

DEBATES

IN THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CEYLON,

On Friday, July 3, 1925.

Pursuant to adjournment the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council met at the Council Chamber at 9 A.M. this day.

PRESENT :

- THE HONOURABLE MR. CECIL CLEMENTI, C.M.G., OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENT.
- THE HONOURABLE SIR JAMES PEIRIS, KT. (COLOMBO TOWN, SOUTH), VICE-PRESIDENT.
- THE HONOURABLE COLONEL H. W. HIGGINSON, C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. B. ALEXANDER, C.M.G., ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. L. H. ELPHINSTONE, K.C., ATTORNEY-GENERAL.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. CODRINGTON, ACTING CONTROLLER OF REVENUE.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. W. WOODS, TREASURER.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. F. A. STOCKDALE, C.B.E., DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.
- THE HONOURABLE SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (NORTHERN PROVINCE, NORTHERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. L. MACRAE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. T. Y. WRIGHT (EUROPEAN RURAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. H. A. LOOS (NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. D. H. KOTALAWALA (PROVINCE OF UVA).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. W. PERERA (KALUTARA REVENUE DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (BATTICALOA REVENUE DISTRICT).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. A. C. G. WIJEYEKOON (NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. E. J. HAYWARD, C.B.E., V.D. (COMMERCIAL MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. L. KINDERSLEY, GOVERNMENT AGENT, CENTRAL PROVINCE.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (SOUTHERN PROVINCE, WESTERN DIVISION).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. N. J. MARTIN (SECOND BURGER MEMBER).
- THE HONOURABLE MR. J. STRACHAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.
- THE HONOURABLE MR. W. T. SOUTHORN, PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS.

- THE HONOURABLE MR. M. T. AKBAR, K.C., SOLICITOR-GENERAL.
THE HONOURABLE MR. K. BALASINGHAM (NOMINATED UNOFFICIAL MEMBER).
THE HONOURABLE DR. J. F. E. BRIDGER, PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER.
THE HONOURABLE MR. A. CANAGARATNAM (NORTHERN PROVINCE, SOUTHERN DIVISION).
THE HONOURABLE MR. C. E. VICTOR COREA (COLOMBO TOWN, NORTH).
THE HONOURABLE MR. C. H. Z. FERNANDO (NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE, WESTERN DIVISION).
THE HONOURABLE MR. H. R. FREEMAN (NORTH-CENTRAL PROVINCE).
THE HONOURABLE MR. T. B. JAYAH (THIRD MUSLIM MEMBER).
THE HONOURABLE MR. D. B. JAYATILAKA (COLOMBO DISTRICT).
THE HONOURABLE MR. H. M. MACAN MARKAR (FIRST MUSLIM MEMBER).
THE HONOURABLE MR. G. E. MADAWALA (NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE, EASTERN DIVISION).
THE HONOURABLE MR. A. MAHADEVA (WESTERN PROVINCE, CEYLON TAMIL).
THE HONOURABLE MR. A. H. E. MOLAMURE (RATNAPURA REVENUE DISTRICT).
THE HONOURABLE MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (SOUTHERN PROVINCE, CENTRAL DIVISION).
THE HONOURABLE MR. I. X. PEREIRA (FIRST INDIAN MEMBER).
THE HONOURABLE MR. S. RAJARATNAM (NORTHERN PROVINCE, CENTRAL DIVISION).
THE HONOURABLE MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (NEGOMBO DISTRICT).
THE HONOURABLE MR. M. M. SUBRAMANIAM (TRINCOMALEE REVENUE DISTRICT).
THE HONOURABLE MR. S. R. MOHAMED SULTAN (SECOND INDIAN MEMBER).
THE HONOURABLE MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYAKE (SOUTHERN PROVINCE, SOUTHERN DIVISION).
THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. H. WILLE (FIRST BURGHES MEMBER).
THE HONOURABLE SIR J. THOMSON BROOM, Kt. (EUROPEAN URBAN MEMBER).
THE HONOURABLE MR. W. A. DE SILVA (CENTRAL PROVINCE, URBAN).
THE HONOURABLE MR. P. B. RAMBUKWELLE (CENTRAL PROVINCE, RURAL).
THE HONOURABLE MR. T. M. SABARATNAM (NORTHERN PROVINCE, EASTERN DIVISION).

MR. J. A. MAYBIN, *Clerk to the Council.*

Address by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government addressed the Council as follows:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

It has been usual in the past for Governors of Ceylon to address the Legislative Council periodically on certain occasions of ceremony and to present for its consideration a general review of the affairs of the Island. I do not know what will be the practice of future Governors under the new constitution; but personally I feel that there would be a distinct advantage in continuing the former custom,

and that no better time can be chosen for such an address than the day on which the Budget is to be introduced into the Council. It is in the Budget that provision has to be made for all the multifarious activities of Government; and it is therefore most desirable that, as a preface to the discussion of the Budget, an endeavour should be made to take a general view of the principal needs of the Colony and to show their relative importance. The Budget debate in full Council and the subsequent scrutiny of the Estimates in Select Committee are inevitably concerned to a large extent with matters of detail; and, before plunging into this detail, we do well to set up certain principles of wide application to which reference can be made when too many minutiae obscure the main issues—pilot stars in navigating an archipelago of difficulties, great and small.

Now, the first and most important factor in all problems of administration is the human factor. The aim of the King's Government is the welfare of His Majesty's subjects—men, women, and children—and the creation of happy, healthy, and prosperous homes in all parts of his Dominions. If that is achieved, all is achieved. So, the main criterion, by which each proposal as it comes before us should be judged, is the extent to which it may help or hinder the beneficial development of this beautiful Island upon lines most conducive to the health, happiness, and prosperity of those who live here. In establishing such a criterion, certain well-known facts must be borne in mind, namely, the area of Ceylon, which is 25,332 square miles, or nearly twice that of Holland, rather more than twice that of Belgium, and about half that of England; and the population of Ceylon, which was enumerated at the Census of 1921 to be about 4,498,600 persons. This gives an average in Ceylon of 178 persons to the square mile, as against 702 persons to the square mile in England, 655 persons to the square mile in Belgium, and 559 persons to the square mile in Holland. It follows that there is room for a considerable increase in the permanent population of Ceylon; and this at once suggests that any schemes for making new settlements in regions now vacant should receive our most careful attention. But, then, the present distribution of the population within the Colony gives cause for anxious thought. The Western Province, which in size is the smallest of the nine Provinces, and only 1/18th part of the entire Island, contains more than a third of the whole population, the average density being 871 persons to the square mile. On the other hand, in the North-Central Province, the largest in area of the nine Provinces, the average density of population is only 24 persons to the square mile; and in the North-Central, Eastern, and Uva Provinces taken together, and forming about half the whole Island the average density of population is only 48 persons to the square mile. These figures clearly indicate that parts of the Island—notably the Western Province—are crowded, while other parts are inadequately peopled; and, therefore, one of our principal aims should be to secure a more beneficial distribution of the population.

How can this be done? Obviously the first step must be to make the three least developed Provinces easy of access and more attractive to settlers. From this point of view the construction of the light railway, now being built from Maho across the North-Central Province to Trincomalee and to Batticaloa in the Eastern Province, is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, and the suggested

extension from Batticaloa to Nindavur has much to commend it. Special attention should also be paid to the construction of roads in the North-Central Province and in the Eastern Province, particularly to those roads which are likely to be feeders to the new railway. Indeed, quite apart from humanitarian reasons, motives of business should prompt this Council to encourage such projects, because a sum of 20½ million rupees has been invested in the Batticaloa-Trincomalee light railway, and interest on that investment can be earned only by stimulating passenger and goods traffic over the railway. But it would be the height of folly to induce large bodies of people to settle in the North-Central Province, in the Eastern Province, or in Uva until health conditions and agricultural conditions in the empty areas of those Provinces have been made such as to afford the settlers a reasonable prospect of creating healthy and prosperous homes. In this matter I look for helpful advice from the newly established Anti-Malaria Advisory Board, from the Medical and Sanitary Department, from the Irrigation Department, and from the Department of Agriculture; and I am sure that this Council will encourage any well-considered plans which may be devised by these authorities for the improvement of health conditions and of agricultural conditions in the backward regions of Ceylon.

Nevertheless, as regards health and agriculture, our first duty is plainly to the most congested centres of population and to the agricultural industries already established. I am glad, therefore, that the problem of slum improvement in Colombo is being tackled by the Colombo Municipality with the assistance of this Council, and I hope that a determined attempt will be made gradually to provide adequate housing for all labourers in employ of the Government and of the Municipality, to insist that slum landlords must put their property into a sanitary state, and to require private employers of labour to see that their employees are properly housed. There already exists a Housing and Town Improvement Ordinance, No. 19 of 1915, and it should be made effective.

As a means of improving health conditions and of alleviating congestion in this town, I further welcome the successful completion of the Colombo South Flood Protection Scheme. It has been completed within the estimated time and for less than the estimated cost. Great credit for it is due to Mr. C. C. Harward, who both devised the scheme and carried it out; and I wish him the same success in the Colombo North Flood Protection Scheme, upon which he is now engaged. When Colombo itself has at last been protected from periodical inundation, I hope that schemes may be carried out to give a like protection to the regions in its vicinity, both north of the Kelani-ganga in the Muthurajawela and Kalu-oya areas and southward in the Bolgoda catchment.

In the matter of disease, prevention is, of course, better than cure, though doubtless each cure has a certain prophylactic value. But, however many hospitals we may build, they will always be full, and even overcrowded, if we do not also take every possible step to prevent people from getting ill. In the past most of this Colony's medical expenditure has been devoted to building, equipping, staffing, and maintaining hospitals and dispensaries. I would urge that in future, while adequately maintaining these services, we should spend more in proportion on anti-malarial measures, on sanitation, and on prophylaxis generally.

Agriculture in its various forms provides food and clothing for the people. That is why the development and prosperity of agriculture is the only safe foundation of all industrial prosperity. But in these days, agriculture, especially in the tropics, depends more and more upon science; and I, therefore, cordially commend to your consideration the coconut, tea, and rubber research schemes. The experiment in sugar cultivation now being initiated at Allai in the Eastern Province, the sisal hemp experiment in the North-Central Province, and the cotton experiment in the Southern Province also deserve your support. Most of all, I hope that great efforts will be made to improve and extend rice cultivation in each of the nine Provinces. This cannot, however, be done without increasing the Colony's expenditure on irrigation. But, in 1922, the Retrenchment Commission recommended that the number of Divisional Irrigation Engineers should be reduced by three and the number of Irrigation Engineers by five at least; and, in view of the depletion of the engineering staff, it became necessary to curtail the activities of the Department. Accordingly, after full discussion of the matter in Executive Council, it was decided during the course of 1923 "that the policy of Government should be, not to engage on new major irrigation schemes, but to maintain and develop the works already completed and now in hand" (*vide* Sessional Paper II. of 1925). I think the time has come to reconsider that decision, which was the result of financial difficulties now happily overcome; and I trust that this Council will be willing so to strengthen the Department of Irrigation, that in concert with the Department of Agriculture it may investigate and prepare for consideration additional irrigation schemes for the beneficial development of land at present lying idle in localities where a population is already close at hand to take it up, as well as for the improvement of existing systems of irrigation by village tanks, for the prevention of floods, for the provision of anicuts and regulators across streams, and for the satisfactory maintenance of the irrigation channels and flood outlets, on which the prosperity of village agriculture primarily depends.

It is in my opinion doubtful whether a pastoral industry can be successfully developed in Ceylon on a large scale. But there is no reason whatever why our fishermen should not catch fish enough both to supply the whole Island and to establish a lucrative export trade in fresh fish, tinned fish, fish oil, fish manure, and other piscatory by-products. For this cause I attach great importance to the special marine biological investigations, which are being made with a view to facilitate the establishment of a trawling industry in Ceylon, and I hope they will receive your cordial support.

Very intimately connected with questions of proper distribution of population as well as of agricultural and industrial development is the question of transport and lines of communication. I have already touched briefly upon railroad extension, and I now wish to indicate generally the nature of the transportation problem which confronts this Government. The longest distance by road from north to south of this Island, namely, from Point Pedro *viâ* Colombo to Dondra Head, is only 358 miles; and from west to east, namely, from Colombo *viâ* Badulla to Batticaloa, the longest distance by road is only 240 miles. Now, having regard to modern means of rapid locomotion, these are not great distances; and every improvement effected in the existing roads of the Colony, which for the most

part run parallel to the existing railways, will make the motor car, motor bus, and motor lorry increasingly serious rivals of the railway train. Moreover, the obvious difference between a Government road and a Government railway is this. The former is built, maintained, and improved at the expense of the general taxpayers, but it is exploited in the main by private individuals, private companies, and private estates. The latter is likewise built, maintained, and improved at the expense of the general taxpayers, but it is also exploited for their benefit. All the earnings of a State railway go to the State Treasury; but a public road earns no revenue, except such as accrues indirectly from taxes on vehicles and animals, and even these taxes not infrequently go to local authorities and not to the central Government. It is, therefore, a matter for careful examination how far it may be sound policy to invest the taxpayers' money in railways, while at the same time spending their money on roads which may prevent the railway investment from being profitable. We cannot yet tell whether in Ceylon the future rests with rail transport or with road transport; but, owing to the shortness of the longest possible haul, it would seem that the scales are heavily weighted in favour of the latter. This is a matter on which Government cannot afford to be without a definite policy, and I consider that at no distant date the problem should be examined by a Commission. Its importance can hardly be exaggerated, for all intensive economic development depends on cheap and efficient transport. The cognate matter of the Island's canals and waterways, which in some cases duplicate and even triplicate the lines of communication by road and railway, should be studied at the same time.

Of great moment to the future of Ceylon is also the organization of cheap and efficient supplies of power for agricultural and industrial factories, for locomotion, and for lighting. Nature has been generous to this Island in the matter of water power, and we should make the fullest possible use of nature's generosity. I trust that the Laxapana hydro-electric scheme, upon which we are now engaged, may prove a complete success and may be the forerunner of many similar schemes, whereby eventually cheap power and light can be made available throughout Ceylon.

Happy and prosperous homes cannot exist without due maintenance of law and order, and an efficient Police Force is, therefore, an important feature in modern civilization. Now, the Police Force in Ceylon has been evolved by a process very similar to the evolution of the Police Force in England. Originally under the common law of England every "freeman" in the kingdom was a pledged constable or conservator of the "King's peace," and in the execution of that honourable civic duty was answerable to the "headborough," or principal resident of his district, for the good conduct of himself and his neighbours. The stranger was suspect until he had found residents to be security for his good behaviour; and if any stranger, for whom no one had given pledge, or any malefactor was discovered in a district, it was the duty of the headborough of that district to raise "hue and cry." Every adult in the neighbourhood, immediately on hearing the cry, was bound to follow the chase, with his household and all the men of his land, to track the fugitive through the district, and then to raise the headboroughs and freemen of the adjoining district to take up and pass on the "hue and cry" until the criminal should be caught. But citizens gradually

evaded this elementary and onerous duty by paying deputies to do their police work for them ; and, as means of communication and rapid transit improved, it became less and less possible for headboroughs and freemen to answer for the good conduct of the persons within their districts. At last in 1829—less than a hundred years ago—Sir Robert Peel established the English Police Force, and it is noteworthy that the first passenger railway in England, namely, that from Liverpool to Manchester, opened in the same year.

In Ceylon there was no regular Police Force prior to 1865, and the chief headmen and minor headmen were responsible for the good conduct of themselves and their neighbours, as had been the headboroughs and freemen in England. Until roads were opened up and railways were laid, the headmen did wonderfully well ; but the development of the Island caused an influx of strangers, over whom the headmen had not the same control as over their own villagers, while bad characters were afforded increased facilities for absconding and for moving about from place to place to commit crime. It is a significant fact that, as in England the establishment of a regular Police Force coincided with the opening of the first railway, so in Ceylon the first railway, namely, that from Colombo to Ambepussa, was opened in 1865, the same year as that which witnessed the establishment of the Ceylon Police Force. Nowadays, with the extension of railways throughout Ceylon, with the improvement of roads, and the advent of motor vehicles (at present being imported at the rate of 279 a month), the call for additional police comes from every part of the Island. In England headboroughs and the system of "hue and cry" have completely disappeared ; and in Ceylon, as development progresses and extends, it is almost certain that the headmen system will likewise be much modified, especially in regard to the prevention and detection of crime. I am, therefore, very pleased to bear testimony to the statesmanlike manner in which this Council has in recent years so provided for the needs of the Ceylon Police Force that its efficiency and discipline have been maintained at a very high standard. Every country, we are told, gets the Police Force it deserves ; and this Colony may justly be proud of its Police Force.

It has been truly said that men must live before they can live well ; and, for the mere sustenance of life, food and housing as well as protection from disease and crime are essential. But, in order to "live well," the development of things spiritual in addition to things material is imperative ; and, if I have so far delayed to speak of education, it is not because I fail to realize the immense importance of the subject, but because men cannot be educated unless they are alive and in a reasonable state of health, comfort, and security. Now, in this matter of education I maintain that the Government of Ceylon is doing its full duty to the people of Ceylon. Financial provision has been made for payment of the maximum grant under the code of education to all assisted schools qualified for it. Liberal supplies have been voted for District School Committees and for Government schools all over the Island. Secondary education is very generously supported from public revenue and by missionary societies. A fund of three million rupees has been established for building and equipping the future Ceylon University, and this Council has pledged itself to augment that fund by a further donation of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million rupees, when and as required. In a recent despatch the Secretary of State for the Colonies has conveyed to me his approval

of the allocation of this further sum of 1½ million rupees, adding: "I desire to express my satisfaction that the Legislative Council have shown themselves ready to meet all the requirements of the University for building and equipment." But it must be steadily borne in mind that education postulates a teacher and good education a qualified teacher; and I regret to say that in the matter of training an adequate supply of teachers—both men and women—there is room in Ceylon for much improvement. Accordingly a proposal will be put before you for enlarging the Government Training College in Colombo, so that the teaching capacity of its present staff may be utilized to the fullest extent. When this first and most obvious need has been satisfied, I trust that other similar institutions will be founded in other parts of the Colony, and that no effort will be spared to make the teaching profession honourable and attractive.

Education is not, of course, concerned exclusively with the intellectual development of children. It is a lifelong process, and it has many phases, of which I wish on this occasion to make special mention of three—education in sanitation, in sobriety, and in "the noble art of self defence." Few things will do more for sanitation in this Island than the provision of hygienic latrines in all schools, and the instruction of children from an early age in using them properly. It avails little to wage an endless war against ankylos-tomiasis by effecting temporary cures with carbon tetrachloride, while reinfection due to promiscuous pollution of the soil continues to be dangerously prevalent. Many diseases, rife in Ceylon—such as hookworm, enteric fever, and dysentery—can be traced directly to deficient or defective latrine accommodation or to neglect of its proper use. Therefore, schoolmasters must not have a soul above this subject, but should be careful to teach their pupils that neglect of sanitation produces a population subnormal in health and impairs the efficiency of human beings as workers and as citizens. Such instruction is especially necessary in those parts of the Colony where malaria is the arch enemy, for a malarious population can be expected to be physically and mentally subnormal according to the degree of the prevalence of the disease. Malaria is not merely a health problem, but it is equally an economic problem; and the fight against it should begin in the schoolroom and thereafter be a lifelong crusade.

