate an additional 800 children at the primary stage. The construction of the Pine Secondary Modern School is nearing completion and it is expected that the school will be opened at the beginning of the next school year. Three hundred additional grammar school places have also been added at the Alleyne School in St. Andrew and the Alexandra School in St. Peter. At the Technical Institute a new course has been devised for boys between the ages of 15 and 17 who are selected from the Secondary Modern Schools for a year's pre-apprenticeship training.

New accommodation has been provided for the Visual Aids Section of the Department of Education thus improving the conditions under which film production work is performed and allowing adequate space for teachers and others to study film strips.

During August and September last year an Induction Course for teachers was held for which 131 young teachers enrolled. This course was designed to provide such preliminary training for those who had recently taken up teaching as a career and it is proposed to hold further Induction Courses in the future.

It is expected that plans for increasing the supply of trained teachers from Erdiston College will be announced shortly and plans are also being devised for the introduction of special training courses for experienced teachers who have not attended a training college.

The site has been acquired for the extension of the headquarters building of the Public Library and it is expected that construction work will soon be commenced.

The Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act, passed during 1959, in addition to providing five Barbados Scholarships, includes provision for the award of exhibitions and grants in lieu of scholarships.

Medical

In April last the Director of Public Works, Captain K. J. Tomlin, O.B.E., was seconded as Resident Architect to prepare the final designs and drawings for the new 511-bed Hospital to be erected at the junction of River and Martindale's Roads. Actual work was started in September under the direct supervision of the Director.

A Colonial Development and Welfare grant of \$418,824 has been made towards the construction of the new Hospital and an application for a further grant of the order of \$2,800,000 from the same source is now under consideration.

There has been some improvement in the staffing position at the General Hospital but there are still four vacancies in the Medical Officers' Grade.

The appointment of a whole-time Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Eye Department at the General Hospital has made it possible for the work of this Department to be reorganised and placed on an equal footing with that of the other specialist services in the Hospital.

The senior nursing staff has been strengthened by the return of four nurses from the United Kingdom who had been selected for special training under training schemes. There are, however, no less than twenty-two vacancies for qualified staff nurses.

The new building at Oistins which will house the first of the out-patient Clinics to be provided from the Rural Amenities Fund has recently been completed and will be officially opened to the public at an early date.

Work will be commenced shortly on the conversion of the Isolation Hospital at Oistins into the first District Hospital. It is expected that District Hospitals and out-patient Clinics will supply in rural areas those services which can be offered to the people near to their homes so that it will no longer be necessary for them to journey to the General Hospital in Bridgetown for medical care which does not require specialist services and equipment.

Two Public Health Inspectors who had been granted W.H.O. Fellowships returned to Barbados during the year and have started work on the establishment of a Public Health Engineering Unit with a casting shed for the manufacture of pre-cast concrete units for latrines.

A special drill for sinking bored hole latrines was provided for this programme by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and to the end of November 382 bored holes had been drilled and 468 pre-cast concrete units had been sited.

The three main Health Centres continue to meet the steadily increasing demands for their services and at Enmore Health Centre the average monthly attendance now exceeds 6,000.

The Public Health Laboratory at Enmore has undertaken two additional services, i.e., the testing of Tuberculosis germs for resistance to the drugs now freely used in the treatment of Tuberculosis, and the more frequent bacteriological testing of the water supply. It is now possible to test the water daily and the results of the tests show that the water which is being delivered to the remotest points in the Island is bacteriologically safe for drinking.

Additional equipment received from UNICEF for the Health Centres during this year includes dental units for the Health Centres at Enmore and Six Cross Roads. These units are intended for the extension of the school dental services.

The International Co-operation Administration of the United States of America has made available to Barbados the services of a Handicraft Specialist for a period of not less than one year to advise on the Handicraft Development Programme started in 1955.

Social Services

The first floor of Queen's House at Queen's Park has been converted into a small Civic Theatre with funds provided from the Rural Amenities Fund and it is expected that the Theatre will be in operation soon.

