



THE FIRST YEAR

The story of people working together

SEPTEMBER, 1961

- AUGUST, 1962



A Class in the new all-age Schools



On the 21st August, 1961 a General Election was held. It was the first election to be held under a new Constitution which gave British Guiana full internal self-government



At this election the People's Progressive Party won a clear majority of seats.

Dr. Cheddi Jagan, leader of the People's Progressive Party, was accordingly invited to take office as Premier. The Premier was sworn in on September 5. The next day, Ministers appointed by the Governor in accordance with the advice of the Premier were also sworn in and assumed office.

That was a year ago. What has happened since? Some events come readily to mind, notably the tragic events of Friday, February 16. Such events make headline news both locally and overseas. Headlines usually tell the story of breakdowns and disaster, but there is another story to be told, unspectacular, but nevertheless the story of careful planning, consolidation and growing achievement over a wide field. It is the story of land reclaimed and cultivated, new schools built, communications and health improved and of tax reforms designed to raise money for development and to distribute the wealth of the country more evenly among its people. Looming large in the year, however, and of greater importance than any single event or achievement was the continuing struggle for Independence, and with this we begin.

The Struggle for Independence In December last year the Premier, Dr. Cheddi Jagan called upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London and requested that the demand of the 83.6 per cent of the electorate in British Guiana who had voted for immediate Independence be granted. Mr. Maudling however refused to fix any date for a Conference to decide on a date for Independence. As Dr. Jagan took the stand that Independence is the right of the people of British Guiana and not something within the grant of Her Majesty's Government, he immediately appealed to the United Nations for help. The Fourth Committee of the United Nations, decided to invite Dr. Jagan to address the Committee and Dr. Jagan did in fact address the Committee as a petitioner on the 18th of December. At that meeting a draft resolution was tabled calling upon the Government of the United Kingdom to negotiate the issue of Independence with the Government of this country. The resolution was debated on the following day, but on the suggestion of the delegate for Ghana no decision was taken, the matter being held in abeyance on the understanding that if the Government of the United Kingdom granted Dr. Jagan's demand for a Conference to fix a date for Independence, then the matter would not be put to the vote. On the 22nd of December the Committee adjourned after having agreed to re-convene on the 15th January to dispose of unfinished business including the resolution on British Guiana's Independence. On the 14th January, the day

Dr. Cheddi Jagan addressing U.N. Committee of Seventeen



before the Committee was to re-convene, the Colonial Office informed Dr. Jagan that they had agreed to hold a Constitutional Conference in May and the United Nations was so informed and the pending resolution was therefore withdrawn without a vote.

From the moment it became known that the date had been fixed for the Independence conference a bitter campaign against independence was begun by minority elements. As a result of this campaign a state of unrest developed in the country which culminated in the riots of February 16. The Government was forced to call on British Troops to restore order.

Early in May the Governor informed Dr. Jagan that it was unlikely that the Constitutional Conference would be held in May as planned. The reasons given for the postponement were that a Commission of Inquiry into the disturbances was to be set up, the initial areas of disagreement between the political parties had to be narrowed and financial talks to be held. The Premier objected strongly to the postponement of the talks to an indefinite date, but the Secretary of State for the Colonies nevertheless went ahead and adjourned the Conference unilaterally.

Dr. Jagan was subsequently informed that the talks would be held on the 16th July. On the 30th June, however, the Secretary of State informed Dr. Jagan that the Report of the Inquiry Commission would not be available until mid-August, and that he therefore proposed to still further postpone the Constitutional Conference until after the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in September. Dr. Jagan objected in the strongest possible terms but without avail. He therefore once again requested that this matter be taken up by the United Nations and suggested that the General Assembly's Committee of Seventeen on Colonialism, or part of it, should visit British Guiana immediately to investigate the situation on the spot and to report back. The Committee of Seventeen however decided on the 19th July to invite the Premier to appear before it. The Premier appeared before the Committee on Monday, 23rd July, and in his address asked

the Committee to use all the powers of the United Nations to request the British Government to hold independence talks for this country immediately and to fix a date for independence this year. On the following two days the Premier appeared before the Committee to answer questions. The Committee decided to give priority to the British Guiana question and on the 30th July, it considered a draft resolution submitted jointly by Cambodia, Ethiopia, Mali, India and Yugoslavia, joined later by Tanganyika.

This resolution, taking note in particular of the fact that "both Houses of the Parliament of British Guiana had in November 1961 approved that the British Government fix a date for independence in 1962," asked the Governments of the United Kingdom and of British Guiana "to resume negotiations immediately with a view to reaching agreement on the date of Independence for British Guiana in accordance with the wishes of the people of British Guiana as expressed by their Parliament."