The schoolroom can also do much for the cause of sobriety, because it is at school that the minds and habits of the people of the future are trained, and because, with respect to the temperance movement, the policy of Government is to ascertain so far as possible the will of the people and then to be guided by the will of the people. It would obviously be most unwise either for the Executive Government or for the Legislative Council to take a lead in a social reform of this kind, since the inhabitants of a country cannot be made sober by compulsion. In fact, any effort to coerce the people of Ceylon in such a matter would immediately result in organizing and strengthening liquor interests in their opposition, at present somewhat inarticulate and spasmodic, to the temperance movement. Government does, however, aim at keeping pace with the temperance movement, so far as that movement can be shown to reflect the will of the people, and at consolidating such progress as the educational efforts of temperance workers from time to time achieve. Nevertheless, everyone who addresses himself to this

problem in Ceylon must recollect, first, that there are some 30,000 Ceylonese whose livelihood depends on the drink traffic; next, that more than a million Ceylonese habitually drink toddy and arrack; thirdly, that toddy and arrack can be produced from coconut, kitul, and palmyra trees by primitive methods and appliances such as any villager can easily employ, and that coconut, kitul, and palmyra trees grow all over the Island, not only on estates, but in towns, villages, and in the backyard of almost every house and shanty. If, for example, you look at Colombo from Maligakanda, you can hardly see any streets or buildings, but only a green canopy of coconut fronds. Under such conditions temperance legislation will certainly be a dead letter unless the mass of the people is of its own accord determined to abide by such legislation. So a system of local option was devised in 1918, as a means of ascertaining the wishes of the people in various localities. This system has been operative now for six years and, on the whole, has given satisfaction. By means of local option 477 toddy taverns, 298 arrack taverns, and 30 foreign liquor shops have already been closed, and a very considerable measure of success has been attained by temperance workers, particularly in the Northern Province. But educational processes are slow; and, unless a big majority is in favour of closing taverns, it is stupid to close them. Wholesale evasion of the law is an inevitable result. Temperance workers must remember that mere closure of taverns will not of itself promote sobriety. It may only serve to multiply illicit traffic, should it not be the outcome of a genuine, popular, desire for temperance. "Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control," these must be widespread among the people as a prelude to any effective temperance legislation. In other words, the stage of progress that we have now reached is one at which more can be done for the cause of temperance in the schools and in the churches than in this Council.

In Ceylon, as elsewhere, strong drink frequently inflames men to crimes of violence, and unhappily murder is all too common in this Island among a people many of them who are taught by their religion to believe that to take any life at all, let alone the life of a fellowman, is grievous sin. Last year our statistics recorded 217 cases of murder, 77 cases of attempted murder, 877 cases of grievous hurt, and 1,101 cases of causing hurt with a knife or other dangerous weapon—2,272 cases in all. There can be little doubt that this prevalence of murder and of knife cases—any one of which might, but for the mercy of Providence, result in murder—must be attributed to the fact that Ceylonese villagers habitually carry a knife and are trained to its use. Very few are trained in the use of their fists. Consequently the Ceylonese villager will instinctively stab with a knife rather than strike out with his fist; and it is a noteworthy fact that last year the proportion of murders to population in Ceylon was 1 to 20,700 persons, while in England and Wales in 1921 (the last year for which I have figures) the proportion was 1 to 601,000 persons. Indeed the murder statistics of Ceylon compare very unfavourably with those of most other countries. For this cause I earnestly desire that instruction in boxing should be given in all the schools of Ceylon, and I should be delighted to see boxing and wrestling become village pastimes. A scheme for the introduction of boxing into village schools in the Western and Southern Provinces has been prepared by the Director of Education, and a small vote for the purpose is included in the next year's Estimates.

If this scheme succeeds, I hope that in time it may be extended throughout the Island; but progress at first can only be slow, as instructors are few in number and must be very carefully chosen. The aptitude of Ceylonese for boxing is, however, beyond question, and may be illustrated by the fact that five Ceylon boys have won blues or half blues for boxing at Oxford or Cambridge, and that one of the half blues had the unusual distinction of winning the light weights for Cambridge against Oxford in three successive years.

I began by speaking of the importance of the human factor in all problems of administration, and, gentlemen, with your permission I will end by applying this remark first to the public servants of this Colony and then to ourselves. There is often a tendency, when the dry-as-dust pages of our Colonial Estimates are being debated item by item, to forget the fact that all these votes have to be spent by men. Now, there are many ways of spending money, but there are more ways of wasting it; and, unless public expenditure is intelligently and honestly controlled, the general taxpayer is not likely to derive much benefit from it. Therefore, when a vote is proposed we should always ask this question among others: By whom will the money be spent? And, if a work is decided upon, it is unwise to grudge any expenditure in connection with it which will insure efficient and honest human control. You will observe that I am in effect speaking now of the question of salaries. In my opinion the salary scales as at present fixed for the public service are satisfactory. It is also my opinion that the public servants of Ceylon are giving the Colony efficient, honest, and contented service, and I trust that this satisfactory state of things may long continue undisturbed.

Lastly, as regards ourselves, the Vice-President in a recent speech described this Council as "a happy family." I rejoice that it is so. I hope that our team-work will continue to be good. I hope that we shall, each and all of us, on every occasion be willing to subordinate local to island-wide projects and to merge the interests of any one race in those of the inhabitants of the country as a whole. I hope it is recognized that in the constitution of this Colony there is nothing at all comparable to party politics; for it would be a great mistake to regard the official section of the Legislative Council as "the Government" and the unofficial section as "the Opposition." It is, in fact, the union of these two sections which constitutes the Government of Ceylon, and our watchword in this Council should be that "none are for a party, but all are for the State." I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to thank the unofficial members for the manner in which they have actively striven to co-operate with their official colleagues, and for their ready kindness at all times in helping me to gain a clearer insight into local problems. Finally, I hope that, under the auspices of the British Crown, by means of the influence and example exerted in this Council, there may eventually be welded together from the many and diverse racial elements here represented, a happy and prosperous Ceylonese nation—*μία χώρα συνεχής και εν φθλον*.

Adjournment.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT:—Council will now adjourn till 2.30 this afternoon.

July 3, 1925]

Council resumed at 2.30 P.M.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meetings held on June 18 and 19, 1925, were confirmed.

Announcement.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Sir, I propose to hold a meeting of Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, especially those members who are interested in the question of temperance, at 10 A.M. on Friday, the 10th instant, in the ante-room of the Legislative Council, if this is convenient to members. The Honourable the Attorney-General, the Honourable the Controller of Revenue, and the Excise Commissioner will be asked to attend, and papers will be circulated in advance. For the convenience of those Honourable Members who are also members of the Malarial Advisory Committee, including the Principal Civil Medical Officer, I propose to hold a meeting of that Committee at 2 P.M. on the same day and at the same place.

Papers laid.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Sir, I lay on the table the following papers :—

Message of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the Legislative Council dated June 30, 1925.

Statement of the Financial Position of the Colony.

Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1925-26.

Brief Reports :—

Public Works Annually Recurrent.

Public Works Extraordinary.

Railway Extraordinary Works.

Irrigation Department.

Colombo Port Commission.

Administration Reports, 1924 :—

Part I., Civil : Reports of the Government Agent of the Province of Sabaragamuwa and of the Surveyor-General.

Part III., Judicial : Report of the Inspector-General of Police.

Sessional Papers, 1925 :—

*XV.—Extensions to the Government Training College.

*XVI.—Commercialization of the Accounts of the Ceylon Government Railway.

*XVIII.—The Kelani North Bank Flood Scheme for the Protection from Floods of the Kalu-oya and Mutturajawela Catchments.

Rule made by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government under section 7 of "The Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance, 1908," as amended by Ordinance No. 10 of 1923.

Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance held on June 19, 1925.

PETITIONS.

Landing Jetty at Back Bay.

THE HON. MR. M. M. SUBRAMANIAM (Trincomalee Revenue District) :—I beg to present a petition, Sir, from the merchants and leading residents of Trincomalee praying for a landing jetty at Back

* Copies will be supplied to Honourable Members.

bay. They say that for about six months of the year Back bay is a port of call for steamers belonging to the Ceylon Steamship Company, the coastwise schooners, and other vessels which touch at Trincomalee from India as well as other parts of the Island. The petitioners have many a time represented this matter to the authorities. The Assistant Government Agent of this district realized the necessity for a landing jetty at the place, and in his Administration Report for 1918 mentioned this as one of the public works of importance. The petitioners hope that the matter will receive the consideration it deserves.

Petition from R. W. Elders.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—I beg to present, Sir, a petition from Mr. R. W. Elders. This gentleman was employed in the Ceylon Government Railway as chargeman for fifteen years. In 1914 he proceeded to Talaimannar on duty to inspect the weighing bridges and weighing machines on the lines, and he was paid batta and overtime. In 1916 he was again asked to proceed to Talaimannar, but on this occasion he was informed that he would not be paid overtime, but would be paid fifty cents a day batta. He claimed more, and was told to go away. He has since suffered great hardship. Mr. Elders has a wife and five children dependent on him, and he desires to call the attention of the Members of the Legislative Council to the great injustice done to the humbler servants of Government by summary dismissal without sufficient cause.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS.

Parcel Post to the Philippine Islands.

THE HON. MR. H. M. MACAN MARKAR (First Muslim Member) :—I give notice, Sir, of the following question :—

In view of the fact that the present system of dispatching parcels from Ceylon to the Philippine Islands, a flourishing United States settlement, is unsatisfactory, and covers a period of over ten weeks, as such parcels are directed to their destination *via* London, New York, &c., will the Government be pleased to establish immediately, in the interest of commerce, such a parcel post system between Ceylon and the Philippine Islands *via* Hong Kong, as will expedite the service, covering less than two weeks.

Cart Road from Rangalla to Kurundu-oya.

THE HON. MR. P. B. RAMBUKWELLE (Central Province, Rural) :—I give notice, Sir, of the following questions :—

- (1) When was the cart road from Rangalla to Kurundu-oya, in the Nuwara Eliya District, traced ?
- (2) What was the total mileage traced ?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of completing the road ?
- (4) What is the extent of the work done up to date, and at what cost ?
- (5) Has the construction of this road been stopped ? If so, why ?
- (6) Is there any likelihood of Government re-starting the work shortly ? If so, when ?
- (7) Have not representations been made to Government by public bodies and individuals in the district regarding the importance and usefulness of this road ?

Crown Land to Landless Villagers.

- (a) Under what rules or conditions were landless villagers given Crown land for asweddumization ?
- (b) Has that practice been discontinued ?
- (c) If so, when, and why was it discontinued ?

July 3, 1925]

Council Debates.

267

The Kanthalai Tank.

THE HON. MR. M. M. SUBRAMANIAM (Trincomalee Revenue District) :—I give notice, Sir, of the following questions :—

(1) In view of the fact that only two-thirds of the land irrigable by Kanthalai tank is being cultivated this year owing to the insufficiency of water in it, will the Government be pleased to repair the channels and water-courses that convey water from the tank to the fields and thus prevent wastage of water ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any scheme for the conveyance of water by channel from Kanthalai tank to Kinia was ever submitted, and if so, will it be pleased to place on the table the estimates prepared for this scheme and all surplus connected therewith ?

Village Tribunals and Chief Headmen.

(3) Will the Government be pleased to state in which of the towns in Ceylon Village Tribunals have been established besides Batticaloa and Trincomalee ?

(4) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of civil and criminal cases instituted by the residents of the Trincomalee town in the Village Tribunal after its establishment there in the year 1924 ?

(5) Is the Government aware of the fact that the chief headman (Vanniah) of Kaddukulam pattu has also been appointed President of the Village Tribunals for that division which was until recently in charge of two chief headmen, one being in charge of the Western and the other Eastern Division, with a separate President of Village Tribunals ; and whether it does not consider it against public interest to invest one and the same person with revenue and judicial duties which were discharged by three different persons in the past ?

Increments and Promotions to Officers of Excise Department.

(6) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether complaints have been received after 1920 from the officers of the Excise Department *re* increment to their salaries and promotions to higher ranks ?

(b) How many Inspectors in the said Department did stagnate on the same salary for a considerable period for want of an incremental scale of salaries ?

(c) What relief was granted to them ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to inquire into their grievances and grant suitable redress ?

Skilled Workmen on Daily Wage.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division) :—I give notice, Sir, of the following questions :—

(1) What is the number of skilled workmen employed on a daily wage and those placed on the "cooly list" in the technical branches of each of the Government Departments ?

(2) What is the total amount estimated for the payment of such workmen in each Government Department as shown in the Budget for 1925-26 ?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS.

The Allai Irrigation Work.

THE HON. MR. M. M. SUBRAMANIAM (Trincomalee Revenue District) :—I give notice, Sir, that at a subsequent meeting of the Legislative Council I shall move—

That in the opinion of this Council the Allai irrigation work, commenced many years ago, and on which a large sum of money had been expended, should be completed by Government without further delay.

Apothecaries.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division):—I rise, Sir, to give notice that at a subsequent meeting of the Legislative Council I shall move the following motion:—

That in the opinion of this Council apothecaries who joined the Medical Department prior to the proclamation of the Medical Registration Ordinance, No. 2 of 1905, should be permitted, on retirement, to continue to practise medicine and surgery, subject to such restrictions and safeguards as the Council of the Medical College may consider necessary.

QUESTIONS.

Duty on Foreign Liquor.

THE HON. MR. S. RAJARATNAM (Northern Province, Central Division):—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to raise the duty on foreign liquor by at least 25 per cent.?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The answer to the Honourable Member's question is in the negative.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The answer to question No. 78 is not yet ready.

Technical Courses in the Government Technical Schools.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) What is the annual cost to Government of maintaining the technical courses in the Government Technical Schools, Colombo? (2) Does not the training under Course No. 7 called Building Construction and Course No. 10 called Sanitary Engineering, the latter described therein as a course for those intending to qualify as Inspectors, Building Foremen, and so on, qualify candidates who have successfully completed the course to be Building Foremen in the Public Works Department or Harbour Engineer's Department? (3) Is it a fact that no local man has been found suitable to fill the post of Building Foreman for the Harbour Engineer's Department advertised for on March 5, 1925? (4) Has this post been now filled? (5) If not, does the Government intend to indent from the Crown Agents for an European Building Foreman? (6) Does not the Government think that this is a post within the capacity of Ceylonese properly trained? (7) If no person trained in the Technical Schools is found fit to fill the above post, namely, Building Foreman in the Harbour Engineer's Department, does not the Government think that the training given in this class is inadequate and calls for improvement?

THE HON. MR. J. STRACHAN (Director of Public Works):—(1) The cost of maintaining the Technical Schools for the year 1923-24 was Rs. 64,465.

(2) The courses referred to do not in themselves give the practical knowledge and experience necessary to qualify a student for the post of Building Foreman in the Public Works Department or Harbour Engineer's Department.

(3) The answer is in the affirmative.

(4) The post has not yet been filled.

(5) Yes. A requisition has been sent to the Secretary of State.

July 3, 1925]

Council Debates.

269

(6) It should be, and Government was fully prepared to appoint a Ceylonese to the vacant post had a candidate of the required capacity been forthcoming.

(7) The Technical Schools provide a very useful training for aspirants to the post of Building Foreman, but neither in this country nor anywhere else can they possibly supply that sound practical working knowledge of various trades and that practical experience and capacity in the handling of labour forces which are the essential qualifications of Building Foremen. Such knowledge and experience can be gained only by a long apprenticeship in large workshops or on big works of construction.

Recruits for the Forest Department Field Service.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) How many young men were recruited for the Forest Department Field Service as Probationary Rangers during the last ten years, commencing January 1, 1915? (2) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a list containing the names of all such recruits, showing age, race, their educational qualifications at the time of recruitment, their present position in the Department, and, where they have ceased to remain in the Department, the reason of their discontinuance, for example, death, dismissal, resignation, compulsory retirement, and so on.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—(1) Seventy-eight.

(2) A list giving the information desired by the Honourable Member is tabled.

Resignation of Senior Officers in the Forest Department.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) How many of the Senior Officers in the Forest Department did resign their places during the last twenty years? (2) Will the Government be pleased to give a list of their names, the length of service at the date of resignation, and the reason for leaving the Department?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—(1) Five.
(2) A statement giving the information desired by the Honourable Member is tabled.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The answers to questions Nos. 83 and 85 are not yet ready.

Public Telephone Call Boxes.

THE HON. MR. P. B. RAMBUKWELLE (Central Province, Rural):—I rise, Sir, to ask—In view of increasing motor traffic in the Island, and in the absence of speedy communication in cases of accidents and breakdowns, will Government consider the installation of public telephone call boxes at convenient places other than those already available at police stations and post offices?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The provision of public telephone call boxes is only practicable where communication with a police station, post office, or hospital can be obtained. Government has for some time followed a policy of steady extension of telephone communication to police stations,

post offices, and hospitals, but this programme has not yet been completed. The present position is that 104 out of 161 police stations and about 100 out of 206 post offices have been connected with the telephone system. It must be remembered that the expenditure involved is considerable, as it costs about Rs. 1,000 per mile to lay a telephone line. Government is advised that along the majority of trunk roads there already are telegraph or telephone call boxes at intervals of about ten to fifteen miles. Government, therefore, considers it preferable at present to proceed with the programme of extension of telephone connection with post offices, hospitals, and police stations rather than to provide further public telephone boxes at other points.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The answers to questions Nos. 89, 90, 93, and 94 are not yet ready.

Expenses of Retrenchment Commission and Councillors' Travelling.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to give a detailed statement of the expense to the Colony of—(1) The Retrenchment Commission? (2) Councillors' expenses for travelling, and so on, during the years 1923 and 1924 respectively?

THE HON. THE TREASURER :—The cost of the Retrenchment Commission was approximately as follows :—

	Rs.	c.
Salary of Civil Servant who acted as whole-time Secretary	11,099	2
Cost of printing .. .. .	..	1,701 65
Miscellaneous expenditure .. .. .	..	5,899 33
Total ..	18,700	0

(2) The expenses of Members of the Legislative Council on account of travelling were reimbursed to the extent of Rs. 15,126·88 in the financial year 1922-23 and Rs. 17,792·85 in 1923-24.

Administration Reports.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to put Members of the Council representing territorial divisions in possession, without delay, of the Administration Reports dealing with their respective districts?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Steps have been taken to that end, and it is hoped that the reports will all be available at a very early date.

Ambepussa Dairy Farm.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—(1) Is the Government aware that all the cattle of the Ambepussa Dairy Farm were infected with foot-and-mouth disease? (2) Is there any provision at the farm

July 3, 1925]

Council Debates.

271

for the isolation of infected cattle? (3) What was the source of infection? (4) Was it the right of way to outside cattle granted through the dairy grounds? (5) Will the Government take and strictly enforce practical measures to prevent similar infection in the future?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—(1) The answer is in the affirmative.

(2) There is no permanent isolation shed. Isolation is usually effected by the erection of temporary cadjan isolation sheds.

(3) The source of infection cannot be precisely stated. Foot-and-mouth disease was prevalent all over the Western Province. It was possibly carried by stray cattle or some mediate carriers.

(4) It is possible that working bulls from villages using the right of way may have carried the infection, but, as stated in answer to (3), the source of infection has not been definitely ascertained.

(5) The answer is in the affirmative.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The answers to questions Nos. 98, 99, 100, and 101 are not yet ready.

Local Option in Areas which have abolished the Poll Tax.

THE HON. MR. T. B. JAYAH (Third Muslim Member) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—What arrangements has Government made for the exercise of local option in areas which have abolished the poll tax?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Rules dealing with the subject will be made shortly.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The answers to questions Nos. 103 to 108 are not yet ready.

A Lecturer in Anatomy from England.

THE HON. MR. S. RAJARATNAM (Northern Province, Central Division) :—I rise, Sir, to ask—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Principal Civil Medical Officer has sent in a recommendation to recruit a lecturer in anatomy from England on a higher salary than the one obtaining at present on five years' contract, so that during the five years a local man may be trained to be a lecturer in anatomy? If so, does the Government think that local men are at present unfit to be lecturer in anatomy? Had the Principal Civil Medical Officer on his recent visit come across anyone in England who is willing to come over to Ceylon? If so, what is the position, if any, the intended officer holds in England?

