

The following is a record of the votes taken:—

Aye.

The Hon. L. Collings Wells.
The Hon. E. Powys Cobb.
The Hon. Capt. H. F. Ward.

No.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.
The Hon. Capt. J. E. Coney.
The Hon. the General Manager, Uganda Rly.
.. Acting Postmaster General.
.. Principal Medical Officer.
.. Solicitor General.
.. Attorney General.
.. Director of Agriculture.
.. Commissioner of Customs.
.. Land Officer.
.. Chief Native Commissioner.
The Hon. Sir Northrup McMillan.
The Hon. the Officer Commanding Troops.
.. Director of Public Works.
.. Acting Deputy Chief Native Commissioner.

His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon. Conway Harvey and the Hon. T. A. Wood declined to vote.

THE HON. MR. E. POWYS COBB rising to propose his Motion said he would like, with His Excellency's permission, to substitute another form of Motion for the Motion standing in his name on the Order of the Day with the same purpose which read as follows:—

"That in the opinion of this Hon. Council the British Government should be asked to impose tariff restriction on the importation into the United Kingdom of foreign grown Sisal with a view to stimulating trade in Empire grown fibre subject to reasonable price limits."

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Standing Orders be suspended in order that the Motion proposed might be brought before the House.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL seconded.

The question was put and carried.

MOTION.

THE HON. MR. E. POWYS COBB proposed the following Motion:—

"That in the opinion of this Hon. Council the British Government should be asked to impose tariff restrictions on the importation into the United Kingdom of foreign grown Sisal with a view to stimulating trade in Empire grown fibre subject to reasonable price limits."

The object of bringing forward his Motion, he said, was to meet the peculiar situation which had arisen in the fibre trade and its general object was the insertion of the principle of imperial preference. The special circumstances were that the United States of America finding that there was a large surplus crop of Manilla hemp in the Phillipine Islands had put up a protection tariff against foreign grown fibre for the protection of the Manilla hemp. The United States of America were the principal buyers of Mexican Sisal but this had now been diverted to the United Kingdom markets. At the present moment the European market was restricted almost entirely to the markets of the United Kingdom. It therefore came about that practically the whole of the

American sisal fibre was thrown upon the markets of the United Kingdom. Ordinarily these markets were held by East African and other colonial grown fibre. The existing competition of a large quantity of low quality Mexican fibre had had a very bad effect upon the markets of the United Kingdom and the price of East African fibre had fallen from a round figure of £42 per ton to an all round figure of £35. The Mexican fibre was selling at £26 per ton. If the market was going to follow that course it was impossible to ship fibre from East Africa at a profit. The general arguments were that they should draw the attention of the British Government to the position and ask them to apply the principle of imperial preference.

THE HON. MR. T. A. WOOD in supporting the Motion said that it appeared to him to be a case where, although as was well known he was not a producer, assistance might be given by the Home Government and in the interest of other colonial productions. It was purely East African production that they were interested in but possibly there were other portions of the Empire growing sisal which would be helped. He thought it was a fact that at the moment they could not compete with the Mexican sisal on the figure basis and assistance had to be given. At the same time the industrial population at home had to be considered by the Home Government and they must not drive the trade away from them by boosting their own commodities but he thought the case could be met and he had pleasure in supporting the Motion.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that he had His Excellency's authority to say that the Government was in full sympathy with the Motion.

THE HON. MR. CONWAY HARVEY said that they were treading on dangerous ground in supporting the Motion as it stood. For instance it was quite possible that much of the foreign grown sisal was entirely produced by British capital abroad by Companies registered in England. He thought that that should be borne in mind.

THE HON. SIR NORTHRUP McMILLAN said he would like to see the Motion go a little further. Sisal produced in Mexico and Central America was a very grave competitor of this and other Colonies where sisal was grown. The same remarks might also be applied to Coffee.

THE HON. THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE very much doubted the wisdom of the Council passing the Motion at that stage but nevertheless he was prepared to support it. When he had informed the Hon. the Mover of the Motion a few days ago when he had discussed the matter with him as a sisal grower, that the matter was being fully enquired into and he had expressed the view that he should stay his hand until they had more information. The position was that this point had been put up to him by the representatives of the principal sisal growers. It had been noted for enquiry by His Majesty's Trade Commissioner on his projected visit to England. He had also discussed the matter with two men interested in sisal production in this country; men who also happened to be influential men and who could go into the matter further in England and make representations. The intention had been to convene a meeting of sisal growers and discuss the matter and in the light of further information obtained it was if it were considered advisable his intention to put up information to His Excellency in the form of a despatch to be sent to the Secretary of State. He therefore expressed some regret that at this particular stage the Motion had come before the Council and he thought it would have been much better to have had more information on the subject before they passed it in particular as to the position of the other side. It was just possible that the Imperial Government might find that the adoption of a policy of this kind might affect other trades. He

now moved an amendment to the Motion not in direct opposition to it but because he felt that there was included in the Motion some words which were undesirable. His amendment was as follows:—

"In the opinion of this Hon. Council Government should consider the advisability of making representations to the Imperial Government with a view to securing the impost of duty on sisal imported into the United Kingdom in such a way that a preference might be given to British grown sisal."

That, he said, was the important point which was not clear in the Council. He was afraid he did not understand what was the meaning of the words 'subject to reasonable price limits.'

HIS EXCELLENCY then read the Hon. the Director of Agriculture's amendment and said that he did not know whether the Hon. Member wished to press his Motion but it was obvious that the Government would take action in these matters and always did their best to help the sisal growers.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS seconded the amendment.

THE HON. MR. E. POWYS COBB said he was quite prepared to withdraw his Motion in favour of the one proposed by the Hon. the Director of Agriculture. He thought the object of the various forms of words was the same. He would like to point out that he would have been very glad of an opportunity of talking the matter over with the Hon. the Director of Agriculture in the last two or three days but he, the Hon. the Director, had been unwell a part of the time and he had also been very busy and they therefore had not had an opportunity to discuss it. The matter struck him not on the result of conversations with the Hon. Director but on previous information which he had himself received by cablegram. It was very gratifying to find that the Director took the same view that he had already formed. With regard to the point raised by the Hon. Member for Nyanza as far as he knew—

HIS EXCELLENCY interrupting the Hon. speaker pointed out that he was only allowed to speak once.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS intimated that he was in entire agreement with the amendment proposed by the Hon. the Director of Agriculture, but like the Hon. Member for Machakos, he would like to see it go much further and he thought it would be better to leave it in the hands of the Hon. the Director of Agriculture as there might be other items of produce about which they could approach the Imperial Government for help and which might further help the production of this country.

THE HON. SIR NORTHRUP McMILLAN moved a further amendment that the words "and Coffee" be added.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY on a point of order pointed out that the Hon. Member for Machakos was out of order as he was introducing something which had nothing whatever to do with the subject.

THE HON. THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE pointed out to the Hon. Member for Machakos that this country enjoyed preferential tariff of £7 per ton for coffee.

THE HON. MEMBER FOR MACHAKOS did not think that the preference tariff of £7 per ton sufficient for this country.

THE HON. THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS disagreed with the policy of the Government as the result of such manoeuvres by small communities throughout the Empire would be to increase unemployment at Home and pointed out that they were dealing with the raw material from which the manufactured goods were produced in the United Kingdom and he felt that the Home Government when asked to support the small overseas communities producing this material were quite entitled to ask on what lines these communities were working when they allowed other foreign communities to produce the same thing at a much lower price.