The resolution was accepted without a vote inasmuch as two-thirds of the members of the Committee had expressed themselves in favour of it.

The Committee attached such importance to this matter that instead of forwarding the Resolution to the General Assembly, it took the unusual course in keeping with the terms of the Resolution of directly asking the Secretary General to transmit the resolution to the Administering Authority, the Government of the United Kingdom.

Dr. Jagan with the President of Israel.



Arrangements for Independence In the meanwhile, however, a great deal has been done in connexion with the arrangements for Independence. A new Constitution for an independent Guyana has been drafted. Plans have been well laid for the establishment of British Guiana offices in London and the training of a diplomatic corps under U.N. auspices. Arrangements are also well advanced for the establishment of a National Army. A two-man army mission from Israel has recently arrived to assist with this project. An Officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs, was sent in August on a one month attachment to the Trinidad and Tobago Government to study the arrangements made there in connexion with their Independence Celebrations.

A Select Committee appointed from members of the Legislative Assembly has recommended that the name Guyana be adopted for the territory on Independence, and this has been accepted by the Legislative Assembly. A National Flag and Coat-of-arms are about to be selected by the Committee from entries in an open competition. This Committee will also select in due course a National Anthem.



Mr. J. Keen of U.N.

The Search for Overseas Aid Throughout this period, the Government has been bedevilled by financial difficulties and the development programme subject to sharp cutbacks because of lack of funds. As these difficulties were early foreseen the Premier led a mission to the U.S.A. and Canada last October to seek aid and to correct erroneous impressions of the country which had been circulated in the overseas press. As a result of these talks the United States Government decided to send an economic team to investigate the feasibility of certain development projects. The visit of this economic Mission was postponed after the February 16 disturbances. The mission however, visited in May and its report is now awaited.

In November, the Hon. Brindley Benn, Minister of Natural Resources led a B.G. Mission on a one-month tour of Europe to look into the opportunities for raising funds for the Development Programme. Countries visited were the U.K., West Germany, France and Italy but so far, these Missions have resulted in little aid. During a special mission to the United Kingdom in May this year, Dr. Jagan obtained the agreement of H.M.G. to an immediate issue of \$5.8m. of the second Exchequer Loan (\$19.2m) provided for financing the 1960-1964 Development Programme. This issue together with the last \$2.2m from the First Exchequer Loan (also \$19.2 m) provided \$8 m of the finances for this year's development expenditure and eased the immediate financial stringency arising from opposition to the Budget. A number of Trade and Economic missions which have visited British Guiana during the past year have however held out the prospect of mutually rewarding trade and aid arrangements. This is especially the case with Czechoslovakia whose trade mission's visit culminated in the signing of agreements under which British Guiana will have entry to an important new rice market, with a potential value of four and a half million dollars per year and will obtain factories worth ten million dollars in all on easy credit terms.

More recently Senator the Hon. H.J.M. Hubbard, Minister of Trade and Industry, visited Cuba at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of that country to discuss the development of mutual trade. As a result of these discussions, Cuba will purchase a minimum of 15,000 tons of rice during the next year. A 2-way tourist trade and the employment of sugar workers from this country by Cuba are matters which are now receiving the attention of both Governments.

The Premier with U.S. Economic Mission



Messrs. L. Best, P. Dhar and Dr. Gyanchand of the Planning Unit.

Overseas Representation In November last year British Guiana was accepted as an Associate Member of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. The Hon. Brindley Benn attended the Organisation's meeting in Rome as this country's first delegate. In April this year Mr. George Bowman, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Natural Resources represented B.G. at the 38th Session of the Council of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation held in New York. The Premier represented British Guiana at the Tanganyika Independence Celebrations and also visited Israel at the invitation of that Government in December 1961. Senator the Hon. C.V. Nunes represented British Guiana at the Commonwealth Education Conference in Delhi in January and afterwards at the meeting of the Council of the University College of the West Indies. More recently Senator Nunes has represented British Guiana at the meeting to consider the future of Joint Federal Services held in Trinidad in June. British Guiana was represented at the Jamaica Independence Celebrations by Deputy Speaker Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, and at Trinidad's Independence celebrations by the Hon. Ramkarran. The highlight however of British Guiana's overseas representation was participation of the Premier in the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London in connection with the Common Market negotiations in September.

