

The State Council of Ceylon.

No. 52

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L. C. R. G.
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DEBATES SESSION OF 1942.

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STATE COUNCIL OF CEYLON.

Friday, August 28, 1942.

The Council met at 10 a.m., MR. SPEAKER [THE HON. SIR WAITIALINGAM DURAISWAMY] in the Chair.

PAPERS TABLED.

(Financial Secretary): List of amendments to be moved at the Committee stage of the Excess Profits Duty (Amendment) Bill.

BUSINESS OF COUNCIL.

The Hon. Mr. H. J. Huxham (Financial Secretary): I wish to say that it is proposed to resume the second reading of the Excess Profits Duty (Amendment) Bill, if the House so agrees, as soon as the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill is over, and thereafter, if the second reading is passed, to refer the Bill to a Committee of the whole House.

Mr. Speaker: Today?

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: When the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill is ended.

Mr. Speaker: This is a matter which was referred to the Board of Ministers for reconsideration.

Mr. G. A. H. Wille (Nominated Member): Last week I gave notice that I would move for leave to introduce a Bill—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Acting Leader of the State Council): We would like to get through with the Appropriation Bill soon.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale): We should at least get a few hours' or days' notice to know what these proposals are so that we may consider them.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are entitled to have notice, if they want it, unless of course they agree to take it up at the end of the Committee stage or today.

Mr. Aluwihare: Take it up on Tuesday or Wednesday next week. To rush

it through immediately after the Budget is absurd. We have at least earned a week-end.

Mr. Speaker: We will consider that matter later on.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: We are only considering the convenience of Members. We know that Members have worked very hard, but a last five-minute effort by hon. Members might earn them a few weeks' holiday.

PUBLIC SERVICE MUTUAL PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. Wille: I want to move for leave to introduce a Bill. It will not take more than a few minutes, Sir.

Leave being granted—

Mr. Wille: I move for leave to introduce an Ordinance intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Public Service Mutual Provident Association Ordinance and to declare the extent and scope of the powers to make rules conferred by section sixteen of that Ordinance".

The present Ordinance provides that the Chief Clerk of the Audit Office should be one of the Members of the Committee, but that post has been abolished, and provision is being made for His Excellency the Governor nominating two members of the Public Service Mutual Provident Association.

There is another provision, that is, the audit is now carried on by the Auditor-General and the present Ordinance regularizes that. I move for leave.

Question, "That leave be granted to the hon. Member to introduce a Bill intituled 'An Ordinance to amend the Public Service Mutual Provident Association Ordinance'", put, and agreed to.

† APPROPRIATION BILL, 1942-43.

Pursuant to order, the Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House further to consider in detail the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to make provision for the Public and Railway Services and the Electrical Undertakings for the financial year 1942-43 to authorise the payment by way of advance out of Revenue of moneys required during that

[Note.—An asterisk (*) against the name of a Member indicates that his remarks have not been revised by him.]

† For the Observations of the Financial Secretary and the Report of the Board of Ministers, see HANSARD of July 10, 1942.

financial year for specified purposes, and to provide for the refund of such moneys to Revenue", the Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Island for the financial year 1942-43 (Second Print tabled on July 10, 1942), and the amendments to those Estimates tabled on August 13, 1942.

In Committee—

MR. SPEAKER presided as Chairman.

SCHEDULE I.

Head 103, Director of Commerce and Industries.

Sub-head 29, Running Expenses of Plywood Factory (token vote)
Rs. 100—(contd.).

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle): I want to raise a question in regard to the conditions of workers in the Plywood Factory. The Plywood Factory was started nearly a year ago, and the employees there—many of them—are clerks who are paid daily wages; and I understand that they are not in receipt of war allowances. In the case of the labourers too, no war allowances are paid. Although they are slightly better-paid than other people in the locality, still I do not think that the labourers are paid war allowances. I want to know why the employees in that Factory are not treated better, and why they should not be granted war allowances, because that is a principle that has been accepted by Government.

The Hon. Mr. G. C. S. Corea (Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce): I think the conditions operating with regard to the payment of employees at the Plywood Factory are very good and satisfactory. The wages paid are quite satisfactory, but I am sure the hon. Member will agree that further expenditure would have to be considered; and we propose to consider it as soon as the Factory is on its feet completely. In that case we propose to take into consideration the conditions of work and to improve them to the best of our ability. As the hon. Member himself admitted, the actual payment to these workers is very much higher than the payments made to other people in the neighbourhood.

I promised to give the House an indication of the actual amount of work that has been done there. The factory started work at the end of November last year, and in spite of difficulties with regard to timber, the actual value of the output of work has been Rs. 52,397.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: For how many months?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: That is for about nine months, from 1st December.

Mr. H. F. Parfitt (Nominated Member): I should like to ask the Hon. Minister a question with regard to tea chests. Is the Plywood Factory now making chests for the tea industry; and if it is, what method do they adopt for the disposal of these tea chests? Are they sold through a particular firm or firms, or do they sell chests direct to the consumer? Would the Hon. Minister be good enough to reply to that question?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: We do not sell direct to the consumers now. Applications for chests are received from various people dealing in the sale of chests in the country, and such orders as can be undertaken are undertaken. For instance, different parties like Messrs. E. B. Creasy & Co., Mechanical Engineers, the Ceylon Garrison Artillery, Messrs. Aitken Spence & Co., Ltd., the Royal Air Force and various other people have applied for chests, and those orders that can be accepted are accepted and the chests supplied.

Mr. Parfitt: I take it that orders can be placed direct with the Plywood Factory by anybody in the country?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Yes.

Sub-head 29 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 30 and 31 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 32, Running Expenses of Sales Development Establishment (token vote), Rs. 10.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

Increase the limit of Rs. 25,000 given in the details to Rs. 75,000.

Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan (Mannar-Mullaivivu): I would like to ask the Hon. Minister one or two questions with regard to the storage of copra and also the price of copra.

I understand that there is hardly any accommodation for the storage of copra at the present moment in Colombo, and producers are thereby put to a great deal of difficulty. As the Department has practically ceased to buy, and also the price offered is so very low—the margin of profit to the producer is very little—I would like to know whether the Minister will try his best to obtain a higher price for copra.

They tell us that at the present moment the Ministry of Supply is selling copra at Rs. 126 per candy in the Bombay market. I would like to know whether that is so—that they are making a profit of Rs. 20 a candy over the price at which the Hon. Minister buys the copra in the local market?

I should also like to have answers to one or two other questions—whether the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation is functioning in the Island? If the answer is in the affirmative, I would like to know the period of the grant, and the interest of this body in this Island? Has this body anything to do with the purchase scheme in operation in regard to copra and rubber? I understand that one of the branches of this concern has been challenged by Pandit Nehru in Bombay. What is this firm, and how does it operate here with regard to the purchase of copra and rubber?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: As far as that firm is concerned, I know that it does not operate in regard to the purchase of copra at all, because the purchase of copra is done entirely by Government and shipped according to the directions of the Ministry of Supply.

With regard to the price, I think I have mentioned repeatedly that the price was fixed after very careful consideration by all the coconut interests concerned; and we agreed with the Government of England that we would accept the figure as the price per candy of copra. I have mentioned before to this House that I have taken the matter up with the Secretary of State—that in view of the extraordinary increase in the cost of production, the price fixed for copra is unsatisfactory and that he should consider an increase of price, particularly in view of the fact that a higher price is obtainable in India, to which place a large pro-

portion of the copra goes. That has been conveyed to the Secretary of State, and I am awaiting his reply to the communication.

When the reply is received we will have to consider what he says; he may accept the position, or he may refuse to entertain the suggestion, or he may make other suggestions. As soon as I receive the reply of the Secretary of State, I shall consider what steps have to be taken next with a view to increasing the price of copra. I myself agree that the price of copra should be increased, and I shall endeavour to secure an increase as far as I can.

With regard to storage, I must say that there is difficulty about it, but people in this country do not realize, or at any rate do not want to realize—at least some of them—that the Government was compelled to come into the scheme in the middle of May last because the shippers were unable to purchase copra; and the Government had to make the best possible arrangements in the circumstances. I am sure the House will realize the difficulties that had to be contended with when it knows that already we have had to provide storage accommodation up to about 38,000 tons of copra, which is in our stores now for want of shipping.

The shipping question has become more and more difficult. Fortunately the position has to a very large extent been relieved by our being able to make arrangements for the transport of oil. As a matter of fact, we can ship more oil than is now available in the country, and we have asked millers to supply as much oil as possible. I think we are still short of about 2,000 tons of oil to meet the shipments that are possible; anyway, that will be forthcoming. The result is that it has been a great relief, by reason of the fact that millers are now purchasing copra in order to extract oil.

However, we have not stopped purchasing copra. We are still continuing to purchase it regularly, and our purchases per day sometimes comes to about 11,000 candies—that has never happened in this country before—and the deliveries in the stores are still very large.

We are pursuing the question of opening stores in the outstations. We now have definite lists of the stores that

[The Hon. Mr. Corea.]
are available at some places, and arrangements are in hand to undertake purchases there. Of course, the purchases in the outstations will certainly relieve the producer to some extent, but it will certainly not relieve the Government in any way. Perhaps the burden of the Government will be increased as a result of the purchases in outstations. Therefore the price must go down correspondingly to that extent. If copra stores are established in the outstations, extra costs will have to be incurred, and that will certainly affect the price that can be paid in the outstations, because we have to work within the margin that has been allowed us. However great our difficulties might be, we realize very fully the difficulties of the producer, and we feel that it might to some extent mitigate his present difficulties if he could deliver the copra at stores available in the outstations.

I am sure another difficulty will still continue and that is, the dealers in the outstations will continue to pay lower prices to the smallholders in some districts. After establishing these stores, if that difficulty still continues, we will have to consider the matter and take steps to meet it. That is the only point that will be left unattended to after the outstation stores have been established.

With regard to increasing the shipments of copra, we are making representations in regard to the matter.

Mr. T. Amarasuriya (Moratuwa): I should like to know from the Hon. Minister what he is going to do in respect of the difficulties that the coconut producers are undergoing at the present moment. I have tried to raise this question on various occasions during question time, but I have not been able to do so because the Minister has not been present.

I wish to point out to the Minister that in the outstations, especially in districts like Chilaw, Kurunegala and Galle, we ought to establish purchasing-centres at once, because I know that the coconut producers are undergoing great difficulties at the present moment. They cannot send their copra by rail,

and there is also difficulty in regard to road transport. I know that many people are placed in the position of having to store their copra on their estates.

As was pointed out by the hon. Member for Mannar-Mullaittivu (Mr. Sri Pathmanathan), coconut producers are not getting a fair price for their copra. The Hon. Minister has entered into an agreement with the Imperial Government, and we are not getting a fair price for our copra. I would inquire from the Hon. Minister whether it is not possible for him to enter into negotiations with the British Ministry of Supplies for a subsidiary contract to get a better price for our copra.

Apart from that, I would like to point out that even the smallholders are not getting a fair price for their nuts. This is a matter that has been brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister by the Coconut Board also, and it was only the other day that the Low-country Products Association raised this question: they have even gone to the extent of suggesting that a Committee be appointed to go into the working of the copra-purchasing scheme.

With regard to the copra-purchasing scheme, I am told that there are people there who are supposed to grade the various grades of copra but who have absolutely no idea of the grading of copra. At the commencement of the copra-purchasing scheme, the Director of Commodity Purchases used to buy any kind of copra. Now the latest I hear is that he says that certain copra that is sent is bad and that he is not prepared to buy it. He has said that estates are sending inferior copra. He has realized it only at this stage? I think Mr. Whitby will bear me out when I say that the people who are employed to grade the copra know nothing about copra. I hope the Hon. Minister will look into the matter and see that people who can grade copra are employed.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: That is a matter that has been looked into. I cannot be responsible for what people say. I have heard it myself. But the fact is that the people who have been appointed are people who are quite competent to deal with copra.

With regard to the question of having stores in the outstations, steps are being taken in that respect. I myself went to the three districts which are primarily concerned in this matter and discussed the question with the planters in those areas, and we took out statistics of stores that are available in the Kurungala District. I have just received a full statement of the stores available, and we are making arrangements to start purchasing. In the Puttalam area, for instance, storage is very difficult. Now they are considering the question of putting up new stores, and that will take time. As soon as the stores are ready, we will take up the question of purchases in the outstations.

Mr. T. Amarasuriya: My point is that the whole scheme is not working satisfactorily. There are purchasing schemes for other products like tea and rubber and there is no difficulty in those cases. I would like the Minister to go into this matter and see that something is done; it is a matter which is under his control.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Except for the difficulty that exists with regard to the question of storage, I am quite satisfied that the scheme is working well.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake (Dedigama): Do I understand from the Minister that the Ministry of Supplies in England is buying our copra at a certain price and selling to India and making a profit. Is that the position?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The Ministry is buying our copra at a certain fixed price. All the copra that is exported goes to that Ministry and it is, I understand, sold in India at a higher price.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake: Then what is the difficulty of getting the price raised?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: If we enter into a contract with a party and we want to vary its terms, we will have to put up the case to that party. [Interruption]. We agreed to sell our copra at Rs. 59 a candy, and the other party is legitimately entitled to make a profit on that contract until we point out that it is wrong to do so when it is a contract between two Governments.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands): I should like to know from the Hon. Minister whether in the lists of stores available which have been submitted to him the desiccating mill at Narammala, the desiccating mill at Mirigama and the desiccating mill near Gampaha are included. I make this inquiry because some people believe that these stores are going to be established only in the towns.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: I cannot remember the stores that are included in the list. The Planters' Association and a representative body of planters have said that they will make available all the stores that can be made available. I remember, one store at Narammala was mentioned as one that could be taken over.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: I should like to know whether it is only estate copra that is bought by the Government and not "cart" copra or village copra.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Only No. 1 and No. 2 copra are being bought.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: Why is the copra known as "cart" copra not bought? In the villages the people do not wait till the nuts are quite mature to pluck them. The copra that is turned out of such nuts is not as dry as the other copra, and it is sold as "cart" copra. What I was told was that this copra is neither bought nor allowed to be shipped outside Ceylon.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: There was what was known as No. 3 copra in the market, and very little of that was exported in the past because it went to the oil mills for making oil. We buy No. 1 and No. 2 copra now. There is a No. 3 grade as well as a No. 4 grade, and the question whether those grades should be made exportable has been taken up. I have recommended that these grades should be exported.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: If it is the millers who buy the village copra, and if the Government buy the oil from the millers, would the Hon. Minister consider the question of fixing the price of a lower grade of copra for the millers?

[The Hon. Mr. Senanayake.]
I understand that in certain parts coconuts are sold at only Rs. 18 per thousand. The Government by not buying village copra give an opportunity to millers to pay very small prices to the villagers.

Mr. S. Abeywickrama (Udugama): I have two questions to ask in this connexion: with whom was the agreement entered into to buy copra, and did the Imperial Government give instructions to the Department to ship copra to Bombay?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The agreement was with the Government of England—with the Food Minister—

Mr. Abeywickrama: And they instructed you to ship copra to Bombay?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: That is correct. We were anxious to ship as much as possible to India because we had a market there and we did not want to lose contact with that market.

Mr. D. Wanigasekera (Welligama): There was no comprehensive scheme adopted when the Ceylon Government undertook to buy all the copra produced. We have about 1,000,000 acres under coconut, and an undertaking was given that the Government would buy all the copra available. There should have been a well-thought-out plan. I do not think such a plan was evolved, and the result is that while the big estate owners are getting the benefit of the purchasing scheme, the poor man is shut out. In places down South, the poor man has to sell his coconuts at about Rs. 18 per 1,000, whereas the big estate owners who produce No. 1 and No. 2 grades of copra obtain higher prices.

The arrangement has hit the poor man. There are no copra-buying centres in these districts, and the poor man has not benefited by the scheme.

Mr. Abeywickrama: Is it correct to state that a cable has been received from England inquiring why copra was shipped to Bombay and instructing that further shipments to Bombay should cease?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The hon. Member has mixed up two questions, and it is difficult to answer "Yes" or "No". I will give all the facts.

It is perfectly true that shipments to Bombay were stopped about three weeks ago, and we were told not to ship copra to Bombay. But those instructions did not come from the Food Minister or the Secretary of State in England; they were instructions from the Government of India and had reference to local difficulties at the Port of Bombay. We had to stop shipments in accordance with those instructions. We have just received a telegram, however, to say that we can resume shipments to Bombay. That shows that the position in that harbour has improved.

Mr. T. Amarasuriya: Did any of the shipments to Bombay come back?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: No.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 32, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 33 was passed without amendment.

Sub-head 34, Running Expenses of the Ceramic Factory (token vote) Rs. 10.

Mr. H. de Z. Siriwardana (Negombo): Is there any delay in getting the necessary machinery? What is it due to?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The delay is due to the fact that certain parts of the machinery have not yet arrived. We have taken the matter up with those concerned, and have sent repeated telegrams. We are now assured that the parts would be dispatched at the earliest possible opportunity. They are awaiting transport from Calcutta.

Sub-head 34 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 35 to 37 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 38, Purchase of Local Products as part of Ceylon Government's Contribution to the War (revote), Rs. 180,000.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I do not see the need for this vote. The Imperial Government is already buying all our rubber, tea and coconut, and I believe a good part of the fibre manufactured is also being bought by the Imperial Government. This vote was, I believe, given in order to arrange for the purchase of coir-yarn products.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Because of this vote, we have been able to start two or three very valuable and useful cottage industries in this country. For instance, they wanted twine, and large quantities of this article have been made in different parts of the country with local fibre. In this new industry the latest figures show that some 800 persons are employed. We have received very large orders, relatively speaking.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: Who is getting the benefit of this vote?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The people of this country. They are earning good money. An order for Rs. 23,000 was distributed among the people in this country. Then there was an order for camouflage nets, and the coir-yarn industry is getting the full benefit of that. Large orders for coir yarn have been received for making camouflage nets.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I do not see that the people of this country are getting any benefit; and the description of this vote is very misleading.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: We are not purchasing what somebody makes; we are receiving orders and distributing those orders throughout the country and getting the people to make these articles.

Sub-head 38 was then passed without amendment.

Head 103, as amended, was passed.

Head 104, Controller of Labour.

*Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments,
Rs. 208,825.*

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: Why has the Wages Boards Ordinance not been put into operation yet? Owing to the delay, certain classes of labour are not receiving the benefits that other classes of labour are getting at the moment. Certain classes of agricultural workers are being given a dearness allowance, but labourers employed on coconut estates and in some other industries are not receiving any dearness allowance. It is only the tea and rubber industries that are paying this allowance. If the Wages Boards Ordinance had been put into operation all types of labour would have received this benefit.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale): If I may add another question, the Hon. Minister will remember that some time ago a petition was presented to him on behalf of the Printers' Association. Their grievance was that nothing had been done in respect of their representations for over two years. The Minister undertook to bring that trade under the operation of the Wages Boards Ordinance. May I ask the Hon. Minister what he has done in the last six months?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: As soon as the Wages Boards Ordinance was passed, we took certain steps. As Members are aware, there is a specific provision in that Ordinance that before a Wages Board is appointed for any class of industry, notification should be given to the public, calling upon them to make any representations, within a fixed period, about the proposal to apply the Ordinance to that particular trade. As soon as the Wages Boards Ordinance was passed and became law, I made an order that it should apply to several trades. Speaking from memory, I think I made it applicable to tea, rubber, coconuts, plumbago mining and the printing trade and workers in engineering firms. There may be one or two other industries, but I cannot recollect what they are—

Mr. Aluwihare: The printing trade is certainly in it?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Yes.

The Legal Draftsman was asked to prepare the required notification. I thought it would be a very simple matter to prepare a notification to the effect that the Ordinance shall apply to such-and-such a trade, but the Legal Draftsman informed me that he could not prepare the notification unless we specified the different classes of workers in each trade. Hon. Members who saw the notification which appeared some time ago in the newspapers, about the application of the Ordinance to tea and rubber, will realize what that requirement of the Legal Draftsman meant. Possibly because these two industries are well organized, we received the necessary information from them with regard to all the different duties which had to be performed in those industries, and a notification was prepared and published to the effect that Wages Boards

[The Hon. Mr. Corea.]
were to be established in respect of the tea and rubber industries. Objections were urged by several parties interested in the matter; those objections were considered by me and, under the power vested in me, those objections were overruled, and it has been decided to establish Wages Boards for those two industries.

We took up the coconut industry at the same time, but owing to delay in the receipt of the detailed information required, such as, for instance, details about those engaged in the coir-yarn part of the coconut industry—you have to describe all the work connected with the industry—action could not be taken earlier. [Interruption.] I hear the hon. Member for Galle (Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya) saying, "It could have been done in half an hour". I wish that were so.

The details were received and they were sent to the Legal Draftsman. The necessary notification in respect of the whole coconut industry has been prepared; it was issued yesterday. It will appear in the Press and in the *Gazette*. A month's time has been given—up to October 1—to those who wish to make any representations against the proposal.

With regard to the printing trade, information has been collected in the same way, of the various details, and a notification is being prepared. The details with regard to the classification is ready and the notification will follow very soon.

With regard to those three agricultural industries and the printing trade and plumbago mining, the details are ready and action will be taken.

Mr. Aluwihare: The other day I raised the question of introducing Sinhalese in estate schools. I am sorry the Minister of Agriculture and Lands is not here, because he seemed to oppose that idea. I left the matter over for this vote because I thought it was one which would be under the control of the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Schools on estates are under the control of the Minister of Education.

Mr. Aluwihare: I wonder whether the immigration policy is under the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce.

The point I want to raise is that, specially in our areas, whatever the future in regard to Indian immigration may be, we are faced with the position of a certain number of people being—

The Chairman: We passed the votes connected with immigration under the Chief Secretary.

Mr. Aluwihare: This is labour—I am dealing with mostly estate labour. If you do not like me to use the word "immigration", Sir, I will say that I am dealing with estate labour.

The Chairman: Is the hon. Member dealing with the question of immigration?

Mr. Aluwihare: No, Sir, I want to deal with conditions of labour—I beg your pardon; it was my fault.

We are faced with the position that in our area we have a certain percentage of foreign—Indian—labour which is permanently settled, whatever our views may be on the subject. I hope the hon. Member for Dumbara (Mr. Ratnayake) will listen, because he is also vitally interested in the matter, and I should like him to offer his criticism.

We are faced with the problem that, whatever you may do, some of the labour is permanently settled in this country, and the sooner they are enabled to establish contact with the permanent population, at least in the matter of language, the better it would be for all concerned. That view is strengthened, because an agreement between the two Governments has been postponed *sine die*. Now immigration is to be resumed; so that I expect there will be an influx of estate labour.