During the year efforts have been made to bring together in one Central Council the various organisations in the Island responsible for administering sports and games with a view to the general advancement of standards of all branches of sport. It is confidently expected that a Central Council for Sport will be established in the near future.

The services of the celebrated cricketers Mr. Everton Weekes and Mr. E. A. V. Williams continue to be available for the promotion of sport and coaching in cricket.

1959 was the first year of full operation by the newly established Town and Country Development Planning Office. The first task undertaken by the Office was the planning, organisation and execution of the Bridgetown Traffic Survey, carried out under the general direction of the Communications and Traffic Working Party. The Survey was successfully carried out on three days during January and February.

Town and
Country Planning

The work of the survey analysis has been a necessarily slow process but it is hoped to present the summary report early in 1960.

During 1959 the Town and Country Development Planning (Interim Control) Act, 1959, designed to give interim powers to control the development of land

pending the preparation of development plans and the introduction of permanent legislation with regard to Town and Country Development Planning, was enacted. The Regulations and first Interim Control Order under that Act were gazetted during July. The Bridgetown Area Interim Control Order was designed to secure control over land use and physical development in the City of Bridgetown and its surrounding rural area and in particular to control the approaches to the new Deep Water Harbour. The second Interim Control Order, which was only recently gazetted, extends a measure of control along the leeward coast of the Island as far as the United States Naval Facility in St. Lucy.

My Government proposes that planning control should gradually be extended over the entire island.

**Ejectment of
Sitting Tenants**

A Committee was set up in March to examine the question of the ejectment of sitting tenants from land, and to submit recommendations for protecting the interest of both the tenants and landlords who may be involved. Consequent on the recommendations of the Committee, my Government proposes to consider the introduction of suitable legislation.

Housing

During 1959 two hundred and ninety-eight permanent houses were completed and those under construction number thirty-six. In addition, twelve houses were completed by the Aided Self-Help method and forty-eight more are under construction.

The recent purchase of land in St. Peter will provide the Authority with areas on which not only new houses can be built but tenants who are forced to move from privately owned areas can find accommodation for their homes. In the City, the Authority proposes to start on a slum clearance scheme on nine and a half acres at Emmerton, as soon as certain problems relative to the drainage of the area have been tackled.

My Government is anxious to improve housing conditions among middle income groups and to this end a committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Chairman of the Housing Authority to submit proposals for the promotion of schemes for improving housing conditions among such groups, with special reference to the establishment of Building Societies.

Housing Loans

During 1959 the Housing Authority granted 620 loans to Sugar Workers amounting to \$328,302; 456 loans to General Workers amounting to \$208,876 and 501 loans to Public Officers amounting to \$1,420,415.

Water Supplies

During the year a site for a new pumping station was purchased at Hampton, St. Philip. It is expected that this new station when completed will augment the present supply by six million gallons a day. The increasing demand for water may be gauged by the fact that some 2,035 additional services were installed during the year and in addition 33 standpipes were erected.

**Highways
Improvement**

During the year a heavily intensified programme of road maintenance and drains has been followed. The extension of underground mains by the public utility companies called for a constant reinstatement programme by the Department of Highways and Transport. The successful work on the preservation and restoration of the roads in the parish of St. Andrew is a tribute to the Director and staff of Highways and Transport and merits special mention. My Government is constantly examining means of improving road layout and is anxious to promote development on the east coast of the Island by the construction of the East Coast Road. This project will be considered in connection with the next Development Plan.