Technical Assistance & Planning Second only to the Government's efforts to secure financial aid from overseas has been its effort to secure the advice of experts to assist with our plans for the future. Work is now well advanced on the establishment of a Central Planning Division. Three distinguished economists have arrived and are already at work. They are Dr. Gyanchand, Mr. P.M. Dhar and Mr. Lloyd Best, the latter two having come under the auspices of the United Nations. Steps

are now being taken to recruit Guianese who will be trained by these experts and who will staff the Division. The Government has also had the benefit of the advice of visiting experts over a wide range of fields, the visits of many of them being made possible by United Nations assistance. Thus Professor Charles Bettelheim, Mr. Sydney Dell and Professor T. Balogh have advised on general aspects of Economic Planning. Mr. Nicholas Kaldor, Mr. H. Ponsen and Mr. M. Caiola on the tax system, the establishment of a Central Bank and the balance-of-payments position respectively. Mr. Abraham Ben Ari on a short visit from Israel advised on Land Development projects. More recently Professor Rene Dumont has made an evaluation of Rural Development Schemes.

Major U.N. Assistance Schemes British Guiana has been able to secure more assistance from U.N. than any other territory in the region. During the period under review U.N. and its agencies have been assisting with the following projects:-

1. Soil Survey

Seven U.N. experts are now working on this project which is expected to take 3 years. When completed it will provide basic information on soil resources for drainage, irrigation and land development schemes. To date semi-detailed mapping has been completed for the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Drainage and Irrigation Scheme consisting of about 500,000 acres. In addition about 40% of the semi-detailed mapping in the proposed Canje Drainage and Irrigation Scheme has been completed. A reconnaissance map has also been completed for an area of 9,600 square miles on the Essequibo River. Preliminary photo interpretation maps have also been prepared for 25,000 square miles of land in the Rupununi area.

2. Aerial Geophysical Survey

Under this 2-million-dollar scheme expected to take three years to complete, an aerial geophysical survey will be carried out of selected areas which earlier surveys have indicated are likely to contain

economically important minerals. Two of the areas to be surveyed are believed to contain deposits of iron ore and chromite; in the 7 other areas it is hoped to identify sulphide bodies which will contain nickel, lead zinc and copper. The airborne operations are expected to take about nine months while follow-up work on the ground will last about two years. The project manager for this Survey is Mr. George Shaw.

3. Canje Reservoir Survey

This million-dollar pre-investment survey is likely to take two years to complete. On the basis of this survey the Government will later be able to seek financial assistance to carry out the greater Canje project which will provide water control over an area of well over half a million acres of cultivable land between the Berbice and Corentyne Rivers. The Project Manager for this survey, Mr. P.A. Browne, has recently arrived and it is expected that the survey will begin shortly.

4. Agricultural Marketing Economist

Dr. L. Levie, Agricultural Marketing Economist, is assisting the Ministry of Trade and Industry with research into marketing problems and the planning and organisation of Government Marketing activities.

5. Training in Public Administration

Mr. F.S. Megnin, U.N. Adviser on Training, has assisted with the training of present members of the Civil Service and new entrants so as to enable them to assume positions of increasing difficulty and responsibility.

6. Organisation and Methods

Mr. W.H. Scaife, Adviser on O & M has completed his assignment of advising Government on methods of improving the efficiency of the Public Service.

7. Economic Planning Unit

Two U.N. economic experts, Mr. L.A. Best and Mr. P.M. Dhar, are advising on the establishment of a Planning Division and assisting in the first steps towards the elaboration of a long-term Development Programme.



U.N. Oil Experts with Minister of Trade and Industr.

8. Sanitarian and Bateriaologist (W.H.O.)

Dr. G. Davidson is assisting with the campaign to control Malaria and other diseases.

9. B.G. Electricity Corporation

Mr. Richard Harper is here as General Manager of the Corporation for an initial period of two years.

10. Petroleum Geology

Dr. Robert McCall, a U.K. Oil Expert, and Dr. Fedynsky and Dr. Simakov, two petroleum geologists from the Soviet Union, have re-appraised all available geological data so far assembled and have advised on future exploration programmes.

11. Forestry Survey

Mr. T. Rees, F.A.O. Forest Inventory Expert, has made an appraisal of forest resources.

12. Rural Development Evaluation

Professor Rene Dumont has recently carried out an evaluation of the plans and programmes for the advancement of rural areas. He will make recommendations for their improvement.

13. Other U.N. Projects

Other U.N. projects which have been approved and will be undertaken shortly include an Educational Survey Mission which will deal specifically with the assessment of our man-power needs; an investigation into our laterite ores and advice as to future development; an examination into the possibility of more efficient utilisation of the water resources of the country; and the services of a statistician to advise on the character and volume of information necessary for the solution of statistical, economic and social problems.