In the meantime, there is growing in our part of the country, a permanent resident population which has no contact with the native population of the Kandyan provinces. There is no contact in language; no contact by proximity, in the sense of neighbourliness, because they have nothing to do with each other and they tend to become isolated blocks. I do not think it is in the interests of anybody that permanently settled labour should be an isolated block; I believe, it is to our interest that we should take steps at least to establish contact in the matter of language between the estate labour and the Sinhalese population.

I wonder whether the Hon. Minister will consider that point of view and have Sinhalese introduced in estate schools? It is no use our acquiescing in the present position or asking labour to come to this country and keeping it apart because we are, so to say, practically trying to keep the sea out. Some of that labour is bound to be permanently settled and if only we can take steps to establish contact, and, if possible, absorb it into the general population it would be all the better for us in the long run.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The educational policy will be dealt with by the Minister of Education. I shall put the point raised to him.

Sub-head 1 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-head 2, Travelling, Rs. 10,000.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

(a) The provision of Rs. 10,000 to be increased to Rs. 13,195.

(b) In the details the sum of Rs. 5,425 shown against Controller of Labour and Staff and Labour Inspectors to be increased to Rs. 8,500.

(c) The sum of Rs. 800 shown against "Manager, Assistant Manager, &c., at casual rates" to be increased to Rs. 920. The words "at casual rates" appearing against this item to be deleted.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 2, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 3 was passed without amendment.

Sub-head 4, Unemployment Relief, Rs. 50,000.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake: I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what exactly is being done by way of unemployment relief. A large number of people have been discontinued. What is the policy that is being adopted?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The Board of Ministers decided that all the unemployment relief works should be stopped. We have endeavoured to find other employment wherever possible. As a matter of fact, a good number of people employed on the Kelaniya Relief Works were absorbed into other occupations. Similarly, in the case of the Ratmalana

Relief Works; the Public Works Department took over about 500 of the workers. A certain number of people were found work in different other departments and different other places.

There were left about 70 or 80 people who were unable to work. A proposal has been put up to the Treasury for authority to pension them off, and if the money is released it is proposed to send them out of the works on pension.

Certain other people remain who have been certified by the medical authorities as capable of working, and they have been asked to go to certain places for work which has been found for them. Some of them have refused such work, and the policy is that those who are found work and who refuse it will have to go out of the scheme.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake: I appreciate the decision of the Ministers with regard to unemployment works. But I understand that it is also the policy of Government to find work for these people before they are discontinued from relief works. In certain cases work is found, for instance, in the Railway. But I know of cases—I believe I have brought the matter to the notice of the Hon. Minister—where people have been rejected by the Railway as not being suitable for the work for which they had been sent. Some of these people find themselves in the position of not having the work found for them, because they were rejected as not suitable, being rather old or not strong enough to carry the loads that the Railway wanted them to carry; they have lost that work, and they are not taken again into the unemployment relief scheme. That is one type of case where I think a great deal of hardship is caused.

Then, there is also the class of case where people who have worked for a considerable number of years—some 10 or 15 years—who are rather old and who are not found work elsewhere. Those people are now discontinued suddenly during these difficult times, and find themselves with no income whatsoever. They received wages on the unemployment relief works, but now they are too old for any sort of work and in these difficult times they find themselves with no sort of income.

[Mr. Dudley Senanayake.]

I would like to suggest that it is very desirable in the case of these people to pay them some form of gratuity or pension before their services are dispensed with.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: It is not correct to say that anyone who is unable to work by reason of old age has been discontinued. They are kept on; and their case is under consideration by the Treasury. As I pointed out, their case is under consideration for the payment of a pension or gratuity. As soon as the authority is obtained, they will be paid the money and will then be disbanded.

With regard to the others who plead that they are unable to work—those are the cases the hon. Member himself brought to my notice—and who were sent to work on the Railway on the basis that they were capable of working, I may say that they went there and refused to accept work.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake: That is not correct.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Those people came to me too, and they told me that they were prepared to work but that the type of work they were asked to do was difficult, and that they could not undertake the work of carrying bags, and so on. They refused to accept the work given to them, and they were sent away. We sent them before a Doctor, and they were reported as capable of working. Then we sent them back to the Railway. Then they were prepared to undertake any kind of work. But by the time they went back to the Railway, the authorities had taken other people and filled those vacancies, and these people would have been thrown into the street.

I took the matter up with the Board of Ministers and obtained permission to keep them on the unemployment relief scheme until such time as we could find other work for them. They are still at Ratmalana. They have been paid from unemployment relief funds, and we are trying to find work for this small number of people. They have been found work at the Kottukachchiya Farm, but I understand that they are unwilling to go there.

Sir, I agree that until reasonable work can be given to these people, they must be kept on. That is the representation

I have made, and I propose to press that representation. If that is not accepted, and if the decision is that whether you are able to find work for them or not, at the end of the month they must go, there is nothing further that I can do.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake: Sir, with regard to this Kottukachchiya Farm, I may bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that a man over 60 years of age was sent there for work. Could one possibly expect that man to go there suddenly and to cope with that work? It is always possible to send these people to do work which they can never tackle.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: I quite agree with the hon. Member. A suggestion has been made to send these people to work at Minneriya, Trincomalee and so on. I honestly cannot ask them to go there. I know the conditions in Kottukachchiya, and I know that these people will not be able to carry out that work. They will be well-off, but I am not prepared to press them to go there. You cannot press people to go anywhere simply because there is a Government obligation to find them work. You cannot say that they should go to Elephant Pass and do work there.

I certainly will not agree to allow them to go to any place, but if reasonable work can be found for them, they must accept it. They cannot say, "We must have work only at the relief works". If we cannot find reasonable work for them, the Board of Ministers will have to review its decision and see whether these persons can be kept on until reasonable work can be found for them.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake: That is my point too. You send them to Elephant Pass and other places for work, and that is not in the least reasonable.

There is another point. I have not had an answer from the Hon. Minister as to what he is going to do with the people who are too old.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: I have answered the question twice. If the hon. Member will not care to listen, it is not my fault.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake: I would like to hear it for the third time. There is no point in getting hot over these matters.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: I said that I mentioned the matter twice.

Mr. Aluwihare: The point that I too want to raise is this—I am sorry to join in this fight :

The hon. Member for Dedigama (Mr. Dudley Senanayake) raised the question of the unemployed who have passed the age of sixty and who are no longer able to work. He wanted to know what pension they would get, and the Hon. Minister said that he was considering the question of paying them a gratuity. What is the Hon. Minister going to do with the employed who, having reached the age of sixty, are thrown into the street by their Government-employer without a gratuity or without any kind of pension?

Take the Urban Councils in the rural areas. Yesterday we had it from the Hon. Minister that there was apparently a scheme by which people who had been employed in Sanitary Boards and, at the end of their career, were employed by the Urban Councils could be given a pension, taking their service under the Sanitary Board as well as their service under Urban Council into account. Now, what is the Hon. Minister going to do in those cases?

There are labourers who work for 30 years; when they reach the age of sixty they are unable to work, and are thrown into the streets. They come to us and say, "Please obtain a pension for us". Nothing is done. But in Colombo town the unemployed are given not only unemployment relief until they are sixty but also a gratuity. Why should not there be equality of treatment throughout the Island? Colombo is a parasite living on the outstations. There should be equality of treatment in the case of all these people. If you are going to give a gratuity to unemployed people who are over the age of sixty, you must also give relief to those people who have been employed and are thrown into the street simply because they are old.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: That raises a general question of some kind of old age pension scheme. That is what I believe the hon. Member for Matale (Mr. Aluwihare) had in mind—some pension or gratuity, or something for those people who are over a certain age and cannot work is what he wants. I entirely agree with that.

My Executive Committee considered this matter very fully. A Special Committee was appointed to go into the question and the Committee made a recommendation. The Financial Secretary was co-opted to the Committee; and we drew up a scheme. We drew up a table; we put it as low as possible as an alternative basis, and we said that there should be payments made to those above sixty and seventy years of age. If it is over seventy years, it will cost you less and if it is over sixty years it will cost a little more. A full scheme was prepared and it was submitted to the Board of Ministers to be brought before this House. They said that they did not want the scheme. They were not prepared to sanction the scheme at the time. They prepared an alternative scheme, I think, under the control of the Minister of Home Affairs—a scheme for establishing homes for the aged, in different parts of the country. Anyway, the question was considered by us, and we submitted a scheme, but unfortunately the money could not be released.

Mr. Aluwihare: Sir, I am not going to let the Hon. Minister kill my case by calling it a "scheme". I avoided the use of the term "old-age pensions" or "scheme". The fact is that you are now contemplating paying gratuities to unemployed people over sixty, people who have worked on unemployment schemes. I ask you to extend that benefit to people who have been employed at least in Government Service or semi-Government departments up to the age of sixty, and are thrown out merely on account of their age, without any pension or gratuity.

Now, I do not want to be "killed" merely by the use of an expression—"scheme", "it is in preparation", "everything will come all right",—because my man at the age of sixty is going to die; whilst you are preparing a scheme, I will be attending his funeral. I do not want that to happen. The men are there; they are practically starving and are practically beggars. Having served in various departments for over 30 and 36 years, they are practically crippled. Something has to be done at once. Here you are giving relief. Why

[Mr. Aluwihare.]

do you not extend that relief to these people? Don't hedge under some magic word "scheme".

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Sir, I am not hedging or trying to avoid the question. I said that I am entirely in agreement with the view that not only men who are in the unemployment relief scheme but every man who passes a certain age and who cannot therefore work thereafter should be given a certain amount either as a lump sum or by way of monthly payment. I do not want myself to call it a scheme or anything like that. You might call it an old-age pensions scheme or something like that. But the point is, we must have the money to pay these people.

Mr. Aluwihare: Cannot he extend the scope of this vote?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: This vote refers to the relief of unemployed who have been employed by Government for the last eight to ten years. Even there I have to point out that there is no money to pay. This is for work which the unemployed people will do. They have to be paid out of this vote.

But now we are going to stop unemployment relief work. There are a number of people, about 50 to 100 people, who have been in that scheme for a number of years and who are now so old that they cannot be expected to work. Their case would be considered and they would be paid something to keep them going for the rest of their lives, either by way of a gratuity or as a monthly payment. I have put before the Treasury a proposal for that class of people. The matter is under consideration. If that money is allowed, we will pension these men off. We can say, "We will not find any work for you. You are not fit for further work; therefore we will pension you off in order to stop this scheme".

But on the larger question, I entirely agree; that is, apart from these people there are hundreds and thousands of others outside who cannot work, who may not have any resources of their own and who may not have any people to depend on. To such people there is need to give assistance, and it is to give such assistance that I put forward the proposal that they should be paid so much per month, every man who is registered as

unemployed and unable to look after himself. That requires a certain amount of money. We calculated the number of people in the whole Island who are within that age-limit that so much would be required and that a certain amount of money should be voted. That is all that I am saying.

Diwan Bahadur I. X. Pereira (Nominated Member): The Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce has considered this question on several occasions. There was a Subcommittee of the Executive Committee that went into the question; and even officials like the Financial Secretary are all agreed that a clear case has been made out for the early introduction of a scheme of pensions to old and feeble persons. But it was rejected because there was no money available. I believe it was estimated that a sum of Rs. 7,000,000 or Rs. 9,000,000 would be required.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Rs. 7,000,000.

Diwan Bahadur I. X. Pereira: It was estimated that a sum of Rs. 7,000,000 would be required to pay old-age pensions.

May I ask the Hon. Minister, now that we are paying war allowances to Government Servants which amounts to several millions—Rs. 23,000,000 or Rs. 25,000,000—and also in view of the fact that a reduction has been made in this vote, "Unemployment Relief", from Rs. 4,500,000 to Rs. 500,000, whether it will not be possible for the Hon. Minister to press his case on the Board of Ministers and see that even in the ensuing year old-age pensions become a reality?

Mr. Aluwihare: My point is the immediate necessity of these people. They can take as long as they like in discussing the scheme. But he has got a vote—Sub-head 5, "Charitable payments and grants". Cannot he extend the scope of that vote at least? We are on Sub-head 4 now, but cannot he extend the scope of the other vote to cover these cases? We are dealing not with a scheme; we are dealing with men. These people are starving every day; that is the point.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Well, Sir, this vote for charitable payments and grants

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is for allocation to people who are absolutely destitute, irrespective of age. It is to meet those cases.

Mr. Aluwihare: Extend it!

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Yes, I can extend it. But it will not be facing the issue fairly and squarely. This is a new principle and a different principle. We must put the case on that; not that a man is destitute and therefore some relief should be provided. The principle should be that when a person attains a certain age and it is considered that he cannot maintain himself thereafter by work, the State should give him relief, at least pay some part of the expenses required for his maintenance.

I am in entire agreement with that principle, and so is my Committee. We put it up. But we must get the money for it. It is not the case that we are hatching schemes. The scheme is there, and it is not a difficult scheme or a big scheme. The only difficulty was to find out the number of people who would be involved in the matter. That was found out, and the principles that should guide the payment of pensions were laid down. If you provide the money we can make the payments. That is the only question. There is no scheme that is being prepared. There is no delay because the scheme has not been prepared. The scheme is there. All that is wanted is money. If money is provided in this Budget, then we can begin the scheme. If money is provided tomorrow, we can start making payments straightaway.

I will certainly take up the question raised by the hon. Member with which point of view, as I said at the beginning, both my Committee and I are in entire agreement.

Mr. P. de S. Kularatne (Balapitiya): It is quite clear from this discussion that the Hon. Minister is quite willing to give old-age pensions, but there is some difficulty about finding the money. Apparently the obstacle is the Board of Ministers. I should like to appeal to him to bring up this matter again.

I do not like these words, Sir—"Charitable payments and grants." Old people should be given what is given as a right; they have a right to receive assistance from the State. It is very neces-

sary, in spite of what the hon. Member for Matale (Mr. Aluwihare) said, that we should consider all people who deserve help, and when the State does give help, we should give help according to certain rules and regulations.

This vote—"Charitable payments and grants"—is apparently being distributed by Revenue Officers according to their whims and fancies. Poor people are not aware of this vote; I personally did not know how this money was being distributed.

I would ask the Minister to let us have certain rules and regulations to show us how people could apply for help under sub-head 5.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I would like to extend the remarks of the hon. Member.

A certain amount has been provided by the State Council, for these poor people. I think at present the Revenue Officers have a list in their Kachcheries, and a good many of the Government pensioners are being paid out of this vote; when I say "Government pensioners", I mean minor employees of Government; not people like my hon. Friend the Nominated Member (Mr. Newnham), but people like Peons and other minor servants who had been employed in the Kachcheri, and also people who are being assisted by the local Friend-in-Need Society.

I think a good many of these Friend-in-Need Societies are unable to give the same help as they have been giving in the past, and I think some better form of administration of this money is really very necessary. I would like to know how this money is being allocated. I hear it is being done by the Minister. I do not know whether this money has been distributed equitably, because we do not know what the allocation is like. I would like to know what the allocation for the Galle District has been during the last financial year.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: With regard to the point raised by the hon. Member, this vote really should not appear in these Estimates, because this is a subject of the Ministry of Local Administration; that is, "Poor Relief" has been taken up by them. But as a matter of fact, although there is a Poor Relief Ordinance

[The Hon. Mr. Corea.]

and poor relief has to be undertaken by the Minister of Local Administration, no arrangement has been made up to date for poor relief throughout the country, with the result that I am continuing to ask for this vote and to administer it in this form.

What is happening today is that there are a large number of people in each Revenue District applying to the Government Agent for relief. He makes a list of people who apply and selects those whom he considers most needy, and he says, "For this year I wish to relieve this number of people and pay them Rs. 2.50 or Rs. 3 each per month". That estimate is sent to us; the figures are obtained from every Revenue District and the total amount of Rs. 400,000 or whatever it may be, is made up in that way. We ask for that amount in the State Council every year. So that the allocations are made according to the requirements submitted at an earlier stage.

The Chairman: The hon. Member wants to know what allocation was made this year for Galle.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The allocation will be made after this vote is passed.

The Chairman: No, for the current year.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: I can give him the figure. I cannot lay my hands on it now, but I will give it soon.

The allocation is made on that basis. But we have introduced a new feature which should make this allocation more satisfactory than it was before; that is, every Government Agent has now appointed a Committee of which the Chairman of every Village Committee is a member; and the Member of Council is also a member of that Committee. [Interruption.] Well, I am surprised if it is not so. At any rate, instructions have been given that there should be a Committee appointed, and that Committee should consider these charitable grants, make recommendations and then submit their requirements for the following year. I expect that it works in that way.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I am not aware of any such body.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: Instructions have been given to all Government Agents. If the Committee is not functioning, I shall inquire why it is not functioning.

Mr. Abeywickrama: Has the Minister received reports from these Committees?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: These Committees were formed recently.

Mr. Abeywickrama: I know of no Committee that is operating in my area, except for the Friend-in-Need Society. It is well and good to say these things here, but where are these Committees operating?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: I shall find out why they are not operating.

Mr. T. B. Jayah (Nominated Member): Who constitute the committee?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The Chairmen of the Village Committees in the area and the Member of Council concerned. I shall inquire why such Committees have not been functioning. If I remember rightly, I think I saw a report from one such Committee.

Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya (Horana): When were those instructions issued?

The Hon. Mr. Corea: It was not very long ago; the instructions were issued a few months ago. When we compile the lists, something more in keeping with the actual requirements of the different places would be done.

Sub-head 4 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-head 5, Charitable Payments and Grants, Rs. 411,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce]:

Include a sum of Rs. 6,000 under "Charitable Allowances" for assistance at Rs. 5 a month to decrepit persons in unemployed schemes and residing outside Municipal limits.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 5, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 6 to 13 were passed without amendment.

Head 104, as amended, was passed.

Head 105, Food Controller.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments,
Rs. 522,415.

Amendments moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

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|--|--------|
| | Rs. |
| (1) Item: 8 Assistant Food Controllers
Decrease the provision by Rs. 1,944
and substitute the word "Two"
for "Three" in the relative foot-
note. | 49,097 |
| (2) Item: 85 Clerks. | |
| (3) Substitute "91 for the cadre figures
"85" and amend the footnote to
read as follows:— | |

Sixty-seven of these posts are held by officers lent for service from other departments; six posts are temporarily held by officers of the Malayan General and Railway Clerical Services.

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|---|-------|
| (4) Item: 2 Rice Transport Supervisors
at Rs. 150 per mensem ... | 3,600 |
| Delete the item from the Estimates. | |
| (5) Item: 3 Market Information Officers
at Rs. 600—90—900 ... | 1,920 |
| Substitute "60" for "90" in the incremental scale. | |
| (6) Item: 5 Stenographer-Typists— | |
| 1 at Rs. 936—60 & 72—1,908 | } |
| 4 temporary stenographer-typists— | |
| 2 at Rs. 936 per annum | |
| 2 at Rs. 2.50 per diem | |
| Decrease the provision by Rs. 133
and amend item to read as fol-
lows:— | |
| 5 temporary stenographer-typists— | |
| 2 at Rs. 396 per annum | } |
| 3 at Rs. 2.50 per diem | |

The Hon. Mr. Corea: I do not know whether this Head will be transferred to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 2, Travelling, Rs. 30,480.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

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|---|--------|
| | Rs. |
| (1) Item: (i.) Food Controller and Staff
including Price Control Inspectors and
Market Information Officers ... | 24,480 |
| Increase the provision to Rs. 38,916. | |
| (2) Include an additional item— | |
| (ii.) Transfers of Price Control Inspec-
tors ... | 1,060 |

Re-number existing item (ii.) as (iii.).

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 2, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 3 was passed without amend-
ment.

Sub-head 4, Rent, Rs. 5,670.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

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|---|-------|
| | Rs. |
| (1) Item: (i.) Rent payable for the Food
Controller's Office at No. 19, Barnes
place, Colombo ... | 2,220 |
| Increase the provision to Rs. 3,200. | |
| (2) Item (iii.): Jaffna—Rent of private
stores and godowns ... | 1,000 |
| Delete the item from the Estimates. | |

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 4, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 5, Incidental Expenses,
Rs. 5,500.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

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| | Rs. |
| Item (i.) Telegrams, Press Notices,
journals and publications and miscella-
neous services ... | 3,500 |
| Increase the provision to Rs. 16,000. | |

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 5, as amended, was passed.

**Head 106, Controller of Imports,
Exports & Exchange.**

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments,
Rs. 128,194.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

- (1) Clerks (G. C. S.)
Reduce the provision from Rs. 29,652 by
Rs. 6,833 to Rs. 22,819. Delete existing make-
up of 24 clerks and substitute the following
therefor:—

- | | |
|---|--|
| 22 Clerks (G. C. S.) | |
| 14 Clerks (G. C. S.) Class I. at Rs. 3,000—
180—4,260. | |
| Class II. 1 at Rs. 900—120—2,820. | |
| 3 at Rs. 720—108—2,448. | |
| Class III. 9 | |
| 9 (Gr. I. Rs. 1,440—45—1,800). | |
| (Gr. II. Rs. 600—42—1,398.) | |
| 1 Temporary clerk at Rs. 52 per mensem. | |
| 1 Temporary clerk at Rs. 57.50 per mensem. | |
| 6 Temporary clerks at Re. 1.70 per diem. | |
| (2) Rent allowance. | |

Reduce provision from Rs. 7,980 by Rs. 1,373
to Rs. 6,607.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 2 to 5 were passed without
amendment.

Head 106, as amended, was passed.

Head 107, Director of Food Supply and Control.

Sub-heads 1 and 2 were passed without amendment.

Head 107 was passed without amendment.

Head 108, Commissioner for War Risks Insurance.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 46,376.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

Accountant and Office Assistant.

Reduce provision from Rs. 8,100 to Rs. 3,200. Clerks, General Clerical Service.

Reduce provision of one of the Temporary Clerks and increase the number of Clerks (G. C. S.) Grade II. on Rs. 600—42—1,398 by one.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The House will remember that the Hon. Minister promised to place before Members a scheme of war risks insurance in respect of immovable property, like houses—

The Hon. Mr. Corea: The Bill is ready and it is now before my Committee. It will be placed before the House as soon as possible.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 2 to 4 were passed without amendment.

New Head 109, Controller of Distribution of Imported Subsidiary Foodstuffs.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

Insert New Head as follows:—

Head 109, Controller of Distribution of Imported Subsidiary Foodstuffs.

	Actual Expenditure. 1940-41.	Estimate, 1941-42. Rs. c.	Estimate, 1942-43. Rs. c.
Sub-head 1, Purchase and distribution of currystuffs, sugar, flour and other subsidiary foodstuffs (token vote) ..	—	1,000 ^a	1,000
Total ..	—	1,000	1,000

^a In 1941-42 a token vote was obtained under New Head 43, Emergency Expenditure.