Aviation

During the year some 37,386 passengers landed at Seawell, an increase of more than six thousand over the 1958 record figure. Freight brought in by air increased by 189,910 lbs. over the previous year's figure. The new terminal building was erected at a cost of \$400,000 of which 90% was met from Development and Welfare Funds, and my Government wishes to record its thanks to Her Majesty's Government for the grant, and its appreciation of the splendid work done by the Public Works Department. Work is now almost complete on

the extension to the aircraft parking apron. The work is being undertaken by the Department of Highways and Transport, which is also working on the extension of the car park so that when finished it will be able to accommodate 183 vehicles. My Government is proud to be able to record that Seawell Airport is now capable of accepting medium-sized jet propelled aircraft without restrictions. An additional 1,600 feet of runway will be required in order to accept the large jet propelled aircraft e.g. the Boeing 707 operating on a medium route. An additional 4,500 feet of runway would be needed for the large jet aircraft operating on the longer routes. My Government is aware of the advantages of providing the facilities at the airport to meet the demands of heavier air traffic.

My Government is in active consultation with the Federal Government on the question of the establishment of broadcasting facilities for the Island within the framework of a Federal broadcasting system. My Government has urged the need for early decisions on this matter, since it is aware of the public demand for broadcasting services here. It is hoped that it will be possible for my Government to announce its policy in this matter during the current year.

Broadcasting

Resulting from the Universal Postal Convention which assembled at Ottawa in 1957, certain adjustments have had to be made to the postal rates. Legislative sanction was given to these during the 1959 Session and the new rates of postage will become effective on the 1st February, 1960.

Postal

The new system of Local Government was brought into operation in March, 1959, and the three Local Government Councils established. Arrangements are being made for the establishment of a Local Government Service Commission to deal with the appointment, promotion, etc. of personnel attached to the Local Government Councils and the necessary legislation has been enacted.

Local
Government

During 1959 the new Fire Station in Christ Church was completed and put into operation. Construction of the new Station in St. James was also commenced and is nearing completion. It has not yet proved possible to present to you the Bill to replace the Fire Brigade Act, 1908, as the Departments concerned have been short staffed.

Fire Brigade

During 1959 the Belmont Police Station was closed in the interest of economy. It has been decided not to proceed for the time being with the Bill designed to replace the out of date Police Act of 1908 pending consideration of the new constitutional proposals as they will affect the Bill.

Police

During the year a heavy strain has been imposed upon the Civil Service resulting from the development programme and I should like to express my personal gratitude to all members of the Service and particularly to those occupying posts of responsibility for the work which they have accomplished during the past year.

Civil Service

My Ministers have accepted the general principle that public service matters should be kept free from politics and the means whereby such matters can be kept outside the field of politics in the future are at present under examination.

A cost of living allowance has been paid to all full time Government employees as from the 1st April, 1959, at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million.

In conclusion, I should like to say how much I have valued the many courtesies which my wife and I have received since our arrival in Barbados in October last. We look forward to promoting the interest of Barbados in whatever way may be possible during the forthcoming year.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

I now declare the Legislative Session open and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may always rest upon your counsels.

J. M. STOW,
Governor.

* His Excellency presented a copy of his speech to the President of the Other Place and to Mr. Speaker.

HOUSE RETURN TO ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Mr. SPEAKER preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace and followed by other members, returned to the Assembly Chamber.

PRAYERS

Prayers were read.

MR. SPEAKER REPORTS GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that on the last occasion when His Excellency the Governor was pleased to receive this Honourable House in the Other Place, he most graciously delivered a Speech, a copy of which he handed to me.

The Speech was taken as read.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Rules of the House for the last Session be the Rules of the House for this Session.

Just let me say this - and I hope I am in order I have discussed with some hon. members of the Opposition and the Leader, the possible appointment of a Standing Committee to consider the Standing Orders of the House, but those hon. members felt that it would need a little more consideration before we formally got to grips with it in this House. I hope that by the next meeting of the House hon. members will come at least prepared to discuss what we feel is a very necessary consideration.

Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to second that motion.

The question that the Rules of the House for the last Session be the Rules of the House for this Session was put and agreed to.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. Michael be again appointed Chairman of Committees for this Session.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the members of the Printing Committee for the last Session be again appointed to the Printing Committee for this Session.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Who were the members?