U.S. Technical Assistance 1. Visit of Economic Mission

A U.S. Economic Planning Team led by Mr. Harry G. Hoffman, a newspaper Editor with experience in economic and social development problems visited B.G. in May for a period of six weeks. Experts from the U.K. and international development organisations were associated with the team. The object of the visit of

Surveyors in Training with U.S. Specialist.



the Planning Team was to bring the most modern economic experience to bear on the reappraisal of the development programme. The report of the Mission is still awaited.

2. Test Dredging of Berbice Bar

The most important U.S. A.I.D. scheme approved during this period is without doubt the test dredging of the Berbice Bar. The project will cost about \$1½M. The dredging programme is to be carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of A.I.D. who will finance the project. This test dredging will provide an answer to the question as to whether it is technically possible and economically worthwhile to dredge the Berbice Bar. The work which will be done by a special type of dredge will take about four months.

Other U.S. Technical Assistance Schemes

In the field of Agriculture, U.S. technicians are assisting with livestock development, tropical horticulture, agricultural marketing, rural youth work, agricultural credit, and fisheries development. During the last year, two additional technicians have arrived - the Chief Food and Agriculture Officer and an Agricultural Extension Adviser.

In the field of health, U.S. Technicians are assisting with hospital administration, dietetics, the keeping of medical records, entomology, parasitology and health education. There are joint fund projects for filariasis eradication, and the erection of a morgue and hospital kitchen.

Two highway engineers have advised on road development, and there is a project agreement for a road engineering analysis survey.

Three U.S. Technicians assigned to the Technical Institute are assisting with business education and the training of surveyors.

Participant Training

Since last September, 33 Guianese have been assisted under AID's training programme. Many of these persons

are government officers but the list also includes 6 trade unionists and 3 technicians from industry. The training courses which range from six weeks to one year include courses on trade union leadership, labour union administration, industrial engineering, land development and irrigation, agricultural credit, forest management, public health, community development, vocational education, and air traffic control.

U.K. Aid (C.D. & W.) During this period a wide spread of development schemes financed from C.D. & W. funds were in progress. Agricultural development schemes include livestock development, research, the development of fisheries, cocoa development, soil and land use surveys, the training of agricultural staff and the development of land settlement schemes. C.D. & W. funds are also being drawn on for the construction of large-scale and minor drainage and sea defence works, aerial survey, photography, the continuation and expansion of geological survey, the improvement of interior communications, the construction of an airstrip at an interior land settlement, road development and a road location survey. One scheme which has been approved this year and which will cost about \$600,000 to execute is the flood control drainage and irrigation works at Jackson Creek Polder. In the educational field C.D. & W. funds are being used for building Home Economics and Handicraft Centres, for new school buildings and furniture. Amerindian development financed from C.D. & W. funds include the provision of additional rest shelters, training centres, trade stores, a district station and a land development scheme. Research in Typhoid Vaccines, the erection of medical stores, equipment for hospitals and a mobile dispensary, the erection of Cottage Hospitals, health centres and mortuaries, provision of polio vaccine and malaria eradication campaign in the Interior are some of the health schemes financed from C.D. & W. Funds. C.D. & W. money has also been utilised in the provision of a large number of wells at the Black Bush Polder Land Development Schemes.

Tax Reform This period has seen the beginning of the implementation of a far-reaching programme of tax reform. The most important features of such reforms was

the broadening of the scope of direct taxation through the introduction of a tax on capital gains, an annual tax on net property, and a tax on gifts. These capital taxes together with the existing income tax now constitute a comprehensive and integrated system of progressive, direct taxation which ensures that the tax burden imposed on the community is fairly distributed. The rates of personal income tax were altered, and a new top rate of 70% added. Other amendments to the income tax law were made, aimed at closing certain gaps in the present law which made avoidance possible, and at facilitating the payment and speedier collection of tax. One of the provisions in the new income tax law which in particular makes for the speedier collection of taxes is the introduction of the PAYE system. The preparations for the introduction of this system are well advanced, and the system will be introduced at the beginning of next year.

National Development Savings Levy In order to increase the flow of resources for development purposes, the Government has introduced a scheme of Compulsory Saving such as already exists in some Latin American countries, for example, Brazil, and which has recently been introduced in Ghana.

Exchange Control During this period the Government also extended Exchange Control, which had long been in force for the dollar area and generally for the entire "rest of the world", to the sterling area. This control is not intended to restrict trade and current transactions but only to curb excessive capital outflows that were strangling economic activity and thus to secure the prosperity of the nation. The services of a Specialist on exchange control organisation have been lent by the Bank of England to enable the Government to improve its exchange control services.