HIS EXCELLENCY said he was sorry he had interrupted the Hon. Member for the Coast but he could speak to the amendment if he wished.

THE HON. MR. E. POWYS COBB referred to the remarks of the Hon. the Commissioner of Customs and stated that as far as he knew the amount of British capital employed was exceedingly small and therefore they would not be damaging British capital.

THE HON. MR. L. COLLINGS WELLS begged to differ from the Hon. the Director of Public Works in the opinion which he had expressed. He thought that in the long chain with its many links which brought the various commodities from other sources into the hands of the public there was the one link that of the actual producer which up to that moment was not overpaid. He was perfectly certain that of these things it was not the price of the raw material which was affecting the market but the retail prices of commodities of that kind were not down. A year ago the price of Coffee was double what it used to be. It had fallen to half and the retail price was almost what it was at the present moment. With regard to exactly the same as it had been a year ago when the price of Coffee to the grower had been double what it was at the present moment. With regard to the actual question of the Motion he personally rather felt that now they had heard from Government how sympathetic they were with the whole question and they had also heard from the Hon. the Director of Agriculture that the matter was being taken up by His Majesty's Trades Commissioner, and he hoped it was being taken up with regard to other commodities besides sisal, perhaps the Hon. Mover of the Motion might not think it necessary that the Motion need go any further. He agreed there were other commodities which needed similar treatment and he agreed that the preferential tariff of £7 per ton on Coffee was not adequate. He hoped the Mover would see his way to withdraw his Motion so that it would not be thought that preferential treatment for one commodity was being given when there were several others requiring the same.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he would like to support the Motion of the Hon. the Director of Agriculture chiefly for the reason that he was a lawyer and not a farmer. He did not profess to know the ins and outs of the sisal business but he thought they would stultify themselves by asking the Imperial Government to put on a preference against foreign fibre in favour of locally grown fibre without knowing the exact state of the fibre trade which would justify such a preference. They did not know whether these conditions were temporary or not or whether the sisal industry in the British Empire required protection or not for good.

THE HON. MR. T. A. WOOD pointed out that he had not withdrawn his secondment of the original Motion but he was quite prepared to do so and vote in favour of the Hon. the Director of Agriculture's amendment.

The Motion was then put and carried, the Hon. the Director of Public Works dissenting.

MOTION.

THE HON. CAPT. H. F. WARD proposed the following Motion:—

"That in the opinion of this Hon. Council, and following the precedent established by the House of Commons, it is advisable that every possible step be taken towards a drastic reduction of Government Expenditure and with this object recommends the appointment of a Committee representative of Government and of those engaged in trade and production in the Colony, to enquire into the matter and make recommendations."

Before speaking to the Motion he apologised for the trouble which had been given to the Government in considering his questions during the holidays but he pointed out that his Motion had been put on the Order of the Day as early as possible.

In support of the Motion he urged the necessity for adopting the procedure suggested, in order that by so doing a step might be made towards establishing confidence amongst those engaged in trade and production in the Colony, and those contemplating investments locally. There was a serious feeling of dissatisfaction in the Colony's financial position prevalent amongst every section of the unofficial community, and in spite of every assurance on the part of Government it would never be allayed unless and until representatives of that section were given the necessary opportunity of examining the question in detail and seeing how matters stand for themselves. To re-establish a spirit of confidence in Kenya was the first and most important factor required for reviving both trade and production in the Colony, and he urged that no pains and no trouble should be spared by any section of the community or individuals to help towards that end. If example were required, a most apt one had just been given by the setting up of a Committee under Sir Eric Geddes, by the House of Commons for this same purpose. This Committee was asked for and granted for exactly the same reasons as it was asked for in Kenya, and the intense satisfaction and the reappearance of a feeling of confidence had already more than justified the measure. He claimed that they in Kenya could look for similar results, and that many of the unofficial community would take their minds off the question, with a strong feeling of relief that the matter would be thoroughly examined by their own representatives on their behalf. A maze of illustrations in the shape of points that required clearing up could be given, but those taken from the Hon. Treasurer's report on the year 1920-1921 would probably be sufficient.

They found seven departments, Prison, Medical, Post and Telegraphs, Forest, Land, Public Works Department Recurrent, and Extraordinary, who collectively overspent their vote in 1919-1920 by over £17,000 and 1920-1921 by over £50,000, had asked for over £82,000 in 1922, more than they actually spent during the year which closed nine months previously. If to these seven be added Police, Medical Department "Special Expenditure," Education and Military, then ten Departments were asking for £178,000 more than they spent in the year ending March 31st, 1921.

This during a more terrible state of world depression than had ever been experienced, and when the energies of all of them should be devoted to cutting down to actual foundations upon which they could build up again to a state of comparative prosperity.

It might be claimed that certain of the Departments quoted were revenue earnings, and as such their expenditure should only be taken in relation to the revenue they produced or were expected to

produce. He submitted that Post and Telegraphs would be the fairest to examine on that ground. The result of such an examination showed that in 1919-1920 a profit of £26,941 had been earned, whilst in 1920-1921 this had been turned into a loss of £2,526. In 1921 this loss had been expected to rise to a very high figure and in 1922 to still remain at £4,379. Meanwhile expenditure had risen from £108,000 in 1919-1920 to £182,000 for 1922. Finally, they on the unofficial side of the House could not make constructive proposals, for which they were constantly being pressed during debates upon the Estimates, unless they could be given the fullest possible insight into all questions of expenditure. They were keen and anxious to help, and he claimed that it was their right to be put in such a position as would enable them to help, and he again urged that a feeling of confidence would be largely noticed if the unofficial community knew that this matter of expenditure had been referred to a Committee such as he suggested.

THE HON. MR. E. POWYS COBB rising to second the Motion stated that during the debates on the Budget so far as he could understand it from the printed report a great many economies had been proposed by Unofficial Members which had been resisted by the Government. He submitted that it was essential that Hon. Unofficial Members should be allowed to place themselves in possession of the full facts in order that they might put forward proposals for savings and that there was the need for such proposals there was no doubt. There could be no doubt that expenditure which was justified in 1919 was not justified at the present time. A very full and complete inquiry should be made into the expenditure of the Government.

HIS EXCELLENCY asked the Hon. Member for the Coast whether he had ever had any difficulty in getting information from Departments.

THE HON. MR. E. POWYS COBB replied that he had never attempted to go into any Government Department and ask for information as he thought it would be a very presumptuous thing to do and he thought any Head of Department would be perfectly right to resent his entrance there.