THE HON. DR. J. F. E. BRIDGER (Principal Civil Medical Officer) :—(a) A proposal has been put forward by the Registrar of the Medical College (not the Principal Civil Medical Officer) at the instance of the Medical College Council to create a Chair of Anatomy in the Medical College and to make provision in the 1925-26 Estimates for the salary of a Professor of Anatomy on the same salary scale as that granted to Professors of the University College. He has proposed that if no local candidates are found to be suitable, a qualified person should be appointed from England on a five years'

agreement, and that during that time Government should take steps to train a locally recruited officer in England or locally to fill the post.

(b) Until applications have been called for and received, Government is unable to express an opinion on the matter.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) In view of the answer to (c), this question does not rise.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The answers to the remaining questions are not yet ready.

Standing Committee on Finance.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I beg, Sir, to move—That the report of the Standing Committee on Finance dated June 19, 1925, be adopted.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I beg, Sir, to move—That the rules made by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government in Executive Council, in exercise of the powers vested in him by section 7 of "The Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance, 1908," as amended by Ordinance No. 10 of 1923, and published in *Government Gazette* No. 7,469 of June 19, 1925, be confirmed.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Pension.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I beg, Sir, to move—That in terms of section 31 (1) of the Pension Minute, the following payments be made to the widow and children of the late R. D. Suwaris, Sergeant Peon, Excise Department, who was murdered whilst on duty on March 24, 1925 :—

To the widow a pension of Rs. 150 per annum, with effect from March 25, 1925.

To the children gratuities as under :—

			Rs.
To the child aged 14 years	..	..	10
To the child aged 12 years	..	..	30
To the child aged 10 years	..	..	50
To the child aged 7 years	..	..	80
To the child aged 5 years	..	..	100
			<hr/>
			270
			<hr/>

R. D. Suwaris was employed as a peon in the Excise Department for nearly twelve years, and at the time of his death he held the rank of sergeant peon. He was murdered on the evening of March 23, 1925. His widow is not entitled to a pension from the Widows'

July 3, 1925]

and Orphans' Pension Fund, as he has not contributed to the Fund owing to the fact that his post was not declared pensionable till a few months before his death. I therefore move this resolution.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Public Works Loan Ordinance.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I beg, Sir, to move—That in terms of section 2 of "The Public Works Loan Ordinance, No. 6 of 1921," this Council approves of the further expenditure from item 10 of a sum of Rs. 80,000 for the Harbour Rail Connection.

This matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Finance Committee.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Supply Bill, 1925-26.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—I understand that it is the wish of the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary to take up the first reading of the Ordinance to make provision for the Public Service for the financial year 1925-26 next, and afterwards to take up the motion dealing with the alteration of the official designations of the Principal Civil Medical Officer and other officers of the Medical and Sanitary Services. With the leave of Council, therefore, the motion which stands next on the Agenda Paper will be postponed until after the motion on the Budget is introduced.

This was agreed to.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Sir, I have the honour to move that an Ordinance for making provision for the Public Service for the financial year 1925-26 be read a first time.

This year, Sir, the task which usually falls to the lot of the Colonial Secretary in connection with the Budget has been lightened in two ways. In the first place, this Council can congratulate itself in having before it a Budget to which His Excellency has personally contributed his own special skill, knowledge, and experience at no slight sacrifice of his extremely valuable time. His Excellency himself shouldered the burden of presiding at the conferences at which the estimates of the several heads of departments were revised, and at which they finally assumed the shape in which they are now presented.

The address which His Excellency delivered this morning has also relieved me of the necessity of making any further reference to the general situation and to the general administration of the Island.

In another respect I am also more fortunate than some of my predecessors, namely, in being in a position to introduce the Supply Bill at a time when the revenue has shown a capacity to expand rather than to contract.

When they come to examine the new Budget which I now present for the coming year, Honourable Members will find that it bears a strong family resemblance to that of its predecessor. It proposes no change in taxation, and contains no novel or startling features.

In order that Honourable Members may obtain a correct appreciation of the present position, it is necessary that we should glance back to the Estimates for the current year, 1924-25. In October last year our expectations were that we should have available for expenditure a revenue of 102 millions plus an estimated surplus on September 30, 1924, of 12½ millions over and above the fixed reserve of 10 millions, making a total of 114½ millions available.

Against this total of 114½ millions the expenditure set out in the Estimates was approximately 111½ millions, leaving approximately 3 millions unallocated.

Later, when the actual surplus of the working of the preceding financial year was finally ascertained, it was found that it exceeded the estimate by approximately 7 lakhs, and this increased the unallocated balance to 3 millions 7 lakhs.

This increase and the satisfactory returns of revenue to date were brought to the notice of the members of the Finance Committee in March last. Certain proposals were then made by the Government, the advice of the Honourable Members was sought as to the allocation of the unallocated balance, and expenditure amounting to approximately 2 million rupees was finally passed to meet various pressing needs.

By that time it was, of course, known that our original estimates of revenue and expenditure would have to be considerably revised, but assuming that they had been correct, the hypothetical position as regards our surplus balances at the end of the current year, namely, September 30, 1925, was that they would stand at only about 11 millions 7 lakhs.

If Honourable Members will now look at page 119 of the Estimates for 1925-26, they will see that our revised estimate of the surplus as on September 30, 1925, is a very much higher figure, namely, rupees 23 millions 2 lakhs odd. That figure is, of course, still only an estimate, and we shall not know till January next year exactly what the surplus will be, but the explanation of the probable excess over the original estimate is simply that it is now found that the revenue is likely to be more and the expenditure less than was originally estimated when the Budget for 1924-25 was framed.

To deal first with the increased estimate of revenue for 1924-25, pages ii, iv, v, and vi, in Roman figures at the beginning of the printed Estimates for 1925-26 show clearly how the revised figure of 107 millions instead of the original figure of 102 millions has been arrived at as the likely revenue for the current year, 1924-25. Our revenue has not, as was expected, remained stationary on the same level as in 1923-24, but has shown during the first six months of the current year an increase under nearly every head. There are, of course, still three months of the current year to come, and no mortal man can foretell the exact course even of the near future, but with the figures of the first six months before us, I think that we in this Council may feel perfectly confident that the excess of 5 millions will actually be realized and added to our surplus.

Estimates of expenditure are much more difficult to compute than estimates of revenue. The revenue flows in monthly in a more or less regular stream. It is not so with expenditure, which necessarily shows extraordinary fluctuations, more especially at the commencement of a programme of large construction, such as that with which we are now faced. It is only when such programmes are well advanced that a more or less regular rate of expenditure

can be achieved. The Government is satisfied that all departments have done their best in the short period of the financial year at their disposal—nine months this year instead of the ordinary twelve—to carry out the programme of work laid down, but it now seems likely that it will prove more than they will be able to perform. Instead, therefore, of getting as much work done and of spending on it as much as we expected, we shall have to carry forward to next year a larger amount in our surplus balances than we expected. We can at all events console ourselves with the reflection that the additional surplus will be earning interest and that our credit will thereby be strengthened. We can also expect that the departments, now that they have received the necessary additions to their staffs, and now that the initial stage of the programme of construction has passed, will next year be in a position to carry out the work and spend the money which they were unable to do in the nine months of the current year. The Honourable the Treasurer's revised estimate of expenditure for the current year is, as already stated, 107 millions. It has been framed by him after considering the figures of expenditure for the first six months and after consulting the heads of various departments.

Honourable Members will now perceive that our revised estimates for the revenue and expenditure of the current year balance each other at 107 millions. It is for this reason that the surplus of 13 millions 2 lakhs over and above the fixed reserve of 10 millions still remains intact, and is carried forward on page 119 of the Estimates for 1925-26.

I now come to the estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1925-26. If Honourable Members will have the goodness to look at page ii of the printed Estimates, they will find that the estimate of revenue is calculated at 106 millions. The bases on which this calculation is made appear on pages iv, v, vi of the same Estimates and on the first page of the Message of His Excellency to the Legislative Council. They are the same as those on which we base our revised estimate for the current financial year. Briefly, the reason why we have included 1 million rupees less for 1925-26 than we have for 1924-25, is because two items will not recur again. These are a terminable annuity of 1 lakh from the Colombo Municipality and a sum of 9 lakhs representing the assets of the Disabled Ceylon Men's Fund.

Honourable Members will note with regret that our estimates of revenue do not include any item on account of the Pearl Fishery. It was observed both during the recent fishery and at the inspections which followed it, that large deposits of sand had mysteriously drifted over the banks and buried the oysters. It was also noticed towards the close of the fishery that the oysters were found only in patches and in very thick formation, which appeared to indicate that they were on the move. The Inspector of Pearl Banks is therefore very doubtful whether there will be any fishery next year. If, as he expects, the oysters have then vanished, the windfall which we expected will have vanished with them. However, there is still a loophole for hope, and I sincerely trust that the inspections which will be held in the calm weather in November this year will falsify the pessimistic forecast which has caused the exclusion of any item on account of the Pearl Fishery from this Budget.

Our estimates of expenditure for the coming year appear under their several heads on page iii of the Estimates and amount approximately to 117 millions 8 lakhs. Explanations of increases and decreases under those heads are clearly set out in detail in the pages of His Excellency's Message and in the Brief Reports of the Railway, Irrigation, and Public Works Departments, and of the Colombo Port Commission, copies of which have been handed to Honourable Members. I will not weary the Council with a repetition of them now; they require study at leisure, and will be discussed fully in Select Committee. I will confine myself to commenting briefly only on such items as are most worthy of note or reflect a proposed alteration of policy.

The largest increase is under Head 52, Railway Extraordinary Works, where as against an estimated expenditure in the current year of $2\frac{3}{4}$ millions it is proposed to expend next year over $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The principal items included under this head are for new rolling stock and for renewals which are long overdue and without which there is a danger of a serious breakdown in our traffic arrangements. It has also become imperative to undertake a large scheme for relieving the congestion in the station and yards at Maradana, where all the shunting of goods as well as of all trains booked to Maradana takes place. Before I leave the subject of the Railway, I would refer Honourable Members to the report on the commercialization of the Railway and to the commercialized form of accounts included in it, of which they have received copies.

The idea of placing the management of the Ceylon Government Railway on the same footing as a business concern emanated from the Honourable the European Member, Sir J. T. Broom, and subsequently received the full support of the Railway Advisory Board. His Excellency Sir William Manning considered it before he left the Island, and decided that it was a matter with which he could not properly deal at the close of his tenure of office; that it could not be embarked upon without the sanction of the Secretary of State; and that it must be left to the judgment of Sir Hugh Clifford, with whom he would discuss it on Sir Hugh Clifford's arrival in England.

I now turn to Heads 53, 54, 55 under the Irrigation Department. In the matter of food production the Government and this Council have learnt from the experience of the food crisis that the future policy of the Irrigation Department must be to foster irrigation and cultivation where there is already a resident population. It is for this reason that provision is included for two new Assistant Engineers, with the main object of the improvement of village works. We have also before us the object lesson of the completed South Colombo Flood Prevention Scheme. It shows what amazing benefits can be secured at a proportionately trifling cost by the expert study and execution of schemes for reclaiming valuable land rendered unproductive by floods. The same conditions as those in the neighbourhood of Colombo prevail all through the well populated maritime Provinces, and one of the principal objectives of the Irrigation Department in future will be to make a close study of schemes for overcoming those conditions.

I now turn to the estimates under Heads 56, 57, 58 of the Public Works Department. The additional provision under the two latter heads amounts to nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million, and the large works now in hand represent by far the most ambitious programme of construction

ever undertaken in Ceylon. These works have necessitated provision under Head 56 for the appointment of the additional officers mentioned in the Message.

The increased provision now made by no means satisfies the inexhaustible demands on all sides for additional public works; it attempts to meet only those of the greatest urgency. The Consultative Committee on Roads, for instance, has launched at the Government two priority lists—(1) for an expenditure of 1 million on account for new roads, (2) for an expenditure of 2 millions on the improvements of existing roads. Whilst the Government is fully alive to the pressing need for improvement of communications, it has been able to include provision only for a few of the new projects included in those lists, although the total provision which is included in the estimates for new roads and additions and improvements to roads amounts to 4 lakhs for new roads and 2 millions 1 lakh for additions and improvements to existing roads—an increase of over 8 lakhs on the revised estimates for the current year. For other items of increases and decreases I must refer Honourable Members to the Brief Report of the Director of Public Works.

Before I leave the subject of the Public Works Department, I desire to inform the Council that I hope to be in a position next month to lay on the table of the Council a report from the Director of Public Works embodying a report from Mr. Pritchard, District Engineer, as to the allocation of the sum of Rs. 1,000,000 which has already been voted for the improvement of District Road Committee minor roads, and also as to the District Road Committee roads which have reached the stage at which it is necessary that they should be taken over by the Public Works Department as main trunk roads.

To turn next to Education under Head 40. The increase amounts to nearly 1 million, of which nearly one-quarter goes to provide additional teachers for Government schools, another quarter is granted to District School Committees, and nearly half a million increases the grants to assisted schools. The last item provides for bringing into operation the recommendations of the Board of Education for improving the pay of the teachers in those schools. These recommendations formed the subject of a Sessional Paper which was tabled at the last meeting of this Council.

The Medical Department, Head 36, next requires your consideration. The motto "Prevention is better than cure" was quoted by His Excellency in his Address to this Council. It applies with particular force to this department, and will be the watchword of our future policy. The reorganization of our Medical Service is the first step necessary towards the consummation of that policy which aims, not at building hospitals, but at making hospitals unnecessary. On this question of the prevention of disease and the improvement of public health the Honourable the Principal Civil Medical Officer has already personally consulted the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. That Board is the recognized authority on all questions of that kind and on the organization best suited to deal with them. The Board has expressed its desire to help in every possible way in improving the health conditions of the people of Ceylon; has generously consented to send an expert to advise us on the problem in this country; and has also generously offered a number of free fellowships to selected

candidates from Ceylon to take up the study of public health. With your approval, Sir, and the approval of this Council, I propose to convey to the Board our grateful appreciation of the noble work which it is doing in the cause of humanity in general and in the interests of the public health of Ceylon in particular. The increased provision of over 7 lakhs included in the estimates for the Medical Department, principally for increased staff and better equipment, will, I feel certain, be welcomed by the Council.

The estimates of the Colombo Port Commission appear under Head 23 on page ii of the Estimates and show an increase of 9 lakhs, more than half of which is to be spent on the new Customs-house. The other increases are very fully set out in the Chairman's Brief Report, and I would refer Honourable Members to it.

I could find a good deal to say in respect to the estimates of other important departments, with many of which I have been intimately associated as Controller of Revenue, and for the future of which I feel a personal concern. But it is unnecessary to refer further to them, as the policy which they are pursuing on behalf of Government remains unchanged. The digressions which I have made into details respecting the chief spending departments have occupied enough time, and have I fear tended somewhat to cloud the main issues of the Budget. To those I now hasten to return.

The Estimates for 1925-26 disclose as available for expenditure an estimated revenue of 106 millions plus an estimated surplus balance as on September 30 next of 13 millions 2 lakhs over and above the fixed reserve of 10 millions. The total available is therefore 119 millions and 2 lakhs. Against this the Bill proposes an expenditure of 117 millions and 8 lakhs, which leaves unallocated a surplus balance of 1 million 4 lakhs. It is not His Excellency's desire that that amount should be left unallocated for expenditure. The Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 27 last has already made a number of proposals for expenditure to meet important wants, for example, clearing of irrigation channels and schemes for water supplies. Provision can be found for all those which are ready for inclusion. I will in Finance Committee bring up the latest reports on them. His Excellency will also be glad to receive the advice of the Committee as to the objects on which the remainder of the unallocated surplus can most profitably be spent.

The only other portion of the Estimates to which it is necessary for me to refer is to its appendices, and in the first place to the Loan Scheme.

The unallocated balance of the proceeds of the 1921 loan as shown in the Estimates for the current year was Rs. 1,923,948.

Allocations have since been made for the Gampola bridge and for Eravur railway station, but these have been more than counter-balanced by savings, and the total unallocated balance now stands at Rs. 2,667,769. The proposals which will shortly be brought before the Council by resolution, and which are embodied in Appendix 3 on page 122, column 5, of the Estimates, involve a total further allocation of Rs. 1,854,536 for the Harbour Rail Connection, the Batticaloa-Maho and Trincomalee Light Railway, and the Walawe Left Bank Irrigation Scheme, leaving an unallocated balance of Rs. 813,233.

It is at present deemed inadvisable to allocate any portion of this balance until the railway bridge over the Mahaweli-ganga has been completed.

Appendices Nos. 12 and 13 on page 131, the last page, of the printed Estimates show the proposed expenditure on the new Railway workshops at Ratmalana and on the Hydro-Electric Scheme during the coming financial year 1925-26. As Honourable Members are aware, it is proposed that these works shall ultimately be financed from loan funds, and as soon as may be necessary Treasury bills will be issued. In the meanwhile the works are being financed from the cash balances of the Treasury.

In conclusion, I have only to add that I trust that Honourable Members will be able to find time to study the proposals contained in this Budget during the interval between this and the second reading. I can assure them that the Government will be most willing to supply them with any further available information which they may require to that end. The Government will also welcome the fullest possible criticism of its proposals. By such means, and by our united and arduous efforts in Select Committee, I trust that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, we may be enabled to order the expenditure of our resources in such a manner as will most highly conduce to the health, prosperity, and happiness of the people of Ceylon.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a first time.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I give notice, Sir, that at a subsequent meeting of Council I will move the second reading of the Bill.

Official Designations of the Principal Civil Medical Officer, &c.

THE HON. DR. J. F. E. BRIDGER (Principal Civil Medical Officer):—Sir, the Honourable the Attorney-General has requested me to take charge of the following Bill. I therefore rise to move the first reading of "An Ordinance to alter the Official Designations of the Principal Civil Medical Officer and other Officers of the Medical and Sanitary Services." If Honourable Members will refer to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, they will find the following words: "with the object of creating an improved co-ordination and control of the medical and public health functions of the department." The Medical Department at the present time has as a subordinate branch what is known as the Sanitary Branch. A certain number of persons have an idea that there are two departments: the Medical Department and the Sanitary Department. But that is not the case. There is one department, and that is the Medical Department, and it has as a subordinate branch the Sanitary Department. The Principal Civil Medical Officer and the Assistant Principal Civil Medical Officer are both officers who are over that branch, that is, they have control over it. I am well aware of that, because for a period of three and a half years, during the time I have been in the Colony, I have been head of the Sanitary Branch. I am therefore well aware of the fact that it is not a separate department, but that it is subordinate to the Principal Civil Medical Officer and the Assistant Principal Civil Medical Officer. As a matter of fact, my experience has been that the Sanitary Branch has been but a poor relation of the Medical Department.

The object of Government, therefore, is that in future it shall be no longer a poor relation of the Medical Department, but, as will be seen from the draft Bill, the Principal Civil Medical Officer is to have his title changed to Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, that the Assistant Principal Civil Medical Officer shall have as his title Deputy Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, thus making it quite clear to all the world that that branch of the Medical Department which functions from the public health point of view is just as important to the Colony as the branch which deals purely with medical matters.

It will be noticed that in the Bill no reference has been made to the Sanitary Commissioner. The reason for that is that the Sanitary Commissioner is not mentioned in any existing Ordinance, and therefore it was not necessary to mention his name. His name, as a matter of fact, only appears in the regulations made under Ordinance No. 3 of 1897—an Ordinance which has for its object the prevention of disease—and whatever powers were given to him under that Ordinance are equally given to the Principal Civil Medical Officer and the Assistant Principal Civil Medical Officer. That was the reason why there was no necessity to mention his name in this Ordinance. That is as much as I need say in regard to the Sanitary Branch, which, although it will remain in future, under this Ordinance, a branch of the Medical Department, will be treated as a brother with equal powers and equal authority so far as the particular question of public health is concerned.