Currency With the impending dissolution of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board consequent on the break-up of the Federation of the West Indies and the move to independence of the territories participating in the present unified currency, arrangements must be made for

the issue of separate national currencies. Some progress has been made towards the establishment of a local bank of issue - the proposed Bank of Guyana.

Aid to Industry The Government continued to assist worthwhile new industries by tax concessions in the early years when they are trying to find their feet. It was decided that manufacturing industry in particular would be encouraged. New businesses engaged in manufacturing will be exempt from the minimum income tax for the first five years of assessment, and the cost of any advertising spent in promoting local manufactures for sale locally or overseas, will be fully deductible for income-tax purposes. The Government also announced the policy decision to invite private investors to participate in Government industries.

During the period under review -

(a) 4 industries have been given aid under the Income Tax (In Aid of Industry) Ordinance, Chapter 300.

(b) 14 Licences have been issued for duty-free entry of goods under the Industries Aid and Encouragement Ordinance, Chapter 109.

(c) There have been amendments to the customs Tariff to give protection to Local Industries.

Another measure designed to assist local manufacturing industry has been the decision that, everything else being equal, local manufactured goods should be purchased for Government use as long as the price is not more than the **duty-paid** price of the comparable imported article. A directive to this effect has been issued to all Government Tender Boards.

Public Service - Salaries and Wages Revision In view of the increased cost-of-living, the Government took steps during this period to implement the recommendations of the Guillebaud Commission on the Wages and Salaries of Public Servants, Teachers and the Police. The implementation was subject to the revision of the salaries of certain senior posts. These salaries and wage increases amounted in all to 2½ million dollars per annum.

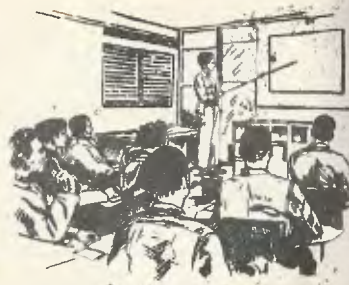
Training Apart from the training courses available under the AID Participant Schemes, a very large number of Public officers are in training in the United Kingdom, the West Indies, Canada, and Puerto Rico, and the training programme is being expanded as the following figures show:

| | U.K. | W.I. | Canada | Puerto Rico |
|------------------------------------|------|------|--------|-------------|
| Remaining from previous programmes | 53 | 3 | 1 | - |
| 1962 Programme | 50 | 11 | 7 | 20 |
| Total | 103 | 14 | 8 | 20 |

These courses vary in length from a few weeks to several years, and cover every conceivable subject; law, engineering, medicine, economics, telecommunications engineering, statistics, geology, agriculture, fire protection, and so on. Government servants are also now being considered for scholarships offered to this Government by many other countries including Federal Germany, Israel and Venezuela.

In addition to these Government servants, there are students in the universities of the United Kingdom, Canada, the West Indies and the United States of America studying on scholarships for which they were nominated by this Government.

Credit Corporation During this period the B.G. Credit Corporation continued to be an invaluable instrument of economic development. In its drive to double its scale of operation, the Corporation gave out 465 loans totalling \$1.8M. Of this amount \$826,000 went in 284 housing loans; \$338,000 in 99 Agricultural loans; \$378,000 in 29 loans for industrial development; \$98,000 in 14 loans to co-operative societies; \$60,000 for purchase of agricultural machinery, and \$77,000 for 28 food production loans. The Corporation also approved



loans to a number of rice millers for the installation of multi-stage mills which assisted in meeting the requirements of the Cuban market for white rice.

Land Development From December, 1961, the Government relinquished administrative control of Vergenorgen; and the West Demerara (Windsor Forest, La Jalousie, and Hague,) estates which are now being organised under Local Authorities.

At Vergenoegen, settlers who had holdings of less than 20 acres were allocated additional land to bring their holdings up to 20 acres.

A decision has been reached that the Charity-Amazon Scheme should be planned as a township to serve the Pomeroon and North Essequibo Coast. A lay-out plan for the area has been prepared by the Planning Officer.

At Black Bush Polder where 1,200 families have been settled, new Government schools have been erected to serve over 3,000 children, wells have been sunk, overhead tanks erected and pipelines laid for the residential areas.

Progress has also been made in the new Wauna-Yarakita Scheme launched in the North West District in September 1961. Clearing of the farm road to Yarakita was completed and a reinforced concrete bridge built over the Wanaima Creek. The Scheme will initially cover an area of 1,000 acres.