Details of Sub-head.

1. Purchase and distribution of currystuffs, sugar, flour and other subsidiary foodstuffs (token vote) ..	Rs. 1,000
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To meet expenses in connection with Government purchase and distribution of currystuffs, sugar, flour, and other subsidiary foodstuffs. All expenditure including salaries of staff and other establishment charges will be met from the Advance Account which will be settled as the currystuffs, &c., are sold and the proceeds are realized and credited to this account.

The Hon. Mr. Corea: I think this Sub-head has also to go over to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, with the transfer of Food Control to that Ministry.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1 was passed.

New Head 109 was passed.

Sub-head 5, Cost of Operating the War Damage (Business and Personal Movables) Ordinance, No. 9 of 1942, Rs. 1,000.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

Increase provision under this Sub-head to Rs. 10,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 5, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 6 was passed without amendment.

Sub-head 7, Refund of Premiums under the War Damage (Business and Personal Movables) Ordinance, Rs. 700,000

Amendment moved [*Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce*]:

Sub-head 7, Refund of premiums under the War Damages, &c.

Alter title of this sub-head to "Claims under the War Damages (Business and Personal Movables) Ordinance, and transfer of premiums to Suspense Account.

Footnote "a". Delete "xi" and substitute "vi, sub-head 14". In the second sentence replace "on" by "in".

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 7, as amended, was passed.

Head 108, as amended, was passed.

Head 110, Minister of Education.

*Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments,
Rs. 33,885.*

Mr. S. Abeywickrama (Udugama): I should like to have certain information from the Minister. The other day I gave notice of a motion regarding the management of a school in my constituency, namely, the G/Lewela School. That motion was referred to the Executive Committee of Education for report. I now understand that without a report being sent to this Council the Committee has decided to take action behind the back of the State Council. The usual procedure is for the Executive Committee to report on the motion to this Council and await the decision of Council. The Committee, I understand, has decided to allow this school to continue under private management. This was a privately-managed school and the management was unsatisfactory. There are some societies running schools and there is great trouble experienced as a result of the manner in which individual managers run these schools. I want to know from the Minister of Education whether what I have heard about the G/Lewela school is correct or not.

The Hon. Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara (Minister of Education): The school referred to by the hon. Member has given a great deal of trouble to the Department and the Executive Committee of Education. It is true that the Executive Committee came to a decision that the school should be handed over to the manager. The motion, of which notice has been given by the hon. Member, was received in my Office, and I have called upon the Director to submit a report on the matter with a view to this question being discussed in the Committee. Pending that discussion in Committee, it is not correct for the hon. Member to say that we are going to hand over the school to the private manager. It is not going to be handed over. I have laid the matter by pending a decision on the motion by the State Council.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale): The Hon. Minister has heard my comments on estate schools. I wonder whether he would reply to them?

The Hon. Colonel J. L. Kotalawala (Minister of Communications and Works): During the next Budget speech!

Mr. Aluwihare: The point I raised was that in the present circumstances we have to accept the fact that a certain percentage of estate labourers is going to be permanently settled in this country. Since we have to face up to that, is it not wisdom that we should teach Sinhalese in estate schools so as to help in the general absorption—of that part of the population into the rest of the population the indigenous population—in those areas? That was the question I raised.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: There is a separate Ordinance, No. 31 of 1939, Part II.—

Mr. Aluwihare: What is the Chapter?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I do not know what the Chapter is. It is Ordinance No. 31 of 1939.

The superintendent of the estate is made responsible for the education of the children on the estate, and a reasonable grant is paid to the Superintendent. I have listened to what was stated by the hon. Member both just now and previously. I shall certainly try to get in touch with the Agent of the Government of India and the estate proprietors and discuss this matter with them. I shall tell them that it is to the advantage of this country to have the local vernaculars introduced into estate schools.

Mr. T. B. Jayah (Nominated Member): Is the proposal made by the hon. Member that Sinhalese should be taught to the children of Tamil labourers? Is that the proposal?

Mr. Aluwihare: Yes.

I do not know whether this is a matter for the estate Superintendent to decide. This is a matter of policy to be accepted by the Government and laid down as part of the curriculum of estate schools. This proposal is bound to mean, I suppose, the employment of an extra teacher in each estate school. In the first place, it is a matter of policy which the Government should decide, because

[Mr. Aluwihare.]

it is a national question, not a question merely of whether a particular class of employer will take a particular kind of step.

Diwan Bahadur I. X. Pereira (Nominated Member): The point raised by the hon. Member requires very careful consideration. I myself am prepared to support the proposal. I think the hon. Member will be equally anxious to extend that principle to schools all over the Island; that is, that children attending schools in the North would be taught Sinhalese and the children attending schools in the South would be taught Tamil.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: That has been so.

Diwan Bahadur I. X. Pereira: It will also be the path of wisdom for the hon. Member to suggest that when the children of estate labourers who are to be taught Sinhalese become adults, they should be given the franchise.

Mr. Aluwihare: It is no use the hon. Indian Nominated Member bringing in something else into this discussion. After all these people are living in the Sinhalese Districts and they must be encouraged to have contact with the ordinary population.

Diwan Bahadur I. X. Pereira: It is obvious that truths are sometimes unpalatable to some people.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Let us have mixed marriages! That is the next best thing.

Mr. D. M. Rajapaksa (Hambantota): I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to a matter relating to education in the Hambantota District.

About four months ago, I sent a telegram to the Minister informing him of the inadequate educational facilities provided in that District, and I also complained to him that the construction of new schools had ceased and that most of the schools were in a neglected state. The Hon. Minister was kind enough to come down to our District and visit some of the schools with me.

I am sure he will never forget the sight of the first school he visited, for it had practically come down. There was the Divisional Inspector of Schools in the company of the Minister, and that officer was instructed to go into the matter at once. I heard the Minister tell the Divisional Inspector that the condition of that school was thoroughly disgraceful.

The Hon. Minister will be surprised to hear that until last Sunday, that is, three months and a few days after the instructions were issued, no action had been taken in the matter. The school remains in the condition it was. The roofs are leaking and work on the new school-building has not begun.

Everything is in a disgraceful state in my District. I do not know how to get things done, when the officers of the Department even disobey, do not carry out, the instructions of their Minister. I do not know how to obtain relief for my people.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I must say that some of the school-buildings I visited were in a bad condition. I called for an explanation from the Department, and I was told that there was great difficulty in getting contractors to come forward to do this work now. Contractors are asking for higher rates. An order has been made that somehow or other they must find contractors and have this work attended to. I am sure the matter will be attended to shortly.

Diwan Bahadur I. X. Pereira: Might I inquire from the Hon. Minister when the report of the Special Committee on Education could be expected?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The matter is nearing completion. I expect the report to be before the House in another two or three months.

Mr. T. Amarasuriya (Moratuwa): May I know why there is delay about the report of the other Commission that was appointed to inquire into certain allegations made against officers of the Education Department? The general public are wondering why there is all this delay in issuing that report. I refer to the Text Book Commission.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I am not responsible for the Text Book Commission. The Text Book Commission was appointed by His Excellency the Governor. I do not know what the Commissioners have done in the matter.

Mr. Rajapaksa: The Hon. Minister takes a great deal of interest in school gardens and home gardens. I know that he has visited several schools in the Hambantota District to distribute prizes awarded for school gardens.

There was a certain teacher in the Hambantota District who applied for 10 acres of land to cultivate it. Perhaps he had listened to a speech made by the Minister when he went to distribute prizes for school gardens in the Hambantota District. That application was referred to the Director of Education, but the Director wrote to that teacher to show cause why he should not be dismissed from service for making that application.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I am not aware of that. If the hon. Member would give me the name of the teacher and the school in which he is employed, later on, I will make inquiries into the matter.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle): I should like to know what the policy of the Minister of Education is with regard to the registration of schools. As a Member of the Education Committee at one time, I know that this matter was under consideration by that Committee and I should like to know what the final decision arrived at is.

I should also like to know what the policy would be in regard to the registration of English schools. I raise this question now because there are a large number of English schools which have been started in various parts of the country. Some schools have been carried on for three or four years without any assistance from the Department. At present they find it very difficult to carry on, because finances have deteriorated both owing to reduced attendance and the inability of the parents of the children who attend school to pay fees and other charges promptly.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: There has been no change of policy since the hon.

Member left the Executive Committee of Education; the policy is the same. Some schools have been started against the express wishes of the Director. The order is that before people start a school, they should inform the Director and obtain his permission. Some people have been asked not to start schools because they would not be registered. The Executive Committee has stopped the registration of schools for some time. That was the decision of the Executive Committee, and it was done with a view to bringing in a new type of school. The objection to people starting schools is that expenditure will go up. For that reason registration has been held back. As I said, that was the Committee's decision, and that decision stands.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I am not thinking of those schools. In certain areas, because the Government has failed to start schools, certain recognized societies have taken upon themselves the duty of starting schools, and they have ungrudgingly carried on these schools for a number of years. But they now find that they are unable to carry on these schools. Therefore, unless the Government either takes these schools over or gives them assistance, provided of course they comply with the provisions of the Code, these schools are likely to close down. I would like to know the policy of the Hon. Minister in regard to such schools.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: If the hon. Member will give me the names of these schools later on, I will look into the matter. There is a certain procedure that has to be followed. I do not know whether the procedure has been adhered to or the conditions satisfied in these cases. But if the conditions have been satisfied I do not know why registration is being withheld.

There are one or two objections to private schools being registered. Now it is a definite decision of the Executive Committee that no further private schools will be registered. But if the schools are run by private recognized societies then they will be registered. If the hon. Member will let me know the schools he has in mind, I shall look into that question.

Mr. Aluwihare: I wonder whether the Hon. Minister will, in the execution of such a policy, avoid the concentration of expenditure on Education particularly on certain areas like Jaffna, the Western Province and the Southern Province, at the expense of the various other and poor provinces in this Island.

I understand that the Hon. Minister has an opportunity of equalizing the distribution of education. I am told that he has 300 to 400 teachers on his hands with whom he does not know what to do. Will he take the opportunity of sending these teachers to strengthen the staffs of outstation schools?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: What the hon. Member has stated is not correct. At the beginning of May, there were about 300 teachers available. But most of the schools have now reopened and the managers are recalling their teachers. I have the actual figures. The teachers who are available at present are being employed in various Government Departments and other posts. This matter was fully discussed by the Executive Committee, and what the Executive Committee decided to do is exactly what the hon. Member has in mind.

We have decided to open better schools, schools of a higher grade—in fact something like central schools—during the present emergency, so that they may be continued later if found necessary. In villages where there are Government school-buildings, it is proposed to have dual sessions or special classes. That policy has been decided upon by the Executive Committee of Education.

Mr. Aluwihare: I hope the Hon. Minister will take into consideration the lack of educational facilities in certain areas. It is a matter in which the Muslims and the people in our part of the country are greatly interested because in most of our areas people are very much poorer than we imagine.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: That is so.

Mr. Abeywickrama: I want to ask a question with regard to priority lists of

teachers awaiting appointment to schools under the Education Department. I wish to know whether separate lists are maintained at the Divisional Inspector's Office or whether there is only one list in the Head Office. Can we get a list from which we can find out the number of teachers awaiting employment? The names of qualified teachers appear on these lists.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I do not think there is any objection to supplying the hon. Member with a list of the teachers in his division awaiting employment, if he wants one. These teachers are registered in separate divisions because most of those who apply prefer employment in their areas, and they apply to the Divisional Office. But there is no objection to somebody, say, from the Galle District applying for registration in the Colombo area.

Mr. Abeywickrama: The point I wish to emphasize is this. A separate list is being maintained in the Office of the Divisional Inspector of Galle. Now, when the Divisional Inspector recommends a name to the Head Office, it will be found that the Head Office also has a list of unemployed teachers. If by some process the Head Office decide that the unemployed teacher in Colombo should get a job, they will say that his name had been registered previously and that he should get the place. I want a close check maintained in this matter. As this concerns the whole Island, there must be some definite policy observed; otherwise the whole thing is useless.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The instructions are that these lists should be acted upon separately, that in the case of a vacancy in the Galle area the Galle list should operate.

Mr. Abeywickrama: I am thankful to the Hon. Minister. I think the best policy would be to lay down that in the case of schools managed by the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Galle, no teacher from another district should be appointed unless the list is found to have been exhausted.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Unless there happens to be a stray case where a

teacher who has been on the list for many years is appointed, the list is strictly adhered to.

Mr. Abeywickrama: At present the exception is more frequent than the rule, because I find that teachers who are on the waiting list cannot obtain employment in certain areas. As it is, the list is a fictitious one, and it is not strictly adhered to. I hope you will look into the matter.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I will look into the matter. But I think I know the trouble in some of these cases. We have taken over some schools, but we have not been able to take over the whole staff. So some of these teachers are on separate waiting lists and we have promised employment to them before any of the others are given employment. It may be that some of these teachers I have in mind have been appointed.

Mr. Aluwihare: I hope this applies to all the Provinces.

Mr. Jayah: I am not sure what the policy exactly is. If I understood the Hon. Minister aright, does he suggest that there should be different waiting lists applicable to each district—

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Yes.

Mr. Jayah:—and as vacancies occur they are to be filled by teachers of those districts?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: That is so.

Mr. Jayah: I am not sure whether that is the policy followed. It is not fair, I think, by teachers. I thought you had a waiting list for the whole Island, and that vacancies were filled in order of application and seniority. But just because there are certain vacancies in the Southern Province and because there are some new teachers who have passed out from the Southern Province, does it follow that those teachers should be appointed in preference to teachers who have served elsewhere in the past, who qualified years ago? I am not sure that that is the correct procedure; I am not sure whether that is the policy that is being followed.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The hon. Member knows that this matter was discussed at the instance of the hon. Members representing the Kandyan provinces. It was definitely laid down that these teachers must get preference in their own areas.

Mr. Jayah: I remember that an exception was made some time ago when there were about 3,000 teachers without employment, and it was suggested that only teachers with certain qualifications should be entitled to fill these posts. We said that it was a very good policy provided Kandians and Muslims appointed even if they were less qualified. If that is what the Hon. Minister is referring to, I must say that that is not the general policy.

Mr. Aluwihare: There is just one other point. How does the Hon. Minister get on without his Secretary? I understand that he has no Secretary.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I am sorry to say that it is very difficult to do the work in my Office because I have no Secretary. I have only one Clerk in the Office. This state of affairs has obtained for some time. I have complained about it on several occasions.

It has now come to this, that even some of the letters written in the vernacular have to be attended to by me; I have to attend to everything. There is hardly anybody in my Office. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs. I have represented the matter to the Hon. the Chief Secretary several times, and the last letter I received from him I think stated that he would give me a Secretary when someone or other returns. I understand that my Secretary has returned, but I have not got him yet.

Mr. Aluwihare: Surely the hon. the Chief Secretary can give an answer to the question. I do not see how the Hon. Minister can get on without a Secretary. Will the Hon. the Chief Secretary tell us why he is not in a position to give the Hon. Minister a Secretary?

Mr. Rajapaksa: I would like to bring another matter to the notice of the Hon. Minister. It has now become the fashion in every school in the Hambantota District for the teacher to obtain a bottle of

[Mr. Rajapaksa.]

arrack for the District Inspector when he visits the school. The Director of Education himself told me, when I protested against the transfer of the Inspector to my district, that this officer was a drunkard; he said, "Well, he is a drunkard". The Director of Education himself knows it. Another hon. Member of this Council told me this the other day: "Your Inspector came to me drunk like a fish". Those were the words the hon. Member used.

Conditions are almost intolerable. On the Saturday following the Hon. Minister's visit to Hambantota there was a Teachers' Conference at which the man presented himself and ridiculed the Hon. Minister and me for touring the district. The people and the teachers of the district feel that this is an intolerable state of affairs. I want the Hon. Minister to take action and remove the officer in question from Hambantota. He is not doing any work there.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Is it the District Inspector or the Circuit Inspector that the hon. Member is referring to?

Mr. Rajapaksa: The local Inspector.

There was another incident. The Divisional Inspector of Schools presided at a meeting of the Local Advisory Committee recently. This man came there drunk and behaved in a very queer way. I reported all this man's activities to the Divisional Inspector. I did not wish to involve myself in any dispute on that occasion. The Divisional Inspector agreed with me that the man was drunk.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: This matter is being looked into. I have mentioned it to the Director of Education.

Mr. Abeywickrama: I can add to what the hon. Member for Hambantota (Mr. Rajapaksa) has said. There was an Inspector who was at Ambalangoda, and on a complaint made by me the Director of Education said that he was removing the officer from there. He has been sent to the hon. Member's area, and I am very sorry to hear that he is troubled by this person. I think this person ought to leave the department.

Mr. Aluwihare: The Hon. the Chief Secretary has not replied to the

Secretary to the Hon. Minister of Education.

The Hon. Mr. R. H. Drayton (Chief Secretary): Mr. Chairman, I am not reluctant to reply.

The hon. Member is quite right; the Hon. Minister should have a Secretary. Nobody disputes that for one moment; notwithstanding that I have not one myself, I still do not dispute it. But here is only a certain amount of material to go round and there are some people who must go short at times.

I do not think hon. Members realize the enormous demands made for personnel for emergency services in all directions. I have had occasion, I think in this Council, recently to express the opinion that the supply is for all practical purposes exhausted but the demands continue. There is no doubt about it that Ministers, Heads of Departments and other persons concerned in the administration of this country will have to go short of assistance. That is a fact that must be faced; there is no doubt on that point at all—it is so today.

There is equally no doubt that the Hon. Minister of Education has been without a Secretary for a certain time; it is equally certain that he will have one as soon as I can provide one.

Mr. Aluwihare: That is not good enough. There are certain essential services that have to be supplied.

Now in this case the Hon. Minister has been without a Secretary for four months. In his Office there is just one Stenographer and a Clerk. As you know, Sir, the Hon. Minister of Education is from the very nature of his duties, a man who has thousands of institutions which he has to deal with. The amount of clerical work involved is enormous; I know it.

It is not good enough for the Hon. the Chief Secretary to say that he has not an officer. The point is that some officer should be provided to take the burden off the Hon. Minister. It may be that there is not a pulka Civil Servant available, but there are other people who can be made to do the work during this period. People may have to go short, but there are certain people who cannot do without certain assistance; and surely the Secretaryship to the Hon. Minister

is an essential post. An Inspector of Schools or someone of that kind might very well be provided. I cannot understand this, Sir.

I would put it to the Chief Secretary that the post of Secretary to a Minister is a post that must always be filled; otherwise there will be absolutely no continuity of work in the Office. Suppose a letter is received and the Minister is on circuit. Who is to attend to it? This is an intolerable situation. I must confess that I did not expect such a reply from the Hon. the last Legal Secretary now translated into the Chief Secretary, as he has given.

Mr. Abeywickrama: I want to ask another question. I wish to know whether it is a fact that the Third or Fourth Assistant Director of Education who has passed his sixtieth year has been given an extension to continue in that office. It is a well-known fact that the Hon. Minister is blamed for things done in the Head Office. Competency and the management of affairs at the Head Office are being questioned, and why has the Minister acceded to the request—I do not know whether it was the officer's request—that this individual be continued in service after his sixtieth year? I wish to know how the Minister can spare his Second Assistant Director to be an A. R. P. Controller in Galle, and another Divisional Inspector to be an "(Emergency) Assistant Government Agent?" The normal promotions of officers are held up by reason of the fact that this old gentleman who is doing nothing is being continued in office after 60 years of age.

The policy of Government is based on the fact that human nature is such that a person cannot render full service for the salary which the taxpayer pays him, after he passes his sixtieth year. I do not mind it if the Chief Secretary or the Minister pays the salary out of his pocket. We are here to safeguard the money that is being voted, which is the contribution of the taxpayer. [Interruption.] The Hon Minister is not listening.

The Chairman: Order! Please proceed.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I am listening.

Mr. Abeywickrama: My attention has also been drawn to the fact that the

Second Assistant Director has gone to the Information Office. [A MEMBER: The Deputy Director]. The Deputy Director (Mr. Patrick) has become the Information Officer. Another Assistant Director is A. R. P. Controller in Galle. There is no necessity to appoint him A. R. P. Controller when there are other people who can do that work.

Mr. Aluwihare: You are a Controller.

Mr. Abeywickrama: Then, an efficient Divisional Inspector of Schools has been sent out as "(Emergency) Assistant Government Agent". This officer will be an asset to the Head Office. These three appointments have reduced the number of his staff, and this old gentleman is continued in service beyond his sixtieth year. They are committing the gravest crime by depriving him of his well-earned rest after 60 years. He is being kept in the department. The Hon. Minister is blamed for no fault of his, and he has to shoulder the blame of this management.

I raised the point about teachers on the waiting list being given employment because charges are made that the recommendations of the Divisional Inspectors are not taken into consideration at the Head Office, but that anybody coming with a suitable bribe can get himself appointed. I am stating facts of which I have come to know. I must say that the Hon. Minister is clearly not to blame; the system operating at the Head Office is to be blamed.

I agree with the point raised by the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) that the waiting list must be an Island-wide one so that in no case except under the hand of the Minister would there be any alterations made. I do not mind it if the Minister exercises his discretion and says that No. 1 and No. 2 on the list need not receive appointments just yet. But, Sir, with old fossils—superannuated officers—with one foot in the Office and the other in the grave, what can we expect? I cannot understand for what reason the officer in question is kept on in office barring the promotions of the other people.

Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana (Gampola): I am sorry the hon. Member for Udugama (Mr. Abeywickrama) should have been very uncharitable. I have

[Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana.]
a great deal to do—and right through my career I have had a great deal to do—with the Education Department, and I know something of that Department. The gentleman referred to, who was rather unfortunately described as one of those old fossils fit for the grave, is in the fullness of his powers.

Mr. Abeywickrama: What is his age?

Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana: Whatever the age may be, he is really the most valuable asset in that Department. In point of fact, he asked to be allowed to retire, but it is at the request of the Department that he is being retained in service because there is nobody to take up that work at this stage; there is absolutely nobody.

One thing that can be said is that if there is one person who can deal with the Vernacular teachers in this Island, one person competent to do that work, it is the gentleman referred to. He has been absolutely fair-minded. Certain insinuations were made, whatever may be the form in which the Member put them, but I can say that this officer is one of the finest men. I think a number of members of the Council too who know him and who have had to deal with him made a particular request of the Minister—that this officer should be retained in service for some time longer.

Mr. Abeywickrama: Very good. But the taxpayer does not expect him to be retained after 60.

Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana: I think it is not fair even during the Committee stage of the Budget that useful members of the Public Service should be maligned in this manner.

Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya (Horana): It is just possible that the hon. Member for Udugama (Mr. Abeywickrama) has had some unfortunate experience with this officer, but I personally can say that the officer referred to is one of the most conscientious and ablest officers in that Department. Whatever his age may be as the hon. Member for Gampola (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana) said, he is in full possession of his powers and is able to give his services for several years to

come and not only for a few months. Most of us who have had anything to do with the Department know that this officer is one of the ablest officers in that Department.

Mr. S. Samarakkody (Narammala): I endorse the remarks of the hon. Member for Gampola (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana) the hon. Member for Horana (Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya). I am one of those who least expect favours from people in Government Departments. This gentleman has never done me a favour—I never go and ask a Public Officer to do me a favour—but I have come in contact with him in a number of cases. Although he has not been able to oblige me even on one occasion I found that he always showed me the other side of the picture which we usually do not see, and I can assure you that every case that I put up to him has been dealt with very fairly by him.

Mr. Aluwihare: I do want to contest the point that in Government Departments seniority must always put a man into the post that is vacant. I understood the hon. Member for Udugama (Mr. Abeywickrama) to say that that should be the rigid rule, but I say that it should be least so in the Education Department because after a time teachers become very crusty, and if you go on putting these people up and up merely because they have passed through a certain number of years without dying, the whole educational system will simply break down. I do want to contest that position.

The other point I want to mention refers to the very officer that has been spoken of by the hon. Member for Udugama. I want to tell him that this gentleman is one of the few officers in the Department who have had a grasp of the educational system in this country throughout the last 30 years and realize its development. He was one of the most efficient teachers of the Royal College, and then he was drafted on to the Department and in regard to the development especially of rural education I have found in every case that he is of inestimable value.

Mr. Abeywickrama: I am very happy to hear the speeches made, but I am also

puzzled to understand how various Members of Council seem to be in touch with and know more about Assistant Directors in the Head Office than the Hon. Minister himself. It is a clear indication that they are in touch with these people. I do not know in what capacity.

Mr. Aluwihare: How are you in touch?

Mr. Abeywickrama: I raised the question of the principle of continuing officers in service after their sixtieth year.

Mr. Samarakkody: I want to raise a point of order.

Mr. Abeywickrama: I am on my feet.

The Chairman: Order! The hon. Member wishes to raise a point of order.

Mr. Samarakkody: Is the hon. Member entitled to make insinuations against other Members of this House?

Mr. Abeywickrama: There was no insinuation made.

Mr. Samarakkody: I submit, Sir, that an insinuation was made—that we come in contact with officers; in what capacity, he does not know. I must say that we come in contact with them only in one capacity, and that is as representatives of the people.

The Chairman: The sitting is suspended till 2 P.M.

Sitting accordingly suspended until 2 p.m. and then resumed, MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER [MR. SUSANTA DE FONSEKA] presiding as Chairman.

BUSINESS OF COUNCIL.

Mr. D. Wanigasekera (Welligama): Before proceedings start, I want to show to whichever Minister is responsible a sample of the rice that is being distributed in Galle.

The Chairman: I am sorry I cannot allow that at this stage.

Mr. Wanigasekera: At what stage can I do so?

The Chairman: The hon. Member can show it at any time, outside the Chamber.

Mr. Aluwihare: May I know the order of business. Is the Excess Profits Duty Bill to be taken up this afternoon?

Members: No.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva (Minister of Health): If the Committee stage of the Budget is over and if we have time we will take up the other matter.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I shall be glad if the Hon. Minister will make a statement with regard to the position of teachers after the end of September. I understand that certain arrangements have been arrived at by the Executive Committee.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Yes, Sir; the Executive Committee has decided to continue the arrangements that have been in force, until the end of September, and also to continue those arrangements for next year as well or until such time as the situation is relieved. The matter is before the Board of Ministers, and when it has been finally settled it will be brought before this Council.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: In that connexion I might mention that the Emergency Ordinance that was passed was in respect of schools in "target" areas, and those within a radius of one mile of any aerodrome. But now many problems have arisen with regard to the conditions of schools in other parts of the country, and there is no reason why there should be any discrimination. If any concessions are to be granted to teachers working in "target" areas, I think, the Hon. Minister should consider carefully the reasonableness of granting similar concessions to teachers working in other areas as well. The circumstances are almost the same. Furthermore, there has been a decrease in attendance even in rural areas, and therefore the matter will have to be inquired into. I would press that investigations be made and that the concession be granted to all alike without any sort of discrimination.

Mr. G. R. de Silva (Colombo North): I want to ask a question of the Hon. Minister.

During the troublous times following the raid a certain number of teachers were absorbed into certain other types of work; in fact, a large number of them

[Mr. G. R. de Silva.]
have been absorbed into A. R. P. Service, and some of them have had to forgo their holidays. In the case of certain schools which gave notice to their teachers, the teachers were kept going by the A. R. P. and some of them have had to forgo their holidays.

Now the position that has arisen is that certain schools are being reopened, and I am given to understand that a policy of discrimination is being followed. The people who had practically agreed to do that kind of work are, I find, in a worse position than those people who did not do any kind of work of that nature.

I want to know what exactly the position is, because I have come across cases where teachers, who were not necessary from the point of view of the managers, have been taken over by the A. R. P. and trained in specialized work. At that time the managers were very happy to get rid of them. Now those people who have been trained in some specialized type of work are being recalled by the schools in which they served. This is rather unfortunate from the point of view of the specialized training that they have received in certain of the services. Members of this Council may have seen advertisements appearing in the newspapers as regards certain people.

What is going to happen if we have a similar raid again as we had in April last and the schools close down? From what I can gather, the managers seem to be the only people who are being looked after by the Minister. They seem to be in a very safe position. But as far as the teachers are concerned, notices will be served on them asking them to clear out and when things improve again the managers will revert to the same position. I think the Council agreed to pay the salaries of the teachers also. I should like to know why there should be this special protection of managers whilst the teachers are in no way protected?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The position is rather complicated. There were 234 schools which were closed down in consequence of the raid, and of those, 229 have reopened; therefore, there are really only five schools that have still not reopened. There was a surplus of about 800 teachers in the hands of the

Director, in May last, and they were employed in various departments, none of them doing A. R. P. work.

The present position is that the Civil Defence Commissioner has been specially asked to state who the teachers are whom he wants to retain. Well, if he retains those teachers, he must also be responsible for their salaries. He cannot put the payment of salaries on the Department of Education and at the same time utilize the services of the teachers.

The managers are recalling their teachers because they have reopened their schools. We have addressed the Civil Defence Commissioner on that point, and some settlement will be arrived at. The teachers will not be left high and dry. The proposals will come before the Council in a few day's time; they are, as I stated a little while ago, before the Board of Ministers.

Mr. Jayah: The hon. Member for Colombo North (Mr. G. R. de Silva) perhaps is not aware that at the time the teachers were lent to do A.R.P. service, they were definitely made to understand that if the managers wanted them back, they should be relieved of those duties, I think, the Civil Defence Commissioner himself said that he was prepared to release them whenever they were wanted by the schools. It is not a question of protecting managers; it is a question of coming to some sort of settlement acceptable to all parties.

Mr. Aluwihare: One would like to know what the financial implications are. Where schools have been set up in areas outside the "target" zone, or whatever it is, I think, this Council granted certain financial aids. Are those financial aids to be duplicated in the case of schools that have opened in Colombo? I ask the question because you will have two branches of the same school, one in a "target" area and one in the interior? I should like to know from the Minister what the position is.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The position was definitely laid down in the Emergency Ordinance. You will find that a manager is permitted to open a branch school, and when the branch school and the parent school are reopened they will both be counted as one.

Mr. Abeywickrama: Just before we adjourned for lunch, I asked a question of the Hon. Minister as to his policy in regard to continuing officers over 60 years of age in service and, furthermore, lending three other officers to other departments and not recalling them. I did not get an answer to my question. Then there was an unfortunate impression created in this House, when I was speaking, that I connected a teacher with taking bribes. That was far from my mind.

The Chairman: What is the question?

Mr. Abeywickrama: I questioned the Hon. Minister's policy as to why his Department was retaining in service officers over 60 years of age and at the same time lending to other departments three staff officers, and why they were not recalled so as to relieve officers who deserve a well-earned holiday from Government service after reaching 60 years of age.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The hon. Member is referring to a particular officer in the Head Office. The Head Office has been depleted of most of the Staff Officers—

Mr. Abeywickrama: Why?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Well we have to co-operate and see that our best efforts are put forth so far as the defence of this country is concerned; therefore, the Director agreed to release certain officers. Their names were mentioned here. One has gone to the Censor's Department; another has become Information Officer, and yet another has become the A. R. P. Controller, Galle. In that manner we have tried our utmost to co-operate in regard to the defence of this country.

The hon. Member asked why we retained in service officers who have reached the age limit. The particular officer to whom the hon. Member referred will reach his age limit, I believe, next month, and he will be due to retire from that date. But he has been requested, owing to the fact that these other officers are engaged in other work, to continue for three months longer, until the end of the year.

That is the position as regards that officer. He has himself stated that he is not at all anxious to block the promotion of anybody or to continue in service

even a minute longer than is desired by the department.

Sub-head 1 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 2 to 5 were passed without amendment.

Head 110 was passed without amendment.

Head 111, Education.

*Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments,
Rs. 7,407,624.*

Amendment moved [*Minister of Education*]:

Head 111, Education.
Include Rs. 19,500 as salary of Deputy Director.

Delete footnote a.

Clerks, General Clerical Service.

Clerks, G.C.S., to be reduced by 4 and monetary provision by Rs. 4,788: Details to be amended as follows:—

137 Clerks (G. C. S.)

Special Class 1 at Rs. 4,500—200—5,500.

Class I., 3 at Rs. 3,000—180—4,260.

Class II., 31 at Rs. 900—120—2,820

Class II., 17 at Rs. 720—108—2,448.

Class III., Grade I., Rs. 1,440—45—1,800.

Grade II., 85 at Rs. 600—42—1,398.

Inspectorate.

Increase provision of 6 Divisional Inspectors by Rs. 11,130.

Increase provision under Dist. Inspectors by Rs. 3,600.

Increase provision under Inspectors by Rs. 27,741.

Delete non-pensionable allowance of Rs. 2,400 to Mr. J. H. de Saram.

Alter footnote: (a) to 3 officers (b) to 2 officers.

Delete footnote d and alter e and f to d and e.

Insert C against Inspectresses, Inspectresses of House Craft, Assistant Inspectresses of House Craft and explain by footnote C. "Officers appointed after April 1, 1942, should contribute to the Public Service Provident Fund—Ordinance No. 18, of 1942."

Vernacular Teachers.

Reduce total number of vernacular teachers to 8,312 and delete the words "and 60 additional teachers" under footnote (a.).

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I should like to have some information about the Superintendents of School Works. I find 3 in Grade I., and 7 in Grade II. May I know which divisions have been allotted the Grade I. officers?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Those who have been assigned the higher salary are those in charge of the larger areas, the provincial areas.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: What are those areas?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I am sorry I am unable to state exactly what those divisions are. I know that in the case of one particular officer he has received emoluments above the amount that you find put down against the Grade II. officers, and therefore he is specially included in the Estimates. Then, as regards the three others, I believe they are also officers who have served the department before and who were receiving emoluments which come to the figure given. I can supply the hon. Member with the information he wants.

Mr. Jayah: There is a matter in which the Muslim Members are interested. The Executive Committee of Education included in the Estimates provision for 50 Arabic teachers to meet a very insistent demand of the Muslim community.

You are aware, Sir, that some time ago Arabic was introduced as a subject in all areas where the Muslims predominate. It was found that owing to the rules regarding the quota of teachers although there was provision made for the appointment of Arabic teachers in most of these areas the Director did not find it possible to appoint them. The matter was reviewed by the Executive Committee of Education, and we decided to relax the rules to enable Arabic teachers to be appointed in Muslim areas.

As a result of that it was found necessary to make provision for 50 Arabic teachers. But I find that in the proposals before us the word "Maulawis" has been removed and only provision made for 50 additional teachers. Does it mean that the original proposal has been shelved? I do not know why this has been done.

I am sure the Board of Ministers could have learnt from the Hon. Minister of Education about the insistent demand made from time to time by the Muslims; and I think our proposal was unanimously passed by the Executive Committee. There is no reason why this vote should have been turned down by the Board of Ministers.

It is useless passing a rule enabling Muslim schools to have Arabic teachers and at the same time making no provision for them in the Estimates. It was only

the other day that I visited a Muslim school in the Kurunegala District along with my hon. Friend the Member for Colombo Central (Dr. Kaleel). We found there a large number of Muslim boys being educated in a most haphazard manner. When we asked the people why those children were being taught by a sort of private tutor, we were told that although there was a Government school established there, and although practically 100 per cent. of the boys there were Muslims, no provision had been made for an Arabic teacher.

The necessity for having Arabic teachers is very urgent, and the demand for Arabic teachers is universal where the Muslims are concerned. Therefore, I do not see why that provision has been deleted. I feel that something should be done to have that vote restored. Failing that, I would like to see these 50 additional teachers regarded as additional Arabic teachers.

Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan (Mannar-Mullaitivu): I should like strongly to support the request for provision being made for Arabic teachers. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister of Education is aware that Arabic literature—Arabic prose—has been prescribed as a subject for the higher Civil Service in England for the last forty years, and if the lower stratum of Arabic language and literature is not taught in the elementary schools, how can the Muslims compete for the Civil Service in that language?

I trust that the Hon. Minister will give his earnest attention to the matter and have these Arabic teachers appointed as soon as possible, and also, if possible, have a Professor of Arabic Literature appointed at the University that was established recently.

Arabic literature is classed among the finest literature in the world. There is a book on Arabic literature, written—*[Interruption]*: it is highly thought of by all scholars. Even now they want people to go to Arab countries to learn the language and bring about close co-operation between the Arab people and the English-speaking people. I trust that the Minister will give his close attention to this matter and not push forward only that form of studies in which he is interested.

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The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The teachers referred to are enumerated at page 244 of the Estimates, in the last line but one. The number of teachers was 756, and the Board of Ministers reduced it to 706. The reason for the reduction is not due to anybody not appreciating the Arabic language or its literature or the place that it finds in the home of the Muslims; the reason is not that.

At the request of the Muslim Members themselves, the decision arrived at was that where a large number of pupils in a school are Muslims, Arabic should be taught. The policy that is followed by the Department is this: whenever there is a vacancy for a teacher or when a new teacher is required, we try our utmost to get a man who knows Arabic appointed so that he may be able to teach Arabic. But in some cases it is not possible to do that. Owing to the disturbed state of the schools at the moment, the Board of Ministers thought that this provision might be taken out now, and might be reconsidered when the necessity arose. I will look into the matter again and I will put it before the Board as soon as there is any trouble on that score.

Mr. Jayah: I thought that it had been turned down on some financial grounds. But I do not know how the disturbed state of affairs comes in where the Muslim schools are concerned, because these schools are going on very well. The number of children attending these schools is increasing, and there is also the insistent demand from Muslims that Arabic should be taught. I do not know whether the Minister is correct in putting forward that reason for not including provision for Arabic teachers.

Mr. A. R. A. Razik (Nominated Member): The necessity is greater just now. There are about 350 Muslim schools and we are asking for only 50 Maulawis; I think it will take another 6 years to provide the required number. It is most unfair by the Muslim community to turn down this vote.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I did not express my personal view of the matter; I only stated what the Board of Ministers felt about it. I did put up the provision for 756 teachers, and the Board

of Ministers cut down the number to 706. The matter will be reconsidered, and will be put up before the Board of Ministers if these teachers are required by the Muslims.

The Hon. Mr. H. J. Huxham (Financial Secretary): I might give the House my idea of the reason for the Board of Ministers' decision. The reason is this. As far as we understood, there was no proposal to increase the hours of classes in the schools where Arabic is to be taught. Arabic is simply to be one of the subjects taught during normal hours. There is no question but that teachers in schools have quite short hours, and it should not be necessary to add an additional teacher and thereby shorten the hours of all the teachers in a school merely because Arabic is taught there. If a teacher is competent to teach Arabic he should be called upon to teach other subjects as well, and he should be one of the regular teachers of the school and come within the number provided in the Code.

Mr. Jayah: I do not know whether the Hon. the Financial Secretary was correctly advised in the matter. It looks as if he has not grasped the situation, because at the time it was agreed that Arabic teachers should be appointed to schools in the Muslim areas, we were told that owing to the financial stringency at the moment it was not possible to appoint Arabic teachers outside the Code and that we should wait till a vacancy occurred in the staff of the school before an Arabic teacher was appointed. At the moment we thought that that proposal was better than having no Arabic teachers at all, and agreed to it. We then waited for 1 or 2 years and found that in spite of our efforts only very few such teachers were appointed and that if we went on doing that even after another 5 or 10 years we would have very few Arabic teachers in our Muslim schools. So we thought that the best remedy was to make provision for 50 Arabic teachers.

I have no doubt that this question would be looked into most sympathetically by the Financial Secretary and the Board of Ministers. It is very necessary to provide these Arabic teachers. It is not a demand made by a few of us; it is a demand made by

[Mr. Jayah.] a whole community. They look at this matter not merely from the standpoint of literature. Unless Arabic is taught in these schools, very few Muslim boys will attend them. In the past the general complaint was that some of the schools in the Tamil areas were not sought after by the Muslim boys because Arabic was not taught in them.

That is why we are particular in introducing Arabic. As a result of the introduction of Arabic, the schools have become popular, and if at this juncture, owing to some new policy, or misinterpretation of the old policy, our proposal is turned down, it will be a retrograde step.

Mr. Sri Pathmanathan: I cannot agree with the argument about quotas for these schools. Here is a community which is anxious to have teachers to teach them their classical language, and it is the bounden duty of the Government to give that particular community what it wants, not merely for their literary benefit, but for the benefit of their souls. Their scriptures, their Koran, is in Arabic.

I cannot understand the attitude of the Hon. Minister. His Executive Committee passes a resolution and sends it up to the Board of Ministers; the Hon. Minister says, "I brought this matter up before the Board, but the Board have turned it down". Did the Minister press the request before the Board in the proper way; or did he do it in a half-hearted manner? There are two ways of asking for a thing.

According to the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah), this has been going on for the last ten years. You cannot deprive an important community of the benefit of higher education. I hope the Hon. Minister will keep this in view, and when he presses for more teachers of his own language, I hope he will also press for teachers of other languages in this country, if he is going to be fair to all.

The Hon. Mr. Kannanagara: The hon. Member does not know whether I pressed for this provision or not. I pressed for it; and I have given the explanation why the matter was deferred.

already pointed out that I am trying to supply schools where more than half the pupils are Muslims, with teachers who have a knowledge of Arabic, in accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee, and if there is a demand next year for more teachers of Arabic, I shall put the matter before the Board of Ministers.

Mr. Sri Pathmanathan: Thank you.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The footnote on page 244 states that 346 posts were allowed by Special Warrant, and that 50 are additional posts. Have all these teachers been recruited? For the year 1941-42 the number of teachers given is 7,966, and for next year the number provided for is 8,362. Has this cadre been filled?

The Hon. Mr. Kannanagara: I do not think that all the 7,966 teachers have so far been appointed. There are a few vacancies left. That is due to the fact that we could not go on appointing teachers owing to the disturbed conditions which prevailed early this year.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was then passed.

Sub-head 2, Travelling, Rs. 105,000.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Education*]:

Increase provision by a sum of Rs. 3,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 2, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 3 to 6 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 7, Construction, Maintenance, and so on, of Government Schools, Rs. 700,000.

Mr. Aluwihare: In regard to these new central schools, the Hon. Minister's intention is that these should be secondary schools. I find already a little trouble arising in my area in regard to supervision. I think the Inspector of Vernacular Schools wants to include the central school with his Vernacular schools, while the principal of the central school himself is most keen that the status of his school should be that of a

secondary school. The Inspector of Vernacular Schools wants the central school to be under him, but the teacher himself is most anxious that it should be under the District Inspector.

There is another reason why I think it should be under the District Inspector. From the very nature of things, the outlook of the District Inspector is bound to be larger, at least educationally, than that of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools, and I am certain that to have these schools circumscribed by the point of view of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools is to do them harm and prevent their development.

I mentioned this matter to the Minister. I promised him that I would see the Director of Education about it. Unfortunately, I have not had the time, but I do hope that the Hon. Minister himself will consider the matter and treat these schools from the very start as secondary schools and not as some grade of Vernacular schools. It makes a great difference both to the enthusiasm of the teachers and the Principal, as also to the status of the school, in the eyes of the inhabitants of the area.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I agree with the hon. Member that that arrangement might be made, but I will have to discuss the matter with the Director of Education. I will see whether it can be done.

Mr. P. de S. Kularatne (Balapitiya): On page 242, under "Secondary Education", the only school mentioned is Royal College. Has the Hon. Minister no other Government secondary school under his charge, besides Royal College?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: So far as collegiate schools are concerned, this is the only Government school; there are three senior secondary schools, and nine junior secondary schools.

Sub-head 7 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 8 to 13 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments,
Rs. 7,407,624—(contd.)

Mr. Jayah: Are we still on Personal Emoluments?

The Chairman: We passed that Sub-head long ago. We are now on Sub-head 14.

Mr. Jayah: Can we go back to Sub-head 1?

The Chairman: The hon Member can ask any question he likes now on that Sub-head.

Mr. Jayah: I am not satisfied with the reply of the Hon. Minister about Arabic teachers. I thought of moving that the Sub-head be deferred, so that the number of Arabic teachers might be increased.

The Chairman: I am sorry; the hon. Member is too late. The Sub-head was passed, as amended.

Sub-head 14, Feeding of School Children,
Rs. 2,500,000.

Mr. Aluwihare: Now that everything has gone up in price, I wonder how the Minister of Education is going to continue the same programme of feeding on this vote of Rs. 2,500,000. Is it not implicit in repeating this vote that we are going to reduce the scale on which children are fed?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Quite early, steps were taken and instructions were issued to all teachers that they must try and produce, in the school gardens, or on land taken over from the Government, as much food as possible. That work is being carried on intensively, with the result that there are a number of schools that produce quite a large amount of the food required by the children for their midday meal. If it is found necessary to increase this amount, I shall certainly look into the matter.

Mr. Aluwihare: I take it, from what the Hon. Minister has said, that there will be no curtailment in the programme of feeding school-children?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: No.

Mr. Aluwihare: I have one other suggestion to make to him. In most of these areas there are a number of village cattle, and I wonder whether the Minister could not attempt to purchase milk in these places and give these children supplementary milk diet.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: That is the accepted policy, wherever milk is available. Wherever there is a regular supply available we try to do that. We obtained some cows from the Minister of Agriculture and Lands and gave them to some schools, but the experiment has not been quite successful.