It will also be noticed that quite apart from the question of nomenclature dealt with by this Ordinance, there is the question of an additional appointment. This additional appointment is that of an Assistant Director of Medical Services. Now, at the present time, there is a Principal Civil Medical Officer and an Assistant Principal Civil Medical Officer, and those two officers form the administrative staff of the medical side of the Medical Department. Things that have happened in the past are very often forgotten, and I therefore think that many Honourable Members will be surprised to hear that at one time there was such a person as an Office Assistant to the Principal Civil Medical Officer, and that such Office Assistant was appointed as long ago as 1908. It will be all the more interesting if I am allowed to quote the opinion expressed by the then Principal Civil Medical Officer, Sir Allan Perry, which resulted in the appointment of that Office Assistant, because it is much more applicable to-day owing to the tremendous development of the Medical Department since 1908. These are the actual words written by Sir Allan Perry: "I find that it is impossible to exercise efficient supervision over the work of the medical officers and keep the work of my office up to date without some addition to my present staff; and I am unable to do so and to do as much hospital inspection as is necessary owing to the large amount of work that falls on the Assistant Principal Civil Medical Officer when I am away." As a result of this appeal to Government the Office Assistant was appointed in 1908.

Then we pass through the years, and find that in 1912 even this officer was not found sufficient to cope with the administrative work of the office of the Principal Civil Medical Officer and that two other medical officers were imported from England. They were called Inspecting Medical Officers, and on looking at the particulars of their duties, I find that they were actually appointed to assist the

July 3, 1925]

Council Debates.

281

Principal Civil Medical Officer and his Assistant in going round the country on inspection work in addition to assisting them in the administrative work of the office. Then the war broke out, and in 1915 one of those Inspecting Medical Officers left for war service, and in the same year Sir Allan Perry retired and the other Inspecting Medical Officer became Assistant Principal Civil Medical Officer. A local officer was appointed to take the place of the first, and owing to the fact that the work of inspection of estates was increasing he was sent to Kandy, and became Inspecting Medical Officer for the Central Province. His services were thus lost to the Head Office. Another local officer was appointed in the place of the officer who was appointed Assistant Principal Civil Medical Officer, and he was allowed to remain in Colombo, but, in addition to the duties of his predecessor, he was required to inspect certain estates. This officer was Dr. Bawa, who subsequently died. His successor found it absolutely impossible to assist in the Head Office, and he had to devote his whole time to estate inspection.

It will, therefore, be seen that at the stage of development of the Medical Department existing in 1908, Sir Allan Perry asked for an Office Assistant and got one. In 1912 he obtained the services of two other officers to assist him. In 1925 we find that the services of the latter officers are not available to the Head Office. At the present moment the Head Office struggles along with the Principal Civil Medical Officer and his Assistant. To be quite frank, it is quite impossible for these two officers to carry on the office work and also the proper inspection of hospitals and dispensaries throughout the country. This Bill, the first reading of which I am now moving, proposes the appointment of an Assistant Director of Medical Services. That officer will have to perform the duties of the Director of the medical side of the Medical Department. The officer now called the Sanitary Commissioner will control the work of the public health branch of the Medical Department. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more at this stage, and I therefore move the first reading of the Bill.

THE HON. MR. W. T. SOUTHORN (Principal Collector of Customs) seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a first time.

THE HON. DR. J. F. E. BRIDGER (Principal Civil Medical Officer):—I give notice, Sir, that at a subsequent meeting of Council I shall move the second reading of the Bill.

Supplementary Provision for the Public Services, 1923-24.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—I beg, Sir, to move the second reading of "An Ordinance to make supplementary provision for the Public Services for the Financial Year 1923-24."

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I move, Sir, that the Council do go into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Council in Committee.

The Clerk read clause 1, which was agreed to.

The Clerk read clause 2, which was agreed to.

The Clerk read the schedule, which was agreed to.

The Clerk read the preamble, which was agreed to.

The Clerk read the title, which was agreed to.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I move, Sir, that Council do now resume.

Council resumed.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I move, Sir, that the Bill be read a third time and do pass.

THE HON. THE TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Cattle Ordinance.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—Sir, I beg to move the second reading of “ An Ordinance further to amend ‘ The Cattle Ordinance, 1898.’ ”

THE HON. MR. M. T. AKBAR, K.C. (Solicitor-General), seconded.

THE HON. MR. G. E. MADAWALA (North-Western Province, Eastern Division) :—I rise, Sir, to oppose this Ordinance. Any relaxation of the rules with regard to the issue of permits by headmen will tend to increase thefts of cattle, especially in the Kurunegala District, which I have the honour to represent. In the Kurunegala District there are a larger number of cattle owned by villagers than in any other district, I believe. About thirty or forty years ago cattle stealing was rampant, and Government had to take measures to put it down. With this end in view the Cattle Branding Ordinance was passed, only with reference to that district. The late Mr. F. Ellis was, I believe, the officer who was appointed to supervise this work. Later, Government found that even branding did not prevent thefts; and the next step taken was to order headmen to keep registers of cattle within their own jurisdiction, and when an owner required to take his cattle from one village to another he had to obtain a permit in the prescribed form. An important point in regard to this is that in the column where the title to the animal is entered the number in the headman's register is also entered; and the registration of cattle by headmen served as the best evidence in regard to ownership. Whenever an owner wanted to sell his cattle or to take them from one village to another for the purpose of grazing or otherwise, he had to go to the headman and obtain a permit, witnessed by two others.

Further, I might say that the conditions which obtain in Kurunegala and Anuradhapura differ from those in other parts of Ceylon. There it is possible to meet with half a dozen people who bear the same name, and the brandmarks on the animals belonging to these people may also be the same, so that if headmen are not allowed to execute these permits a great deal of latitude will be given to cattle thieves. If permission to issue permits is given to others than minor headmen, there is no guarantee that the real owners will appear before them, and the door will be open to dishonest parties. I know of a number of cases where a superior headman, who had the power of executing vouchers, doing so on mere reports, while there was a case of a man who took a bull with a forged report to a superior headman, who executed a voucher. Fortunately for the owner, a fellow-villager saw the animal while it was being led along the road and informed the real owner, who hurried up and seized it while it was in the possession of a new owner and on its way to the slaughter-house. The thief was prosecuted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. That shows how a lessening of the rigidity of the rules will be taken advantage of by thieves. I am particularly interested in this question because cattle form one of the sources of revenue of the people of the Wannihatpattu of the district I represent. I oppose the second reading of the Ordinance.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) :—I was under the impression that the Bill referred to the removal and not to the transfer of ownership of cattle, and agree that the issue of permits should be done by a responsible person. It is inconvenient for people, in many cases, to go to the headman, and I also know of the difficulties a villager has to experience in order to get a permit. Every permit has to be paid for, and I am aware of the fact that a headman charges fifty cents for a permit for the removal of cattle. I do not think that it is to the advantage of an owner to have to go to a headman for such permit.

I believe it is the intention of Government to authorize only responsible persons to do so. As a planter, I am aware of the inconvenience of the present system; and I therefore think that it is necessary that superintendents of estates and other responsible people should be given authority to issue permits. If these people issue a permit for stolen cattle to be removed, they make themselves liable, and you can not only charge the person removing the cattle with theft, but also the person who issued the permit with aiding and abetting. This is, I think, an additional safeguard. The Bill, it seems to me, is in the interests of the people, and I am sorry that my honourable friend is opposing it.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—Perhaps it will make a long debate unnecessary if I get up and make a few remarks now. The object of this Ordinance is to allow the Governor in Executive Council to make certain rules. I was the Chairman of the Committee which sat on this question, and the difficulty of getting permits was one of the matters which came before us. The Committee was of opinion, and I fully agreed with them, that the present regulations for permits might be given up in the case of large dairies and in the case of estates which keep a class of cattle which is quite distinct from the ordinary neat cattle.

It is the ordinary village cattle that are stolen. Expensive bulls and cows are not subject to theft. All that we are trying to do under the new Ordinance is to give the Governor power to make rules that when owners of registered dairies and superintendents and proprietors of estates ask for permission for the removal of their cattle without permits from the headmen, it will be within the discretion of the Government Agent to allow them to do so. I am perfectly certain that by allowing that concession there will be no increase in cattle thefts, which is the last thing the Government would think of encouraging.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read a second time.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I beg to move, Sir, that the Council do now go into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Council in Committee.
The Clerk read clause 1.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I beg to move as an amendment the addition of the following words at the end of the clause: "And shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Governor by proclamation to be published in the *Government Gazette*." The reason is this, that the substantive alteration of the law made by this Ordinance affects the regulations already made. If the Ordinance were to come into force at once, the effect of the regulations would be this, that no cattle could be removed except on the prescribed form, there being no prescribed form of permit.

The clause as amended was agreed to.
The Clerk read clauses 2 and 3, which were agreed to.
The Clerk read the preamble, which was agreed to.
The Clerk read the title, which was agreed to.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I beg, Sir, to move that the Council do now resume.

Council resumed.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I beg, Sir, to move that the Bill be read a third time and do pass.

THE HON. MR. M. T. AKBAR, K.C. (Solicitor-General), seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Small Towns Sanitary Ordinance.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I beg, Sir, to move the second reading of "An Ordinance further to amend 'The Small Towns Sanitary Ordinance, 1892.'"

THE HON. MR. M. T. AKBAR, K.C. (Solicitor-General), seconded.

July 3, 1925]

Council Debates.

285

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—Sir, I wonder whether the Honourable the Attorney-General is aware that in view of the new Ordinance just introduced by the Principal Civil Medical Officer this Ordinance is somewhat obsolete.

Section 2 says: "or, if the Governor so directs by notification in the *Government Gazette* a member of the Sanitary Commissioner's Department in place of such Provincial Surgeon." The draft of this Ordinance I see was made on October 9, 1924, and if this Bill is passed it seems likely that an amending Ordinance will have to be brought in.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—May I suggest that this matter be discussed in Committee, at which stage I will explain it.

The motion that the Bill be read a second time was passed.
The Bill was read a second time.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I beg to move, Sir, that Council do go into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Council in Committee.
The Clerk read clause 1, which was agreed to.
The Clerk read clause 2.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—If I may explain the position, it is this. As the law at present stands, the description of the Sanitary Commissioner's Department is correct, provided the Ordinance will be passed to-day. The Ordinance, the first reading of which the Principal Civil Medical Officer read to-day, will alter the Department, and it is so framed that it will transfer the powers and duties conferred on it by all the previous Ordinances, including this Ordinance, to the new Department. Therefore, I think that the Ordinance in its present form is correct.

The clause was agreed to.
The Clerk read the preamble, which was agreed to.
The Clerk read the title, which was agreed to.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I beg to move that the Council do now resume.

Council resumed.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I beg to move that the Bill be read a third time and do pass.

THE HON. MR. M. T. AKBAR, K.C. (Solicitor-General), seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Batticaloa Waterworks Ordinance.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I beg to move, Sir, the second reading of “ An Ordinance to declare the Batticaloa Waterworks to be vested in the Ceylon Government.”

THE HON. MR. M. T. AKBAR, K.C. (Solicitor-General), seconded.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—I wish to offer a few remarks on this Ordinance. We are aware of the fact that when necessity compels it is difficult to resist ; but I am not aware of the necessity which compelled the Batticaloa Local Board to come to Government for this Bill. The Government themselves are users of the water, a supply being provided for the Mantivu Asylum ; and if I heard the Honourable the Attorney-General aright, he told us that the Government would be prepared at any time to retransfer the works to the Local Board or its successor. I would wish that promise to be embodied in this Ordinance, and I therefore propose it as an amendment, although, I would wish to add, I do not for a moment doubt the intention of Government.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I think it will be better if that is done in Committee.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—If Government will accept my suggestion I shall be satisfied. I have mentioned it at this stage because I am asking that new matter be introduced into the Ordinance.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—Is that an amendment ?

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—It is a new provision, and I would propose it as an amendment.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—Let the Bill be read a second time. The matter can be taken up in Committee.

The motion that the Bill be read a second time was passed.
The Bill was read a second time.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I move, Sir, that Council go into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Council in Committee.

The Clerk read clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, which were agreed to.
The Clerk read the preamble.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—I should like a paragraph added embodying the promise that has been made, to the effect that Government undertakes, at a future date, if the Local Board or its successor so desires it, to retransfer the waterworks to that body.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I am sorry I cannot accept an amendment in that form, because its effect would be that if to-morrow the Local Board asked for the retransfer of the waterworks, Government would have to comply. What I would suggest to the Honourable Member is that I should read out the exact words of the undertaking Government gives, and that these should be recorded in Hansard. That should be sufficient for all practical purposes. The difficulty of giving an absolute undertaking as asked for by the Honourable Member is this, that if we hand the waterworks back we must be assured that the Board will then reundertake the liability for the repayment of the loan that has been given to them. As the Honourable Member is aware, the Local Board of Batticaloa passed the following resolution, and Government agreed to give an undertaking in terms of the resolution: "That the Board agrees to the present position being legalized, and recommends the passing of the Ordinance provided that Government will give an undertaking to consider the handing back of the waterworks to the Board or to its successor at some future date, should the Board or such successor then be in a position to manage the waterworks itself, guarantee a water supply to Mantivu Leper Asylum, and make satisfactory arrangements for the payment of interest and sinking fund on such balance of the original loan of Rs. 62,000 as may fairly be calculated as still remaining undischarged after any profits to Government on working have been considered." If we hand back the waterworks we will require arrangements to be made for the repayment of the loan, but we will credit the Board and debit ourselves with any profits made during our management of the waterworks.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—The promise was made so generously that I thought there would be no objection to its being embodied in the Ordinance itself instead of only having it in Hansard. But, as the Government can be expected to carry out their undertaking, I am content.

The preamble was agreed to.
The title was agreed to.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I move, Sir, that the Council do now resume.

Council resumed.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I move, Sir, that the Bill be read a third time and do pass.

THE HON. MR. M. T. AKBAR, K.C. (Solicitor-General), seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

Council at this stage adjourned for tea.

Parameshvara College, Jaffna.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division) :—I rise, Sir, to move the second reading of “An Ordinance to declare the constitution of Parameshvara College, Jaffna, and to incorporate the Board of Directors of the said College.”

About a fortnight ago, Sir, I moved the first reading of this Bill and explained its objects and reasons. I therefore do not think that I need trouble the House by speaking at length on the second reading. If Honourable Members have anything particular to say about this Bill, I shall be glad to reply.

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban) :—I beg, Sir, to second the motion. The Bill is a very simple one. The founder of the college, who has spent his time, money, and energies on something which is very useful to the country, desires to make it a permanent institution by having it incorporated. It is not for us to ask him to depart from principles he has laid down in establishing the college so long as they are not injurious to others ; and it cannot so far be said that the college has adversely affected anybody in Ceylon. It is, therefore, but right that we should give the Honourable Member all the support that we can by agreeing to make Parameshvara College a public institution of a permanent character. I think we owe a debt of gratitude to the founder of the college, who has had a great public career. Of the work which he has undertaken on behalf of the country, this will stand as his greatest achievement. I trust that the Bill will have the support of all the Members of this House.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division) :—I move, Sir, that a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the Bill.

Rule 46 of this Council's Rules and Orders provides that the Member who moves for the appointment of a Select Committee shall be its Chairman, if the President does not nominate another person, and His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Manning, said, with reference to the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the bill to incorporate the present Board of Electors of the Maradana Mosque—“the following members have been selected : the Honourable Member for the Northern Province, the Honourable Member for the Southern Province, the Honourable the Burgher Member, the Honourable Member for the North-Central Province, and the Honourable the Muhammadan Member as Chairman.” Nevertheless, I understand that there is an honourable gentleman here who does not like the operation of the rule that the mover of the Bill should be the Chairman of the Select Committee, and it is said that in this case the Chairman should be some other person.

This is an extraordinary proposal. I do not wish to be the Chairman of this Select Committee, but I think Rule 46 must be given effect to.

I may not have understood my honourable friend properly, but I am only speaking on the necessity of the rules of Council being carried out. Whether in a commercial bill, or an educational bill, or an agricultural bill, or a miscellaneous bill, or a private bill, the man who has best studied the subject and has framed a bill and has introduced it in Council ought, I think, to be the Chairman of the Committee. It would not do for persons to say that for special reasons, or for general reasons, or for understandable reasons, this rule should not be observed in any particular Bill. For my part I am sure that the Bill can look after itself; but it should not be stated that the man who took the trouble to study all the details of the question, who drafted the Bill, and who brought it into Council, should not be the Chairman of the Committee.

I want a representative Committee, Sir, and I therefore move that the following Honourable Members be appointed, namely, the Hon. Mr. W. A. de Silva, the Hon. Mr. D. B. Jayatilaka, the Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam, the Hon. the Attorney-General

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—I am sorry I cannot serve.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division):—The Hon. Mr. Jayah and myself.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT:—With yourself as Chairman?

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division):—No, thank you, Sir. This suspicion is gnawing into my heart.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT:—The Honourable Member is quite right that the mover of the Bill should be the Chairman of the Select Committee.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division):—Very well, Sir.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I could not quite catch all the names mentioned. As the Honourable Member is aware, there are, from the Government point of view, certain amendments which we have to insist on. I should therefore like to hear the names read out again.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, KT., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division):—The Hon. Mr. de Silva, the Hon. Mr. Jayatilaka, the Hon. Mr. Rajaratnam, the Hon. Mr. Jayah, and myself. I would like the Honourable the Attorney General to be on it, and also to be its Chairman.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL :—I should like to say why I cannot consent to serve on the Committee. In a private member's Bill, as a matter of policy, it is advisable that the Attorney-General should not serve on it.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—I should like to make a few remarks, Sir. The Honourable Member for the Northern Province, Northern Division, appears to see an imaginary foe before him. Where we have no rules of our own, we have to follow the rules of the British Parliament. Under those rules, a member moving a private Bill has no right to be on the Committee at all. I will quote from page 234 of The Manual of Proceedings in the Public Business of the House of Commons: "Every member of a Committee on an opposed private Bill must, before attending, sign a declaration that his constituents have no local interest, and that he has no personal interest in the Bill." Honourable Members will see from page 233 of the same book that "The Committee on opposed Bills consists of five members, namely, the Chairman of Ways and Means (who, when present, is *ex officio* Chairman), the Deputy Chairman, and two members from time to time selected by the Chairman of Ways and Means from a panel appointed by the Committee of Selection at the commencement of every Session, and the Counsel to the Speaker." The idea is that the Committee should be an independent Committee, and that no member of it should have any interest in the Bill. As regards the ethics of the Bill, I might say that when a private member's Bill goes before a Committee, that Committee is expected to be altogether disinterested in the matter.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—We have a general rule which apparently applies to all Committees. There is no exception made to it. The rule is that the member moving for the appointment of a Select Committee is to be the Chairman in the absence of the special appointment of the President, Vice-President, or Presiding Member.

I believe the Director of Education is of opinion that he had better not serve, and I therefore agree that, as the rule stands, the mover of the Bill, in the absence of a special appointment, should be the Chairman. When the report of the Select Committee comes before the House, Honourable Members can consider it.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The Government will assist the Honourable the Tamil Knight as much as possible, but the Official Members are so busy that they would prefer not to serve.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, K.T., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division) :—That is so like the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary, Sir. He is always generous.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—I put it to the House that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee composed of members whose names have been read out.

The motion was agreed to.

Licences for Arrack Distilleries.