At Monkey Mountain in the Rupununi, fifty families are now cultivating successfully in communal plots - tobacco, tomatoes, groundnuts, hill-rice, corn, citrus, cashew, guavas and lettuce. This produce, especially tomatoes, is now being flown into the Georgetown market.

Land for Agricultural and Land Development Co-ops About 17,000 acres of land have been granted this year to 1,400 farmers. Most of this land has been put under rice. Except in the case of Black Bush and Mara Land Development Schemes, these lands have gone to Farmers organised into co-operatives.

Land for Individual Farmers About 10,000 acres of land have been given out during this period to individual farmers. Most of this land has likewise been put under rice, but it is estimated that some 3,000 acres is being used for cattle grazing.

Food Production There has been considerable expansion in food production, particularly of milk and fish. Milk production up to August 1962 was more than half a million gallons - about 100,000 gallons more than in the whole of 1961. More fish has been handled by the Marketing Division up to August this year ($\frac{3}{4}$ million pounds) than in the whole of last year. Cassava production is thrice that of 1961. Production of eddoes has been doubled. Whereas half a million pounds of plantains passed through the Marketing Division in 1961, the amount to August this year has been more than 2 million pounds. The marketing of sweet potatoes rose from 30,000 pounds in 1961 to a quarter of a million pounds up to August this year.

Regular export shipments of coffee to Europe are now being made and trial shipments of cassava, eddoes, pumpkins and farine have gone to the U.S.A. and Bermuda where a large market has now been established.

The export trade in shrimps has expanded to the point where for the past year shipments worth in all about \$4M. have been sent to the U.S.A.

Agricultural Officer examining Cabbages with young farmers.



There has also been considerable expansion in the planting of coconuts and citrus as well as cabbage and blackeye peas for which the Government is offering crop bonuses and has paid out for the past year about \$50,000 in bonuses. The enthusiasm for these new crops has also spread into the interior, particularly in the Kamarang area of the Mazaruni and Monkey Mountain in the Rupununi.

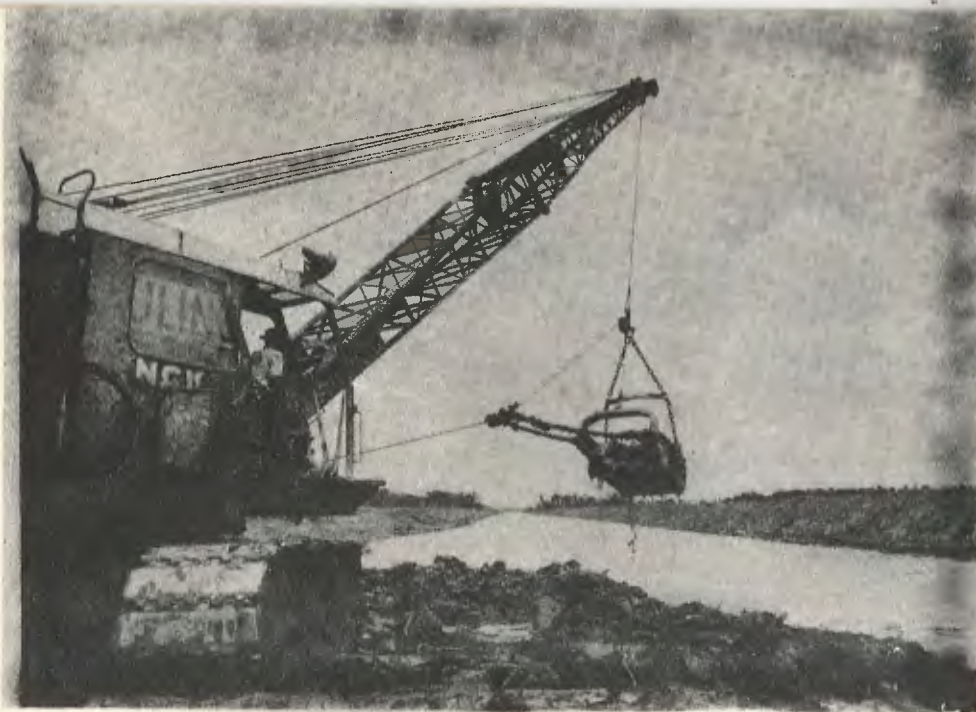
Research and production centre for the new crops is the Central Agricultural Station at Mon Repos where a new laboratory has been opened. One of the newest and most striking developments is the new variety of rice emerging from experiments. This improved variety specially suited to mechanical harvesting is being enthusiastically taken up by rice farmers.