Mr. SPEAKER: The members of the Printing Committee for the last Session were as follows:-

The Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, and the Hon. Minister of Education.

The question that the members of the Printing Committee be again appointed was put and agreed to.

VICTORIA EMIGRATION SOCIETY

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the following members of this House are requested to be members of the Victoria Emigration Society: the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, the hon. senior member for St. James and the hon. senior member for St. Andrew.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the members of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank who were members for the last Session be appointed for this Session.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and agreed to.

PEASANTS' LOAN BANK

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the members of the Board of the Peasants' Loan Bank for the last Session be the members for this Session.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and agreed to.

SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the members of the Sugar Production and Export Control Board for the last Session be the members of this Board for the current Session. They are the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, Messrs Mc.D. BLUNT and H. A. C. THOMAS.

Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Hon. Mr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present Message No. 1/1960 from His Excellency the Gov-

ernor regarding the appointment of members of the House of Assembly to the Executive Committee.

The Message reads as follows:-

Message No. 1/1960.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
TO
THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that pursuant to the provisions of the Executive Committee Act, 1891, he has appointed the following members of the Honourable the House of Assembly to be members of the Executive Committee under and in accordance with the provisions of that Act:-

The Honourable M. E. Cox, M.C.P.
The Honourable R. G. Mapp, M.C.P.
The Honourable F. E. Miller, M.C.P.
The Honourable D. D. Garner, M.C.P.
The Honourable L. St.A. Thorne, M.C.P.

J.M. Stow,
Governor.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.30) Order, 1959.

The Local Government (Ecclesiastical Grants) Regulations, 1959.

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados, and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, for the period ended on the 30th June, 1959 in respect of the several schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados, and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, for the period ended on the 30th September, 1959, in respect of the several schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour, I am commanded to lay The Customs Duties (Incubators) Order, 1960.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On my own behalf I am commanded to lay the Markets and Slaughterhouses (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay Post Offices Advances for the payment of Money Orders to 31st October, 1959.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Public Health (Importation and Exportation of Human Remains) Regulations, 1959. Attention is drawn to the requirements of the Law under which these Regulations are made, that they require the approval of this Honourable House and that such approval shall be deemed to have been given unless a Resolution disapproving the Regulations is passed within 42 days.

Government Notices were given as follows:-

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$119,684 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Execu-

tive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1959-60, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1959-60, No.35 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 30) Order, 1959."

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of certain areas of land for the purpose of providing an access road to the Deep Water Harbour for the use of the public.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting in order to consider the Money Resolution of which notice has just been given.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

WHEREAS Public Employees of the lower brackets undergo grave economic hardships in striving to make both ends meet, in view of the present high cost of living;

AND WHEREAS this hardship is felt even more acutely at Christmas than at any other time;

BE IT RESOLVED that, as from the instant year, Government take appropriate steps to institute an annual Christmas bonus equivalent to one month's or four weeks' salary, for each and every Public Employee who is not now eligible for receipt of payment of Leave Passage.

Mr. BRANCKER: I also beg to give notice of the following other Resolutions:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House approve of and sanction the creation and establishment of the post of Standing Counsel to His Honour the Speaker of this Chamber."

"WHEREAS the House views with dismay the oral replies of the Honourable Minister of Finance to Question No. 10/1959;

AND WHEREAS this House is profoundly dissatisfied with the monthly salary of two dollars thirty cents B.W.I. currency for five days per week for performance of duties which include cleaning, dusting, sweeping entire top floor of District "E" courtroom and Magistrate's chambers and toilet, and laundering of towels;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its dissatisfaction as above, and urge that Government immediately review its attitude towards the remuneration hereinbefore mentioned, and take steps to ensure that this lady be adequately paid for the onerous and regular services which she so efficiently performs at District "E", St. Peter."