HIS EXCELLENCY assured the Hon. Member that that would not be the action of Heads of Departments. With regard to the attitude of the Government on the Motion there was no intention of the Government to oppose it, it could be a free vote, but he would like Hon. Members to consider the question very very carefully, the main point being that a comparison had been made on the subject of the British Empire and it had to be remembered that there was a very large choice of gentlemen in England who had the experience necessary and who could give the time to form a Committee to go into such matters. It would have to be very carefully considered in this Colony whether they had the gentlemen with the leisure or in appointing such a Committee as the one suggested they would not be piling on work and taking up time in such a manner as it would make it impossible to carry out their other duties.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF LANDS proposed the following amendments:—

"That in the opinion of this Hon. Council and following the precedent established by the House of Commons, it is advisable that every possible step be taken towards a drastic reduction of Government expenditure and with this object recommends the appointment of a Committee which should include representatives of trade and production in the Colony to enquire into the matter and make recommendations. The afore-

said Committee should, in the first place examine each Department's programme of work, and advise what items and what proportion of that programme might reasonably be dispensed with, excluding such works as have specifically, by name, been agreed to by this Hon. House: and should recommend what corresponding reduction should be made in the Department's total vote. Thereafter, the Committee should, if it so thinks fit, proceed to examine the detailed organization of each Department, with a view to a possible further reduction of staff and expenditure."

In support of his amendment he stated that the effect of the first part of the amendment was to remove any obligation on the part of Council to appoint Members of the Government to the proposed Committee: it might be somewhat difficult for the Head of one Department to be engaged in an enquiry into the affairs of other Departments and at least the question should be left open.

The other part of his amendment respecting a preliminary enquiry into Departmental work-programmes might seem at first sight to be putting the cart before the horse: it might be objected that before setting the task, the machinery should be overhauled: but in the somewhat pressing situation in which they now found themselves, he considered that what they really wanted was an enquiry which would produce some speedy and concrete result. A careful enquiry into the detailed organization of every Department would be a very long job indeed but he believed that detailed examination of a Department's work programme would by itself produce several good results.

Firstly, he thought it would clear the air immensely; how intense was the scrutiny to which His Excellency subjected every item of a Department's vote before its submission to the Council was, he thought, not realised by Hon. Unofficial Members, and largely because it had never been the custom of the Hon. Unofficial Members to exact from each Head of Department, as his vote came up, a preliminary statement setting out in reasonable detail, the proposed year's work and comparing it with that of the preceding year. What did get discussed was only such special work as was deemed worthy of specific mention in the printed Estimates, and the net result was that he was sure many of them went away dissatisfied because they had no idea what, in any kind of detail, any particular Department's current work really was.

Secondly, it was quite likely that such a scrutiny would produce some concrete result; a Committee might come to the conclusion, on seeing things in detail for the first time, that after all, it would pay to sacrifice some not very remunerative service. Some Departments they would, in the nature of things, get nothing out of, in the way of reductions, at all. Departments like the Customs or Attorney General's Department he meant. But it seemed hardly that a complete examination would find no considerable services-retrenchment feasible.

Thirdly, this preliminary course of reduction would have one of the advantages of what he believed was known as the "single line cut" system of retrenchment at home, without at least one of its disadvantages. It should not be very involved, since once a proportion of the work to be cut is struck, it should be handed on to the Departmental Head to make a corresponding reduction of expenditure in his own way, so long, however, as that reduction did not fall short of the amount arrived at by the Committee.

He had inserted a proviso, excepting from further scrutiny, special works, such as a school here or a hospital there, which had already been debated specifically, and probably *ad nauseam*, though he

would not of course press these exceptions if the feeling of the House was to re-open such matters. It was not too easy perhaps to draw a hard and fast line, but doubtless the good sense of the Committee could be trusted in the matter.

It was, however, mainly that hidden mass of current work which was never discussed in any detail during the Budget debates which he was particularly suggesting for scrutiny.

THE HON. MR. CONWAY HARVEY seconded the Motion and associated himself with everything that had been said by the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands. He held the view strongly that the existing burden of administrative charges constituted a serious hindrance to the economic development of the country which could only be nullified if the imperative need for drastic economy was resolutely fixed. The present rate of Government expenditure threatened the country and its resources, and crippled its credit abroad. There was no doubt whatever that the existing taxation was more than the producing and commercial sections of the country could bear, and more than the country could stand and more than where proper economy was effected it need be called upon to sustain.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS said that as the Head of a Government Department he welcomed such a Committee as was proposed. He had long thought it very desirable that there should be more information of the work of various Departments. He supported the amending Motion of the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands. The House would have to find the expenditure which he presumed would be asked for for the Commission or Committee and he thought that it would be a lengthy business if good results were to be obtained because he did not quite agree that full information would be always got by simply going into Head Offices and making enquiries there. Enquiries would have to be made throughout the whole Colony and Protectorate and it was for that reason that he thought it would be a lengthy business and he put it to the House that they would not be able to get results for some considerable time.

THE HON. CAPT. H. F. WARD stated that he would like to withdraw his original Resolution in favour of that of the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands.

THE HON. CAPT. J. E. CONEY said he was sure that all Hon. Unofficial Members would appreciate the action of the Government and His Excellency in allowing a free vote. He congratulated the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands as an apostle of economy and it surprised him to find that the two Heads of Departments had so readily accepted the Motion. The Hon. the Commissioner of Lands had spoken of the expense of the Committee but he hoped the Government would allow a Committee to be appointed and that they would make sure it was a small one in which case it would not cost so much while their recommendations might be ready for the framing of the next Budget.

THE HON. THE PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER opposed the Motion not because he had any objections to economy but his reasons for so doing were because he thought such a proposal was absolutely impracticable. He did not think it would get to any success and he thought its recommendations or evidence would be of no use at all. It would be absolutely necessary for the Committee to travel throughout the country before its recommendations could be of any use at all with regard to his own Department. They would get all the information from him which they wanted if they asked him for it and he thought all other Heads of Departments would do the same.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY thought every Head of a Department who took any pride in his work would welcome a thorough enquiry into its workings. He had invited Hon. Unofficial Members to come to his office to see the work of the Secretariat and what was done there. For the reason given by the Hon. the Principal Medical Officer he would have to sink his personal inclinations which were that an enquiry should be held because he did not believe that such an enquiry would lead to practical results. They had had one example of a Departmental enquiry papers of which had been laid on the table that day and so far they had only dealt with the local aspect. Next month they would be getting the Colonial Office's comments on His Excellency's comments on the Commission's comments, etc. His experience was that these Commissions went on indefinitely and the results were practically nil. The nature of such an enquiry as indicated by the amendment would mean an enormous amount of spade work. It would interfere unnecessarily in some Departments which would be much better spent in doing their best by Heads of Departments to run their Departments on economic lines and for these reasons he had to oppose any such Committee as indicated in the amendment.

THE HON. THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS as the Head of a Department with some slight experience of Commissions said he considered it his duty as it certainly was his pleasure to oppose the amendment. He understood that the original Motion was withdrawn and the amendment now stood. It was not because every Head of Department in the Colonial Service would not willingly admit that the efficiency of operations under his direction could be materially increased in a variety of directions but there were reasons why Heads of Departments who knew a service could be improved had not been able to do it—the chief one being the cost. The point was that the method suggested for achieving this end was not the right one. It was quite possible that a trained mind accustomed to this particular class of work coming into this country with a knowledge of what was done elsewhere might make very good suggestions. Some of the peculiar activities exclusively appertained to the Colony and advice from other sources might not be wise or useful. He thought that the services of a professional management expert would be of great value and it would be far cheaper than the method which had been proposed. The total consumption of wages which would be reflected in an enquiry as suggested would be very much more than would be required by a management expert who would be able to give expert advice and if the enquirers were trained and competent good results might come of them; if not there would be a waste of time and money. It was because of the nature of the enquiry suggested that he was going to vote against it.