We have very few schools that keep cows; and there are only a few schools that can be supplied with milk by outside dairymen. The complaint of these dairymen is that if they obtain the necessary cattle and incur capital expenditure on that account and incur recurrent expenditure also on the dairy, the schools will buy milk only for five days in the week, and for the other two days they would be unable to sell the milk. That is the reason why we have not been able to adopt this form of feeding on a large scale.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: They have now found a substitute for cow's milk—milk from soya bean, which has all the proteins and fats.

Mr. Aluwihare: I wonder whether the Minister of Education could not get over that difficulty. Surely the schools could buy the milk on Sundays, at least, and turn it into curd?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: During the holidays?

Mr. Aluwihare: It will make all the difference if we give them a milk diet in addition to rice. If the Minister cares to try an experiment for the holidays, I feel certain that the Minister of Agriculture and Lands could make some arrangement to utilize the milk supplied, in producing cheese or butter. I am certain some such arrangement can be made. It is so important that the attempt is fully worth while making.

Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Trincomalee-Batticaloa): May I suggest that on these two days also—Saturday and Sunday—the children should be invited to come and have their milk? They will readily come, because the schools in villages are close to the homes of the children. Why should the children be denied their drink of milk if you are getting the milk?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: What about the three months' holidays that the students get?

Mr. Tambimuttu: Even during those holidays they can come and take their milk.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands): Whenever it has been possible, we have supplied the Department with milk. But there is more than one difficulty. One difficulty is that we do not have a sufficient number of cattle for the purpose of supplying milk.

But this is a question which, I think, should receive very careful consideration; The Minister of Education, the Minister of Local Administration and I might go into it. The reason is this: a child goes to school when he is about four or five years old. Then, little children require milk from the time they are born until they are about five or six years old—till they go to school. So, when they go to school, they do not have an opportunity of having their milk.

Then, there are the holidays to think of. Perhaps we may be able to evolve a scheme whereby children in a village who are not able to get milk may also be given milk in a central place, with the assistance of the local authorities. That can only be done if we have a sufficient number of cattle; but just now we are nowhere near that mark. I trust that the Hon. Minister will go into this matter and try to do something.

Mr. Aluwihare: That lands us in the other difficulty, that you should stop cattle-shooting. If you do not have a sufficient number of cows, stop cattle-shooting.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: Sir, I am hoping to bring up a comprehensive report on this question in the House.

Sub-head 14 was then passed, without amendment.

Sub-heads 15 to 23 were passed without amendment.

Head 111, as amended, was passed.

Head 112, Grant to the University of Ceylon.

Amendment moved (*Minister of Education*):

That the amount of Rs. 900,000 be increased to Rs. 930,000.

Mr. Jayah: Sir, we have no idea as to why this extra grant is asked for. I must say that as a Member of the Executive Committee of Education, I myself am responsible for this vote. But we have not been taken into confidence; we have not been given the details of this vote. I thought that before the amendment was made the Hon. Minister would give us an opportunity of studying the different items which make it necessary for the University Council to ask for this vote. Nothing like that has been done.

I am not sure whether provision has been made for a Lecturer in Arabic. If no provision has been made, I am not prepared to support the vote; and I would ask the Hon. Minister whether he is able to give me an assurance that such provision will be made.

Mr. Aluwihare: Sir, there is a grievance that His Excellency the Governor, having nominated the Bank of Ceylon to the Council, did not also include, I think the other Director, Mr. Clement J. Black and "A.B.C.X.Y.Z." Sockalingam Chettiar.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I shall give as much information as possible.

The general vote of Rs. 930,000 was placed before the Committee, but I had not sufficient time to go into the details of it with the Committee, especially because of the action of the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor of the University stated that he was against the idea of discussing this vote in detail owing to the nature of the University Ordinance that was passed by this House. So we have to go on the Ordinance as accepted by this Council. I am going to have a conference with the Financial Secretary and the Vice-Chancellor of the University to find out whether there is a possibility of getting over this difficulty to any extent.

As regards the question asked by the Hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah), the provisions made by the University, so far as I can find out, are the same as

the provisions put up to the Executive Committee when the estimates were sent to the Financial Secretary. In those estimates you find provision for one Lecturer in Arabic included. If for some reason or other the University do not appoint a Lecturer in Arabic—if they exclude that Faculty—then it would be up to the Members of the University Council and the Court to consider the matter and have the post included. But I do not think that there is sufficient ground for entertaining that fear just now.

The estimate was made up in this way: they took the amount that was provided in the current year under "University College"; they also took the amount that was provided under "Medical College", and the two items were combined; that is how the estimate was made up. The special reason why the extra Rs. 30,000 is wanted is as follows—I can give details because I told the Vice-Chancellor about the views of the Members, and he supplied me with the details as far as he could. The details are:

	Rs.
University College ...	632,405
Medical College ...	288,961
Cost of Chemicals ...	15,000
Government University Scholarships	19,000
Three Additional Hostels ...	10,000
Rent of Additional Bungalow ...	24,000
Emergency ...	8,600
Increase for postal and telephone services ...	3,750
War Allowances, Fire-watching, A. R. P. Measures ...	3,000
Stores lost at sea ...	10,000

The rent for an additional bungalow has to be provided by reason of the fact that students have really now no place to live in as, owing to war conditions, one of their hostels has been taken over.

The total of this vote comes to Rs. 1,000,000, from which, if you deduct Rs. 60,000 for repayment of pensions, and contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension scheme you get Rs. 940,000. From that, if war risks are undertaken by Government, you can further deduct a sum of Rs. 10,000. Thus you get the figure of Rs. 930,000. Those are the details.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: With regard to the Medical College, I must say that my Executive Committee and I decided to hand it over to the University

[The Hon. Mr. de Silva.]
on this condition—that they will give us a sufficient number of Doctors as circumstances in the country demand. I sincerely trust that the University will be able to provide them.

There are three other subjects which I have not transferred to the University. They are the training of Apothecaries, Pharmaceutists and dental students. I reserve the right to make use of the Medical College for the purpose of teaching these students. I made it perfectly clear to the Vice-Chancellor that that freedom should be given to my Ministry and that no hindrance of any kind should be placed before us in the matter of training students for these purposes.

Mr. S. Natesan (Kankesanturai): Sir, there are certain principles involved in the question raised by the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah).

Ordinarily speaking, an estimate coming from the Vice-Chancellor of the University should be placed before the Executive Committee. That was not done in this case. The Hon. Minister of Education has just now given some details, of which the Members of his Committee are not aware at all. I wish to know whether this is permissible in general, and what procedure should be adopted with reference to the University.

According to the Constitution, the Executive Committee of Education is in charge of all departments of education, including the University. Of course, the University is a sort of a semi-autonomous body. It has been claimed that it is an autonomous body, but I contend that, so long as the Vice-Chancellor of the University has to get money from this Council, the Minister of Education has to sponsor his votes here, and obtain the sanction of the Council every year when we deal with the Budget. The University is not such an autonomous body as it is supposed to be.

We have every right to know what the details involved in the estimates are. For instance, the question was raised by the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) as to what provision had been made for the appointment of a Lecturer in Arabic in the University. The Executive Committee had made provision for it. We do not know what is being done with regard to that matter.

Again, ordinarily before a vote can come up here, it should be sanctioned by the Court, but somehow or other, owing to certain exigencies, the Court has not met yet. So I do not know whether it is in order for this Council, to pass a vote which has not been sanctioned by the Court.

These are principles which ought to be taken into consideration by us. We are all in sympathy with the University; we want it to prosper. But at the same time we want the correct procedure to be followed. I wish to know from the Hon. Minister definitely what is going to be the procedure adopted in this matter, especially when the Court has not passed this vote.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: I do not know what the policy is going to be, or anything of that sort. But all that I can say is this: by Ordinance, we have handed over the University to a certain body. If it was a mistake to have done so, well, we should have thought about it at that time. We handed it over by Ordinance, but at the same time we agreed that this institution should be carried on on grants from Government. Actually, it is only a grant that is asked for. I do not think we want, merely because they have to depend on a Government grant, to control the affairs of the University here.

Mr. Natesan: We are not controlling its affairs; we want to know the facts.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: If you cannot control its affairs, if you cannot influence them, if you cannot do anything like that, what is the use of knowing the details?

Mr. Natesan: Then why should this vote come up here?

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: We give grants to all sorts of bodies. The University is of such importance to the country that we have already established it and agreed to maintain it by means of a grant. That is all that we can say. Of course, we must remember that by Ordinance we handed the University over to that body. We did not want the control of it; we wanted someone else to have that control. What we thought was that our trying to interfere with its affairs

might handicap the project, and because of a recognition I suppose of our shortcomings, we have handed it over—

Mr. A. Ratnayake (Dumbara): Shame!

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: Whether it is a shame or not, it is the act of this Council. If it is the action of this Council, even if some Members do not agree with that action, we have to accept it as a wise one.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: Sir, I do not subscribe to the proposition laid down by the Hon. Acting Leader of the House. The University may claim to be autonomous provided they have the "ammunition". It is the man who supplies the "ammunition" who calls the tune. The Hon. Acting Leader's proposition is a most extraordinary proposition. It is the taxpayer who provides the money.

It is true that you passed an Ordinance and handed over the University to a certain body, but when it comes to a question of asking this Council to vote moneys, I would ask hon. Members not to lose their rights in regard to the question of policy. That is the only guarantee we have that this University will be properly conducted. I sincerely appeal to the Hon. Acting Leader of the House not to put forward any interpretation of the kind that he put forward, as we may not be able to exercise any kind of control over the policy of this University.

It is perfectly true that the University is a sort of autonomous body as far as the teaching is concerned. [*Interruption.*] You may say "No". But we will not give a single cent if that is so, I shall be the last person to vote even a single rupee if that is going to be the attitude of the people in charge of the University.

Sir, the finances of this country are in the hands of the Members of this Council, and they should be able to understand how the money is being spent, how that money is going to be utilized, to what uses that money is going to be put. That is the position that I take up, and I think that is the right attitude to take up in this matter. We know that under Ordinances we give away a good deal of money to various bodies, but it

is up to this Council to find out what is done with the moneys they vote.

In those circumstances, I want this matter to be clarified at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Jayah: The Hon. Minister of Health has raised his voice in protest in time. I was myself rather taken aback by the extraordinary proposition that the Hon. Acting Leader of the House put forward. Here the Council is prepared to vote the money. No doubt we passed an Ordinance which conferred autonomy on the University. But does it mean that this Council has no power to scrutinize these votes? Or, are we precluded from moving a reduction of that vote? Will the Hon. Acting Leader dare to say that?

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: I will say that.

Mr. Jayah: And when I wanted that this vote should come before the Executive Committee, my object was to make sure that the items which we had advocated were included. The Hon. Minister of Education said that we wanted to discuss the various items or effect necessary amendments. Nothing of the kind. We want to know exactly what we are going to sponsor in this House. If questions are asked and the Hon. Minister himself does not know the details, how is he going to satisfy the House? The Executive Committee with the Minister should be in a position to know the details.

It may be that they might bring up proposals as a whole without any alteration, but at the same time we must not be precluded from expressing an opinion on the estimates, particularly when the Court has not considered them. I think we are perfectly justified in not entertaining this proposal. I do not know whether it is in order that we should consider a proposal which has not been placed before the Court of the University. After all, the Court has to consider these estimates, and it is only when the Court has approved them that the proposal should come before us. In this case the Court has not considered this vote, because the Court has not met yet. I do not know really whether this vote has come before us in the proper manner.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: With regard to the direct question put to me, I am only expressing my opinion for what it is worth when I say that when as a matter of fact I voted for that Bill, I did not think I would have an opportunity of poking my finger into the affairs of the University. That is my own interpretation of it. I did not think, when the Ordinance was accepted by this House, that the University came under the control of the Executive Committee of Education. That was not the interpretation I put on it. I may be wrong; I am not a lawyer, but, at the same time, that was the idea I had.

These educationists and lawyers may be better informed. They are entitled to their opinion, and I am entitled to mine; and I only express my opinion that this vote is brought up here only to ask for a grant for the University. We give grants to a number of bodies, and do we say, merely because we give a grant to a certain body, that we have a right to control the affairs of that body? After all, why do we give a grant? We give a grant because we acknowledge that the work that is done by that body is of value to the country and that assistance should be given by the State for that work; that is all.

With regard to the point that the Court has not met yet, if anything, it is an obligation cast on the Vice-Chancellor or someone like that to get the Court to approve the vote. The authority for expenditure is given by the Court, but there is no authority necessary for us to give a grant. Is it suggested, that when we got the University Bill passed, we were not willing to meet the expenditure that would be incurred by the University in running the University in the way that they want it run? We went further and said that all the employees of the University College must be taken over by these people and the liability carried on. All that has been done, and our liability is there. But, of course, if my hon. Friends think, "Oh, we have the whole control of the University, because a grant is going to be given to them", all I can say is that I hope they are right.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: I would like to take the earliest opportunity to dispel any wrong impression that may be

created in the minds of hon. Members. I accept to a certain extent what the Hon. Acting Leader says, that by an Ordinance the management of the University has been handed over to a certain body. Let us accept that for the sake of argument. Then it would be tantamount to this: tomorrow the University authorities may spend Rs. 5,000,000 without consulting this House.

Mr. G. A. H. Wille (Nominated Member): No, no.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: Do not say "No". Please understand what I am driving at.

According to the Hon. Acting Leader, the position is this: because we have handed over the management of the University to a certain body by Ordinance, we must, year after year, without speaking a word, vote millions of rupees. Is that the position? Then why should they come to this House. Now the Hon. Minister is asking for Rs. 930,000. We give that amount. Next year they will come here and say that they want Rs. 5,000,000. Can hon. Members pass these votes without considering the implications of these increased demands?

If you say that the University has been handed over to some body to manage, and that year after year we have bound ourselves to vote a certain definite fixed sum of money, it would be different. Here we have not undertaken to pay a fixed sum; we are going to pay what is necessary to run the University. Who is going to decide that? The University authorities decide it, but they do not have the funds to spend. They must come to us and tell us how they are going to spend the money. Then, are we not in a position to scrutinize their estimates and, for instance, say that it is not necessary to incur so much of expenditure; that we cannot give all that they want, that they must cut down expenditure? That is the only way in which you can have control over the University.

Speaking for myself, I was not in a position to study the University Bill when it was considered by this House. I did not study that Bill and therefore did not participate in the deliberations on it in this House. I was here for a few minutes when that Bill was dis-

Most Members seem to be under a misconception. They think that they have created a body that is quite independent of everybody. They think that nobody has control over that body. I think they are wrong if they hold that view.

The original estimate was Rs. 900,000. Then they increased it by Rs. 30,000, to cover various items. So that, the University authorities themselves found that they could not carry on their work within the amount originally estimated. If the House is going to consider increasing that vote, then is it not a matter in the hands of this House? Surely, that is an elementary principle that hon. Members should know. I therefore say that we are rightly entitled to scrutinize the annual Budget which comes before the House. We are responsible for spending the money of the taxpayer.

In England there are Universities run by funds created by private individuals. Some Members seem to think that our University is also run like that. It is not fair to compare the Universities in England with our University.

That is my interpretation of the situation. I trust hon. Members of this House will realize their responsibility and exercise the power we have over the purse.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Sir, it has been contended that the budget of the University should come up for discussion in this House. I do not think that that was contemplated in the Ordinance that was passed. If that, however, is the desire of the House, then the Ordinance will have to be amended. As the Ordinance stands at present, that cannot be done.

The grant is applied for by the Vice-Chancellor of the University. As I have already informed the House, the first grant that he applies for—I read out the different items of expenditure—is to cover the expenditure necessary for conducting the University College and the Medical College. That is the usual expenditure, with the addition of certain items. If the Vice-Chancellor wants anything more next year, then he will have to state the reasons why he wants extra funds. That estimate and the reasons adduced for an increase of grant

will be stated to the Executive Committee. Supposing an estimate amounting to Rs. 1,000,000 is sent to the Committee, the Committee will have to include that amount in the Estimates for the ensuing year and put it before the State Council.

As regards the details of the estimates, it is not the State Council that has to go into them. As I stated before, there are the transitory provisions in Chapter 14 and the financial provisions in Part X. There you find it enacted that the University Council is the body that has to prepare the annual estimates of the University. Those estimates then have to be put before the University Court, and the University Court finally passes them. After the expenditure is incurred, there will be an audit carried out by the Auditor-General. The audit result will be published in the *Gazette*. So that, there is an opportunity for anyone to find out how the sums asked for in the University estimates are made up and spent.

Furthermore, with a view to retaining some sort of control in the hands of the State Council, five Members were specially chosen by the State Council to represent them on the University Court. I am simply stating facts as borne out by the Ordinance that was passed quite recently. If those Members find that things are going wrong in the University, and if any additional provision is required, they will offer comments when the University item comes up here. Those comments will be taken into consideration by the University Council and the Court. If the University Council and the Court do not pay heed to the comments made in Council, when the grant comes up on the next occasion I am sure hon. Members will propose a "cut" therein or refuse to make a grant. Hon. Members may have recourse to such a procedure if their wishes are not carried out by the University Council and the Court.

Mr. Aluwihare: Has the University coming to that point.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I am coming to that point.

The question has been raised that the University Court has not been consulted.

[The Hon. Mr. Kannangara.]

In Section 66 of Part XIV. there is provision made for the transitional period and that provision is as follows:

"For the purposes of this section, 'the transitional period' means the period between the date on which this Ordinance comes into operation and the thirtieth day of September next following."

That is, this period:

"For the purposes of Part X. of this Ordinance, the first financial year of the University shall begin at the end of the transitional period.

The Vice-Chancellor shall prepare the financial estimates for the transitional period. The said financial estimates, shall be deemed to be the financial estimates of the University for the purposes of this Ordinance."

It goes on like that. That is the provision made until the Court meets. I understand that the University Council met yesterday or the day before, and that they are going to consider their budget. So far as the needs of the University are concerned, they will be placed before the University Court every year in March. When the proposals are placed before the Court in March and are accepted by it, the amount of funds required will be communicated to the Executive Committee. That will be the time for the Executive Committee to include that provision for consideration with the Budget for that year. The Executive Committee will transmit those estimates to the Financial Secretary and the Board of Ministers.

That is the procedure so far as I can see it; that is how the procedure has been laid down in the Ordinance that has been passed. If hon. Members want to go back on the University Ordinance, then the Ordinance will have to be amended.

Mr. Natesan: There is one point that I want to raise in connexion with the Section quoted by the Hon. Minister of Education. According to that Section, it appears that the Vice-Chancellor is empowered to make an estimate for the transitional period which extends up to the 30th of September. We are considering not only the estimates for the transitional period but also the estimates for the next year. So far as the estimates for the next year are concerned, they have to be placed before the University Court. I do not know how we can get away from the fact that

a fact that these estimates have not been placed before the Court. So, the question I raised is this, whether it is in order for us, whether it is in conformity with the provisions made in that Section of the Ordinance to pass the budget of the University for the next year before it has been considered and sanctioned by the University Court.

The Hon Mr. Kannangara: For this year the Court meets in the third week of September. These estimates cannot be held up till then. We have to give a grant now for this year. This exception has to be made and the University Council, I understand, has agreed to it.

Mr. Natesan: I say that we should conform to the provisions in the Ordinance. I want to know whether it is right for us to go beyond the provisions in the Ordinance.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The mistake my hon. Friend from Kankasanturai (Mr. Natesan) is making is this—[*Interruption.*] We are not passing the budget of the University; we are only called upon to make a grant.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: And Members of this Council must support that grant.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: It is for the Vice-Chancellor to frame the University budget and put it before the University Court. This question was considered by some Members of the Executive Committee when the University Bill was originally discussed. I think the only Member who opposed the creation of an autonomous University was the hon. Member for Dumbura (Mr. Ratnayake). He wanted the University to be placed in such a position that the whole thing could be controlled by the State Council. Opposed to that there was another school of thought.

The Chairman: I do not think we need go into all those details. The question now is whether this House is entitled to have certain details on this vote.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The point I am making is this, that my hon. Friend from Kandy is not quite correct in his interpretation of the law.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: It is a matter of fact.

The Chairman: This Council is not concerned with points of law. If there was anything irregular, I think the Board of Ministers would have acted on the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: We can reduce the vote. If we reduce the vote, the University Court will have to adjust the work of the University so as to keep within the reduced grant. So that, our right to reduce the grant has not been taken away. If hon. Members feel that a grant of Rs. 930,000 is too much, they can reduce the amount. I do not think that that position is contested.

I do not know whether these details have been before the Committee. But, according to the law, if the University says that it wants Rs. 900,000 it is left to our good sense to vote it or reduce the amount.

Mr. Aluwihare: I want to say that I was one of the persons mostly responsible for at least a degree of the autonomy that the University possesses.

You will remember that under the original Ordinance the idea was to make a grant for a period of years and, under the Ordinance as accepted by the House, the annual grant was decided on particularly for the purpose of our generally examining the expenditure of the University. I do not want to go into details of Personal Emoluments or the various Sub-heads. But we wanted to know the general Heads or general purpose for which money was expended. That was enforced by Sub-section (3) of the Section of the Ordinance dealing with grants. I believe Sub-section (3) says that the grant made by this House shall be expended on the purposes set out in the Ordinance. Surely then sufficient information must be given to us before we grant this money so that we may know that the grant is being spent in accordance with Sub-section (3).

I will read the whole of Section 46 (1). Sub-section (1) says that the Financial Secretary shall include a grant in the Appropriation Ordinance; Sub-section (2) says that the Financial Secretary shall make application to us for supplementary provision. Now the very fact

of applying for supplementary provision implies the fact that we have to examine that item of expenditure at least. Sub-section (3) says:

"All moneys paid to the University under the preceding sub-sections shall be applied or expended by the University for all or any of the purposes authorised by or under this Ordinance."

Are we then, under this provision, only bound to look at the item after the money has been spent? What is the good of looking at the item in a very general kind of way? Surely we are entitled to know what these heads of expenditure are. I think we do want the University to have autonomy. But we also want to know, in a general way, how this money is going to be spent.

The original idea was that Rs. 900,000, or whatever the amount should be, should be granted to the University, and that they should never come to us for money; that they should have extra money for their purposes. That position has been changed. Even in this very estimate they have put down Rs. 900,000. They now come to us and say, "We want another Rs. 30,000". Are we precluded from asking where that sum of money is going to? This grant was made particularly to maintain a certain degree of control, a degree of control that we did away with—control through the Executive Committee.

I want to raise another very important point. The Hon. Minister said, "Well, this University cannot carry on beyond the 30th September, if you keep strictly to the provisions of the law". Was it very difficult for a meeting of the University Court to be called? If it could not be called, was it very difficult to have circulated a list of detailed expenses among the Members of the University Court so that they could have discussed any item with the Principal if they wanted to?