THE HON. MR. D. B. JAYATILAKA (Colombo District):— I rise, Sir, to move—That in the opinion of this Council no licences be issued for distilling arrack in areas in which no distilleries existed when the contract supply system was introduced. Before I proceed, Sir, to speak on this motion, I think I should state the immediate reason for bringing forward this resolution. About a few months ago it came to my knowledge that Government had issued, or was intending to issue, a licence for establishing a distillery in Tambarawila in the Chilaw District, where arrack distilling had never been carried on before. This action on the part of Government is clearly a departure from the long-established practice of confining distilleries to a particular area, which came to be known as the distillery area even in Government records. That area extended from Panadure to Matara along the coast; but even there, I believe, some large districts and villages are excluded. The new proposal was to my mind an innovation, thoughtless, and so harmful to the interests of the country, that I thought that it should not be allowed to pass unchallenged. Accordingly a few weeks ago I tabled the resolution now before the House. About the same time His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government invited a number of temperance workers to a conference, and this distillery question was one of the subjects set for discussion. I therefore agreed to allow this motion to stand over till after the conference. On that occasion a number of important questions relating to local option and other excise matters were discussed, and in regard to some of them it was possible to come to some satisfactory conclusions. But in regard to the question of this distillery the attitude of Government was such that I felt it my duty to proceed with this resolution and invite this House to express its opinion upon what I consider to be a very important matter indeed.

The objections to the establishment of distilleries in new areas are very many. I do not, however, propose to discuss all those objections. I prefer to invite your attention only to a few of them. The first thing I would refer to is the demoralization of the people, which results invariably from the establishment of a distillery in any locality. Somehow or other the influence of a distillery upon the whole neighbourhood is felt in such a subtle, imperceptible manner as to create an atmosphere of wretchedness all round. I need not refer to the fact that distilleries always lead to illicit traffic. If you refer to the annual reports of the Excise Commissioner, you will find that in almost all of them great emphasis is laid on this fact. I need not weary the Council with quotations from these reports, which are available to all Honourable Members. It may, however, be urged that it is all ancient history, that no such things exist now, that that was the state of affairs when there were several hundreds of out-stills distributed along the coast from Panadure to Matara, but that now the distilleries are all concentrated, there are only four or five of them, and they are strictly supervised, so that no illicit traffic goes on to-day. I unhesitatingly admit that there is a good deal of truth in that contention, but that is not the whole truth. It is just possible at the present moment, as the contract supply system has come into existence very recently, that there is a certain amount of control over the traffic in arrack; but I am not quite so sure that even under the present system, with the

supervision now exercised by the Excise Department, there is no illicit sale in toddy. As a matter of fact, if I am correctly informed, in districts where distilleries do exist to-day there is greater illicit traffic in toddy than in the olden days. In the olden days, when arrack was distilled in small stills, the toddy was supplied from a small area near the still. It is not so to-day. Those who have travelled down the Galle road recently may have noticed the number of carts and lorries used in transporting toddy miles and miles away from the newly established distilleries, and there is every possibility—I believe it is a fact—that a good deal of illicit traffic in toddy goes on to-day in the distillery area. That is a very serious objection to the extension of the distillery system in districts where it was utterly unknown before.

Another very serious objection, Sir, to this proposal is that it is creating in a district which is a perfect stranger to the distillery system a new interest in this trade. A man is given a licence to open a distillery in a district where up to this day the coconut tree has been put to its legitimate use. In what has been known as the distillery area, all the Honourable Members present must have noticed that the coconut is grown, not so much for the nut as for the flower. But that is not the case in districts like Chilaw, which is noted as the best area for coconut cultivation. If this system of invading fresh territory for the purpose of establishing distilleries is sanctioned, the result will be that in those districts distilleries will spring up, and one of our best industries, the coconut industry, will be used for the purpose of producing arrack. I say this very emphatically.

Another very serious result will be that these distilleries will be run by capitalists. That is an important point to bear in mind. In the olden days a distillery, however imperfect it was, was not a positive danger to temperance work; but now a distillery costs money. I believe the Government distillery cost over Rs. 80,000 to build. I think these licensees who spend lakhs of rupees upon these institutions, will exert their influence upon the whole locality, extending for miles and miles, and that will be a very serious obstacle to the progress of temperance reform in this country. The Government always declares that it is its desire to promote temperance and to reduce the consumption of liquor. But I say that the step taken by Government in this matter proves at least that it at times fails to recognize the effects of its actions.

One other matter deserves careful consideration. Is there really any necessity for going outside the distillery area to establish fresh distilleries? Is it necessary to depart from the established practice? Why is it necessary to go outside this area? Why not continue to confine this evil to as narrow a sphere as possible? I am not convinced yet that there is any necessity whatsoever for the step Government has taken in this particular instance. I have with me some figures which a friend has kindly supplied to me. I believe they are accurate; if they are not, I hope that in the course of the discussion any inaccuracy will be pointed out. According to these figures, the consumption of arrack in this country has steadily decreased during the last eight or nine years. I shall only quote some of the figures. In 1915-16 the total sales of arrack amounted to 1,280,363 gallons. I skip over the intervening years and come to the period 1919-20, in which year the consumption decreased to 1,026,045 gallons. Now

I take the last year, 1923-24, and the figures for this year are 752,907 gallons. Within nine years the consumption of arrack has decreased by more than one-third. Unless something very extraordinary happens we can expect this decrease to continue. Perhaps in the year 1924-25 the consumption may not be more than 700,000 gallons, and the next year it may be still less. In view of this fact, the question arises, Why does Government want to increase the number of distilleries, and for that purpose to invade areas where arrack distilling had never been known? I am further informed that the distilleries which are in existence now in the distillery area can supply, and are bound to supply, much more than 700,000 gallons. Further, it seems there is a large stock of arrack in warehouses belonging to the old distilleries, amounting, I am told, to not less than 150,000 gallons. There is, therefore, apparently, nearly a million gallons available to Government. Further, I understand that the Excise Department adds 10 per cent. of water to the arrack which is now sold.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—It is in compliance with the law, and not against the law.

THE HON. MR. D. B. JAYATILAKA (Colombo District) :—I did not suggest at all that the Excise Department is acting illegally. Perhaps they want to help temperance reform by creating a distaste for arrack. But I understand that the victims of drink prefer to go to gin shops now, and as a result the consumption of gin is rapidly increasing.

Now, the point I wanted to urge is this. If the Government can secure a sufficient amount of arrack from the existing sources to meet, not the increasing demand, but the decreasing demand for arrack, what justification is there for establishing a new distillery, and that in a district like Chilaw? If, as I expect, and I am sure the Government expects it, there will be a continual decrease from year to year of the consumption of arrack, what is the Government going to do with the immense store of arrack which will be in their hands in the course of the next two or three years? The Excise Department, instead of trying to decrease the consumption of liquor, will be compelled by this very circumstance to try and increase the consumption. They are not going to throw away all the liquor in store even if there is 10 per cent. of Kalu-ganga water added to it.

When some years ago the Government proposed to establish a central distillery of its own for the purpose of manufacturing all the arrack that is necessary, a strong opposition was made to the proposal. Why? It was urged that it would be fatal to temperance progress if the Government got an interest in the liquor traffic. I say that if the Government acquires through this contract supply system a large stock of liquor for which there is no demand in the country, or for which the demand is decreasing, I fear very much that it will be a serious obstacle to temperance reform in this Island. The matter is not so complex a problem which requires a good deal of talking. Is the Government proposing to establish distilleries wherever there are coconut trees, or is the Government prepared to say that so long as there is necessity for manufacturing arrack they will confine distilleries to this particular area? When

there is plague in the country we take precautions to prevent it from spreading beyond the affected area. There may be Honourable Members who do not think that the manufacture of arrack or the sale of arrack is so dangerous as the plague. But when you take into consideration the actual results of this traffic, I venture to submit that it compares with the plague. That being so, I appeal to the Government to accept this motion which I have the honour of placing before this House, and to declare that it will not under any circumstances extend the area of distilleries. But whether the Government accepts this motion or not, I beg all the Honourable Members of this Council to give a clear expression to their views, and to submit to the Government that it is their wish that the established practice should not be violated in any case.

I have put before you, Sir, as briefly as possible, because I did not want to take up the time of the Council unnecessarily, a few of the salient points in regard to this question. It is of the utmost importance at this juncture that nothing should be done in any part of the country to create a fresh interest in the liquor traffic, especially in districts like the Chilaw District, where temperance progress has been rather slow. The establishment of this proposed distillery will be a great obstacle to all temperance work in this district. Hundreds of people are already being inveigled into the traffic directly or indirectly, and the result, I am perfectly sure, will be disastrous. It is not this question only that I would ask Honourable Members to consider, but the principle behind it. If the Government claims the right and says that they cannot agree to the suggestion made not to go outside the distillery area, then it may happen that distilleries may spring up anywhere, and with disastrous results to the people. I submit this resolution to the House in the sincere hope that it will be passed with the consent of all the Honourable Members.

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban) :— I rise, Sir, to second the resolution. I do not think it is necessary to go into the whole question of temperance, but I will look at it from the purely economic point of view, because if we preach temperance here I think there will be very few Honourable Members who will listen to us. This question of the establishment of distilleries is not a new one. The Honourable the European Member and myself were compelled for nearly two years, while we sat on the Excise Commission, to listen to all the arguments in support of and against the establishment of distilleries. During that time it was urged by the Excise Commissioner, Mr. Allnutt, that on no account should there be an extension of the operation of the tapping of coconut trees for toddy. It was pointed out over and over again that the problem was an economic one. But as a concession to the people who were already engaged in the liquor trade, it was pointed out that it might be allowed in the areas where trees had been used for the purpose of tapping toddy, because those trees might be of no use, and that the owners might consequently suffer. It was also pointed out that outside the area of eighty-seven miles from the bridge at Moratuwa to Matara, with a breadth of three miles, tapping for toddy would not be a paying proposition. The conclusion come to was a correct one.

In the rich district of Chilaw, where rainfall is scanty, the coconut tree produces more of economic value in nuts than in the tapping of trees for toddy. I can predict one thing, and that is, that if a man embarks on tapping his trees for toddy in an estate which is known as first class, although he will get a good quantity of toddy in the first year, in the subsequent years he will not get as much, and he will have ruined his trees. But the whole question hinges on this. If it was expected that the quantity of arrack required could not be obtained from the area which was hitherto being tapped for that purpose, that might account for a search for new fields. But since 1914 the consumption of arrack has been going down. I have some correct figures with me, and they show that 1,500,000 gallons were supplied for consumption in 1912, 1913, and 1914 through the tapping of trees in that area, but now only half that quantity is required, and Government intends going into speculative ventures all over the country. There must be something behind that, though not necessarily something sinister. Alcoholic optimism is very great in some people. These people expect that in the next few years the people will make up their minds to make up for lost time, and that the present consumption of 800,000 gallons will reach 1,200,000 gallons within perhaps the next two years. There has been a certain amount of kite flying—showing that through the restriction in the consumption of arrack there has been a large increase in the consumption of cheap gin. Well, I have been looking into those figures also, and I find that whereas in 1912 to 1915 the consumption of gin was 150,000 gallons, it is only 75,000 gallons now. Of course, there have been fluctuations, but the consumption of gin has gone down by half during the past decade.

The question to be decided then is, is it necessary to establish new distilleries, and if it is, is it advisable, and is it in the interests of the country, to tap trees where they yield best and where they are of the most economic value? Travellers along the Galle road will find barrels of toddy exposed from morning to night, and anybody may have a drink who is so inclined, because these barrels are being looked after by nobody. It will be seen, therefore, that it is proposed to introduce this danger to another area without there being any necessity for it, and it is for that reason I say that the alcoholic optimism now being displayed should be reduced. We in this Council should try and reduce that optimism by expressing our views in unmistakable terms. It is too serious a question to be decided in an office room.

Let us go back to the declared policy of Government. If Honourable Members will examine the reports of Excise Commissioners and other officers, they will find mention made of the fact that the coconut tree is of greater use for the nuts which it yields than for tapping for toddy. I do not know whether the Government is in a difficult position in the present instance, but if it is, all I can say is that it has got out of more difficult positions than this. If the Government has made any promises over this matter they are worth nothing.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—The promises of Government are worth a good deal.

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban) :— Sometimes ; but when they are likely to result in something unforeseen, Government is perfectly justified in going behind those promises. The Government is here to see that its promises are not carried out in a case like the present, otherwise the Government might as well be carried on with the aid of a gramophone. If the Government had promised something five years ago, and it found that circumstances prevented its being granted because it is against the interests of the public, it should not carry out its promise, and the Government should also be prepared to take all the blame under the circumstances. I trust that, unless there is a legal binding which cannot be remedied without our having to pay half a year's revenue of the Colony, this licence will not be granted.

THE HON. MR. V. S. DE S. WIKREMANAYAKE (Southern Province, Southern Division) :—Sir, when the last speaker said that this House might not care to listen to any remarks on temperance, I do not know whether he meant that most of us are intemperate people. I think that in fact most of us are temperance men, and that we would be only too glad to listen to anything on temperance. I shall not deal with the points already raised by the mover or seconder of the motion, but I should like to point out a few aspects which occurred to me, and which deserve some consideration. The case in question is not a solitary case. There have been several cases where the Government has granted licences of this nature, and the multiplication of these cases would make the people suspect the intentions of Government. It was only the other day that in my district, on the representations of somebody or other, the Governor in Executive Council chose to alter the decision of the Excise Advisory Committee and allow certain taverns to continue. Then again, the Honourable Member representing the Kalutara Revenue District brought to the notice of this Council a case at Panadura, where although by the will of the people the taverns were closed, the Government gave a licence to a hotel proprietor to sell liquor. Now we find an instance in which the Government is trying to establish a distillery in Chilaw, a district where, it is said, an arrack distillery has not been known. The multiplication of these cases, I submit, would make the people suspect the intentions of Government ; and for the good name of British administration, I would suggest that this resolution should be accepted by Government.

There is another question to be considered. It would be very difficult for Government to control this distillery once it is established owing to its distance from the town of Chilaw, and it may be that the Excise Department will require further hands to control it. That, I think, is another argument why the Government should not establish this distillery. I think the present area utilized is quite sufficient to produce the required quantity of arrack. If that is so, I do not see any reason why the Government should go so far away as Chilaw for another distillery. They can have another distillery in the same area. I cannot really understand the principle of the Government's action in manufacturing arrack. When it comes to a question of industries, the Government says that it is best for the people to undertake it ; but when it comes to a question of arrack, the Government is

prepared to manufacture it. I do not know how Government could justify that principle at all. These are some of the points that came to my mind. I heartily support the motion.

THE HON. THE ACTING CONTROLLER OF REVENUE :—I think I may deal at first with the necessity for going outside the present distillery area. We have been told that 1,000,000 gallons are available to Government in the hands of certain gentlemen at Kalutara. At the present moment Government is in possession of less than 200,000 gallons, and when the establishment of this distillery was considered, there was insufficient arrack to go beyond June of this year. Arrack, as Honourable Members know, has to be matured before it is given out for consumption. Well, Government called for tenders for additional arrack. The Kalutara distillers formed a ring and refused to let Government have this except at an exorbitant price. Government had itself, in its own distillery, in 1922 manufactured arrack at Re. 1·84, including depreciation and sinking fund. In the following year the cost came down to Re. 1·65, including sinking fund and depreciation. The distillers tried to force Government to buy their stock at Rs. 2·25. The lowest price demanded was Rs. 2·09. The gentleman who undertook to establish a distillery at Tambarawila agreed to give it to Government at Rs. 2, the contract to run for four years. Government, I might mention, had to transport its toddy from a greater distance than it was necessary for the Kalutara distillers to do.

With regard to the remark that the establishment of this distillery is likely to bring about demoralization, I may say that in the old days there was a grave chance of such a thing happening. But under the present system it is impossible to get at the arrack. It is possible to get at toddy between the tree and the road. Further, I may state that women will not be affected at all, because women neither in Chilaw nor in Kalutara acquire the drink habit. But the point is this. If you admit that there is a chance of demoralization by establishing a distillery on the confines of the Chilaw District, you must admit that exactly the same chance of demoralization exists in the Kalutara District or in any part of the so-called distillery area, because now-a-days the trees which have to be tapped are a considerable distance away from any distillery which has been erected. The opening of a distillery, therefore, will have exactly the same effect whether it is situated in Chilaw or in Kalutara. There is one advantage in having a distillery established on the borders of Chilaw, about half a mile from the Maha-oya, and that is, that it is likely to have an extremely good effect on the nest of illicit stills in the Negombo District.

The honourable the mover of the motion spoke of the "imperceptible influence," of distilleries and the "atmosphere of wretchedness" which they cause. Well, within a mile or so of the proposed site for the distillery is Negombo District with its illicit stills, and I do not think you can find a very much wetter spot than the south part of the Chilaw District. Therefore, the establishment of this distillery cannot do very much more harm than has already been done. Another point about this is that the people themselves, in many cases, have welcomed the establishment of a distillery. It gives them a chance of earning, which they would not have otherwise.

With regard to the coconut tree being put to its legitimate use, the licence will be only for four years. There is no necessity for Government to prolong it beyond that period. The chief object of Government is to bring prices down. So far as I am aware, there is a considerable amount of toddy tapping going on in the Chilaw District already; and as to the argument that tapping for toddy will ruin the coconut tree, that is entirely the concern of the distiller. He is not going outside the properties of himself and his family, and if he chooses to ruin his trees it is nobody else's business.

Some figures were quoted with regard to the consumption of gin. I do not think those figures are correct. I had the figures before me the other day, and as far as I recollect there has been an extremely large increase in the consumption of gin. I obtained those figures from the Customs about three days ago.

THE HON. MR. W. A. DE SILVA (Central Province, Urban):—
I obtained mine from Mr. Turner, the Director of Statistics.

THE HON. THE ACTING CONTROLLER OF REVENUE:—
Then, with regard to the Hon. Mr. de Silva's reference to Mr. Allnutt's report, I must say that I was rather taken aback. I know that Mr. Allnutt was averse to the distilling of arrack from palm toddy, and that he preferred molasses. Well, the logical conclusion of the demoralization plea is that toddy arrack should be given up and that molasses should take the place of toddy. If this is a sound plea for Tambarawila, it is equally sound for Kalutara. There is also the possibility of Government taking over all the manufacture of arrack. I do not say for one moment that Government is pledged to do so. Government has not pledged itself to this, but there is a possibility of its taking place in the future. If Honourable Members want to put down illicit drinking, the obvious thing to do is to supply more excise staff.

THE HON. MR. T. Y. WRIGHT (European Rural Member):—Sir, I have no particular interest in this motion, but I should like to say a word about it. I believe this area talked about is somewhere near Kochchikadde, and I think my honourable friend is mistaken in saying that there was no distillery there before. There was one there, and very close to the present place too. There seemed to be a suggestion that tapping in this area was something new. This is not so. I have been in that area a good many years, and I have seen any amount of trees tapped there. It was only two weeks ago I was there, and was told that trees had been given out at anything from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10 per tree for only seven months, and that is a big amount. I admit that tapping will do harm to the tree, but afterwards, in a year or two, there is a superstition amongst the villagers that the trees will yield very much better.

Another aspect that would have to be considered is the unemployment that will occur if tapping is stopped. Many in that district do earn their livelihood by tapping toddy, and it will be hard on them if tapping is stopped. Newspaper reports show that in the north owing to local option the tappers are starving. These men had been used to tapping for generations and cannot get other employment. Figures have been quoted to show that the

consumption of gin has decreased. I rather agree with the Honourable the Acting Controller of Revenue that there must be some mistake about the figures given with reference to cheap gin. Everywhere we go we find people, on account of toddy and arrack taverns being closed, taking to cheap gin.

THE HON. MR. C. E. VICTOR COREA (Colombo Town, North):— I think I may without being charged with lack of modesty claim to be one of the earliest opponents of the Excise Bill. In 1912, when the Excise Bill was introduced in this Council, the Chilaw Association, of which I am a member, took the matter up and adduced many arguments to show that this Excise Scheme would be prejudicial to the best interests of the people of this country. But the Government took up a very lofty attitude. They said that they were the foremost temperance organization in the Island, and promised that there would be no taverns or toddy shops close to schools or places of worship. They also said that they would not allow any taverns to be established near public places, like bathing places, and so on. But every one of these promises has been violated. I say, Sir, that in no other matter has the Government of Ceylon brought upon itself so much distrust, suspicion, and, I may say, even disgrace, as in the matter of its Excise policy. And the attitude, Sir, adopted by Government officials in the matter of local option has gone far towards making people more distrustful of the Government.