THE HON. THE DEPUTY CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER associated himself with the remarks made by the Hon. the Director of Public Works and said he was sorry he did not put up an amendment to the Motion and he hoped His Excellency would allow him to do so. His amendment was as follows:—

"That in the opinion of this Hon. Council it is advisable that every step be taken towards drastic reduction of Government expenditure and that this body recommends the appointment of an officer to enquire into the matter and make recommendations."

He supported most strongly the remarks of previous speakers. From his experience he did not believe that a Committee was going to do any good at all. A point in favour of the appointment of an officer was that recommendations had to be largely a matter of practising co-operation. It was an overlap that an enormous amount of waste was likely

to occur and that overlap really would arise with every subject that cropped up. There should be available an officer who could be called on at a moment's notice to report on any point and he should be of such experience to say at once which Department was responsible. The three main subjects of waste to his mind were the overlap, the bad distribution of buildings which lead to a large amount of correspondence and what one might call 'enerustation,' i.e., in one's own office one built up an elaborate procedure and in the hands of non-European clerks suggestions were not made for continually lightening the work and taking short cuts. Possibly the distribution of buildings would be a subject on which the Committee could report.

He asked the Council to support the point of view that any management was a one man job if they could get the right man to do it. He could do it better than any Committee which was difficult to call together; which had to get over its own difficulties of work and business before it could travel about the country as a body; and it was expensive. He hoped somebody would support his amendment.

THE HON. THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded the amendment. He did so as far as the branch of the service of which he was in charge was concerned. He would welcome the appointment of such an officer. Throughout the last five or six years they had numerous business men who had been thrown into the intricacies of Government Departments and if Council were willing to support that a competent officer of that class should be appointed he would be found. The invitation to sensationalism was very great and the opening for merely destructive criticism was unlimited. He was perfectly willing to let any Hon. Member of the Council have information with regard to the Public Works Department, when the Estimates were considered he had written a personal invitation to each of the Hon. Elected Members and told all of them that they could come and see him and he would give them all the information they required.

HIS EXCELLENCY intimated that the original amendment was withdrawn.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS said he was afraid he could not for one moment accept the proposal of the Deputy Chief Native Commissioner. They had had some experience of those gentlemen who had come out from home and he had to confess that he did not think any great result could be got from anyone like them. A great deal had been said about the time taken up by the Committee in making enquiries. As far as his own Department was concerned he thought a very short time would place all the information the Committee required before them.

HIS EXCELLENCY asked the proposer of the amendment what sort of an individual he had in mind. Did he mean a super-man from Home.

THE HON. THE DEPUTY CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER replying said he did not think so. What was required was a common sense individual appointed locally.

THE HON. CAPT. H. F. WARD said he could not support the amendment and submitted that both the proposer and the seconder had missed the point. The idea was to restore a spirit of confidence and in order to restore the spirit of confidence the people must be made to understand that an independent authority was making an examination into the matters. They had had plenty of experience of the one man type. One whom he knew said that during the period he had spent in East Africa he had learnt to say thoroughly three words which were 'Boy lette Champagne.'

HIS EXCELLENCY asked the Hon. Member for Nairobi North why an examination by one man was not as good as a Committee.

THE HON. CAPT. H. F. WARD replied that it had to be representative of the unofficial community.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF LANDS pointed out that it would be just as expensive to have an outside expert expending a long time examining a Department and it was no good his being someone in the country unless on the lines he had suggested. He thought the word used by the Hon. the Acting Deputy Chief Native Commissioner was "officer;" he was not quite sure whether that meant an official or not. He could not vote for the amendment and withdraw his own.

THE HON. MR. T. A. WOOD remarked that one Hon. Unofficial Member had thanked Government Members for so readily accepting the Motion. He had thought it was somewhat premature at the time. He was going to confine himself to speaking to the best of his ability against the appointment of an expert. He was quite aware such gentlemen cost a lot of money. They had had about three experts sent out to view the Uganda Railway organization. Quite a lot of money had been spent on the expert recently sent out and there had been two previous to him. All were very expensive. He submitted that the object of the original Motion was partly one of economy and to agree to appoint these experts would not be conducive to economy based on ones practical experience gained in the Colony. He thought the proposal put up by the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands the best one. He himself had a very open mind. The greatest difficulty would be to get people to take on such jobs as were proposed. Although it had been said that certain Heads of Departments would welcome enquiries it was perfectly clear that that was hardly the case in all Heads of Departments. He had only to refer to the warfare which had recently taken place in the Council by a certain Head of Department to exemplify his meaning.

THE HON. SIR NORTHRUP McMILLAN supported the remarks made by the Hon. Member for Nairobi South with regard to the ability of the expert from overseas. On the other hand the Hon. the Deputy Chief Native Commissioner had proposed a local expert. In that case the Government would be accused of making a job for another man.

THE HON. THE OFFICER COMMANDING TROOPS referred to the hope expressed by the Hon. Member for the Plateau. A Committee had sat during the last year which had been told that their report was not of much use as it had had to accept expert advice. To go into the question of Military matters would be a very expensive matter.

THE HON. THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE referring to the amendments said he thought the time was not opportune to appoint an officer to whom should be delegated the powers and responsibilities of examining into the whole organization of this Colony. He did not agree with regard to the qualification of the particular officer concerned. He considered that if such an individual was appointed to carry out the services indicated he should be a man of the widest experience. A man whose experience was confined to one Colony was of little use. He thought the time would come in the course of about two or three years when again the question of reorganization of this service would come up, when salaries would have to be reconsidered. It would then be necessary to appoint a man. He did not think the time had yet arrived. With regard to the Motion he regretted he was unable to support the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands because he thought that the appointment of such a Committee was impracticable. He did not say that such a Committee was likely to carry out its duties within any reasonable time so that its recommendations might be of use in the framing of the next Budget. The task was a great one and was not one which could be carried out within a short time. He would further express the view that the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands had added to his

Motion words which covered the terms of reference which His Excellency would give to a Committee. Further at the end of the Motion he again referred to an enquiry being made into the organization of different Departments. If they were going to deal with the organization of the administration of these Departments they would not find men in the country with the time to spare to serve on the Committee. The men were not available. He wished to make a further amendment taking the amendment of the Hon. the Deputy Chief Native Commissioner and following on with the words:—

"and that a Special Committee consisting of Members of the Council be appointed to review annually the draft estimates submitted to this Hon. Council."

In speaking to his amendment he pointed out that Hon. Members were aware that he had previously expressed the view that there were opportunities of exercising further economies. In support of the amendment in preference to the Committee proposed by the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands he pointed out that it would avoid that conflict between Hon. Members of the Council and the Members who would constitute the Committee. Further if such a Committee were appointed it would abrogate responsibility which fell upon Hon. Members of the Legislative Council. The Committee he suggested would satisfy public opinion and would be a wise step. Further the executive of the Government would receive considerable help from the appointment of a Special Committee to review annually the Estimates submitted by different Departments before they were finally submitted to the Executive Council and then to the Legislative Council.