I want to say that we are faced with a much bigger problem than that. We particularly laid it down that the Vice-Chancellor of the University was to be a full-time officer, that he was to devote all his time to University business. Now he has become an A. R. P. propagandist. Is that good enough?

Mr. Ratnayake: Why did you give autonomy?

Mr. Aluwihare: No. This is against the law. There is a definite provision of this Ordinance—

The Chairman: May I suggest that in view of the discussion that has taken place and the opinions expressed, that the Hon. Minister move that this item be deferred and that he in the meantime take up this question with the Board of Ministers and the Vice-Chancellor because, so far as I can see, the points raised are of such importance that we will not be able to conclude the discussion on this item till 4.30 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I just want to point out that it was not humanly possible for the Court to have been convened because the University came into being only on the 1st July, 1942. That was the very reason for our making prior provision. We had to wait for the election of Members to serve on the Court. That took place in this House on 10th July, 1942. Various other Members also had to be appointed to the Court. I think the personnel of the Court is now complete and that the Court will meet for the first time in the third week of September. So that until then we must take it for granted that this sum of Rs. 900,000 will be required. I gave the details as to why the further Rs. 30,000 has been included in this sum. In the meantime the University has to function.

The Chairman: So far as I can see, the House is not so much concerned with the Court as with a number of these items. The House is only anxious to have some idea as to what the various items of expenditure are for which money is required. In view of that, may I suggest to the Hon. Minister—so far as this discussion is concerned, it is likely to go on till 4.30 P.M.—that the matter be further discussed with the Board of Ministers and the Vice-Chancellor? Perhaps when the Council meets on Tuesday next the matter can be brought up again and a statement to satisfy hon. Members tabled. It is only a general statement that is required.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: So far as the point that was referred to by the hon. Member for Matale (Mr. Aluwihare) is concerned, it is provided in the Ordinance that there shall be an audit. So

that anybody can see whether the money has been utilized for the purpose for which it was passed by this Council. There will be an opportunity for everybody to see how the moneys of the University have been spent. I am interpreting the Section of the Ordinance as passed. Hon. Members accepted the Section, and after doing so I do not think it is possible for them to expect the Vice-Chancellor to place the estimates of the University before this Council for discussion.

The Chairman: I do not think that is the point. Hon. Members are not asking that that be done.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I have already fixed a meeting; I wanted to have a discussion of this point with the Hon. the Financial Secretary and the Vice-Chancellor, because I knew what was coming. But it has not so far been possible to discuss the matter because there have been so many meetings of the Board.

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister will appreciate that of the seven Members of the Board of Ministers three have given different interpretations of the law. The Hon. Ministers are the Hon. Acting Leader of the House; the Hon. Minister of Health and the Hon. Minister of Education.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I gave an interpretation based on the Section in the Ordinance.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: The Hon. Minister of Education agrees with me over the question of votability. When we have the right to vote this money—

The Chairman: Would the Hon. Minister like the discussion to be deferred for a further date?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: When will it come up? The only trouble is that this item might be delayed.

Mr. Wille: This is only hampering the work of the University.

The Chairman: The item is to be deferred only till next week. I do not think we can conclude the Committee stage of the Budget today.

Mr. Wille: I want to put forward my view of this matter. It may be that this House has the right to ask for details of this sum of Rs. 30,000—as to why it is going to be added. We have to make a start with the University, going on past expenditure. We have to give a lump sum. We have taken the past expenditure of the University College; we have taken the past expenditure of the Medical College, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University has submitted certain increases mostly owing to the present situation. Now the Members who speak of scrutinizing estimates must ask themselves why the Head of Expenditure have been taken out of the Appropriation Bill and the matter put in the form of a grant.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: We understand it.

Mr. Wille: The Hon. Minister seems to understand little. He is the person who has misled hon. Members of this House.

The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva: If you take my lead you will be all right.

Mr. Wille: You will be the last person whose lead I will follow.

The Chairman: Might I suggest that we first find out from the Hon. Minister whether we can have this vote deferred? If I allow the hon. Member to argue, I must permit a discussion.

Mr. Wille: I have not been able to finish my say. There has been talk for the last half hour or more. We were not expected to scrutinize the details of this vote. This being the first time it is coming up, you might ask the Minister to bring up details, but hereafter the general conduct of the University will be governed by a very representative body consisting of a large number of people representing the general public, the educational bodies and this Council; and we are expected to reduce the grant, for instance, only if we find some strange conduct on the part of the University or if it is going in a wrong direction. It is absurd after providing for a grant and not for appropriated items to ask that we should be informed of each item of expenditure that goes to make up the grant.

The Chairman: Is the Hon. Minister agreeable to deferring this item?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I have not the slightest objection. The only thing is, I do not know whether I will be able to bring it back in time to be included in the Budget; that is my only trouble and nothing else. Today is Friday.

Mr. Ratnayake: The whole of September is before us.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: But this item must be passed before that.

The Chairman: Yes, it has to be passed in Committee.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Otherwise I have no objection. I was the first person who suggested a conference to get over this difficulty, as I anticipated that there would be trouble.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Postpone it till Tuesday.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Can I be sure when this item will be taken up?

Mr. Wille: May I ask what is going to be brought before us? The information that we want to enable us to pass this vote is before us. What more is going to be brought?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: If we are meeting on Tuesday next, I shall try to have a conference before that.

The Chairman: Yes. Then we shall defer further consideration of this Head.

Mr. Natesan *rose*.

The Chairman: I hope the hon. Member will appreciate my difficulty. If I allow the hon. Member to speak, I will have to allow other Members also to speak on this item.

Mr. Natesan: I want to raise a point of order. Under Section 66 of the University Ordinance the Vice-Chancellor is entitled to send up the estimates for the transitional period, and as regards the general estimates for the next year those estimates should be considered by the Court because the Section says—that is one of the powers of the Court—that it should pass the estimates. The Court has not met and passed the estimates. Therefore, I say that we might consider the estimates, as presented by the Vice-Chancellor, for the transitional period, but not beyond that.

The Chairman: I rule against that point of order. We are only concerned with the Budget—whether the Budget has come up before this House in the proper form—and on that there can be no doubt. The point of order raised by the hon. Member is a point of law which must be decided elsewhere and not by me.

Further consideration of Head 112 deferred.

Head 113, Archaeological Department.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 45,458.

Mr. Aluwihare: Is the Archaeological Department functioning now?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Yes, Sir. The headquarters have been transferred to Anuradhapura.

Mr. Aluwihare: May I know how much money the Minister has obtained from the sale of those post cards, and how much he spent on printing them?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I am sorry I am not in a position to give the information just now. I shall call for the figures from the Archaeological Commissioner.

Sub-head 1 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 2 to 9 were passed without amendment.

New Sub-head 10, Remuneration and Travelling Allowance of Indian Expert on ancient paintings, Rs. 4,250.

Amendment moved [Minister of Education]:

Number the sub-head "Remuneration and Travelling Allowance of Indian Expert on ancient paintings" as 10 and insert the word "revote" after paintings and include provision of Rs. 4,250 in the 1942-43 Estimates.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 10 was passed.

Head 113, as amended, was passed.

Head 114, Colombo Museum.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 77,461.

Amendment moved [Minister of Education]:

Include under allowances:
Cost allowance to pcon Rs. 15.

Mr. Aluwihare: Has the trouble between the Royal Asiatic Society and the Museum now been finally settled?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: There is no trouble now.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 2 to 11 were passed without amendment.

New Sub-head 12, Rents of Private Buildings, Rs. 620.

Amendment moved [Minister of Education]:

Insert under special expenditure New Sub-head 12, Rents of Private Buildings, Rs. 620 and details as follows:—

(a) No. 2 Senanayake avenue, Nugegoda, at Rs. 35 p.m., Rs. 420.

(b) Pelmadulla Walauwa at Rs. 100 p.m. for 4 months June-September, 1943.

(Rent due up to May, 1943, is to be set off against part of the amount spent on repairs to the bungalow.)

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 12 was passed.

Head 114, as amended, was passed.

Head 115, Ceylon Technical College.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 229,906.

Amendment moved [Minister of Education]:

(i) Include Rs. 10,800 as salary of principal and provide rent allowance (figure to be ascertained later.)

(ii) Delete footnote "a".

Mr. Aluwihare: I just want to raise one point with regard to Professors. I do hope that the Hon. Minister will not be deterred by anything from giving fairly competent Ceylonese a chance of filling these Professorships, because I am afraid we are in the habit of making the mistake of getting second-rate people from abroad and ignoring some very first-rate among us.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Oh, yes; we have many "B. C. L. (Oxon)" people here!

Mr. Aluwihare: The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, Sir, is notoriously empty.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I said that we have great men among us.

Aug. 28, 1942]

Debates.

The Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Aluwihare: We are most anxious that Ceylonese should have a chance.

I am told, for instance, that for the post of Professor of Electrical Engineering the proposal is to recruit a man from abroad whilst in Ceylon we have a man who has very good qualifications himself. I hope, if we are recruiting a man from abroad, that it will be a man much superior to the man we have here. I hope the Hon. Minister will insist on that because, Sir, from something I have seen I am not at all certain that certain gentlemen at the Technical College are not above stating a case to prove their point. I do not think I need read this particular document, but I shall show the Hon. Minister the paragraph I refer to. It is a very grave charge; and in a report from the University of London on certain documents sent from here one of the Professors of Engineering makes this comment:

"The typical time-tables for Instructors deal with day classes only and make no provision for evening classes. Even when the time-tables are heavily loaded they do not allow any time for research and reading in their subjects. For instance, the Chief Instructor of Electrical Engineering holds classes for 30 hours a week. A comparison between those typical time-tables and time-tables given in College Handbooks only serve to make the situation worse. The two time-tables cannot be made to agree and one is forced to the conclusion that typical time-tables for members of staff are not actual."

Well, that, coming as it does, from the University of London is pretty disconcerting. With regard to the authorities of the Technical College, I hope the Hon. Minister will not submit to the same facts when it comes to recruiting men.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: With regard to this matter, I want to ask the Hon. Minister why he has not implemented the decision of the State Council. I remember, a report was brought forward by him—and it was discussed at great length—in regard to improving the emoluments of various people working in the College. He pointed out the difficulties experienced in getting these Engineers on the salaries provided in the previous Estimates and the current Estimates. I do not find any alterations made in the salary scales, and I would like to know why that decision has not been given effect to.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The rule is that we have to advertise on the scales that have been passed, and if we cannot get the men we will have to ask that the scales be altered. That procedure will be followed. That is only in the event of our not being able to secure a man.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I am asking why the salaries approved by the Council have not been inserted?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Which case is the hon. Member referring to?

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The Professors and Instructors.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering Professors are put down at Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 14,400. That is the scale.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: That is the Ceylonese salary scale.

Mr. Natesan: The scheme for the reorganization of the Technical College was placed before this House and was passed. I would like to know what has been done to give effect to that reorganization scheme, because the posts are provided for in the Budget from year to year but no appointments have been made. It is very unsatisfactory to those who are interested in the development of the Technical College that things are allowed to go on like this, because we want a proper staff. If we cannot get men from abroad, I would suggest that we make some temporary appointments here. I think there is already on the staff of the College one who is qualified to be an Acting Professor of Electrical Engineering. We ought to make some progress. We cannot go on like this.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The hon. Member himself knows how this matter has come up for discussion many times in the Executive Committee. We have tried our utmost to obtain people from England; we have tried to get people from India, not to speak of trying to recruit people locally. But they will not come on the salaries we are prepared to pay. As a result, we put forward a scheme for reorganizing the institution and it was passed the other day by this House. There is also a Supplementary

[The Hon. Mr. Kannangara.] Estimate on the Agenda which is absolutely in accordance with what was passed the other day, and once that Estimate is passed, we will again try to recruit these people. That is all that we can do.

Mr. Natesan: I mentioned to the Hon. Minister, in Committee, that it was quite possible to get men with sufficient qualifications from India. I was personally aware of this fact, and I brought it to the notice of the Principal of the Technical College, and he promised that he would get the matter put through. This state of affairs has been going on for quite a long time. I am totally dissatisfied with the inordinate delay in making these appointments. It is due largely to inactivity on the part of the Principal of the Technical College.

Mr. Jayah: As a Member of the Executive Committee of Education, I feel that we are placed in a very awkward position. Year after year we have come to this House and apologized for the shortcomings of the Technical College. I think in 1935 the Technical College was reorganized and certain new appointments were proposed. Again, in the course of last year certain other reorganization proposals were placed before this House, and this House, after a very prolonged discussion, adopted them. But nothing has been done in regard to them. Every year it is the same old story, and we come in for unnecessary criticism. Why cannot those officers be appointed?

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: If you produce the men—

Mr. Jayah: In December, 1940, there was a proposal before the Executive Committee and an attempt was made to recruit some Professors from India. I happened to be in Mysore during that month, and while having a talk with the famous scientist, Sir C. V. Raman, I asked him whether it was possible for us to get some really first-class men on the terms proposed. He said that it was quite possible; and had I the authority at that time I would have asked him to recommend them. But unfortunately the Executive Committee thought that it would be a slur on the Principal of the

Technical College if we entrusted this work to others.

There are men available, but unfortunately the proper steps have not been taken, with the result that the Technical College, whatever the proposals may be that we have passed for its reorganization, is going from bad to worse. There is something radically wrong with it. I do not know who is to be blamed for it. I think the responsibility for it should be laid on the Ministry of Education. There is something wrong somewhere. We cannot get the necessary men; we do not do the proper thing, and the Technical College, although it is in a position to attract the best of students, is, I think, not doing justice to Ceylon students.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The hon. Member knows it more than anybody else. He has been on the Committee that made all these recommendations for reorganization. He knows the men we recommended; the names of all those people were gone through in the Executive Committee in the hon. Member's presence, but when those people were written to they refused to come on on the salaries proposed. He knows that pretty well; but he gets up and makes the statements that he did. It is quite wrong on his part.

The hon. Member knows the difficulties we had in getting the reorganization proposals passed. We are now trying to give effect to them, and the hon. Member tries to make out that the delay is due to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Jayah: It is because I know the facts that I said so. I did not say that the Minister is to be blamed. I blame the whole Ministry for not doing its duty. We ought to face facts. Year after year we chose to say, "We are not in a position to get those men", and we proposed to increase their salaries; in spite of that we have not been able to get the men. I think we can get the men.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Will the hon. Member send me a list of men whom he can recommend?

Mr. Kularatne: I am rather struck by the salaries that are paid to these people. For instance, the Principal is to be given Rs. 9,000—Rs. 10,800, and a Professor

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is to be paid Rs. 12,000—Rs. 14,400. Is the Principal unable to apply for one of these Professorships?

The Chairman: These are scales passed by this House.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was then passed.

Sub-heads 2 to 9 were passed without amendment.

Head 115, as amended, was passed.

Head 120, Minister of Communications and Works.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 41,448.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Assistant Secretary.

(a) Alter "Assistant Secretary (C.C.S., Class II.)—Rs. 5,400—400, 500 & 600—Rs. 15,000" to "Assistant Secretary (C.C.S., Class III.)—Rs. 5,400—400—7,800."

(b) Reduce provision for "Secretary to the Minister and Assistant Secretary" from Rs. 13,697 to Rs. 13,164.

Rent allowance.

(c) Increase "Rent allowance" from Rs. 597 to Rs. 1,418.

(d) Include under heading "Additional Staff for Emergency Services":—

1 Temporary Stenographer at Rs. 2.50 per diem ... Rs. 800" and make consequential amendments to total of Sub-head and Head.

Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Trincomalee-Batticaloa): Sir, I want to ask a question of the Hon. Minister.

After the air raid of 5th April last on Colombo and of 9th April on Trincomalee, guards were mounted on certain bridges and thoroughfares of the Island as a precaution against possible enemy invasion, and steps were taken to blow up the roads and bridges should the emergency arise. But there are certain roads which have no bridges; and in such cases when people want to get across from one bank of the river to the other they do so by means of boats. By this means they ferry their carts, motor cars, and so on, across. But in the case of certain of these ferries in certain parts of Ceylon—I will not mention where—the boats were removed by order of the Minister; they have still not been made available, and as a result the people are put to a great deal of inconvenience by their not being able to

take their carts across the river. Only persons can go by motor boat; buses, motor cars cannot be transported. This began in April last.

I would urge that the boats be made available. I am sure that some steps can be taken to blow up the boats if necessary in order to prevent the enemy making use of them. But preventing the people from using these boats is working a great deal of hardship on them. I brought the matter to the notice of the Hon. Minister and asked him to consult the authorities concerned and see that this is put an end to immediately because of the great difficulty that these poor people experience in cultivating their fields across the river. I hope the Hon. Minister will do something with regard to this matter.

The Hon. Colonel J. L. Kotalawala (Minister of Communications and Works): As a matter of fact, the hon. Member has spoken to me about it. It is not so secret that we should not know anything about it. It refers to ferries in his constituency; and by order of the Army they were removed with a view to safeguarding against a possible invasion by the enemy. I will take this matter up with the Military authorities and see that something is done.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle): I want to raise an important question regarding the Electrical Department; it is a matter of policy affecting the Minister.

The Chairman: Would it not be better to take it up under the Electricity votes as it deals entirely with that department? I think it would be better to deal with the matter under those votes.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I want to argue the irregularity that has been perpetrated by the Minister in coming to an arrangement with the contractors—

The Chairman: I think it would be better if the hon. Member took up the matter under that particular vote.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was then passed.

Sub-heads 2 to 4 were passed without amendment.

Head 120, as amended, was passed.

Head 121, Colombo Port Commission.

Sub-Head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 1,149,094.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

(1) Increase the number of Clerks (G. C. S.) under Additional Staff for Emergency Services from 3 to 4 and the provision from Rs. 2,544 to Rs. 3,144.

(2) Increase total from Rs. 164,915 to Rs. 165,515.

(3) Delete under additional staff for Emergency Services—Harbour Engineer's Department:—

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
— .. 1	Clerk at Re. 1.70 per diem ..	—	—	—	—	550
— .. 2	Clerks:					
	1 at ..	540	40 & 80	1,780	—	2,326
	1 at Re. 1.70 per diem ..	—	—	—	—	—
— .. 1	Surveyor (daily paid at Rs. 2.88 to Rs. 4.24 p.d.) ..	—	—	—	—	1,615
(4)	Alter rent allowance from Rs. 48,299 to Rs. 44,824 and total from Rs. 561,885 to Rs. 561,871.					
(5)	Delete the following items:—					
— .. 1	Port Controller ..	—	—	£1,500	—	22,500
	to Total Personal Emoluments—Rs. 1,149,094 on page 266.					
	and insert the following:—					
— .. 1	Port Controller ..	—	—	£1,500	—	22,500
— .. 1	Chief Assistant Port Controller ..	—	—	10,200	—	10,200
— .. 1	Assistant Port Controller ..	—	—	4,800	—	4,800
— .. 1	Assistant Preventive Officer ..	1,200	120	3,480	—	3,306
— .. 4	Wharf Superintendents:					
	1 at ..	—	—	1,500	—	—
	1 at ..	—	—	1,200	—	—
	1 at ..	—	—	1,020	—	—
	1 at ..	—	—	900	—	—
— .. 2	*Clerks (G. C. S.):					
	Class III. (Grade I. .. 1,440 .. 45 .. 1,800					
	(Grade II. .. 600 .. 42 .. 1,398					
— .. 4	Clerks at Re. 1.70 per diem ..	—	—	—	—	2,480
— .. 2	Steno-typists at Rs. 2.50 per diem ..	—	—	—	—	1,800
— .. 3	Peons ..	—	—	—	300	900
— .. 1	Office labourer at 75 cents per diem ..	—	—	—	—	225
	Port Labour.					
— .. 1	Labour Superintendent ..	—	—	3,840	—	3,840
— .. 12	Inspectors:					
	7 at ..	—	—	1,800	—	—
	5 at ..	—	—	1,200	—	—
— .. 8	Overseers at Re. 1.25 to Re. 1.70 per diem ..	—	—	—	—	3,942
— .. 1	*Clerk (G. C. S.) Class II. ..	720	108	2,448	—	1,368
— .. 4	Clerks at Re. 1.70 per diem ..	—	—	—	—	2,480
— .. 1	Steno-typist at Rs. 2.50 p.d. ..	—	—	—	—	900
— .. 1	Dresser ..	600	20	900	—	600
— .. 2	Peons at 75 cents per diem ..	—	—	—	—	450
	Allowances.					
— ..	Overtime to clerks, peons, &c... ..	—	—	—	—	1,500
— ..	Rent allowance ..	—	—	—	—	5,244
						88,793
						999,495
						1,232,322
	Less estimated under-expenditure (8 per cent.) ..			49,975..		98,585
	Total Personal Emoluments ..			949,520		1,133,737

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was passed.

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Sub-head 2, Travelling, Rs. 3,120.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase item (1) from Rs. 1,920 to Rs. 2,200, and item (2) from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 2,200 and total from Rs. 3,120 to Rs. 4,400.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 2, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 3, Stationery, office furniture and office requisites, Rs. 4,350.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase item (2) from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,500, and total from Rs. 4,350 to Rs. 5,350 and consequential alterations of figures on page 259.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 3, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 4 to 32 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 33, Rent of "Holland House", Rs. 2,190.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Delete Sub-head 33, "Rent of Holland House" and the descriptive notes and insert this item under Sub-head 37, "Running of Harbour Canteens" and in place of the former insert against Sub-head 33, Rent of hired workshops and machinery—Rs. 39,000 and consequential alterations of totals.

Page 250. Alter Recurrent Expenditure from Rs. 2,886,147 to Rs. 2,873,078.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 33 was deleted.

Sub-heads 34 to 37 were passed without amendment.

Head 121, as amended, was passed.

Head 122, Ports other than Colombo.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 33,674.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: With regard to "Ports other than Colombo", I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether he has implemented the resolution of this House with regard to the improvement of Galle harbour? I know that for the purpose of improving the harbour materials

would have to be bought from abroad, but there are certain things that can be done in this country without materials being purchased from overseas. I would like to have an answer from the Hon. Minister.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I am implementing in every possible way the resolution of this House to bring the Galle harbour up to a high standard. If hon. Members will look at the Estimates they will find an additional item included under item 8.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: What is the addition?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: One dinghy for Galle harbour—[Laughter].

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: If the Hon. Minister does not want us to scrutinize his votes, we might as well pass them *en bloc*. This is not a matter for laughter. I am asking a serious question. He does not seem to appreciate and realize what the harbour means to the people in that district. If the Hon. Minister was living in Galle, perhaps he would appreciate the attitude I am adopting.