Distribution of top quality livestock and poultry to farmers for breeding purposes has stepped up. New cattle stock has been imported for improving dairy and beef herds.

The Ebini Livestock Station has now conclusively demonstrated the value of Pangola Grass for pasturage and the best varieties of fodder grasses.

British Guiana is now self-sufficient in edible oil. Since 1959 there has been no importation of edible oil. Production of copra and edible oil is very nearly up to target despite unfavourable weather and losses by coconut producers.

Drainage & Irrigation Work on the Tapakuma Project is well underway. At the end of August 1962 a total of approximately \$6,000,000 has been spent on this project. Construction on all the main works in this scheme is well advanced. It is expected that the damming of the Tapakuma River and the erection of the pumping station at Dawa Point on the Tapakuma River will be completed by year end. Most of the main canals have been dug and about 50% of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile long North embankment dam has been completed. Several culverts and regulators and bridges on the coastal road have been constructed. At the rate of progress this drainage and irrigation scheme



Tapakuma Drainage and Irrigation Project.

which will benefit about 35,000 acres of land in the Essequibo district will be completed on schedule i.e. by December, 1963.

Another important drainage and irrigation project is the construction of a road bridge sluice at Land of Canaan, East Bank, Demerara. This sluice will help relieve the flood waters in the Mahaica Valley and should be completed by the end of the year. The estimated cost of constructing this scheme is \$600,000. When completed it will be the largest sluice of its type in the country.

During this period the planning and survey work for major drainage schemes has been pursued. This topographical survey work has been started on the Greater Canje Project, a scheme which would lead to the development when implemented of 500,000 acres.

Several minor drainage and irrigation schemes have been undertaken or completed during this period. These minor schemes are designed to help small groups of



Sea Defences at Buxton, East Coast, Demerara.

people to develop land in various parts of the country. One such drainage work is the sluice which is now being built at Harmony in the Corentyne district. This sluice will drain about 1,600 acres of land now cultivated by a co-operative society. The sluice will be completed by year end and will cost about \$30,000.

Work is also in progress on three other schemes at Fyrish, Park/Abary and Charity. These works at Fyrish, Park/Abary and Charity will drain 4,050 acres and have cost to date \$90,000. Other minor drainage schemes were completed at La Retraite, Den Amstel, and Kabawer. These completed schemes involved the draining of some 32,884 acres of land and cost just over \$250,000.

Sea Defences 5,000 ft. of concrete sea defence walls were completed at a cost of about 1½ million dollars. These walls were built in the Essequibo Coast, Essequibo Islands, West Coast Demerara, and East Coast Demerara Districts. Recasing work was also done on 350 ft. of walls at Leonora in the West Coast Demerara area at a cost of \$40,000. Earth dams totalling 19,000 ft. were constructed in the West Coast Berbice and East Coast Demerara districts.

River Defences A single project was carried out at Aurora, South Essequibo Coast, and has just been completed. In all 1,700 ft. of concrete wall was constructed at a cost of \$67,000.

Roads Surfacing of roads was continued on the East Bank Demerara, East and West Coast Demerara and in the



A New Section of the Bartica-Potaro Road.

Bartica-Potaro areas. In the East Bank area sections were done at Soesdyke, Meadow Bank, Agricola and Bagots-town totalling $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The amount of money spent on this section of road was \$556,252 at an average cost of \$158,929 per mile. In the East Coast area 4 miles of road was surfaced between Paradise and Belfield at a cost of \$50,000 per mile. Expenditure on the West Coast Demerara road amounted to \$238,000 approximately, and 7 miles of road were surfaced between Anna Catherina and Groenveldt, and between Vreed-en-Hoop and Windsor Forest. In the Bartica-Potaro district the expenditure on roads amounted to \$255,776. This money was spent on spreading sand clay over 21 miles of road, and sealing 18 miles of this section, and on spreading mixed material over another 19 miles.

One of the more important projects being tackled in the country is the Parika-Bartica Road. The road which will be $36\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length is the first stage of Re-surfacing of the East Bank, Demerara Road.



a three-stage plan to link the coastal plain with the interior of the country. The project is being undertaken by the Consorcio Empresas Grupo Del Conte, and the Construction work commenced in December 1961. To date the contractors have cleared over 17 miles of the road alignment and have formed a road embankment stretching over 7 miles. Several culverts have been laid and drains dug to take off the surface water from the land. The contractors are putting down a laboratory and this building is just about completed. The laboratory equipment has arrived and is already installed.* The Government so far has spent about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars on the project of which an amount of \$100,000 went towards a land acquisition survey including payment of compensation.