THE HON. THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL seconded the Motion. In the Colony from which he had come he said it was the practice to refer the draft estimates to a Committee of the Unofficial Members of what was known there as the Federal Council and they dealt with the Draft Estimates and had before them any Head of Department they wished to question. That procedure would not only do away with the necessity for any Committee such as had been suggested but would also lead to a considerable saving in the time of the Council. He thought all of them were aware of the quantity of time which was really spent by Council in considering the Draft Estimates, time which he considered could very easily have been saved by a little preliminary enquiry and investigation. If the Hon. the Director of Agriculture would be prepared to accept an amendment that the words "the Committee consist of the Unofficial Members" it would meet the case better.

The Mover of the Motion had introduced the Department which he represented in support of his arguments. The estimated expenditure of the Department for the year 1922 was £182,000. The estimated revenue was £179,000. The deficit in working was £3,000. The Mover did not seem to have taken into account the considerable amount of unpaid work which was done by the Department on behalf of Government and the administration generally. This unpaid work based on the figures for 1921 was estimated at £50,000. With regard to the Department there was he submitted very little to complain of as regards the work performed at any rate. In regard to the revenue for 1922 there was an estimated increase of some £5,000 while taking the comparative figures for the nine months just ended there was an estimated saving of some £34,000. If public confidence in regard to expenditure generally rests on the return of work done by the Post and Telegraphs Department there was he considered ample material on which to restore that confidence. He agreed that perhaps there was excessive expenditure on the general administration of the Colony but that seemed due chiefly to a certain amount of overlapping and that Departments were not sufficiently

self-contained. A Committee enquiring into the internal working of a Department would certainly be at a serious disadvantage in enquiring into the working of a technical Department. In the first place a technical officer for each such Department would have to be on that Committee. A great deal of the expenditure in his Department was due really to the endeavour to meet the requirements of the public of the Colony as there had been a great demand for European service and European service had to be paid for heavily. They had for instance some time ago Indian attendants at the Nairobi Telephone Exchange for night work. Indians had been employed but complaints had been made that they were unsatisfactory. They had dispensed with the Indian operators and had employed Europeans but he was sorry to say that no great improvement in the service had resulted while the expenditure had gone up. For European attendance on night work the cost worked out at:—

HIS EXCELLENCY interrupting the Hon. Member asked him not to waste the time of the House as no attack had been made on the Post and Telegraph Department.

THE HON. THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL replied that in that case he had no further observations to make.

THE HON. THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE agreed to accept the words proposed by the Hon. the Acting Postmaster General.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS said that while he was in entire sympathy with the Hon. the Director of Agriculture's Motion he did not wish it to be accepted for the other. He had long thought it desirable that there should be a Committee in which the Unofficial part should be Members with a view to considering the Estimates before they came before the House but he still thought that the Committee of enquiry was necessary and for that reason he would like to see that under a separate man altogether.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY opposed all the Motions which had been put forward. Of all the Motions which had been put forward he thought the soundest one had been that proposed by the Hon. Member for Nairobi North. The proposal of the Hon. Director of Agriculture was to his mind quite apart from the original Motion and he was not certain whether on a point of order it might not be ruled out as not a proper Motion. The idea of the original Motion had been to restore confidence. The proposal of the Hon. the Director of Agriculture was introducing under the constitution of this Colony a new body. The constitution of this Colony was perfectly plain. It was the business of the Government to govern. He quite saw that from the point of view of the Hon. Member for Nairobi North that that would not meet the main objection that confidence had been lost in the operations of the Government and that to restore that confidence some drastic action was necessary. He could not vote for the Motion as there were not people in this country with the necessary leisure or experience to take part on that Committee. As a rule Committees were not satisfactory. People without experience got together and backed up each other's recommendations which they would not support on their own. He was in agreement with the remarks of the Hon. the Commissioner of Customs that the appointment of a gentleman from overseas would not lead to good results. It would probably mean the appointment of some Civil Servant from some other Colony with no experience of this place or very little of any other.

HIS EXCELLENCY then proposed to put the question of the last amendment of all proposed by the Hon. the Director of Agriculture and if that Motion was lost he would then put the Motion of the Hon. the Deputy Chief Native Commissioner and if that was lost the amendment proposed by the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands stood as the original Motion.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL rising on a point of order raised by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary submitted that the amendment proposed by the Hon. the Director of Agriculture touched a different point from the original Motion. The original Motion was for a Special Committee to meet the exigencies of the present financial position. He submitted that they were two separate subjects.

THE HON. MR. CONWAY HARVEY submitted that the Hon. the Commissioner of Land's amendment being the substantive Motion he should be allowed the right to reply to the debate.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY rising on a point of order pointed out that they were discussing a point of order only.

HIS EXCELLENCY said he accepted the advice of the Hon. the Attorney General with regard to the last amendment which now left the original proposal with regard to a Committee and the Hon. the Deputy Chief Native Commissioner's amendment. He then asked the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands to reply.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF LANDS said he had listened with a very great amount of respect to what had been said and he could not help taking great notice of it as coming from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. But here they had a most pressing demand from the public regarding the activities of the official side of the House and he thought it would be a very grave mistake of policy if they did not accede to that demand.

The amendment of the Hon. the Deputy Chief Native Commissioner was then put and lost.

The Motion by the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands was then put and lost by 8 votes to 12.

The following is a record of the votes taken:—

Aye.

The Hon. L. Collings Wells.
 .. Capt. J. E. Concy.
 .. Conway Harvey.
 .. The Land Officer.
 .. Sir Nerthrup McMullan.
 .. Capt. H. F. Ward.
 .. E. Powys Cobb.
 .. T. A. Wood.

No.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.
 .. General Manager, Uganda Rly.
 .. Acting Postmaster General.
 .. Principal Medical Officer.
 .. Solicitor General.
 .. Attorney General.
 .. Director of Agriculture.
 .. Chief Native Commissioner.
 .. Officer Commanding Troops.
 .. Director of Public Works.
 .. Acting Deputy Chief Native Commissioner.

His Excellency the Governor.

MOTION.

THE HON. CAPT. H. F. WARD proposed the following Motion:—

"That this Hon. Council is of opinion that all Revenue Bills of this Colony should be re-introduced afresh each year."

In support of his Motion he stated that up to the present year Elected Members had had the opportunity of discussing revenue items in the annual estimates. This year His Excellency had ruled that

they could only discuss the expenditure and not the revenue side. That ruling had been supported by the Hon. the Attorney General who had pointed out that all revenue was governed by existing Ordinances and would require a direct Motion referring to specified Ordinances to enable them to be discussed. There was another point. If the Hon. House agreed to the Motion and Revenue Bills could be discussed fairly early in the year then when the Estimates were being framed by the Government they would be fresh in the minds and they would be able to bring their Budget into line with the views expressed in the House and if the Budget Estimates were introduced later in the year expenditure could be cut down very considerably.

THE HON. CAPT. J. E. CONEY seconded the Motion.

HIS EXCELLENCY referring to the words used by the Hon. Mover of the Motion said he would like to make it quite clear for the information of the House. He would like the estimates for the following year discussed as near as possible to the time when the money was going to be spent. He pointed out that during the last six or eight months quite a contrary view had been taken in the Council by the Rt. Hon. Lord Delamere who had opposed most strongly the Budget being postponed till his return from England in order that there might be much more time for consideration by the Secretary of State and for his answer to be obtained.