I am aware, Sir, that the times are hard and it is very difficult to obtain necessary materials for doing major works. But there is the possibility of doing something to implement our decision. I wish to know what action has been taken by the Ministry of Communications and Works to implement the spirit of that decision.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: The hon. Member wants the decision of this House implemented in the spirit of it. I shall be only too pleased to implement anything that is passed in this House both in the spirit of it and in the deed. As he knows, there are difficulties confronting us now. We cannot do anything as there are no materials or men for the job.

Sub-head 1 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 2 to 8 were passed without amendment.

Head 122 was passed without amendment.

Head 123, Post Office and Telegraphs.

*Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments,
Rs. 4,981,533.*

Insert Rs. 180 as New Item "Diminishing non-pensionable allowance to a binder and Cash Counter" just above the item "Rent allowance".

Increase provision for item "Book binder" from Rs. 2,036 to Rs. 2,500.

Insert a new sub-head as follows:—

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The Post and Telegraph Department has been worked at a loss of nearly Rs. 1,000,000 a year for the past so many years. So far no attempt seems to have been made to cut down the loss. Every year this department is costing the taxpayer over Rs. 1,000,000. I wish to know why steps have not been taken by the Minister to reduce this loss.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: We are reducing the loss. It is much below Rs. 1,000,000 now.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: What steps has the Minister taken to reduce the loss?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Retrenchment and the adoption of methods of increasing the revenue, such as raising of postage rates, telegraph rates, and so on.

The Chairman: It is usual for the sitting to be suspended at 4 o'clock and then to sit again from 4.30 to 5 o'clock on Fridays. May I suggest that we go on till 4.30 p.m. and then adjourn?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I move that we go on till 5 o'clock and then adjourn.

The Chairman: At 4.30 p.m. we will have to interrupt the proceedings. We will go on till 4.30 p.m. and the Hon. Minister can move his motion then.

A quorum not present, and division bells rung. Later a quorum being present,—

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 2 to 7 were passed without amendment.

*Sub-head 8, Conveyance of Mails,
Rs. 1,303,000.*

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: There is an increase of Rs. 100,000 in this vote. I wish to know how much is being paid for the air-mail service which is not functioning today. I want to know why that contract has not been terminated.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: There is an increase of Rs. 85,000 on this vote which is required to meet the higher subsidy demanded by contractors for the conveyance of mails. There is an increase of 20 per cent. in the rates.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: How much of this amount is paid for the air mail service?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: We pay for air mails by the lb. Then we have to pay Tatas about Rs. 450,000 and we have also to pay, I think, another £5,000 for the carriage of mails from Bombay to London. That has been accepted by this House.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: It is true that the scheme has been accepted by this House. But, I believe, the whole mail service has now been suspended. If in the interests of economy the Ministers could have come to an understanding with the Hindustan Construction Company and terminated the contract with regard to the Hydro-Electric Scheme, I do not see why they could not have negotiated with Tatas and terminated the air mail contract during the period of the war.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: The air-mail service may be re-started at any time as we do not know when the war would terminate. In the case of the Hydro-Electric Scheme, the circumstances were different. There was no possibility of getting down materials and therefore the work could not be continued.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: Is there no provision in the contract entered into in regard to the air-mail service that in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising the parties could terminate the contract?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: No provision is made in regard to war.

Sub-head 8 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 9 to 14 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 15, Broadcast Programmes, Rs. 73,800.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I have to make a statement on this Sub-head.

I have received a letter from the hon. Member for Panadure (Mr. Susanta de Fonseka) stating that certain action has been taken by the Singapore authorities about keeping the people of Ceylon informed over the wireless about their relatives in Malaya, and so on, and requesting me to arrange a service on the same lines to inform people in Malaya about the condition of their relatives in Ceylon. On receipt of that communication, I interested myself in the subject; and I find that there is the possibility of our doing the same ourselves. But the only drawback is that there is some technical difficulty in that ours is a medium-wave transmitter and our messages may not go out as far as those countries; and there is also no way of finding out whether the people there will hear us. Of course, when we instal a higher-powered transmitter we would be able to devise ways and means of starting this service.

Sub-head 15 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 16 to 25 were passed without amendment.

New Sub-head 267, Airgraph Service, Rs. 90,000.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Insert a new sub-head as follows:

Airgraph Service, Rs. 90,000.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 26 was passed.

Head 123, as amended, was passed.

Head 124, Public Works Department.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 1,507,212.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Service" insert provision for 5 clerks, Grade II, of the G. C. S.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister the bad state of our roads. Although

we are asked to pass large votes for the maintenance of roads, I do not think all the money will be spent. The roads are fast deteriorating. Cannot the Department do something to improve these roads? It was the pride of this country that our roads were in such good state in the past. In spite of the difficult circumstances obtaining today, I hope something will be done to maintain these roads in good repair.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Everything will be done to keep them up to the old standard.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was then passed.

Sub-head 2, Travelling, Rs. 110,000.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Increase provision from Rs. 110,000 to Rs. 112,500.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 2, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 3 to 8 were passed without amendment.

Head 124, as amended, was passed.

Head 125, Public Works Annually Recurrent.

Sub-heads 1 to 15 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 16, Maintenance of Roads in the Jaffna District, Rs. 254,000.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Under details on page 294 reduce provision against item 4—Jaffna-Punnalai road from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 13,500 and add a new item 48a. Paranthan-Pooneryn road—1 mile, Rs. 500.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 16, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 17 to 36 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 37, Grant in aid to Road Committees for Minor Roads, Rs. 250,000.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The provision made is rather insufficient. These minor roads are now being largely used by Military vehicles in all parts of the country, and in many places the roads

[Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya.] have greatly deteriorated. The District Road Committees are not in a position to maintain these roads under the present conditions, owing to lack of funds. Either the P. W. D. should take over these roads and maintain them in better condition, or the grant should be increased so that the D. R. C.s can maintain these roads.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Acting Leader of the State Council): The matter is under consideration.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: In several parts of the country the culverts have been broken and the roads themselves are in a very bad state of repair. You can hardly blame the D. R. C.s for this state of affairs. It is all due to the use of these roads by Military vehicles.

Mr. H. R. Freeman (Anuradhapura): There is no quorum; and Members are enjoying themselves at tea. We shall get the leavings; we shall get cold tea. Cannot we go and have tea now?

The Chairman: I thought the Committee preferred to go on till 4.30.

Mr. Freeman: There is no quorum.

Mr. G. A. H. Wille (Nominated Member): In the old Finance Committee tea was served when Members were discussing the votes.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: Not in Council.

Mr. Freeman: It is not fair by the caterer either.

A quorum not present and the division bell rung. Later, a quorum being present—

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The expenditure under Sub-head 37, in 1940-41, was Rs. 343,000. The sum provided for 1942-43 is quite inadequate.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: This is a matter for the Minister of Local Administration. I shall ask him to take up the question and apply for a Supplementary Estimate if more money is required.

Sub-head 37 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 38 and 39 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 40, Maintenance of Buildings, Rs. 462,300.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase vote for 1942-43 from Rs. 462,200 to Rs. 476,200 by raising the provision under details against item 3—Maintenance of Medical buildings from Rs. 117,000 to Rs. 130,000 and that under details against item 5, Maintenance of Jails from Rs. 16,830 to Rs. 17,830.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 40, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 41 was passed without amendment.

Sub-head 42, Miscellaneous, Rs. 396,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 396,000 to Rs. 399,000 with corresponding increase under details against item 5—Transport charges—from Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 19,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 42, as amended, was passed.

Head 125, as amended, was passed.

Head 126, Public Works Extraordinary.

Sub-head 1, New Explosive Magazine, Rs. 70,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 200,000.

Reduce amount estimated to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 300,000 to Rs. 170,000.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale): Cannot the Minister of Communications and Works, during this emergency, allow the departments to construct wattle and daub buildings, instead of adhering to the high departmental standard required?

The Chairman: The matter should have been taken up under Head 124, "Public Works Department". This is "Public Works Extraordinary".

Mr. Aluwihare: I am sorry; it was my fault.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: The hon. Member wants to find out whether the new Explosives Magazine could be constructed of wattle and daub?

The Chairman: Whether buildings in general, during this emergency, cannot be constructed in a cheaper manner.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: That is one of the problems we are facing today—of not being able to put up any kind of buildings at all. I think wattle and daub will soon come into fashion, because we cannot obtain any materials.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was passed.

New Sub-head 1A, New Village Tribunal Courthouse, Middeniya, Rs. 500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

1A.—New Village Tribunal Court-house, Middeniya.

P. W. D. Division	...	Southern	
			Rs.
Estimated total cost	...	5,000	
Estimated to be spent up to			
September 30, 1942	...	4,500	
Provision for 1942-43	...	500	
Provision for this work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 81 of Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.			

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 1A was passed.

New Sub-head 1B, New Fiscal's Lock-up, Chavakachcheri, Rs. 1,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

1B.—New Fiscal's Lock-up, Chavakachcheri.

P. W. D. Division	...	Northern	
			Rs.
Estimated total cost	...	3,000	
Estimated to be spent up to			
September 30, 1942	...	2,000	
Provision for 1942-43	...	1,000	
Provision for work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 82 of Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.			

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 1B was passed.

New Sub-head 1c, Extensions to Government Press, Colombo, Rs. 8,500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

1c. Extensions to Government Press, Colombo.

P. W. D. Division	...	Western	
			Rs.

Original Estimate	...	69,300
Revised Estimate	...	75,000
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41		48,000
Amount to be spent up to		
September 30, 1942	...	55,000
Provision for 1942-43	...	8,500
Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 3 of the Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is for the installation of fume removal plant, &c.		

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 1c was passed.

Sub-heads 2 to 4 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 5, Model kitchen for purposes of demonstration, Peradeniya, Rs. 1,500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 4,000.

Reduce amount estimated to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 3,900 to Rs. 1,400.

Delete brief note and substitute the following therefor:

"Provision for the work was made under Head 126, sub-head 95 of Estimates of 1941-42 and the vote is to complete the work."

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 4, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 6, Cottages for Labourers,

Botanic Gardens, Hakgala,
Rs. 5,500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Delete the Sub-head.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 6 was deleted.

Sub-head 7, Quarters for Overseer, Animal Breeding Centre, Karagoda-Uyangoda, Rs. 1,900.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Reduce provision from Rs. 1,900 to Rs. 200. Increase amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942 from Rs. 270 to Rs. 2,170.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 7, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 8, Quarters for Game Watchers at Okande, Rs. 1,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 3,180 to Rs. 1,180.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 8, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 9 was passed without amendment.

Sub-head 10, Store for Cotton at Kekirawa, Rs. 2,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 10, as amended, was passed.

New Sub-head 10A, New Fruit and Paddy Station at Hingurakgoda, Minneriya, Rs. 8,500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

10A.—New Fruit and Paddy Station at Hingurakgoda, Minneriya.

P. W. D. Division	...	North-Western
		Rs.

Estimated total cost	...	35,000
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Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41	...	15,204
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Amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942	...	26,500
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Provision for 1942-43	...	8,500
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Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 13 of Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 10A was passed.

Sub-head 11, Additions to Paddy Station, Ambalangoda, Rs. 500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,200. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 3,700 to Rs. 3,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 11, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 12 and 13 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 14, Additions and Improvements to Government Farm, Polonnaruwa, Rs. 15,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 30,000. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 22,500 to Rs. 7,500.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 14, as amended, was passed.

New Sub-head 14A, Reconstruction of Jaffna Prison Hospital, Rs. 20,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

14A.—Reconstruction of Jaffna Prison Hospital.

P. W. D. Division	...	Northern
		Rs.

Estimated total cost	...	25,000
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Amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942	...	5,000
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Provision for 1942-43	...	20,000
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Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 88 of Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 14A was passed.

Sub-heads 15 and 16 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 17, Quarters for Matron and Nurse, Mirigama Hospital, Rs. 7,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Delete Sub-head.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 17 was deleted.

Sub-head 18 was passed without amendment.

Sub-head 19, New Cottage Hospital, Madugoda, Rs. 500.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The estimate seems to be going up every time. The cost seems to be on the increase; from Rs. 27,500 it has gone up to Rs. 37,000—Rs. 10,000 more.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Only Rs. 500 is required now.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I was referring to the estimate of the cost.

Sub-head 19 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-head 20 was passed without amendment.

Sub-head 21, New Hospital at Hambantota, Rs. 1,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 9,000. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 104,000 to Rs. 98,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 21, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 22, New Quarters for Apothecary, Veravil dispensary, Rs. 500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 500 to Rs. 4,500. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942 from Rs. 500 to Rs. 90.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 22, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 23, New Cottage Hospital, Badalcumbura, Rs. 1,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 26,600 to Rs. 24,600.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 23, as amended, was passed.

New Sub-head 23A, Acquisition of land for Quarters for Medical Officer, Marawila Hospital, Rs. 1,575.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

23A.—Acquisition of land for Quarters for Medical Officer, Marawila Hospital.

P. W. D. Division ...	...	Eastern
		Rs.
Estimated total cost ...	...	1,575
Provision for 1942-43 ...	...	1,575

Provision for this acquisition was made under Head 126, Sub-head 121 of Estimates 1941-42. The vote is for acquisition payments in 1942-43 as it is not expected to complete acquisition in 1941-42.

Make all consequential amendments.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 23A was passed.

Sub-head 24, New Buildings in connection with the Control of Tuberculosis, Rs. 17,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 17,000 to Rs. 24,400. Add "Light construction ward (temporary) Kandana Sanatorium" after the 6th line in the brief note.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 24, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 25 to 27 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 28, Extensions to Negombo Hospital, Rs. 10,000.

Mr. H. de Z. Siriwardana (Negombo): I want to know from the Hon. Minister why the work on the Nurses' Quarters has been stopped. There is a complaint about it. I find that although the building was started, work on it has now been stopped.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: If the hon. Member would tell me which building he is referring to——

Mr. Siriwardana: The Negombo hospital.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: It is divided into different sections.

Mr. Siriwardana: I refer to the Nurses' Quarters.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Work on these buildings was stopped some time ago by the contractor giving up work. The procedure is that the man has to be taken to the Courts, and somebody else will have to take the man's place. I will go into the matter.

Sub-head 28 was then passed without amendment.

New Sub-head 28A, Phthisis Wards, Undugoda Hospital, Rs. 10,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

28A.—Phthisis Wards, Undugoda Hospital.

P. W. D. Division ...	...	Western
		Rs.

Original Estimate ...	...	17,250
Revised Estimate ...	...	21,225
Actual Expenditure to end of 1940-41	...	1,593
Amount estimated to be spent up to September 30, 1942	...	11,225
Provision for 1942-43	...	10,000

Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 39, of Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 28A was passed.

New Sub-head 28b, Water Supply,
Mirigama Hospital, Rs. 6,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of
Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

28b.—Water Supply, Mirigama Hospital.

P. W. D. Division ...	...	Western	
			Rs.
Original Estimate ...	...		6,200
Revised estimate ...	...		6,775
Amount to be spent up to September			
30, 1942 ...	...		775
Provision for 1942-43 ...	...		6,000

Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 125 of Estimates 1941-43 and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 28B was passed.

New Sub-head 28c, Improvements to
Drainage, Moratuwa Hospital, Rs. 2,700.

Amendment moved [Minister of
Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

28c.—Improvements to drainage, Moratuwa
Hospital.

P. W. D. Division ...	...	Western	
			Rs.
Estimated total cost ...	...		2,700
Provision for 1942-43 ...	...		2,700

Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 126 of Estimates 1941-42. Owing to the non-completion of acquisition proceedings in 1941-42, the work has to be carried forward to 1942-43.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 28c was passed.

Sub-heads 29 and 30 were passed
without amendment.

New Sub-head 30A, Extension of Nurses'
Quarters and Maternity Ward,
Matara Hospital, Rs. 3,300.

Amendment moved [Minister of
Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

30A.—Extension of Nurses' Quarters and
Maternity Ward, Matara Hospital.

P. W. D. Division ...	...	Southern	
			Rs.
Original Estimate ...	...		6,750
Revised Estimate ...	...		7,500
Amount to be spent up to September			
30, 1942 ...	...		4,200
Provision for 1942-43 ...	...		3,300

Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 132 of Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 30A was passed.

New Sub-head 30B, Water Supply,
Talawa Hospital, Rs. 2,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of
Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

30b.—Water Supply, Talawa Hospital.

P. W. D. Division ...	...	Southern	
			Rs.
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41			3,809
Amount to be spent up to September			
30, 1942 ...	...		4,000
Provision for 1942-43 ...	...		2,000

Provision for the work was made in the Supplementary Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 30B was passed.

Sub-head 31 was passed without
amendment.

New Sub-head 31A, Water Supply,
Veravil Dispensary, Rs. 1,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Com-
munications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

31A.—Water Supply, Veravil Dispensary.

P. W. D. Division ...	...	Northern	
			Rs.
Original Estimate ...	...		2,000
Revised Estimate ...	...		1,400
Amount to be spent up to September			
30, 1942 ...	...		400
Provision for 1942-43 ...	...		1,000

Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 138 of Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 31A was passed.

Sub-head 32, Extensions to Medical
Officer's Quarters, Passara Hospital,
Rs. 150.

Amendment moved [Minister of Com-
munications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 150 to Rs. 500. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 4,350 to Rs. 4,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 32, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 33 and 34 were passed
without amendment.

Aug. 28, 1942]

Debates.

Sub-head 35, Light Construction Wards in Overcrowded Hospitals, Rs. 15,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase total estimate from Rs. 53,600 to Rs. 56,500.

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 22,500.

Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 33,500 to 34,000.

Delete "Note.—Ward at Dandagamuwa deferred".

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 35, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 36 to 39 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 40, Conversion of Old Palace, Kandy, into a Museum and Erection of a Separate Building to House the Regalia, Rs. 5,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Delete Sub-head.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 40 was deleted.

Sub-head 41, Quarters for Uniform Staff, Haputale Post Office, Rs. 3,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000.

Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 33,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 41, as amended, was passed.

New Sub-head 41A, Improvements to Assistant Postmaster's Quarters, Badulla, Rs. 1,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

41A.—Improvements to Assistant Postmaster's Quarters, Badulla.

P. W. D. Division	Eastern
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Rs.

Estimated total cost ...	1,420
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Amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942 ...	420
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Provision for 1942-43 ...	1,000
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Provision for the work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 157 of Estimates 1941-42 and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 41A was passed.

Sub-head 42, Low-level Bridge over the Gurugoda-oya at Anguruwella, Warakapola-Ruwanwella Road, Rs. 25,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Reduce revised estimate from Rs. 37,000 to Rs. 32,700. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 7,700.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 42, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 43 was passed without discussion.

Sub-head 44, Road from Kandana to Uswetakeiyawa through Muthurajawela, Rs. 16,500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 16,500 to Rs. 25,000. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 39,400 to Rs. 31,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 44, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 45, Extension of Road from Hendala to Uswetakeiyawa, Rs. 11,500.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Reduce total estimate from Rs. 33,000 to Rs. 30,500. Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 11,500 to Rs. 17,000. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 21,500 to Rs. 13,500.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 45, as amended, was passed.

New Sub-head 45A, Extension of Kukul Korale Road from Badureliya towards Kalawana, (on account) Rs. 5,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following new Sub-head:

45A.—Extension of Kukul korale road from Badureliya towards Kalawana (on account).

P. W. D. Division	Western
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Rs.

Estimated total cost ...	40,000
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Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41	19,597
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Estimated to be spent up to September 30, 1942 ...	35,000
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Provision for 1942-43 ...	5,000
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Provision for work was made under Head 126, Sub-head 66 of Estimates 1941-42, and the vote is to complete work.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 45A was passed.

Sub-heads 46 to 48 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 49, Sett-paving Bullock Cart Tracks, Colombo-Puttalam Road, Rs. 11,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 11,000 to Rs. 15,000. Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 10,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 49, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 50 to 52 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 53, Improvements to Naula-Elahera Road, Rs. 11,000.

Mr. Aluwihare: I would ask for the indulgence of the Minister in regard to the Naula-Elahera-Pallegama Road. We want to have this road made passable up to Pallegama. I would ask the Minister to request the Department not to adhere to their high standard but to make it passable up to Pallegama. There is the Hattota *amuna*, and once we have that road there, the *amuna* can be constructed at a cheap cost.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I would like it if the hon. Member will also come with me; then we can give the instructions direct. I propose to go there shortly.

Sub-head 53 was then passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 54 and 55 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 56, Deepening Boat Channel, Jaffna Lagoon, Rs. 400.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,500.

Reduce amount to be spent up to September 30, 1942, from Rs. 5,600 to Rs. 4,500.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 56, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 57 to 60 were passed without amendment.

Gas Cleansing station, &c., General Hospital, Colombo.

Road to Bomb Cemetery, Ragama.

Temporary additional accommodation, Negombo Prison.

Temporary additional accommodation, Mahara Prison.

New Hospital for C. D. F. Regiment.

Evacuee accommodation at Bogambara Prison.

Temporary Ward, Udugama Hospital.

Air Raid Protection of Government Buildings.

Urgent repairs to Government Buildings damaged by enemy action.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Insert the following New Sub-heads:

	P. W. D. Division.	Estimated Total Cost.		Estimated to be spent up to Sept. 30, 1942.		Estimated to be spent during 1942-43.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
60A. Gas cleaning station, &c., General Hospital, Colombo ..	Western ..	50,000	..	30,000	..	20,000	..
60B. Road to Bomb Cemetery, Ragama ..	Western ..	20,000	..	8,000	..	12,000	..
60C. Temporary additional accommodation, Negombo Prison ..	Western ..	20,450	..	15,450	..	5,000	..
60D. Temporary additional accommodation, Mahara Prison ..	Western ..	20,150	..	10,150	..	10,000	..
60E. New Hospital for C. D. F. Regiment ..	Western ..	225,000	..	75,000	..	150,000	..
60F. Evacuee accommodation at Bogambara Prison ..	Central ..	40,000	..	25,000	..	15,000	..
60G. Temporary Ward, Udugama Hospital ..	Southern ..	20,000	..	10,000	..	10,000	..
60H. Air Raid Protection of Government Buildings ..	General ..	550,000	..	450,000	..	100,000	..
60I. Urgent repairs to Government Buildings damaged by enemy action ..	General ..	100,000	..	25,000	..	75,000	..

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 60A to 60I were passed.

Sub-heads 61 to 66 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 67, Causeway across the Deduru-oya, Rs. 10,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase total cost and provision from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 67, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 68, Strengthening, Improving and Renewing Bridges and Investigating Proposals for New Bridges, Rs. 100,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase estimated total cost and provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 160,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 68, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 69 to 71 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 72, Improvements to Elaheera-Pallegama Road, Rs. 5,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Delete the sub-head.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 72 was deleted.

Sub-head 73, Widening and Improving Roads, Rs. 50,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase estimated total cost and provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 150,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 73, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 74 was passed without amendment.