In regard to this distillery at Tambarawila, I am in a position to speak, since I belong to the Chilaw District. I may say that although Tambarawila is populated mainly by Christians, practically all the villages abutting on it eastwards are inhabited by Buddhists, and there is very strong feeling amongst them against a distillery being established as it were in their very midst. I do not know, Sir, who is responsible for the establishment of this distillery, and how it came to be sanctioned without the knowledge of the Honourable Members of this Council. I think, Sir, that before a distillery is opened in an area where such a thing was never known before, it is the bounden duty of Government to place before the Members of this House the reasons which prompt them to permit such a distillery. I have great pleasure in supporting the motion.

THE HON. MR. C. H. Z. FERNANDO (North-Western Province, Western Division):—I have pleasure, Sir, in supporting the motion introduced in such a masterly speech by the Honourable Member for Colombo District. I feel that the planting of such a distillery within my constituency will be a desecration of the premier coconut district of the Island, a position which it has enjoyed since the first coconut was washed to the shores of this Island from an outside country. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government in a most inspiring address told us this morning that in matters of temperance it is the policy of Government to ascertain the will of the people and to act according to the will of the people. I very much regret that in the matter of establishing a distillery at Tambarawila Government did not take the trouble to ascertain the wishes and the will of the people. If Government had taken the trouble to find out the will of the people, they would have found that the will of the people would have been expressed entirely against such a proposal. After the Honourable Member for Colombo District had placed his motion

on the Agenda, I was asked by Government as to what I thought of the proposal. I visited the district twice. I went about those villages, and I was sorry to find that it was too late in the day, and that a very large number of the poor villagers had been drawn into the meshes of this distillery. I saw that a large number of owners of fairly large estates had taken out contracts to supply toddy to the distillery. I also found that a very large number of villagers, some with only a few coconut trees, had contracts to supply toddy to the directors of this distillery. I then felt that if I tried to find out the will of the people on this subject, the will of the people as expressed would naturally be biassed by the fact that many of them were having a little financial interest in this distillery. I must admit that certain safeguards exist in the case of this distillery as regards the tappers. I understand that the renter has agreed to house the tappers in his own land in order that they may bring with them their wives and children to their temporary homes at Tambarawila. It starts under very good auspices, but one never knows what it would degenerate into. I do not know what effect the acceptance of this motion will have on the matter. If the effect is that the licences will have to be cancelled, ample compensation will have to be paid. I do not care what compensation is paid to the distiller. That is no concern of mine. But I would like to know what will happen to the unfortunate villagers, most of whom have taken advances in money. These unfortunate men should be amply compensated. I feel that Government has granted the issue of these licences without sufficient thought. Once a mistake has been made an attempt is made to persist in it. We should not judge a matter such as this in rupees and cents. The lives and souls of these people are much more precious. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District):—I rise, Sir, to make a few remarks on this very interesting subject. I may at the outset say that the object of my honourable friend's motion has my heartiest support, but I disagree with the mode and manner suggested to attain it. I have seen something of the manners of temperance advocates on a recent occasion, and it was left to me to learn that day that some temperance workers had forgotten their manners. They were ready to attribute motives to men who took part in the debate and took a certain line of conduct. My honourable and gallant friend Colonel Wright and myself on that occasion took a view different to that of the temperance workers, and it was said that because we were "fond of the bottle" we adopted that attitude. No one would be happier than I am to see the temperance workers in Ceylon attaining the millennium they have in view. But I can assure them that their millennium cannot be achieved by the methods they seem to be pursuing. If they take to heart the advice given by the Officer Administering the Government, I think they would rather than taking short cuts to reach the millennium take the narrow and more difficult path of educating the people and acting on the people's understanding and free will rather than imposing on them restriction without their consent. The honourable the mover of the motion said, I believe, "that the plague spots should be allowed to become more plague stricken," but why should we not remove the plague elsewhere and so relieve those areas?

I was surprised to find, Sir, that some of our temperance workers had forgotten the standard of conduct expected of men as men, and when the honourable the seconder of the motion said that Government must not keep their promise in this case I was startled. I think the Government at once remonstrated. I tried to follow the philosophy of my honourable friend. He says that when you make a promise, unless it is a legal promise you must not keep it! I have lived to learn, Sir, to-day that there is a difference between a legal promise and a moral promise. I was glad to hear my honourable and gallant friend the European Rural Member stating facts that were within his knowledge as regards the area in which the distillery is proposed to be established. The Honourable Member for the Western Division of the North-Western Province said that the establishment of this distillery would desecrate the holy land which he represents, but I take no serious objection to that remark. I hope that this House will discuss this question in a very reasonable manner. My sincerest sympathies are with the temperance workers, and I can assure them that if they work in a reasonable manner, not by fits and starts, and without disregarding the interests of individuals who may suffer by any action of their's, their object would be the sooner attained. I think the whole of this question should not be taken piecemeal, and I hope that the view I have expressed will be taken in the spirit in which it was meant. I do not for a moment say that the Government was thoughtless in having given this contract, and I think Government would never have taken such a step wantonly. To ask us to subscribe to a motion of this sort on the arguments adduced in this House by the honourable the mover is asking too much of us. If the request contained in the motion is that the whole question should be considered, or that the rules should be revised, we would be able to support it. But when the honourable mover says that no new area shall be opened up, and that irrespective of all conditions, I think, Sir, he is asking us to follow blindly what I might call a sort of temperance stunt. There may be those who think, as the newspapers said, that there are people who have what are called vested interests, but I am sure that my honourable friends will not accuse me of having vested interests. I feel that a motion of this sort should never have been brought into this Council with the request that Honourable Members should give it their support. I oppose the motion.

THE HON. MR. C. W. W. KANNANGARA (Southern Province, Western Division):—I wish to point out, Sir, that the promises of the Government are not with the contractor but with the people. In the first place, Government has openly declared that it is the greatest temperance organization in the Island. But what did it do? It established hundreds of taverns all over the country. In the second place, when there was a terrible outcry, Government granted the right of local option, and again declared that it is the greatest temperance organization. But it permitted tapping in dry areas. Then again it declared quite openly that it is the greatest temperance organization, and granted tavern licences in dry areas. Now we have here before us to-day a case of an attempt at establishing a distillery in a place where distilleries do not exist. It was hardly nine hours ago that we heard from the mouth of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government that Government was the greatest temperance organization, and now we are considering the question

whether a distillery should be opened in a place where such establishments did not exist. As regards the promise entered into by Government, perhaps under a written document, I openly declare, Sir, that we have greater faith in the words of Government than in its bonds. Government should not break its promise made to the people openly here in this Council in and out of season. Hardly had His Excellency Sir William Manning left our shores than it was sought to go behind his words so openly spoken. His Excellency Sir William Manning used in this Council the following words on September 28, 1922 :—

It has been stated by one or two speakers that I have on more than one occasion stated that I would bow to the will of the people. There were two occasions on which I made that statement, and I do wish Honourable Members would engrave them on their memories. One word in connection with domestic legislation. I said that in such cases of domestic legislation I naturally would listen to the will of the people. It was not a matter in which I considered that the official vote should be taken. The second occasion was in connection with the question of temperance. On that occasion also I said that in questions of that sort Government would be guided, and rightly, by the will of the people rather than by the official vote.

I hope, Sir, that at this debate the officials will not vote. I trust that Government will not go behind the declaration made by the late Governor, but will adhere to that declaration.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) :—Sir, I wish to make a few remarks on this motion, but before I do so I wish to refer to the remarks of the Honourable Member for the Batticaloa Revenue District. He has taken exception to some words of mine. He seems hurt at my remarks. He thinks that I was wanting in good manners when I referred to people against the temperance cause as those who were “fond of the bottle.” I am glad the Honourable Member made a reference to my remarks, because I feel that the very fact that those words have hurt him should make him ashamed of making nasty remarks about temperance workers. My remarks were general; if they applied to anyone it is not my fault.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—I object to these remarks, Sir.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—I must say I do not like the reference. A general assertion is all right; but when you point to some member, I must say your remarks are out of order.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) :—I was making a reference, Sir, to a remark the Honourable Member made in open Council. He stated that I did not know manners in making certain remarks, and I am now showing that when I spoke I was not referring to him but to people who were assailing temperance workers. If he is one of those people assailing temperance workers, it is no fault of mine.

THE HON. MR. E. R. TAMBIMUTTU (Batticaloa Revenue District) :—I object again to those remarks.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—I think we might go on with the motion.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District):—With regard to the remarks of Government, I must say that I was under the impression that they had a stronger case than the one put forward. I was not aware of the reasons that induced Government to grant this licence, and I thought they were better than those adduced by the spokesman of Government. He began by saying that there were only 200,000 gallons of arrack, and that it would have lasted only till June; therefore it was necessary to grant this licence. If that was a good argument, the arrack had to be supplied before June.

THE HON. THE ACTING CONTROLLER OF REVENUE:—I never said so. I said that Government called for supplementary tenders.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District):—If there is no arrack just now, or there is no means of getting arrack, or if there will be a shortage of arrack within a reasonable date, then there may be some justification for the grant of this licence; but there is no reason to anticipate any such contingency. The Honourable the Controller of Revenue himself said that the people of the Kalutara area offered the arrack, but at Rs. 2·25 a gallon. That was considered too high, and when they found a person in Tambarawila prepared to supply at the rate of Rs. 2 per gallon they entered into a contract. Let us examine this statement. We know that there are distilleries at Kalutara, and that Government is paying Rs. 2·25, and the very fact of the Government paying this sum shows that it is a reasonable rate. I may also say that it costs the Government almost Rs. 2 to distil, and it is only natural for a distiller to expect a reasonable profit. Nobody embarks on business without expecting to make profit. The principle of working without profit was never put forward as the policy of Government, although it was indicated when the Ordinance was introduced that there were renters who were driving horses and carriages, and this was an eyesore to some officials. Government is not paying an unreasonable rate now, and so, why cut down the present price at which it is buying? Government has stated that they are not going to make money over the drink traffic but to control it. But the present instance shows that Government's desire is, not only to control the traffic, but that they are actuated by considerations of profit, and on that score I say that the action of Government in regard to this distillery is wrong in principle. I should like to mention another fact with regard to the two-rupee rate, and that is, that if you try to cut down rates without allowing a reasonable margin of profit, you will find many unlawful practices creeping in and illicit sales will become common. So that, although the Government may start with the best of intentions, I say that it is not good policy to issue this licence for the reasons adduced by the Government.

The Honourable the Controller of Revenue spoke of the Maha-oya as being close to the distillery area. I thought when he was referring to the Maha-oya he was referring to the convenience of adding 20 per cent. of water that is now used to legally adulterate the arrack. But his reference to the Maha-oya was with the intention of bringing in the Negombo District into the discussion. He says that there were illicit sales there. Well, I am surprised at the remark. I have very often heard Government making statement after statement that there is illicit sale here, illicit sale there,

and illicit sale everywhere, and on that score they point the finger of scorn at temperance workers. But do they realize that when they refer to illicit sales here and there that the reflection is on them? Do they realize that it is the Government, and not the temperance workers, who have to see that illicit sales are prevented? If the Government can come here and say that illicit distilleries exist, and if the Controller of Revenue knows that it is so, why does he wink at them?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I must very strongly object to that expression, Sir. The Government does not wink at these things.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—The Honourable Member for Negombo should not use these expressions.

THE HON. MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE (Negombo District) :—I am sorry for having used the expression, Sir. The statement was made on behalf of Government that there is illicit distilling of arrack in Negombo, and this shows that the Government must be aware of it; otherwise, I do not think the statement would have been made. Well, why cannot the Government, with all the officers at its command, put this illicit distilling down? I do not say that illicit distilling does or does not exist in Negombo, but even if it does, I do not think it is quite so common as it has been made out to be. With regard to the licensed distillery that existed at Kochchikadde, I do not think it could be compared to the present distillery. In that distillery molasses were used and not toddy.

One of our objections to this distillery is that the trees from which toddy will be tapped are scattered all over the place, and it is possible for toddy to be consumed by the people collecting it and for illicit sales to take place. I should like to state another reason for insisting that distilleries should be confined to one area. This is a reason of Government. Some time ago the temperance party wanted tapping for toddy to be restricted to the wet areas. The Acting Commissioner of Excise was asked to report on it, and in his report he gave his reasons why tapping should be allowed in dry areas. He wrote as follows :—

The argument is that, if an area is voted "dry," there should be no tapping there ever for distilleries. The distillery area comprises a belt of trees running along the coast line from Moratuwa to Dondra. The trees have been planted at specially close intervals for purposes of tapping, and it is stated on the best authority that a great many of them would come down if they were not coupled and if nuts were allowed to grow on them, as owing to the close manner in which they have been planted, they have grown very tall and slender, and could not stand a severe gale of wind or the weight of a heavy crop of nuts. It is estimated that there are more than 500,000 trees of this description, and the loss that would accrue to the tree owners by the destruction of these trees can easily be imagined. The argument ignores the vested interests of the tree owners, who have for generations made a greater profit from the tapping of these trees than could possibly be secured from them in any other way, and the unsuitability of the trees for growing nuts. It also ignores the impracticability of coupling trees planted at wider intervals elsewhere for drawing toddy for the distilling industry. This industry is one of the oldest in Ceylon, was in existence long before the advent of the British, is almost entirely financed by Sinhalese capital, and has provided and continues to provide employment for as many as 30,000 men. If the principle of the prohibition of the tapping of toddy in "dry areas" were extended to the distillery area and this area went "dry," not only would the tree owners and the distillers be ruined, but most of those men would be thrown out of the only employment for which they have been trained, and a very serious situation would arise.

July 3, 1925]

Council Debates.

305

That was the argument used against the temperance party when they requested that dry areas should be kept dry. The Government said that the people had to earn their living and that they must continue to allow them to do so. The reason why we do not want this distillery planted in Tambarawila is that it will lead to a large extent to the demoralization of the people. I say that, even if the Government has already committed itself and has to pay compensation or damages, it should so do rather than allow demoralization to set in.

THE HON. MR. S. RAJARATNAM (Northern Province, Central Division) rose to speak.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—Has the Honourable Member anything new to say? The discussion has gone on very long, the hour is late, and we cannot adjourn the discussion for another day. I hope the Honourable Member will kindly make his remarks short.

THE HON. MR. S. RAJARATNAM (Northern Province, Central Division) :—This is only the second or third occasion on which I have risen to speak in this House, and I am exceedingly sorry that the Honourable the Vice-President has made the remarks he did, especially at a junior Member of the Council.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—I did not make any remarks to the junior Members of Council especially. I said that the hour was getting late, and I asked the Honourable Member to make his remarks short to enable us to close the debate to-day. I do not make any distinction between junior and senior Members of Council.

THE HON. MR. S. RAJARATNAM (Northern Province, Central Division) :—I am sorry if anything I said was taken as an insinuation against the Honourable the Vice-President, and I therefore withdraw the remarks. I have spoken in this Assembly on only two occasions, and on those occasions I was as brief as possible. I had not intended to do anything more on this debate than to give a silent vote in support of the motion, but in view of one or two remarks made by the Government spokesman and other Honourable Members, I thought it my duty to challenge their statements as early as possible.

It was stated that a ring has been formed in certain districts with a view to forcing the Government to buy arrack at a higher price. Well, where is this thing going to end? If this year they are demanding Rs. 2.25 per gallon, next year they may combine again and demand Rs. 5 per gallon. The formation of rings must be expected in every trade, and the duty of the Government in the present case is to be able to cope with the ring, but not by putting a dangerous article in the midst of the people. I am glad that the Government is faced with these difficulties, because I feel that the Government has unnecessarily entered into a bad trade, which I hope it will soon give up. I also hope that the Government will not unnecessarily import arrack from India whenever they fail to get the required quantity here, and that they will fulfil the many promises made to the people that they are the greatest temperance organization in the Island.

We have often heard it said that the Government is bent on making money. Now, the Government of Ceylon is composed of both Official and Unofficial Members of Council. Money is collected

by the Government, not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of people. I therefore say that if the Government wants money for the benefit of all, we will be prepared to tax ourselves in other ways to find the money. But we want the Government to do away with this evil. Let there be no difference of opinion on the matter between Officials and Unofficials. If the Government want more money, let them come to us, and I am certain that we will impose any further taxes so that they might have the necessary money to carry out further good work in sanitation, education, and so on.

THE HON. MR. A. H. E. MOLAMURE (Ratnapura Revenue District):—I should like to make a few remarks on this subject, Sir. I do so because I unfortunately failed to express my views the other day in connection with the granting of foreign liquor licences in the Panadure District. I voted for the motion on a principle. Perhaps I misunderstood the Honourable the Attorney-General, but I thought I heard him say that even if this Council accepted the motion it would not be adhered to, or something to that effect.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—I did not say that.

THE HON. MR. A. H. E. MOLAMURE (Ratnapura Revenue District):—I certainly objected to the principle involved in that motion, and on that principle I rise to-day to oppose this motion. Let it not be understood for a moment that I am against the temperance movement, or that I am against local option. My honourable friend Mr. Senanayake will bear me out when I say that I have done a good deal in my district for the furtherance of the temperance cause. I have taken a great deal of interest in the matter of local option. I may say that I did so for the reason that I felt, as a result of the deputations that waited on me, that the people of the villages really wanted the abolition of certain taverns; and, therefore, in spite of the fact that I take an occasional drink, I supported the wish of the populace.

Now, the Government having granted to us the concession of local option, by which we can do away with drink, I do not think it is fair, or constitutional, to ask this House to vote piecemeal on matters of this nature. That is my principal objection to this motion. I am not at all interested in the matter of whether a distillery is established in the Chilaw District or not; but I certainly would not advocate the establishment of a distillery in Ratnapura. The Government, rightly or wrongly, decided on doing a certain thing, and there is no doubt that according to the existing law they were perfectly within their rights in entering into any contracts or granting licences for distilleries. Well, in the present case, although there might be no notarial agreement as yet, if the Government entered into negotiations with a private individual, and made him understand that they were willing to allow him to do certain things, I do not think it is fair for any Honourable Member of this Council to come here and ask us to vote against the action of Government. But if the Government is going to be compelled to give us further concessions in regard to local option, I am prepared to vote for it. This piecemeal method of carrying through the ideas of staunch prohibitionists is not fair either by the Government or by this Assembly or by the people of the country. Although I am very sorry to do so, I must, on the principle on which I have taken my stand, oppose this motion, and I will, very reluctantly, vote against it.

THE HON. MR. G. A. H. WILLE (First Burgher Member):—I wish, Sir, to make a very brief remark on what seems to me to be the scope of the motion. In view of the very strong representations made on behalf of the people, I think that the Government should accept the motion. I cannot quite appreciate the difficulty that has been raised by the supporters of the motion. I do not think that this motion touches what has already been done by Government—whether rightly or wrongly. No question arises of damages having to be paid to satisfy vested interests or of keeping any promise—whether verbal or otherwise.

It is quite clear that the establishment of distilleries in areas in which there have been no distilleries before is, according to the Government view itself, a necessary evil. The Honourable the Controller of Revenue has urged in defence of what has been done in this particular case that there are illicit sales going on, and also that there was the necessity for lowering the price of arrack. I do not think that those are sufficient reasons for establishing a distillery where distilleries have not existed before. As I have said before, I do not think we are concerned with any particular distillery established by Government. We need not attribute motives to Government for what has been done, because we know that Government carries out its policy in regard to excise from the best motives; and I therefore think that we can accept their action, whether it is right or wrong in our view, as one that has been dictated by the best reasons that appeared to them. But so far as the future is concerned, I think that the Government should accept the wishes of the representatives of the people. These wishes have been expressed in no uncertain way, and the Government will do credit to itself and to the people by accepting this motion.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—Sir, I think that we are all very tired, and I will, therefore, try to be as brief as possible. The Honourable Member for the Central Province, Urban, said that it was the duty of Government to be blamed. Evidently the Government has done its duty and it has been blamed. I do not think it has been blamed fairly.