THE HON. CAPT. H. F. WARD pointed out that the Rt. Hon. Member for the Rift Valley had been under the impression that they would be in the position to discuss the Revenue side of the Estimates. It did alter the case.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY on behalf of the Government opposed the Resolution. It was not the practice in Colonies such as Kenya and further the amount of labour involved would be enormous, if every Revenue Bill had to be re-discussed each year by the Council.

THE HON. T. A. WOOD stated that it might be as the Hon. the Colonial Secretary had said that it was against Colonial practice in Crown Colonies. He pointed out with regard to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's remarks about waste of time that it was competent for any Hon. Member to introduce a Motion on any particular subject at any particular time. When it was possible it should be the policy of the Government to meet the views as expressed by a consensus of unofficial opinion having regard to all interests concerned. It would tend to save time in the end. He regretted to see the atmosphere of opposition to the measure which did not appear to have any solid foundation.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL supported what the Hon. the Colonial Secretary had said. He did not understand from the Motion what the precise nature of the discussion was. At Home he understood a certain amount of expenditure was budgeted for and then a certain amount of Revenue had to be raised. In order to raise that Revenue a financial Act was brought in which readjusted various duties of definite descriptions. If they were going to adopt that practice in this country it would mean an enormous amount of time every year and it would also involve a complete revision of a great number of existing Ordinances. He took it that the principal source of Revenue at the moment was Native Hut Tax for instance. If they were going to discuss the amount of Native Hut Tax to be raised in each district that in itself would involve a great amount of time. With regard to Customs Duties. They had just had a Committee to consider the Customs Duties for the ensuing year. If they were going to have that Committee every year it was going to be an immense amount of labour. Other Ordinances which occurred to him were the Income Tax, Motor Licences, etc. If all these were to be brought into review every year it was going to be a waste of time on the part of the Council.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF LANDS pointed out that the tendency of the House at the moment was certainly to an increase of business and he did think that a Head of Department would have no time to do anything.

HIS EXCELLENCY thought it would be valuable if other Heads of Departments would speak on this matter. He knew that on the part of Government business during the last few months that Heads of Departments were finding it almost impossible to carry on their own work as well.

THE HON. THE CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER could not support the Motion. It was obvious that to re-introduce into Council every year every Ordinance existing which dealt with Revenue would lead to an enormous waste of time. Every Bill would have to pass through its first, second, and third readings, and in the Committee stage and all sorts of arguments might be brought up on such occasions apart from the Revenue. He endorsed the remarks of the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands that Heads of Departments could not give the time involved. Speaking personally he had arrived in this country in August last and the House had been sitting ever since. Personally he had not been able to get on to his job properly yet.

THE HON. THE PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER pointed out that with regard to any item on the Revenue side of the Budget it was quite easy to get any information that was wanted. He corroborated what had been said that it was getting almost impossible for Heads of Departments to do their work properly. He himself had been very anxious to go up the Coast where he ought to go and inspect Stations but he had been unable to do so as the Council had been sitting since August last.

THE HON. T. A. WOOD rising on a point of explanation said he quite endorsed what had been said by the Mover but the origin of the Motion was that old procedure in the House had been resisted under a modern constitution. He did not say that Revenue could be discussed, that was exactly what they could not do, but Motions could be brought up.

THE HON. MR. E. POWYS COBB supported the Motion and said that it appeared to him that the right of the matter was to be found in practice at Home and elsewhere and that was that Revenue should be within the control of the House.

He was very cheered to hear the Heads of Departments say that it did interfere with their work. The solution was obvious. The time was coming when they should be replaced by a larger number of Unofficial Members.

THE HON. CAPT. H. F. WARD said he admitted to a very great sense of disappointment because the Resolution had not been considered practical. He thought they had every right to rely on suggestions from the unofficial side. It was the first year that they had not been allowed to discuss Revenue items and the Motion before the House was purely to restore that right which had been taken away. Working in the House was getting more and more disappointing. The Unofficial Members were asked to make suggestions and work but not only were their suggestions turned down but nothing else was substituted in their place. They had a clear right to ask that Revenue should be discussed and the people who paid should have some voice in the discussions. The only other possible way to obtain that right was to lay on the table notice of every item in the Estimates of Revenue.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said he was afraid he did not quite understand the position. He did not know what had happened before he came to the country. It had been said that on his advice the procedure of the House had been changed. He did not know anything about that. He believed that some Members wished to discuss in some way the Revenue items presented in the Estimates and he had pointed out to His Excellency that the Revenue items were merely estimates of the amount of Revenue which the Department expected to get from the taxation or other means of raising Revenue already approved by the Council and that unless a Member were prepared to table some definite objection to point out in some way that that estimate was wrong it did not seem that it was relative to the discussion of the Appropriation Bill. The question under discussion had been how the money to be raised by the taxation had to be appropriated. That would not prevent any Hon. Member raising by a Motion any question in regard to the Revenue.

The Motion was then put and lost by 6 votes to 11.

The following is a record of the votes taken:—

Aye.

The Hon. L. Collings Wells.
 „ Capt. J. E. Coney.
 „ Conway Harvey.
 „ E. Powys Cobb.
 „ Capt. H. F. Ward.
 „ T. A. Wood.

No.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.
 „ Acting Postmaster General.
 „ Principal Medical Officer.
 „ Solicitor General.
 „ Attorney General.
 „ Director of Agriculture.
 „ Land Officer.
 „ Chief Native Commissioner.
 „ Director of Public Works.
 „ Acting Deputy Chief Native Commissioner.

His Excellency the Governor.

MOTION.

THE HON. MR. E. POWYS COBB proposed the following Motion:—

“This Hon. Council is of the opinion that pressing representations should be made to the Imperial Government through the Secretary of State whereby that Government may be induced to grant financial compensation from Imperial Funds to this Colony and Protectorate in so far as she is called upon to discharge the Imperial share of an Inter-Allied War Commitment to an extent over and above her justly proportionate share of it as a component part of the Empire.”

In support of his Motion he stated that the House was well aware of the circumstances to which he referred. When the Allies had sought the aid of Italy on the Allied side they had entered into a Treaty with her and that Treaty contained certain provisions whereby if England or France profited territorially at the expense of Germany in Africa the Allies were to make compensation to Italy. The cession of Jubaland was the territorial contribution of the Empire to the satisfaction of the terms of that Treaty with Italy. If that was the case it clearly was the satisfaction of an Imperial share of an Allied commitment. It was an Imperial Commitment and not a local commitment. It seemed to him that it was unreasonable to expect that this Colony should carry the whole burden. If his remarks were correct

then he contended that it was the duty of the local Government to safeguard the interests of this Colony and to do so by endeavouring to obtain from the Imperial Government a recognition of the obligation of the Empire to compensate this Colony for such commitments as was beyond its share of the commitments of the Empire and as to the value of the assets which had been lost to this Colony it must be well within the knowledge of the House that the Juba Valley was probably one of the most valuable assets of the Colony. It was a great alluvial valley and had been proved to grow crops of great economic value. The loss was a very serious one and that being so he hoped that His Excellency would see his way to accept the Motion.

THE HON. CAPT. J. E. CONEY in seconding the Motion said the Province which was going to be handed over had been a great expense in the past to this country. He did not know anything about the country itself but those people who did had referred to the River Juba as a second Nile in that the country might be made very great use of when this country could find the money to develop it. If it was therefore proposed to hand over a very large asset to some other country strong representations should be made to the Imperial Government for compensation to this Colony.