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of my intention to move the passing of the following Resolution:-

WHEREAS This House has recently taken some steps to assist Public Employees and Public Pensioners to meet the rising costs of living, and

WHEREAS the same problems of high living costs beset those old persons now in receipt of Old Age Pensions:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House is willing to grant a substantial increase in Old Age Pensions as from April 1st 1959, before the end of the financial year.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Trade Union Act, 1939.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a notice standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John. I observe that the hon. member is not now in his place.

QUESTIONS

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, there are many questions standing in my name, and I am wondering if I may proceed straight on with them.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. TUDOR: To inquire of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:-

What steps if any, has Government taken, since the introduction of powered fishing, to have fishermen instructed;

- (a) in the techniques of tropical fishing;
- (b) in the seamanship necessary to off shore fishing, including the rules of the road, aids to navigation; and
- (c) in the care and maintenance of boats, apart from the care of the engines?

Will the Minister state whether the earning power of the "Investigator" has been recorded over the last nine years?

(2) If the answer is in the affirmative, will he publish the figures of each year's earnings?

(3) If the figures disclosed a gradual decrease in earning power, will the Minister state what is the reason for such decrease?

Will the Minister state whether Government has ever taken steps to discover what are the average earnings of a normal fishing-boat per season, as well as the average cost of maintenance and upkeep?

(2) Will the Minister further state whether the average boat is in position to pay its annual instalment and insurance, and still be maintained in a seaworthy and economic condition in hull, machinery and gear?
11.20 a.m.

Will the Minister state:

- (a) What experiments have been made by the Government Experimental Fishing Boat "Investigator" since her commissioning?
- (b) If any, will he state by what means have the results of these experiments been communicated and/or demonstrated to fishermen and/or boat-owners?

Is the Minister aware of the increase in operating costs over the past year, due to rises in the prices of

- (a) fishing gear (gill nets and lines)
- (b) fuel and lubricating oils
- (c) paints?

Has the Government ever taken steps to discover

- (a) the average annual earning power of a fisherman;
- (b) the reason for the inability on the part of fishermen to repay their loans at the times required

Will the Minister state whether the Depth Recorder which was installed in the Government Experimental Fishing Craft "Investigator" is still in operating condition?

(2) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state why it is not used in the discovery of new banks for the purpose of deep line fishing, such as for Red Snapper and Bream?

(3) If the answer is in the negative, will the Minister state how long it has been out of commission, and the reason for its being out of commission?

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:

Is the Minister aware that a boat known as the BAJAN GIRL and flying an American flag is registered here as a fishing launch?

(2) Will the Minister state whether the earnings of this craft are liable to local taxation?

(3) Will the Minister further state whether International Law permits ships flying a foreign flag to fish in our territorial waters?

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:

Will the Minister state how many boat owners, if any, are in arrears with their payments to the Fisheries Department?

(2) Will the Minister further state whether this defaulting is due to dishonesty or financial embarrassment?

(3) Will the Minister further state what steps will Government take to deal with the situation?

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:

Will the Minister state whether emergency rations are kept on board the Government experimental craft "Investigator"?

(2) Would he further state what provision, if any, is made for feeding the crew?

(3) Would he further state the average daily cost per crew member of such provisioning?

To enquire of the Hon. Premier:-

Will the Minister state whether Labour Welfare Funds have ever been used to finance the construction of Combermere School?

(2) If the answer is "yes", will he further state the amount so used and whether Legislative sanction was required for this action?

To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education:

Will the Minister state who pays for the telephones which are installed in some of the Primary Schools of this islands?

(2) Will the Minister state whether those pianos which are installed in some schools are the property of Government?

(3) If they are not, will he disclose what rent is paid to the owners of these instruments?

To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education:

Will the Minister state how many new pupils have been admitted into Primary and Secondary Modern Schools of St. Michawl area since January this year?

(2) Will the Minister give the number for each school separately?

(3) Will he further state which Headteachers, if any, are entitled to increases of salary in consequence of the increase in numbers on the rolls of their respective schools?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:

Will the Minister state whether it is Government's intention to wind up the Transport Board?