I desire to express my thanks both to the honourable the mover of the motion and to the seconder for the very fair and moderate manner in which they brought the motion up, and I might say that I would be prepared on behalf of the Government to go to the length of saying that I would be willing to accept an amendment to the effect that in future before any licence for a distillery is issued the application for it shall be laid on the table of this House. I will be perfectly willing to go so far as that; but in the matter of this particular licence, Honourable Members do not appear to be aware that we have entered into a contract with Dr. M. G. Perera to supply us with 100,000 gallons of arrack for four years. If we break that contract we should have to pay as compensation or damages a sum of something like Rs. 400,000. That is the figure given to me. When we go into Finance Committee, do Honourable Members think that the Committee would agree to vote that amount?

I will go further and explain how exactly we came to enter into the contract, so that the House may realize what the position is. As His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government said this morning, there are about one million people who drink arrack in this country, and we have to supply them with about 800,000 gallons

a year. We have to get this arrack from somewhere. If we get it from this country, then it is arrack produced from toddy. If we get it from outside, it is arrack produced from molasses; and if we do this the Government would be doing its duty and be blamed obviously because it was throwing 30,000 and more out of employment. If we try to get the arrack out of coconut trees, we are again between the devil and the deep sea, because we have to get it either from a wet or a dry area. If we get it from a dry area—and most of the Kalutara District is dry—we are cursed, because it is said that we are giving facilities for drink in a dry area. If we go for it to Chilaw, where one Honourable Member said that temperance work had not made much headway, we are again blamed. It is impossible, under these circumstances, for the Government ever to do the right thing.

However, with regard to this particular distillery at Tambarawila, it is not a fact that we did not ascertain the will of the people. The matter was brought to my notice as Controller of Revenue, and I ordered the Excise Commissioner to go to Tambarawila and see the authorities there—the priest of the Roman Catholic Church—and to find out what his views were. The priest in charge of the church had no objection whatever to the distillery being placed on Dr. M. G. Perera's own estate, which is not far from the church. Well, I did more. I wrote to the Assistant Government Agent myself. He went round the district, and he then wrote to me that there were no objections to the establishment of the distillery. Unfortunately, at that time the result of the election for the Chilaw seat in the Legislative Council was a matter of doubt, and we therefore could not consult either of the candidates. I do not think I need say any more on the subject, but I should like to know whether the mover and seconder are prepared to withdraw their motion on the assurance I have given them.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division):—Am I to understand, Sir, that when an application is laid on the table of this House the Government will abide by the verdict of this House?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—When an application is placed on the table, the House can then raise the question. Every member will have the opportunity of seeing it, and if they have any objections they can carry them to the Colonial Secretary and the Governor.

THE HON. MR. F. A. OBEYESEKERE (Southern Province, Central Division):—And no steps will be taken without the consent of this House?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—I cannot give that assurance.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT:—I suppose it will be open to any member to take any action on the application.

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, Kt., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division):—How does the Government stand in reference to the present case?

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT:—I think that the motion touches the present case.

July 3, 1925]

Council Debates.

309

THE HON. SIR PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN, Kt., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division):—What are the facts of the present case?

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The licence has not actually been issued; therefore it does come within the purview of the present motion. Of course, we have entered into a contract.

THE HON. MR. D. B. JAYATILAKA (Colombo District):—During the interval, Sir, the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary offered to me some terms, but, after considering the matter over, I feel that I should not withdraw this motion. I may, however, say that I am very thankful to the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary for his offer as regards the future. Whatever the result of this debate, I do hope that the Government will adhere to its promise. I am also thankful to the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary as well as to the Honourable the Controller of Revenue for the spirit in which they placed before the Council the Official view. Neither of them condemned my motion as a "stunt," nor did they say that in bringing this motion before Council I had acted either "unfairly" or "unconstitutionally." Strangely enough that attitude was taken by one of my Unofficial colleagues. I am not an authority on constitutional law, but I do really fail to understand where the unconstitutional character of my motion comes in when I simply ask this House to express an opinion on a matter of vital importance to the country. My honourable friend who, on principle, refuses to allow a distillery to be erected in Ratnapura, is, on the same principle, going to vote for a distillery in Chilaw. He says that the Government has exercised a certain right, and when the Government has exercised that right we should not question it. Strange constitutional doctrines these! If we adopt my honourable friend's constitutional doctrines, this Honourable Assembly will be reduced in a few weeks to a state of complete impotency and uselessness.

We are here to question the actions of Government. That is a part of our duty, and if we do not do our duty we shall be inflicting a great wrong, not only on the people of the country, but also on the Government. I sincerely hope that similar talk to what we have heard to-day with regard to unconstitutional procedure will not be trotted out hereafter.

I should now like to make a few remarks on some of the criticisms that were offered. It is hardly necessary after the clear statement made by the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary to take up the time of Council in dealing with the criticisms that were offered by one or two members. One point that has been urged is that if this motion is adopted, and that if this proposed distillery is not sanctioned, there will be more unemployment in the country. This argument can be urged against a good many reforms. But, when the Government got rid of the pot stills which employed hundreds of people, nobody said that Government was promoting unemployment. Even if Government did it, it was for the good of the country. There were over 300 pot stills which employed several thousands of men. They are all gone, and I do not think that the people are starving on that account. If the necessity arises, for the good of the country, that certain reforms should be introduced, I

do not think the Government ought to hesitate to introduce those reforms, though they may result in the temporary unemployment of a number of people.

As far as the case for the Government is concerned, none of us, I am sure, have failed to appreciate the position of the Government. We understand their position. But what we say is this, "it may be difficult for a time for you to secure the supply of arrack that is necessary, but it is not impossible to secure it within a year without invading fresh territory." That is the point we make. Now, what has been said in defence of the proposal? The Honourable the Controller of Revenue gave us his reasons, and they are sufficient to convince me that this departure from the accustomed practice is most dangerous. He told us that the Kalutara distillers were asking for Rs. 2·25 per gallon, while the proposed distillery would supply it at Rs. 2 per gallon. That means a profit of twenty-five cents per gallon. On the same line of argument, another party might establish a distillery and offer to supply it at Rs. 1·90, while the big capitalists may be in a position, owing to rivalry and competition, to offer it at Rs. 1·80, and the Government will be bound to accept the lowest figures. The danger lies there, and it is for that reason I ask this Council to express its opinion that the licensing of distilleries in areas where distilleries did not exist before should not be allowed.

The reason why I do not wish to accept the suggestion made by the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary is that this matter involves, not only the present case, but also any future cases which may arise. I cannot withdraw this motion on the assurance that hereafter any applications that may be made will be laid on the table, because I do not think that that is a sufficient guarantee. I want it clearly laid down, if Honourable Members agree with me, that no licence shall be issued in the future—that includes the present case—for the establishment of a distillery outside this area. The matter is one on which I do not wish to compromise. I think it is to the interest of the country that we should not, on a matter like this, compromise, although I am willing to go as far as I possibly can for the sake of agreement. On this matter I feel that I cannot conscientiously agree to a compromise. I want a clear declaration by this House in regard to this matter.

Much matter that is not relevant to the motion has been placed before Council, but I will not deal with it. The world over there is a movement towards temperance. The best of the world's thought is coming gradually to this point of view, and we can, therefore, ignore the occasional disparaging remarks cast at us. We are on the side of the angels. With regard to the annulment of the contract and the payment of damages, I am not competent to discuss the matter at the moment. But I may say that even at the price mentioned it will be good for the Government and good for the country if the licence is not granted. I therefore appeal to the Government to accept this motion.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT:—I will now put the motion to the House.

THE HON. MR. E. J. HAYWARD, C.B.E., V.D. (Commercial Member):—Might I know exactly what we are asked to vote on?

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—The motion includes the licence to this particular distillery. The licence for the establishment of this distillery has not yet been issued. I now put it to the House that the motion standing in the name of the Honourable Member for the Colombo District be adopted. Those who are of that opinion say Aye; those of the contrary opinion say No. (After a pause) I think the Ayes have it.

THE HON. THE ACTING CONTROLLER OF REVENUE :—Divide.

The Council divided as follows :—

Ayes—26.

The Hon. Sir P. Ramanathan, Kt., K.C., C.M.G. (Northern Province, Northern Division).

The Hon. Mr. H. A. Loos (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. Mr. D. H. Kotalawala (Province of Uva).

The Hon. Mr. E. W. Perera (Kalutara Revenue District).

The Hon. Mr. A. C. G. Wijeyekoon (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara (Southern Province, Western Division).

The Hon. Mr. N. J. Martin (Second Burgher Member).

The Hon. Mr. K. Balasingham (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. Mr. A. Canagaratnam (Northern Province, Southern Division).

The Hon. Mr. C. E. Victor Corea (Colombo Town, North).

The Hon. Mr. C. H. Z. Fernando (North-Western Province, Western Division).

The Hon. Mr. H. R. Freeman (North-Central Province).

The Hon. Mr. T. B. Jayah (Third Muslim Member).

The Hon. Mr. D. B. Jayatilaka (Colombo District).

The Hon. Mr. H. M. Macan Markar (First Muslim Member).

The Hon. Mr. G. E. Madawala (North-Western Province, Eastern Division).

The Hon. Mr. A. Mahadeva (Western Province, Ceylon Tamil).

The Hon. Mr. F. A. Obeyesekere (Southern Province, Central Division).

The Hon. Mr. I. X. Pereira (First Indian Member).

The Hon. Mr. S. Rajaratnam (Northern Province, Central Division).

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Negombo District).

The Hon. Mr. S. R. Mohamed Sultan (Second Indian Member).

The Hon. Mr. V. S. de S. Wikremanayake (Southern Province, Southern Division).

The Hon. Mr. G. A. H. Wille (First Burgher Member).

The Hon. Mr. W. A. de Silva (Central Province, Urban).

The Hon. Mr. P. B. Rambukwelle (Central Province, Rural).

Noes—16.

The Hon. the Officer Commanding the Troops.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. the Attorney-General.

The Hon. the Acting Controller of Revenue.

The Hon. the Treasurer.

The Hon. Mr. F. A. Stockdale, C.B.E. (Director of Agriculture).

The Hon. Mr. L. Macrae (Director of Education).

The Hon. Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Batticaloa Revenue District).

The Hon. Mr. E. J. Hayward, C.B.E., V.D. (Commercial Member).
The Hon. Mr. W. L. Kindersley (Government Agent, Central Province).

The Hon. Mr. J. Strachan (Director of Public Works).

The Hon. Mr. W. T. Southorn (Principal Collector of Customs).

The Hon. Mr. M. T. Akbar, K.C. (Solicitor-General).

The Hon. Dr. J. F. E. Bridger (Principal Civil Medical Officer).

The Hon. Mr. A. H. E. Molamure (Ratnapura Revenue District).

The Hon. Sir J. Thomson Broom, Kt. (European Urban Member).

The motion was accordingly carried.

Adjournment.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—The Council will now adjourn till 2.30 P.M. on Wednesday, July 22, 1925.

THE HON. THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY :—I am much obliged to the Honourable the Vice-President for making that announcement. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has no objection to an adjournment beyond a fortnight. We shall certainly require three days for the second reading, that will be Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 22nd, 23rd, 24th instant, and His Excellency hopes that as the Government is giving way on this matter of adjournment beyond a fortnight, the Council will enable the Bill to be passed through its final stage in time for us to be able to report to the Secretary of State and get his reply before the commencement of the next financial year. We have to report to the Secretary of State in time; if there is a delay, it is the Government who will be blamed in the matter and nobody else. We, therefore, hope to meet on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, and then to start the meetings of the Select Committee on the following Monday. These meetings will probably go on for ten days.

THE HON. MR. E. W. PERERA (Kalutara Revenue District) :—Am I to take it, Sir, that the discussion on the Budget is to be limited to the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th? The Budget is a very important subject, and it may be that the discussion on it may run into the next week. Does the Government intend to apply the closure on the 24th?

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—I do not think there is any intention on the part of the Government to limit the discussion. Government hopes, however, that if this Council is adjourned for a fortnight, in response to the wish of Honourable Members, that Honourable Members will try to finish the discussion on the Budget on the 24th. I do not think there is any idea of applying the closure.

THE HON. MR. E. W. PERERA (Kalutara Revenue District) :—It is a matter of very great constitutional importance.

THE HON. THE VICE-PRESIDENT :—There is no suggestion that you cannot adjourn the Council till the following day, Saturday, July 25, 1925.

THE HON. MR. E. W. PERERA (Kalutara Revenue District) :—I am very much obliged to you, Sir, and to the Government.

The Council then adjourned till 2.30 P.M. on Wednesday, July 22, 1925.

APPENDIX.

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

C. CLEMENTI.

The Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to direct that the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year commencing October 1, 1925, and ending September 30, 1926, should be laid before the Legislative Council.

A.—REVENUE.

The Revenue for the year 1925-26 is estimated at Rs. 106,000,000, which is more than the actual Revenue for 1923-24 by Rs. 3,636,885, and exceeds the original estimate of 1924-25 by Rs. 4,000,000, but is less than the revised estimate of the same year by Rs. 1,000,000.

The principal increases and decreases in the estimates for the coming year when compared with the original estimate for 1924-25 are as follows :—

Item.	Increase. Rs.	Reasons.
Import Duties ..	1,650,000	} These increases are based on the revised estimate of the revenue for 1924-25.
Export Duties ..	845,000	
Arrack, Rum, and Toddy	1,000,000	
Export Duties under the Medical Wants Ordinance	200,000	
Post Office, Other Collections	410,000	
Railway Receipts ..	1,000,000	} .. Due to increments to salaries which involve increased contributions to revenue on account of the widows' and orphans' pensions.
Abatements under Ordinance No. 13 of 1906 towards Pensions to Widows and Orphans	125,000	
Receipts, Forest Department	170,000	.. This increase is based on the revised estimate of the revenue for 1924-25.
Land Sales ..	300,000	.. The current year's actual revenue is already nearly double the original estimate of Rs. 950,000, but it is not considered safe to rely on there being equal activity in the sale of lands next year. The current year's original estimate has therefore been increased by only Rs. 300,000.
Item.	Decrease. Rs.	Reasons.
Estate Duties ..	336,000	} .. It now seems probable that the revenue for 1924-25 was over-estimated, and the estimate for next year has therefore been decreased.
Irrigation Dues ..	75,000	
Water Supply, Colombo ..	100,000	.. The terminable annuity payable by the Colombo Municipality in repayment of the cost of the original Colombo Waterworks finally ceased on December 31, 1924.
Assets of Ceylon Disabled Men's Fund	900,000	.. No receipts expected in 1925-26.

Item.	Decrease. Rs.	Reasons.
Interest ..	433,000 ..	Some reduction in the dimensions of Government's cash balances may be expected next year as a result of the large expenditure programme, and the estimated revenue under interest has been decreased accordingly.
Profit on new Coins ..	105,000 ..	There is a good stock of subsidiary coins in hand, and there will consequently be fewer coins minted next year.

B.—EXPENDITURE.

The total estimated Expenditure for the financial year 1925-26 amounts to Rs. 117,832,113, a sum which exceeds the estimated Revenue by Rs. 11,832,113. Certain items of this Expenditure, detailed in Appendix 1 of the printed Estimates, and amounting to Rs. 11,938,440, are proposed as a charge against the available Surplus Balances of the Colony. The remaining items of proposed Expenditure to be met from the anticipated Revenue of Rs. 106,000,000 amount to Rs. 105,893,673. As compared with the estimated Expenditure for the current year, the figures for 1925-26 show an increase of Rs. 6,444,685. Reasons for the increases are given in detail under the respective Heads of Expenditure. The chief increase is to be found under the Head Railway Extraordinary Works. Other increases are due to the natural expansion of the activities of departments in general, chiefly the Survey, Post and Telegraphs, Medical, Education, Agricultural, Irrigation, and Public Works Departments. As in the current year, the rate of exchange adopted for the 1925-26 Estimates is Rs. 15 to the £.

The Estimates have been prepared in close consultation with Heads of Departments, and a vigilant scrutiny has been exercised with a view to the avoidance of unessential Expenditure.

The details of proposed Expenditure under the Loan Scheme are contained in Appendix 3 of the printed Estimates. The amount provided for Expenditure during the year is Rs. 3,650,465, and it is proposed to leave unallocated a sum of Rs. 813,233.

Heads of Expenditure.

1. *His Excellency the Governor.*—The increases under Other Charges are—

	Rs.
(a) Fuel and light	4,500
(b) Upkeep of furniture, &c. .. .	6,275

The reasons are—

- (a) Increased rate charged for electric current.
- (b) To provide Government Houses with some necessary electro-plated articles and to replace unserviceable carpets and cretonne covers. Also for the purpose of renovating portraits of previous Governors at Queen's House.

2. *Legislature.*—The decrease under this Head is chiefly due to the reduction of the vote "Expenses connected with Elections." The provision for Expenses of Commissions, &c., is based on the expenditure of previous years.

3. *Civil Service.*—Two posts have been transferred to Heads 29 and 30 respectively, viz., the District Judgeship of Chilaw-Puttalam and the post of Commissioner of Requests, Colombo.

4. *Clerical Service.*—The increase is due to increments, promotions, and unavoidable additional appointments. The Department in which most additional posts have been provided are the Government Stores, Audit, and the Registrar-General's Department.

5. *Secretariat.*—The decrease under this Head does not call for comment.

6. *Printing Branch.*—Increase in Personal Emoluments is due to increments, and promotion to the permanent staff of those officers who have served for ten years. The decrease of Rs. 60,000 under "Paper plant, material" is due to provision not being made for special machinery.

7. *Controller of Revenue.*) The small increases under these Heads require
8. *Treasury.*) no comment.

9. *Commissioners of Currency.*—The increase in Other Charges is due to additional provision of Rs. 150,000 for currency notes and coins. It is

found necessary to meet the demand for cleaner notes, and to provide for an adequate reserve.

10. *Loan Board.*
11. *Stamp Office.* } No comments.

12. *Audit Office.*—Under Personal Emoluments provision is included for a Second Assistant Colonial Auditor, and an increased allowance of Rs. 3,000 to Heads of Branches is provided. Under Other Charges, there is a reduction of Rs. 3,000 on "Travelling."

13. *Provincial Administration.*—The increase in Personal Emoluments includes provision for the following new appointments—6 clerks to Muhandirams in the Western Province; 1 Assistant Shroff, Kalutara Kachcheri; 1 Stenographer, Kandy Kachcheri; and 1 Assistant Vanniah, Batticaloa District. There is also a small increase in the number of subordinate staff.

The main increases under Other Charges are—

	Rs.
(a) Travelling	13,680
(b) Remuneration to collectors of rates, taxes, &c.	3,090
(c) Remuneration to headmen	54,300
(d) Allowance to paupers	4,600
(e) Cattle branding	3,475

The reasons are—

- (a) and (e) Insufficient provision in previous years.
(b) Resumption of the collection of irrigation rates.
(c) For payment of increased rewards to unpaid headmen.
(d) Increased relief to paupers and enhanced grant to the Friend-in-need Society, Moratuwa.

14. *Local Government Board.*—Provision for Office Contingencies in reduced, as additional money is included under Head 17 in Appendix 2 of the printed Estimates.

15. *Land Settlement Department.*—The increased amounts provided for Duty Allowances, Travelling, and Expenses in working Waste Lands Ordinances are required in view of the fact that a larger number of officers will be engaged in settlement work next year.