THE HON. THE COMMISSIONER OF LANDS said they were talking in the dark on this subject. Taking into account all the moneys this country had received from the Imperial Government on behalf of this country as including Jubaland they were not in a position to bargain with the Imperial Government.

HIS EXCELLENCY said that this was a matter on which he did not wish to give instructions as to how to vote.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY opposed the Motion on the grounds that it would be quite improper for this Government to interfere in a matter of high politics.

THE HON. THE CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER said he was unable to support the Motion. The point which had struck him was who was it that was expected to do any paying. Was it proposed that if there was an Imperial Commitment the whole burden was to be borne by the taxpayers of the British Isles or was it intended to send the hat round to all the Overseas Dominions of the Empire.

THE HON. MR. POWYS COBB referred to the point raised by the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands about the balance between themselves and the United Kingdom as probably on the wrong side. That matter was a matter of accounts but taking roughly the sums they had received he doubted whether they came to a small portion of the value of the Province of Jubaland. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to his mind was not very clear. He had stated that it was an improper thing to make representation to the Imperial Government. To his mind he could not see how and why it was improper to make representations on a matter of common justice. In this case it was feasible because it was the greater financial and material strength of Great Britain which enabled her to dispose so lightly of the possessions of the smaller Colonies and the Hon. the Chief Native Commissioner had wondered how Imperial Commitments were to be adjusted by the component parts of the Empire but clearly there must have been many cross accounts between the Dominions and the United Kingdom which must have been readjusted and in these items another readjustments could be considered.

HIS EXCELLENCY informed Hon. Members that the matter was one which had been very fully discussed by himself with Lord Milner and he did not think he could take any further action in the matter itself. He had also discussed it with the Italian representatives but of course all such discussions were of necessity confidential.

The Motion was then put to the vote and lost by 4 votes to 11.

The following is a record of the votes taken:—

Aye.

The Hon. Capt. J. E. Coney.
 " E. Powys Cobb.
 " Capt. H. F. Ward.
 " T. A. Wood.

No.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.
 " Acting Postmaster General
 " Principal Medical Officer.
 " Solicitor General.
 " Attorney General.
 " Director of Agriculture.
 " Land Officer.
 " Chief Native Commissioner.
 " Director of Public Works.
 " Acting Deputy Chief Native Commissioner.

His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon. L. Collings Wells and the Hon. Conway Harvey declined to vote.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY in the absence of the Hon. the Treasurer, proposed the following Motion:—

"That this Hon. Council approves of certain expenditure during the year 1920-21 which it has been necessary to incur and for which no provision has been made in the Estimates as detailed in the Statement of Special Warrants (No. 5) which is laid on the Table."

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL seconded.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that Council resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council to consider the details.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL seconded.

The question was put and carried.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole Council, HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, presiding.

In Committee.

The statement was considered item by item and was passed unamended.

The Council resumed its sitting.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Motion tabulated in the Hon. Treasurer's name be put to the vote.

THE HON. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL seconded.

The Motion was then put to the vote and carried with one dissentient—Hon. Conway Harvey.

MOTION OF ADJOURNMENT.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the Council stand adjourned until such time as His Excellency might by Proclamation notify.

THE HON. MR. T. A. WOOD seconded the Motion. He said he proposed to take advantage of the opportunity of allowing the practice so ably initiated by the Rt. Hon. Lord Delamere of replying as briefly as possible to the main points in the address which His Excellency delivered to the Council on his return from England last October when the present Session commenced.

Finance. Regarding financial questions he desired to place on record their most cordial thanks for all His Excellency had done for the Colony while at Home, both in respect to this and other matters.

At the same time he begged to be allowed to express regret that His Excellency had seen fit to criticise adversely certain complaints that had arisen from time to time, referring among other subjects to the unsatisfactory state of the country's finances. These complaints, he submitted, had been misunderstood; that they did not deny the Colony was fully demonstrated by those who had made their homes here and backed the issue with the whole of their financial resources. They held the belief that it was usual, if not obligatory by law, that when a prospectus was issued appealing for capital, all the factors should be fully disclosed. It should be obvious by now that the finances of the country could not be placed on a sound basis, except by insistence on the part of the Executive Government, of drastic measures of economy, with a view to early reduction of the present abnormal overhead charges. Their difficulties were not so much the result of war as local troubles, such as stabilization of currency at an inflated figure, the Indian question which created a state of unrest and destroyed the atmosphere of confidence so necessary to encourage the return of normal business conditions; excessive expenditure on Administration and Government activities causing in turn excessive taxation and tending to retard development on a paying basis when they considered that their products had to compete in the world's market, and could not be expected to command prices fixed by them.

On the other hand the most damaging complaint against this country, viz: that it was not fit for European occupation and development, was generally made by members of the Civil Service. He did not like to suggest that interest in the continuance of the existing abnormal leave conditions was the cause. In his opinion the consensus of Non-official opinion was that this was one of the best portions of the British Empire, suffering temporarily, he trusted from one of the worst forms of bureaucratic Government.

The Budget. In view of His Excellency's special request for assistance in the work of 'drastically cutting down Departmental Estimates' it was to be regretted that the help proffered in response had met with so large a volume of resistance, in view of the fact that the Colony's Budget for 1922 balanced momentarily on paper only, it was doubtful whether many of the Revenue Estimates would be fully realised. Customs Duties were hampered by excessive Railway Rates and Poll Tax would no doubt be lower, and the popular resistance to Income Tax would result in decreased returns. On the expenditure side there were possibly items foreshadowed but unprovided for and there was every possibility that the overdraft with the Crown Agents would be largely increased. Interest and Sinking Fund charges in respect to the new Loan would also soon have to be met. The Colony was already taxed and charged to the uttermost and only by a very drastic reduction of expenditure could the position possibly be retrieved and it was therefore difficult for Hon. Elected Members to share the optimistic views regarding conditions in 1922 which appeared to be held by His Excellency. Hon. Elected Members were keenly disappointed that no reduction had been effected in the case of the extravagant Land Office Vote, and trusted that, now that the Hon. the Commissioner of Lands had returned, the question of drastic economy in respect of that Department would be insisted on.

Loan Money. Hon. Members were somewhat concerned at the reference to 'further allocation of three million pounds' and trusted that although His Excellency indicated that great care would be exercised in regard to this question, nothing further would be done either in regard to raising of capital, or incurring liabilities, until the Council had had an opportunity of considering the position "de novo."

Local Allowance. In view of the pledge given by the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State it could not be admitted that the method employed to reduce this as and from the 1st April next, by an arbitrary cut without reference to figures, was satisfactory. Nor was it apparently realized by those responsible for suggesting this step, that by such arbitrary reduction, grave danger of causing real hardship might arise in respect to the lower paid officials.

Pensions. With regard to His Excellency's expressed hope that a reasonable increase would be made to pensions, they trusted that Government would consider very carefully before increasing these in respect to other than the lower paid appointments.

Land Bank. With reference to the proposal to institute a Land Bank it was to be regretted that His Excellency failed in his efforts to raise money for this desirable object and they trusted that Government would continue their efforts in this direction.

Compensation. Hon. Members were no doubt disappointed that the Secretary of State had decided that no compensation could be paid to those who suffered from the florin rupee fixation, and it was hoped that some scheme might still be produced which would enable the Secretary of State to reconsider his decision.