New Sub-head 74A, Tarring Road Surfaces, &c., Rs. 75,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

	Rs.
P. W. D. Division	...
Estimate total cost	75,000
Estimated to be spent during 1942-43	75,000

For surface treatment of roads. Many of the roads now demand additional treatment in view

of the rapid deterioration of road surfaces in many parts of the Island.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 74A was passed.

Sub-head 75, Improvements to Minor Roads and Estate Roads taken over, Rs. 100,000.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase estimated total cost and provision for 1942-43 from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 200,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 75, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 76 to 80 were passed without amendment.

Head 126, as amended, was passed.

Head 127, Civil Aviation.

Sub-heads 1 and 2 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 3, Examination Fees, Rs. 1,900.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Decrease provision under this sub-head from Rs. 1,900 to Rs. 100. Details appearing under this sub-head should be deleted. Make consequential amendments.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 3, as amended, was passed.

Sub-heads 4 to 6 were passed without amendment.

New Sub-head 7, Subsidy to Aero Club, Rs. 10.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Include provision in a sum of Rs. 10 under column " Estimate 1942-43 " and delete note (a). No details under this sub-head need be shown.

Make consequential amendments.

Amendment agreed to.

New Sub-head 7 was passed.

Head 127, as amended, was passed.

Head 128, Railway Department.†

*Sub-head 1, Loss on Working,
Rs. 3,926,549.*

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Alter the amount provided to conform to the revised Railway deficit consequent on the amendments to the Railway Estimates included in this list.

Mr. Aluwihare: Sir, is it true that this happened in the Railway; that the Hon. Minister was told that there was only one and a half days' coal for the railway? It appears that then the Hon. Minister was very surprised and he questioned the General Manager about it; that there the responsibility came to be shifted and shifted until finally it was fixed on a cooly who was blamed for not reporting that the coal dump has decreased in size! I hear that all these officers passed on the blame, and the cooly was dismissed. Is

that true, or is any part of that story true? I do not know whether it is a bit exaggerated.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Sir, that story is a little exaggerated. It is a fact that I was informed that there was only one and a half days' supply of coal and a bigger man than a cooly, I think has gone. As a matter of fact, things are all right now because we have made arrangements to get as much coal as we can.

Further consideration of Head 128 deferred.†

Head 129, Electrical Installations in Government Buildings.

Sub-heads 1 to 25 were passed without amendment.

Head 129 was passed without amendment.

†Head 130, Director of Transport.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Delete the estimates under Head 130 in the Second Print and substitute therefor the following:

Sub-heads.	Actual	Estimate,	Estimate,
	Expenditure, 1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Personal Emoluments ..	—	..	90,773
2. Travelling ..	—	..	7,000
3. Stationery, office furniture, office requisites, and advertising ..	—	..	3,000
4. Incidental expenses ..	—	..	6,000
5. Rent ..	—	..	3,000
6. Allowance to Sub-District Managers and Group Organizers for clerical assistance ..	—	..	11,500
		"	121,273

(a) In 1941-42 the expenses are being met from Supplementary provision obtained under the Railway Votes and from an allocation obtained under New Head 43, Emergency Expenditure.

Mr. Aluwihare: Sir, in view of the shortage of tyres and the rationing of petrol and everything, I think transport will come to a stop of itself. Do we need a Director?

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: What is the need for a Deputy Director?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: As you know, the Director of Transport has a very difficult job now, especially as he

is in charge of road transport, railway transport, Army transport and every other kind of transport. I have a list of all the work he does and according to this list he ought to have several Deputies. Now it is proposed that tyre control, petrol rationing, everything, should come under the Director of Transport.

Sub-heads 1 to 6, as amended, were then passed.

Head 130, as amended, was passed.

† See page 2021.

†New Head 131, Department of Engineering Production.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Delete the estimates under Head 130 in the Second Print and substitute therefor the following*:

Sub-head.	Actual		Estimate,		Estimate,	
	Expenditure, 1940-41.		1941-42.		1942-43.	
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
1. Personal Emoluments ..	—	..	—	..	55,120	
2. Travelling ..	—	..	—	..	4,000	
3. Stationery, &c. ..	—	..	—	..	2,000	
4. Rent of office building and upkeep of premises ..	—	..	—	..	2,000	
5. Incidental expenses ..	—	..	—	..	500	
Total of Head ..	—	..	—	..	106,220	

(a) In 1941-42 expenditure is being met from an allocation obtained under Head 43, Emergency Expenditure.

Mr. Aluwihare: Sir, this Department has its Office, I believe, along the road on which I happen to live, and it occupies rather a palatial house. But they have spoilt the look of the road by putting up their name-board right across the road, at right angles to the road; it is so obvious as to spoil the whole look of the road. Could they not, like ordinary people, put a name-board on the wall? I wonder whether the Hon. Minister will consider the matter, because, I believe, he also visits the next house.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Sir, the next house happens to be where my hon. Friend stays. Therefore I visit that house.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: What is the need for this Department?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: The need for this Department is set out in a document which is with me. As a matter of fact, it is an Emergency Department which does the following work:

- (1) Power to requisition engineering plant, machinery, factories and engineering materials.
- (2) Power to issue instructions and orders to all Civil Government Departments and private engineering firms for the execution of work and the order of priority of such work.
- (3) Power to establish, build, equip and organize management of new workshops.
- (4) Power to provide training facilities for labour and to recruit staff to be trained.

(5) Power to decide on rates of pay and conditions of employment in the engineering industry of Ceylon.

(6) To report on the question of release of plant to India.

Is there anything more the hon. Member wants to know?

Sub-heads 1 to 5, as amended, were then passed.

Head 131, as amended, was passed.

SCHEDULE II.

Railway Estimates.

Abstract A, Estimates of Expenditure on Maintenance of Way and Works.

Item 1, General Superintendence, Rs. 657,640.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Decrease provision under item 1A, Salaries and Wages, from Rs. 645,470 to Rs. 630,170 and under particulars of staff:—

(a) Delete Rs. 15,300 in column 9 shown against Assistant Engineer, Way and Works.

(b) Signal Foreman and Assistant Signal Foremen—alter "1c" and "4c" in column 3 to "2" and "3" respectively, and alter Rs. 2,800 to Rs. 4,750 and Rs. 7,165 to Rs. 5,215 in column 9 against Signal Foremen and Assistant Signal Foremen respectively.

(c) and make consequential alterations.

Amendment agreed to.

Item 1, as amended, was passed.

Items 2 to 10 were passed without amendment.

Abstract B, Estimates of Expenditure on Maintenance of Engine and Rolling Stock.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Increase provision under total of Abstract B from Rs. 3,639,596 to Rs. 3,638,796 and under particulars of staff insert the following below Assistant Engineer (Electrical):

1941-42.	Numbers.		Salary per annum.				
	Recommended by Retrenchment Commission.	1942-43.	Minimum.	Increment.	Maximum.	Estimate, 1941-42.	Estimate, 1942-43.
— .. — .. 1 ..	*Administrative Assistant ..		Rs. 5,100 ..	Rs. 300 ..	Rs. 8,400 ..	— ..	5,200

and make consequential alterations.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The Hon. Minister told us a sad story about the state of the railway lines last year. Perhaps the lines have further deteriorated during the year.

How does he propose to meet the situation? I would like to know whether he has rolling stock; also rails to replace the old ones where new rails have to be put in.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I do not know whether I can paint a better picture or a gloomier picture. We had a long discussion on this matter when I came here with a Supplementary Estimate, and I then explained the exact position. If my hon. Friend would only come to my Committee he would be able to help me a good deal in putting the Railway right. If he would ask for a transfer to my Committee—

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The hon. Members of his Committee must be aware of the management, but as we are interested in the matter, we should like to know. As taxpayers and Members of this Council, we are as interested in the matter as the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. This is the only opportunity we back-benchers have.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: Actually, the Railway is in a bad way.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: Sir, ordinary courtesy demands that the Hon. Minister should give an answer when a question is put; otherwise it is tantamount to bullying Members. I do not

want that to be done here. After all, if the Minister is unable to answer a question, he must say so; or, if he is able to give a reply, he should do so; courtesy demands it.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: The Railway is in a very much worse position than last year because there has been greater wear and tear and all the rolling stock has deteriorated and we cannot obtain new rolling stock. Unfortunately the Railway is so well patronized now that we have more traffic than we can carry, and the position is extremely grave.

Mr. Aluwihare: May I bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that those travelling, almost all of them, have noticed the tremendous banging that goes on at every station.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: It does not pull.

Mr. Aluwihare: I do not know about not pulling, but I do know that if you happen to be on a berth you soon prove that you are very fortunate to have a thick skull, because you get banged on the sides and you are disturbed at every station because of it. I was told this was not so much the result of having old stock or anything of that sort, or that the engines do not pull, but that it is entirely due to bad coupling; it has got nothing to do with the engines. That is one point.

The other point is, the Hon. Minister said that the engines do not pull. I know that on the Matale Line, when the

Railway used to be at its best and when these engines were fairly new, two engines used to be attached to pull the train from Kandy to Katugastota because there was a hill, but now that the engines have become old, we have one engine to pull the train on this section!

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: They have got accustomed to pulling it!

Mr. Aluwihare: On one occasion the train stopped on the Mahaiyawa Bridge and half of it had to be taken to Kandy and another engine sent to bring the other half. These are ordinary adjustments that can be made.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Yes, Sir, there have been several complaints that the driving has been very bad of late. Personally I have myself found it so, because I saw a train "hum" and "haw" when pulling out from a station, and when I went and asked why it was so, the explanation they gave me was this: we load it to absolute pulling capacity, that is, we cannot afford to leave even one truck behind. As you know, when you are driving a car that is fully loaded, it tends to stop if you do not accelerate more. It is the same thing with these railway engines, and the result is you get all these jerks and jolts. Most of these troubles are due to overloading. At the same time, it is a matter that concerns all persons—to prevent damage to stock.

Mr. Aluwihare: I have only to tell the Hon. Minister that if his car even when overloaded jerks when he drives, it is sheer bad driving.

Mr. T. Amarasuriya (Moratuwa): I hope the Hon. Minister will not try to bully me. There is a general complaint by the public that trains do not run to schedule time now. I do not know why. On the Coast Line it is particularly bad, I am told, and great inconvenience is caused.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: As a matter of fact, every week I get a record of the times kept, and I find that during the last two weeks 72 per cent. of the trains have come to time. Of course,

there was a stage when no train ever came in to time.

The fact is this. Old stock such as sleepers and rails have to be renewed and the renewing is going on at a very slow pace because we have not got the material. So when an Engineer inspects the line and condemns a certain section and reduces the speed of a train passing over that section, that train holds up another train, and it goes on like that. But we have now introduced a new system whereby the Trains Controller would be able to hold up a train which is late and let the other trains come in. That too is in an experimental stage. Unfortunately in Ceylon we have only a single line, excepting from Colombo to Panadure on the one side, and to Polgahawela on the other; the rest is all the single line; the result is that when one train gets late, all the others too get late.

Furthermore, hon. Members must not forget that today the Railway is carrying more passengers and goods than it ever did before, and people are travelling even on the footboards; in fact, if they could travel on the roof they would do it, especially on the Kelani Valley Line. It is surprising that people do not meet with accidents. So when people are hanging on to trains like that, if an Engine Driver in trying to keep to time, gives a jerk, you will find most of the passengers thrown off and injured.

Mr. Aluwihare: Sir, has the Minister ever considered the expediency of changing his time-table?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Does the hon. Member mean that the trains should be run slower? Is that the point? Say, if a train runs to Panadure in 20 minutes, does he say that it should take one hour?

Mr. H. E. Newnham (Nominated Member): How often do you run it in twenty minutes?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: 70 per cent. of the trains are up to time now.

Amendment agreed to.

Abstract B, as amended, was passed.

Abstract C, Estimates of Expenditure on Account of Transportation Expenses.

Item 1, Superintendence, Rs. 671,430.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Decrease provision under item 1 from Rs. 671,430 to Rs. 660,285 and under particulars of staff:—

(a) Divisional Transportation Superintendent, Colombo.

- (i.) Delete "1" in column 3.
- (ii.) Reduce total provision for Divisional Transportation Superintendents in column 9 from Rs. 45,280 to Rs. 29,530.

(b) Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent.

Alter "5" in column 3 to "6" and increase "Rs. 48,160" to "Rs. 52,765" in column 9. (Additional amount required on account of the additional appointment being Rs. 4,605 due to promotion of Mr. A. B. Demmer and appointment of a successor on non-new entrant rupee scale.)

(c) Salaries of Officers of Railway Clerical Service.

Alter "972" in column 3 to "999" and "Rs. 2,224,260" in column 9 to "Rs. 2,240,460".

(d) and make consequential alterations.

Amendment agreed to.

Item 1, as amended, was passed.

Item 2 was passed without amendment.

Item 3, Expenditure connected with the working of Stations and Movement of Trains and Traffic other than Locomotive Expenses, Rs. 5,058,950.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Increase provision under item 3 from Rs. 5,058,950 to Rs. 5,075,150 and make consequential alterations.

Amendment agreed to.

Item 3, as amended, was passed.

Items 4 to 6 were passed without amendment.

Abstract C, as amended, was passed.

Abstract D, Estimates of Expenditure on General Charges.

Item 1, Management, Rs. 320,190.

Amendment moved [Minister of Communications and Works]:

Reduce provision under "Total Management" from Rs. 330,440 to Rs. 300,900 and under particulars of Staff.

(a) Insert the following:—

(i.) below General Manager—

1941-42	1942-43.	Minimum.	Increment.	Maximum.	Estimate, 1941-42.	Estimate, 1942-43.	Rs.				
—	..	—	..	1	*Deputy General Manager	£1,100..	£50..	£1,300..	—	..	19,060

(ii.) below Commercial Superintendent—

—	..	—	..	2	Assistants to General Manager	4,500..	300..	8,400..	—	..	9,250
—	..	—	..	1	Inspector, Class I...	£340..	£20..	£420..	—	..	5,100

(b) Delete the following:—

—	..	—	..	1a	*Director of Transport	—	..	—	..	£2,500..	—	..	37,500
—	..	—	..	1a	Stenographer	—	..	—	..	1,800..	—	..	1,800
—	..	—	..	1a	Motor Car Driver	—	..	—	..	900..	—	..	900

(c) Alter the sum of "Rs. 33,300" in column 9 against allowances to "Rs. 26,600".
Alter the sum of "Rs. 21,050" in column 9 against Other Charges to "Rs. 20,800".

Amendment agreed to.

Item 1, as amended, was passed.

Item 2, Accounting, Rs. 548,860.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Increase provision under "Total accounting" from Rs. 571,660 to Rs. 580,060, and under particulars of Staff.

(d) Assistant Shroffs.

Alter number "14" in column 3 to "16" and include the following footnote:—

"4 temporary, for the duration of the War".

(e) Salaries of Officers of Railway Clerical Service.

Alter number "189" in column 3 to "208" and increase the amount in column 9 from "Rs. 389,360" to "Rs. 397,760".

(f) and consequential alterations.

Amendment agreed to.

Item 2, as amended, was passed.

Items 3 to 11 were passed without amendment.

Abstract D, as amended, was passed.

Abstract E, Estimates of Expenditure on Miscellaneous Services.

Items 1 to 8 were passed without amendment.

Abstract G, Estimates of Expenditure to be met out of Advances from Government.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

I.—Continuation Works—General.

Renewal of Labourer's Lines (revote).

	Rs.
Estimated total cost	—
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41	—
Estimated to be spent during 1941-42	6,500
Estimated to be spent during 1942-43	3,500

A sum of Rs. 10,000 was provided under Abstract G, Item 15 of Railway Estimates, 1941-42, for rebuilding old type lines and gatehouses which have become obsolete and uneconomical to maintain and/or no longer conform to hygienic requirements.

Due to difficulty in obtaining materials, renewal work on a 10-roomed line at 156M. 77c., Main Line, is likely to remain uncompleted at the end of 1941-42. A sum of Rs. 3,500 should be revoted in 1942-43 for completion of the work.

Colombo.

Renewal of Roof of Broad Gauge Lakeside Warehouse, Colombo (revote)

	Rs.
Estimated total cost	2,935
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41	—
Estimated to be spent during 1941-42	—
Estimated to be spent during 1942-43	2,935

A sum of Rs. 2,935 was provided under Abstract G, Item 20 of Railway Estimates, 1941-42, for renewal of the roof of Broad Gauge Lakeside Warehouse, Colombo.

Indent for C.G.I. roofing material has been placed in India. As the material is not likely to arrive in the Island in time to complete the work in 1941-42. The full sum of Rs. 2,935 should therefore be revoted in 1942-43.

Renewal of Roof of Chilaw Goods Shed, Colombo (revote).

	Rs.
Estimated total cost	8,455
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41	—
Estimated to be spent during 1941-42	—
Estimated to be spent during 1942-43	8,455

A sum of Rs. 8,455 was provided under Abstract G, Item 20 of Railway Estimates, 1941-42, for renewal of the roof of Chilaw Goods Shed, Colombo.

Indent for C.G.I. roofing material has been placed in India. As the material is not likely to arrive in the Island in time to enable completion of the work in 1941-42. The full sum of Rs. 8,455 should therefore be revoted in 1942-43.

Conversion of Building Foreman's Office at Dematagoda for Signal Engineer (revote).

	Rs.
Estimated total cost ...	4,000
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41 ...	—
Estimated to be spent during 1941-42 ...	1,400
Estimated to be spent during 1942-43 ...	2,600

A sum of Rs. 4,000 was provided under Abstract G, Item 22 of Railway Estimates, 1941-42, for converting the building Foreman's Office at Dematagoda for the use of the Signal Engineer.

Necessary materials required for this work have been ordered but it has not been possible to make a start with it on account of the storage of cement by the Electrical Department in a portion of the building to be converted. The Electrical Department is not likely to be in a position to vacate the Railway building at Dematagoda in time to enable the work to be carried out. A sum of Rs. 2,600 should therefore be revoted in 1942-43.

Batticaloa-Trincomalee Light Railway.

Renewal of Temporary Buildings by Permanent Buildings, B.T.L.R. (revote).

	Rs.
Estimated total cost ...	70,000
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41 ...	26,489
Estimated to be spent during 1941-42 ...	1,936
Estimated to be spent during 1942-43 ...	7,400

A sum of Rs. 36,850 was provided under Abstract G, Item 12 of Railway Estimates, 1941-42 for completion of the programme of renewal of temporary buildings by permanent buildings B.T.L.R.

In view of the present war situation as affecting the price and availability

of building materials generally and the need to conserve such material for vital works it was decided to postpone the programme for 1941-42 for the present, a sum of Rs. 9,336 only being authorised to be spent in that year to complete works in progress, viz. :—

- (a) Running Bungalow, Galoya, and
- (b) Booking Clerk's bungalow, Polonnaruwa.

Due to default on the part of the contractor engaged, completion of the buildings has to be effected departmentally. The work is in hand but it is unlikely that the buildings would be completed before the end of 1941-42. A sum of Rs. 7,400 should therefore be revoted in 1942-43.

Plant and Machinery, Bridges Branch (revote).

	Rs.
Estimated total cost ...	—
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41 ...	—
Estimated to be spent during 1941-42 ...	—
Estimated to be spent during 1942-43 ...	10,000

A sum of Rs. 10,000 was provided under Abstract G, Item 27 of Railway Estimates, 1941-42, for purchasing plant of modern type, including a Diesel-driven portable compressor set.

The Diesel-driven Air Compressor indented for through the Crown Agents has not yet been delivered and is not likely to be delivered before the end of 1941-42. The full sum of Rs. 10,000 should therefore be revoted in 1942-43.

Coast Line.

Central Salvage Dump, Ratmalana.

	Rs.
Estimated total cost ...	10,510
Actual expenditure to end of 1940-41 ...	—
Estimated to be spent during 1941-42 ...	2,130
Estimated to be spent during 1942-43 ...	5,500

The total estimated cost of this scheme which is to be carried out in two stages was Rs. 10,510.

A supplementary estimate of Rs. 7,180 was sanctioned for this purpose in 1940-41 under Special Warrant No. 208 to proceed with Stage I. but owing to delay in the release of funds no expenditure could have been incurred in that year.

In 1941-42, however, it became necessary to increase the estimate for Stage I. by Rs. 450 to Rs. 7,630 to meet the rise in price of timber and steel and a supplementary estimate for this sum (Rs. 7,630) was obtained in that year under Special Warrant No. 38 to proceed with the work.

Due to the extraordinary demands on labour and material, i.e., old sleepers, ash, &c., for war purposes, it has not been possible to make much progress on this work. Consequently, it is anticipated that the expenditure on this account in 1941-42 will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2,130. This leaves a balance of Rs. 5,500 on the estimate for Stage I. which sum should be made available in 1942-43 for completion of this part of the scheme. Make consequential alterations in the totals under "Continuation Works" and the Abstract.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Aluwihare: How far has the amalgamation of the works proceeded?

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: We tried to put into effect the recommendations of the Aluwihare Commission. But unfortunately when everything was ready, the officer who was to take charge of the work had to be removed for a most important job; therefore the matter has been temporarily put aside.

Items 1 to 22 were passed without amendment.

Abstract G, as amended, was passed.

Schedule II, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

SCHEDULE I. (contd.)

*Head 128, Railway Department.

*Sub-head 1, Loss on Working,
Rs. 3,926,549—(contd.).*

Amendment moved [*Minister of Communications and Works*]:

Alter the amount provided to conform to the revised Railway deficit consequent on the amendments to the Railway Estimates included in this list.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1 was passed subject to amendment.

Head 128 was passed.

It being 4.30 p.m., proceedings on business under consideration were interrupted under Emergency Standing Order 2 (4).

Committee to report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

The Council having resumed—

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Committee report progress; to sit again.

BUSINESS AND SITTINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Acting Leader of the State Council): There are two motions I should like to move.

The first is, that at the conclusion of business today, the Council do adjourn till Tuesday next.

The second is, I would like to have the permission of the House to continue today's business after 5 o'clock. I move the first motion.

Question, "That at the conclusion of this day's sitting, Council do adjourn until 2 P.M. on Tuesday, September 1, 1942", put, and agreed to.

Question put, "That Emergency Standing Order 2 (4) be suspended to enable the consideration of the Appropriation Bill, 1942-43, in Committee, to be continued beyond 4.30 P.M."

The Council divided (under Standing Order 68): Ayes, 9; Noes, 11.

[4.35 P.M.] *A quorum not present, and division bells rung.* [4.40 P.M.]

House counted, and a quorum not being present—

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Council stands adjourned until 2 P.M. on Tuesday next.

Adjourned accordingly at 4.40 P.M. until 2 P.M. on Tuesday, September 1, 1942.