(2) If the answer is in the affirmative, would he state whether Government proposes to invite the former concessionaires to resume their concessions?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Trade Union Act, 1939 be now read a first time.

Mr. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

BAN ON THE ADVOCATE NEWSPAPER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the request contained in my ruling in connection with the ban of the Reporters of the *Barbados Advocate* and given on the 24th day of November 1959 has now been complied with. (*Cheers*)

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, in view of what you have just said, I wonder if Your Honour would be pleased to give directions, subject to Your Honour's own inclination, for the publication of the relevant correspondence on the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean publication in the press?

Mr. TUDOR: In the *Official Gazette*, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will consider that.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, I thought that the hon. senior member for St. Lucy might have mentioned this because it was he who, at a recent Session, brought out the question of a Committee of Privileges. As far as I know, it was postponed for getting the personnel of that Committee; and I would like to know if we could be informed as to how far we have got in appointing the personnel of that Committee.

I would like to feel that the House would be willing to give Your Honour the authority to name an all-Parties membership of that Committee so that we can get on with its establishment.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that we might have been able to deal with this very important matter today. I understand, Sir, from discussion with members on the Other Side, the Leader of the Opposition and the Clerk, that an informal meeting of a Committee which comprised the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and I think other members of the Opposition Party, was held; but the Leader of the House has told us nothing on this side of what transpired at the meeting, and varying accounts have been reported to me of what transpired - one by the Clerk and one by the members of the Opposition Party.

In view of the fact that the Leader of the House is not in the Island, and in view of the fact that we on this side, especially the Premier, are not aware of what transpired, I do not intend to deal with this matter today. I would prefer that it be left until the return of the Leader of the House.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, just on a point of personal explanation. The hon. member who just spoke said,

or I understand him to say, that I attended this meeting which he has described as informal. The Official Opposition was represented by my colleague, the hon. senior member for St. Lucy, who was designated by us to attend that meeting and represent our Party.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think I am probably, apart from yourself, the only other member of the House who attended that meeting present here now. What happened was this: that meeting was, as far as I recall, convened by Your Honour and attended by the Hon. Leader of the House now absent from this House and by myself; and it had been hoped on that occasion that the hon. junior member for Christ Church who was to represent his Party would have been able to attend but unfortunately he could not.

It is true, as the Minister for Communications has just said, that the meeting was conducted in a rather informal atmosphere; but, nonetheless, the decision reached there was fairly and clearly understood. The decision reached was that we should recommend to those who are interested that the Committee of Privileges should consist of the following structure: two members from each of the Parties represented in the House, Your Honour as Chairman, and the hon. senior member for St. Peter representing the non-Party side.
11.30 a.m.

That was also accepted by the hon. senior member for St. Michael who is the Spokesman for their Party and the Hon. Leader of this House. However, it is astonishing to us to discover that what he has done is being repudiated by all members of his Party, particularly in his absence. I thought they would have felt happy because they know that he is the most vigilant member of that Party to maintain any prestige or anything else for them.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I think I should correct that remark by the hon. member. Nobody over here has intimated that we have repudiated the Hon. Leader of this House. What we say is that he has not spoken to me or to the Hon. Premier about the matter; and the hon. member should bear in mind that the Hon. Premier is really and truly the Leader of this House. The Prime Minister of England is in fact the Leader of the House of Commons but he delegates that leadership to somebody else.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that they are saying the hon. member who was delegated by that side had no right to negotiate for them, but I would say that there are now two alternatives before that Party: either for them to say now that they accept what he has done, or that they repudiate what he has done. If they accept what he has done, the matter can be proceeded with and if they repudiate it, well then, the matter will have to stay over. For our part, we accept what was done here.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I think that is the end of business for the day and in moving the adjournment, I would first of all fix the Order Paper.

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 26th January, 1960 at 12 o'clock (noon).

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

11.40 a.m.