Indian Question. They regretted that in the interests of the successful development of the country, free from political strife, this question was not yet settled. He expressed the hope that the British Government would shortly see the justice of their case, and make it their business to induce the other parties to modify their demands to a degree acceptable by the European and Native inhabitants of the Colony.

Railway Policy. Hon. Members were no doubt pleased to have had an opportunity of expressing their entire agreement with His Excellency's views on the subject of Railway control as conveyed to the Secretary of State and desired to thank His Excellency for his efforts on behalf of the Colony. They trusted that when the Council considered Col. Hammond's report it would be found possible fully to safeguard the interests of Uganda without the creation of a second Government in Kenya, a position which would be, in their opinion, quite unworkable and impossible.

Native Policy. They wished to thank His Excellency for his efforts in the direction of a sound policy of native development and they joined in the desire to recognise their duties towards the native inhabitants of the country. At the same time they appealed for more assistance from Official Members, particularly those directly responsible for the administration of native affairs, in combatting the evil influence of those gentlemen, who, with little, if any, knowledge of their subject, considered it their duty to prefer false charges against European Settlers. Cases of injustice to natives in this country were extremely rare, and this could not be too strongly emphasised. Questions such as the Public Works Commission and Forest Department called for comment, but he was afraid he had already occupied far too much time of the Council. It was to be hoped that these and other outstanding questions would continue to receive the earnest attention of the Government until solutions satisfactory to the public were reached.

One aspect of the work of the Session just closed was so serious that it was necessary to criticise it as strongly as possible. He referred to the more frequent use of the directed official vote. Hon. Official Members no doubt agreed that their position was advisory but surely the spirit of the more independent among them would be entirely destroyed by this pernicious system. Hon. Elected Members might probably rest more or less content with the same definition provided their advice was accepted in a

reasonable percentage of the cases where it was tendered. Judging from recent events this did not appear to be the case so it seemed necessary to ask the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he would prefer that Hon. Elected Members withdraw from any participation in Government locally transferring their endeavours to the precincts of the two Houses of Parliament in London. Government might rest assured that Hon. Elected Members viewed the present situation with grave dissatisfaction and trusted that their advice tendered in this connection would be accepted and acted upon.

In closing his remarks the Hon. Member thanked His Excellency on behalf of Hon. Members for the patience he had exercised in the Chair during the arduous Session which was closing.

THE HON. E. POWYS COBB wished to support what had been said by the Hon. Mr. Wood and asked to be allowed to add a few remarks. He dealt first with what was, he considered, a grave omission from the work of the Session. It was a matter of great regret to him that the needs of the Coast had not received more attention at the hands of the Legislative Council. He advised His Excellency that in his opinion the Coast was a very important area, which should receive more attention than it did. They had the example of Tanganyika Territory before them, the Germans by a wise encouragement of Coast development had built up a great and prosperous export trade.

The Coast of Kenya had equally valuable potentialities, but they lacked encouragement. They needed a fairer apportionment of public expenditure; he did not ask for an increased total expenditure, but asked that the Coast might receive a more adequate share.

The chief need of the Coast was communications, roads, and ferries. The communications of the Coast, except for the military road running North from Mombasa, were little better than they were sixteen years previously. Still produce could not reach the sea, except on the heads of porters, and would-be planters were deterred even from trying to explore the area by the difficulty, cost and slowness of journeying through it. He was grateful to His Excellency for having commenced work on the North road, and he trusted that nothing would prevent him from pushing it through to Lamu and beyond. Settlement was further discouraged by the still unsettled state of the land titles. He therefore asked His Excellency to speed up the work of the Recorder of Coast Titles.

He submitted that the Coast had a special claim to attention, because it was one area where the beneficial influence of British rule seemed to have failed. A study of old books of travel of the middle of the nineteenth century showed that country, which was now bush, was then under cultivation, and carried considerable herds of cattle and flocks of sheep and goats, which were there no longer. The Customs returns of the Imperial British East Africa Company showed that in their day a great volume of trade poured out of and into the lesser ports of the Coast. To-day that had almost ceased. It was, therefore, not a case of experimenting with a new adventure, but of restoring a prosperity which once existed.

He asked His Excellency to consider the nature and value of the principal Coast products: rice, grown in the Umba, Sabaki and Tana Valleys, could replace the rice imported into the Colony the value of which in 1913 was £70,000. Sugarcane in the same valleys would replace another import valued in 1913 at £75,000; maize for local use and export; sisal for export, timber for local use and export, salt for local use, displacing an import. The most important of all was Coconuts. Their Coast being free from the risk of hurricanes had a strong claim to become a

great coconut area, and many promising plantations now near bearing were in existence. Nevertheless this industry was languishing from lack of encouragement and the export of copra dwindled from 33,000 cwts. in 1913-14 to 6,000 in 1920-21. A recent meeting of the Coast Planters' Association had asked that the Coconut Preservation Ordinance, the Coconut Trade Ordinance, and the Native Liquor Ordinance, passed in 1915, but never applied, should be applied. Some of these Ordinances would be revenue producing. There was also a desire in some quarters that the services of an expert should be obtained to visit and advise the Government and the Planters as the best means of fostering this important industry.

The seas swarmed with fish, which should furnish a valuable source of food supply to European and Native alike, and of fish oil, glue, and manure. He asked His Excellency to consider the desirability of taking such measures of exploration as might bring the potentialities of their fisheries to the knowledge of possible investors. He asked His Excellency to consider the desirability of holding in every year one Session, or part of a Session, of the Legislative Council at Mombasa. He was convinced that so doing would make a favourable impression on the Arabs and Swahilis, for it would be an outward sign that the Coast was not forgotten. He further asked His Excellency to find time to make a tour of the Coast by land as His Excellency's presence would do much to restore confidence and arouse interest. He emphasised that the development of the Coast was a typical example of the complementary nature of European and Native progress; money spent there as he had suggested would assist both sections of the population.

HIS EXCELLENCY in closing the Session said he wished to thank Hon. Members for the very great patience with which they had sat during the long weeks of the Session. He did not think it was the proper time for him to make any response from the

Chair to the addresses which had been delivered. With regard to the vote which had been lost with regard to an Unofficial Committee to consider the Estimates and working of the Departments that although that had been lost the Estimates would as usual be considered by the Governor-in-Council with the advice of Elected Members.

He gave Hon. Members the assurance that the Government would continue to do all it could to effect the economy Hon. Members had asked for and instructions had already been given and would constantly be given to Departments, etc., that expense had to be cut down and that he would not be prepared to sign Special Warrants on all occasions.

On several occasions Hon. Elected Members had referred to the question of refuting, to the necessary refutation, of the attacks made at Home on the Government with regard to the natives. The greatest trouble had been taken by this Government and by himself personally at Home to refute such statement. He thought a considerable amount of success on this point had been achieved.

With regard to the Motion which had been lost regarding the appointment of an Unofficial Committee, he gave Hon. Members the assurance that instructions would be given to all Officials and Heads of Departments that when Hon. Members wished to obtain information every assistance would be given them if they went to the Heads of Departments concerned and they would then not come to Council and say they were unable to get it.

He again thanked Hon. Members for their patience during the long Session.

The Motion for adjournment was then put and carried.

The Council adjourned to such time and date as His Excellency might by Proclamation notify.