16. *Survey Department.*—The increase of Rs. 82,374 is under Personal Emoluments, provision being made for an expert lithographer and photo process worker, and additional provision for 10 surveyors and 30 clerks and draughtsmen. Provision is also included for the training of 40 surveyors in Ceylon and 8 Assistant Superintendents in England.

Under Other Charges the increases and decreases are—

	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
(a) Travelling .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
(b) Tents and camp building .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
(c) Lithography, drawing materials, &c.	4,000 ..	—
(d) Triangulation and levelling	8,000 ..	—
(e) Landmarks	10,000 ..	—
(f) Incidental expences	— ..	5,000

The reasons are—

- (a) Due to the new Travelling Regulations.
(b) Requirements reduced.
(c) Larger amount of work to be undertaken for other Government Departments.
(d) This sub-head has been extended to include the cost of levelling which was hitherto met from other items under Other Charges.
(e) Present vote insufficient.
(f) Based on expenditure of previous years.

17. *Government Stores.*—The main reason for the increase under Personal Emoluments is the provision for a Second Assistant Colonial Storekeeper. The increases under Other Charges are—

	Rs.
(a) Labour	5,000
(b) Stationery, office furniture, &c.	40,584

The reasons are—

- (a) Increase of wages, and provision for an additional carpenter and 5 coolies.
 (b) Increased provision required by nearly all Departments, as shown in Appendix 2 of the printed Estimates.

18. *Registrar-General.*
 19. *Statistical Department.*) No comments.
 19. *Indian Immigrant Labour Department.*

21. *Immigration and Quarantine.*—The chief item of increase under Other Charges is an additional provision of Rs. 2,000 under Stores and Fuel for Disinfection Station for Port Surgeon, Colombo.

22. *Customs.*—No provision is made for the post of Assistant Collector, Galle. The work is being done by the Police Magistrate. Two posts in Class II. of the Clerical Service have been converted to Class I. posts in accordance with the existing scheme, and an additional Assistant Preventive Officer is included for better supervision of the subordinate staff.

23. *Colombo Port Commission.*—Under Personal Emoluments, provision is included for a Clerk and Timekeeper in the Master Attendant's Department; also for increased allowances to boatmen for night work and for overtime. Further particulars about this Department are contained in the memorandum attached.

24. *Ports other than Colombo.*—The decrease under this Head is mainly due to the omission of provision under Special Expenditure.

25. *Excise Department.*—Under Personal Emoluments, increased provision is included for special allowances to Distillery Staff.

The increase of Rs. 2,000 under Other Charges is for the purpose of paying more adequate rewards to headmen for assistance in the reduction of Excise offences.

26. *Salt.*—There is a decrease under Personal Emoluments, owing chiefly to reduction in subordinate staff at Puttalam. Provision for certain necessary works has been included under Special Expenditure.

27. *Post and Telegraphs.*—The total increase under this Head is Rs. 533,667, due mainly to growth of work. Under Personal Emoluments, there is a decrease in the Clerical Service proper, and an increase in the subordinate class, &c. Increased provision is also made for additional Local Postmasters and subordinate staff.

In the Engineering Branch certain increases in the Establishment are proposed. The principal increases under Other Charges are—

	Rs.
(a) Conveyance of mails	2,242
(b) Stores, stationery, furniture, &c.	13,500
(c) Lighting, electric current, &c.	30,200
(d) Rent	14,400
(e) Maintenance and improvements of telegraph and telephone services	7,500
(f) Delivery of telegrams	2,000
(f1) Travelling	6,625

Under Special Expenditure—

(g) Additional Police lines	5,400
(h) Additional junction lines	59,900
(i) New telephone facilities	200,000
(j) Additional machinery for telegraph workshop	7,000

The reasons are—

- (a) To provide better mail facilities.
 (b) Extra expenditure on letter boxes and bicycles and tricycles for the delivery of letters and telegrams.
 (c) Due to increased rates per unit of electric current and lighting, additional current for new Central Battery and Exchange at Havelock Town, for new instruments at the Wireless Station, and for broadcasting.
 (d) To meet normal increases in rents of Post Office buildings.
 (e) For ordinary expansion of services and maintenance.
 (f) Normal increase in traffic.
 (g) Further extension of telephones to Police Stations.

- (h) Extension of private telephones in planting stations.
- (i) Extension of the telephone system.
- (j) To provide special machines for making articles locally.
- (j 1) Due to expansion of services.

A sum of Rs. 400,000 is provided under Loan Expenditure for the development of Government Exchanges.

28. *Supreme Court.*—Separate provision is made for payment of overtime to Record-keeper and his assistant.

Provision for "Circuit and other expenses, &c.," is increased by Rs. 5,000 owing to the steady increase in the number of cases at the Assizes.

29. *District Courts.*—The increase in Personal Emoluments is mainly due to the fact that the salary of the District Judge, Chilaw-Puttalam, is now provided under this Head.

Under Other Charges there is an increase of Rs. 2,840 under Travelling; Rs. 1,000 to District Judge, Anuradhapura, to enable that officer to hold circuits courts in connection with chena cases; and Rs. 1,750 to District Judge, Mullaittivu, for the holding of monthly court sessions by a separate Judicial Officer at Vavuniya and Mullaittivu.

30. *Court of Requests and Police Courts.*—The increase under Personal Emoluments is mainly due to the inclusion under this Head of the salary of the Commissioner of Requests, Colombo.

31. *Attorney-General.*—The decrease under Personal Emoluments is caused by the transfer of the Senior Crown Counsel to the Establishment of the Solicitor-General (with the designation of Deputy Solicitor-General). Provision is also made separately for payment of an adequate fixed remuneration to the Crown Advocates, Kandy, Jaffna, and Galle.

32. *Solicitor-General.*—The increase under Personal Emoluments is explained above.

33. *Fiscals.*—The increase under Other Charges are—

	Rs.
(a) Expenses of civil and criminal process ..	4,800
(b) Transport and allowances to jurors, &c. ..	14,000
(c) Expenses of witnesses in District Court and Police Court cases ..	11,000

In each of these cases the present provision is insufficient.

34. *Police Department.*—The total decrease under this Head is Rs. 30,201. In Personal Emoluments the reduction is due to the retirement of officers drawing maximum salaries, whose places have been taken by officers on the minimum salaries.

Under Other Charges the increases and decreases are—

	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
(a) Uniform and equipment ..	3,000	—
(b) Rent ..	—	3,000
(c) Lighting, water, &c. ..	5,000	—
(d) House of detention ..	—	3,000
(e) Instruction of police officers in first aid ..	1,200	—

The reasons are—

- (a) Increase in the price of clothing.
- (b) Provision of quarters in some places where rent was previously paid.
- (c) Rs. 4,000 of this amount is transferred from the general vote under Head 57, Sub-head 57, Item 13, and the balance is to provide for the conservancy of the new Pettah barracks.
- (d) Previous provision excessive.
- (e) Training of a large number of policemen in first aid.

Under Special Expenditure provision is made for two motor bicycles and one motor launch. They are required to replace existing bicycles and launch which are old and unserviceable.

35. *Prisons.*—No comments.

36. *Medical Department.*—The total increase under this Head is Rs. 736,889. Under Personal Emoluments provision is included for the reorganization of the higher staff of the Department. The principal additional appointments are, 1 assistant accountant, 30 medical officers, 10 apothecaries,

6 European nurses, 39 Ceylonese nurses, 12 laboratory assistants, 25 sanitary inspectors. Provision is also made for additional minor staff and the consequent increase of wages and various allowances payable to officers of the Department.

Under Other Charges the increases and decreases are as follows :—

	Increase. Rs.	Decrease. Rs.
(a) Diet	127,000	—
(b) Equipment, contingencies, &c.	110,000	—
(c) Special equipment, &c. . . .	152,700	—
(d) Medicines and instruments	45,960	—
(e) Bacteriological Institute, &c.	—	28,500
(f) Tuberculosis	—	90,000
(g) Transport and travelling	40,000	—
(h) Rents	3,000	—
(i) Grants	6,150	—
(j) Epidemics, &c.	3,000	—
(k) Incidental expenses	—	5,500
(l) Purchase of opium and general expenses .	—	10,000

The reasons are—

- (a) To meet cost of diet in additional hospitals and wards and for additional minor employees. The cost of diet for Pasteur Institute and Kandana Sanitorium and Ragama Hospital have also been transferred to this sub-head.
- (b) Additional provision is necessary to provide for new hospitals and wards, additional uniforms for matrons and nurses, and supply of additional linen. Equipment for Bacteriological and Tuberculosis Institutes and for the Anchylostomiasis Campaign are included under this sub-head.
- (c) Cost of initial equipment required for new hospitals and wards.
- (d) This is due partly to the increased demands made by large Departments, such as Police, Irrigation, Forest, Survey, Public Works, Railway, Agriculture, &c., and partly to the necessity for providing for new dispensaries. The sub-head also includes provision which previously appeared as Special Expenditure on cost of campaign against Anchylostomiasis.
- (e) and (f) The provision under these sub-heads has been split up and included under the appropriate sub-heads of expenditure.
- (g) This addition is required to meet increased travelling owing to new additions to the strength of the Department ; also to meet the cost of removing to the New Lunatic Asylum and the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The provision for travelling provided under Tuberculosis Institute and under Anchylostomiasis Campaign have also been transferred to this sub-head.
- (h) This item has been transferred from provision shown under Special Expenditure as cost of campaign against anchylostomiasis.
- (i) The grants shown under Special Expenditure in the current Estimates are now included under this sub-head.
- (j) The increase is mainly due to the construction of portable iron latrines over pits in bazaars of rural areas and of Sanitary Board towns with small incomes.
- (k) Previous provision excessive.
- (l) Due to reduction in the quantity of opium required.

Under Special Expenditure a sum of Rs. 8,000 is provided for a laboratory motor van for dealing expeditiously with the outbreak of epidemics.

37. *Medical Research.*—The increase of Rs. 18,844 under Personal Emoluments is due to the additional provision of 3 medical officers and the consequent increase in allowances. The salaries and allowances of these officers were hitherto paid from savings on Personal Emoluments of Head 36.

38. *Medical College.*—Provision is made for the appointment of a whole-time Professor of Anatomy. The appointment is recommended by the Medical College Council. The salary proposed is on the same scale as that paid to Professors of the University College.

39. *Government Analyst.*—No comments.

40. *Education Department.*—The total increased provision under this Head is Rs. 928,328. The increase under Personal Emoluments, which is Rs. 237,758, is due mainly to the additional provision made for 2 assistant inspectors, 62 teachers in English elementary schools, and 500 teachers in vernacular schools, and to certain increases in the subordinate staff. Under Special Expenditure provision is included for a new printing machine (Rs. 3,500) and Rs. 50,000 for building grants to assisted schools. Under Other Charges the increases are—

	Rs.
(a) Secondary education (scholarships, &c.) ..	9,760
(b) District School Committees ..	250,000
(c) Technical and industrial education ..	24,900
(d) Grants to assisted schools ..	514,800
(e) Travelling ..	8,500

The reasons are—

- (a) Rs. 9,000 for two scholarships which were postponed last year and Rs. 760 cost of return passage of one scholar.
- (b) The amount of the present vote is insufficient, and it has been necessary to make supplementary provision.
- (c) For the awarding of two additional scholarships, making in all six scholarships for the years 1925-26.
- (d) The grants to Maggona Reformatory and to new pirivenas have been transferred to this sub-head. Provision is also made for giving effect to the recommendations of the Board of Education *re* the salaries and pensions of teachers in assisted schools.
- (e) Additional provision is required for payment of the travelling expenses of teachers. Provision is also made for the encouragement of boxing in village schools. As regards the decrease of Rs. 3,000 under examinations, it is proposed in future to deal with all fees paid on account of examinations of the University of London held in Ceylon through a local bank.

41. *University College.*—The increase under this Head is Rs. 58,088 Rs. 45,588 of which is on account of Personal Emoluments, additional provision being made for lecturers in physics, history, and classics and for additional demonstrators. Under Other Charges the increased provision of Rs. 4,000 under the Sub-head "Library" is for the purpose of purchasing scientific journals and for supplying additional shelves for the library. The increase of Rs. 10,000 under grant in aid to hostels is to provide a sum of Rs. 3,000 as grant in aid to Alcove and Brodie House Hostels, and Rs. 7,000 for equipment of the former.

42. *Archaeological Department.*—Under Personal Emoluments provision is included for an Architectural Assistant to the Archaeological Commissioner. The increases and decreases under Other Charges are—

	Rs.
(a) Maintenance, miscellaneous works (decrease) ..	4,000
(b) Travelling and transport (increase) ..	2,500
(c) Publications (decrease) ..	3,000
(d) Two scholarships, &c. (decrease) ..	3,300

The reasons are—

- (a) This includes a portion of the provision previously made under Sub-heads "Labour" and "Conserving ancient monuments."
- (b) New Assistant's travelling and mileage, and increased exploration.
- (c) The estimate is based on last year's expenditure.
- (d) Provision is required for only five months.

A sum of Rs. 9,000 appears under a new Sub-head, "Excavation," in order to start excavations on a large scale.

43. *Colombo Museum.*—There is an increase of Rs. 2,000 under Other Charges, "Purchase and preparations of specimens," which is due to the present vote being insufficient. The increase is recommended by the Museum Committee. Provision is also made under Special Expenditure for several new items, including a Government contribution of Rs. 30,000 to the Art Gallery.

44. *Department of Fisheries.*—The vote for general fishery investigation is increased by Rs. 9,000 in order to provide for a wider programme of fishery investigation and for general fishery work of an economic nature.

45. *Department of Agriculture.*—The total increase under this Head is Rs. 31,766. Under Personal Emoluments the Agricultural, Research, and Field Branches, which were hitherto shown separately, are now grouped together. Under Special Expenditure provision is made for the deputation of an officer to proceed to Europe to study co-operative credit systems. The increases under Other Charges are—

	Rs.
(a) Upkeep of minor experimental plots	4,500
(b) Paddy experiments	21,000
(c) Sugar cane experiments	3,500
(d) Upkeep of libraries, &c.	2,000

The reasons are—

- (a) Additional works to be undertaken at minor Experimental Stations, Kuruwita, Walapana, and Kegalla.
- (b) Additional provision required for establishing district stations.
- (c) For the opening up of trial plots for sugar cane cultivation at Allai.
- (d) A sum of Rs. 2,000 for the upkeep of the chemical laboratory has been transferred to this sub-head, from the Sub-head Incidental Expenses.

46. *Veterinary Department.*—The total increase under this Head is Rs. 45,856. Under Personal Emoluments provision is made for three new Stock Inspectors. The increases under Other Charges are as follows :—

	Rs.
(a) Travelling	11,000

For the use of motor cars by Veterinary Officers to proceed to infected areas.

	Rs.
(b) Contagious diseases of animals	12,000

To provide for the free inoculation of contacts.

	Rs.
(c) Upkeep of dairy and farms	10,000

For the improvement and development of the Government Dairy in Colombo and Stock Farm at Ambepussa.

	Rs.
(d) Incidental expenses	4,500

For the purchase of instruments, and increased expenditure owing to expansion.

47. *Department of Mineralogy.*—The small decrease under this Head does not call for explanation.

48. *Forest Department.*—The total increase under this Head is Rs. 70,623, of which Rs. 12,328 falls under Personal Emoluments, increased provision being made for 1 Office Assistant and Accountant, 9 Forest Rangers, and 4 Forest Guards, and a few watchers and coolies. Special provision is made for fencing new plantations (Rs. 5,650), and for motor transport on the Mahaweli-ganga (Rs. 4,800). Under Other Charges the increases are—

	Rs.
(a) Cutting and converting timber	30,000
(b) Communications and buildings	5,000
(c) Stores, tools, plant, &c.	2,000
(d) Surveys and demarcations	4,000
(e) Travelling	11,000

The reasons are—

- (a) The increases provided under this Head is for meeting the increased demand in the timber market. The additional expenditure will result in an increase in revenue.
- (b) To provide quarters for guards and overseers.
- (c) For regeneration operations and timber research.
- (d) For economical management of areas under reforestation.
- (e) Additional provision required for increased travelling, including the travelling of newly appointed officers.

49. *Inspector of Mines.*—The decrease in Personal Emoluments under this Head is due to the transfer of the Assistant Inspector of Mines for work on the Hydro-Electric Scheme.

50. *Registrar of Patents.*—No comments.

51. *Railway Department.*—The total amount under this Head shows a reduction of Rs. 362,104. There is an increase of Rs. 12,946 in Personal Emoluments on account of increments and promotions and additional appointments in connection with the increased train service.

The chief increases and decreases under Other Charges are—

	Rs.
(a) Stores and materials (decrease)	250,000
(b) Tickets (decrease)	11,250
(c) Permanent way materials (increase)	50,000
(d) Fuel (decrease)	191,000
(e) Claims (increase)	7,000
(f) Lighting (increase)	20,000

The reasons are—

- (a) and (b) The estimate is based on figures of actual expenditure.
- (c) Extra requirements according to programme of new works and maintenance.
- (d) Reduction in price of coal.
- (e) Current year's provision insufficient.
- (f) Increase in cost of electric current.

52. *Railway Extraordinary Works.*—The vote exceeds that of the current year by Rs. 3,581,641. Details of the proposed expenditure are contained in the General Manager's brief report.*

53. *Irrigation Department.*—Under Personal Emoluments there is an increase of Rs. 33,000, owing to increments and to additional appointments, including 2 Irrigation Engineers and 6 Sub-Inspectors. The increases under Other Charges are, Rs. 5,000 under Sub-head Travelling and sick allowances, required for two additional Irrigation Engineers for village tank improvements, &c., and Rs. 4,000 under Sub-head Transport of stores for various works of improvement, a large number of these being in out-of-the-way places.

54. *Irrigation Annually Recurrent.*—The vote for "Major works and buildings" and "Agricultural roads" have been increased, the former to maintain the Colombo South Flood Protection Scheme and additional lengths of channels now being completed, and the latter for maintaining additional roads constructed on irrigation schemes.

55. *Irrigation Extraordinary.*—The principal item in this expenditure is a sum of Rs. 250,000 for the completion of the Colombo North Flood Protection Scheme. Particulars of the proposed expenditure are given in the Director's brief report.*

56. *Public Works Department.*—The increase in Personal Emoluments, amounting to Rs. 73,400, is mainly due to additional appointments, viz., 1 Power Engineering Assistant, 5 District Engineers, 1 Assistant Electrical Engineer, and 4 Electric Inspectors. Under Other Charges, the Sub-head Incidental Expenses is increased by Rs. 4,000, for the supply of additional drawing materials, &c., required in connection with the new works to be undertaken next year.

57. *Public Works Annually Recurrent.*

58. *Public Works Extraordinary.*

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The total provision under these two Heads has been increased by nearly one and a half million rupees (*vide* the Director's brief report*).

59. *Military Expenditure.*—The total estimate for the Ceylon Defence Force shows an increase of Rs. 25,758, mainly due to an increase of Rs. 25,000 on arms, ammunitions, &c. Special expenditure is also included for a new residence for the Colonel Commandant, fire hydrants at batteries, and improvements to the General's House at Nuwara Eliya.

60. *Public Debt.*—The provision is the same as that for the current year.

61. *Pensions.*—The increase under this Head is mainly due to new pensions becoming payable.

62. *Exchange.*—No comments.

63. *Miscellaneous Services.*—The large reduction is principally due to the fact that the war contribution to the Imperial Government previously provided under this Head has now been paid in full.

* Not reproduced.

The principal increases are—

	Rs.
(a) Refund to local bodies, &c.	16,659
(b) Refund on account previous years	100,000
(c) Miscellaneous	5,000

A statement showing the financial position of the Colony as it is anticipated it will be on October 1, 1925, is attached.*

By His Excellency's command,

E. B. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, June 30, 1925.

* Not reproduced.