Postal Facilities There was extensive repair and extension work on several Post Offices which had been outmoded through the years and which needed to be improved to take off the increased volume of business. At Rosignol, West Coast Berbice, a site has been cleared and work is about to begin in the construction of a new Post Office building.

There were also great improvements in Postal Services to remote areas where in many cases new letter boxes were erected at new sites in addition to replacements at existing sites, more vendors licensed to sell stamps and the house to house delivery service greatly extended to obviate the outmoded system of the collection of mail from Post Offices by residents. Several Postal Agencies were established in the riverain and coastal areas to provide postal facilities which were hitherto unavailable and the mail and telegram delivery service extended to new districts.

In the Berbice River, savings bank business was introduced on the weekly ferry steamers.

Telecommunications Development of the telecommunications service was pushed forward at a quickening rate. At Mon Repos a 100-line U.A.X. was commissioned in December 1961. At Mon Repos, too, a new radio receiving station was commissioned (this included the erection and commissioning of 4 miles of 11,000 volt overhead lines).

This new station has improved reception from all radio telephone stations in the interior. A 25-line U.A.X. was also commissioned at Ituni, Demerara River, and put into operation in December 1961. In the Georgetown areas, 14 more telephone booths were put down, and throughout the country an additional 1,000 telephones installed.

At Alexander Village on the East Bank, Demerara, a telephone booth was installed to facilitate the residents there. Work on the reconstruction of lines has already started in the West Demerara area between Vreed-en-Hoop and Wales. Surveys were completed in the East Bank, Demerara, between Agricola and Grove in preparation for reconstruction of overhead cables on that route, and work has actually commenced on the erection of the cables between Agricola and Peter's Hall.



New Cessna aircraft acquired by Government.

Civil Aviation The department acquired a Cessna 310 G aircraft mainly to enable it to carry out inspection of interior aerodromes. The aircraft cost about \$130,000. Recently, too, fire-fighting equipment was installed at the main aerodrome in the interior at Lethem. Two aeronautical beacons have recently arrived and are about to be installed at Skeldon and Mabaruma. At present five Pilot trainees are undergoing training in the U.K. and recent reports on their progress have been good. Overseas training of Air Traffic Control Officers has also been increased.

Shipping Services A heavy-duty stelling has been completed at Hog Island in the Essequibo River.



New Ferry Boat in Sprostons Shipyards

There have been improvements to the Demerara ferry terminals with the reconstruction and extension of the Goods Wharf at Vreed-en-Hoop. Work on the Georgetown terminal is near completion, the northern section having been completely rebuilt. Steel passenger and vehicle gangways have already been erected on overhead gantries and asphaltting of the approach road completed.

The acquisition of new machinery to facilitate handling of cargo has greatly improved the service at the Georgetown and New Amsterdam goods wharves. Modest improvements have been carried out to the stelling at New Amsterdam.

A bigger and faster ship has been ordered for the Essequibo Ferry service between Parika and Adventure. This vessel is being built locally by the firm of Messrs. Sprostons Ltd., and will be ready for service by the end of this year. This new boat will have accommodation for 1,200 passengers and 30 cars and will provide the most modern catering arrangements for passengers.

In order to accommodate the new vessel certain necessary adjustments will soon be made in the stellings in Essequibo.

At present the M.V. "Lady Northcote" is undergoing reconstruction to improve cabin accommodation. When this work is completed the vessel will be put on the North West run.

Railways Works were carried out to provide for the increased comfort and convenience of the paying public. At busy stations and stellings, booking offices are now opened earlier, in good time for the departure of trains and ships. To prevent passengers from being drenched during rainy weather, the overflow of water from roofs of all the railway carriages has been diverted. To speed up passenger train services special officers have been assigned to each train to ensure minimum delay at stations. A cattle pen has been erected at Burma to facilitate the shipment of cattle by Railway for the residents of this area.

Improved ventilation has been provided at Uitvlugt Railway Station.

Harbours Steps have been taken to improve navigation aids in the estuaries of the main rivers. A buoy tender was purchased with the object of accelerating the Department's buoyage programme. Arrangements have been made to erect a number of beacons and buoys at certain positions in the Essequibo River to facilitate navigation and to increase the safety factor.

Training of Transport Staff The training of transport staff has been intensified to provide a more economical and efficient service to the public. Several officers are at present undergoing training in such subjects as marine engineering, and business management.

New Power Plant Following the take-over of the Demerara Electric Company in January, 1961, by the newly established B.G. Electricity Corporation, a U.K. Consortium under agreement with Government undertook the construction of a new power plant in Georgetown.

The \$13M. scheme is the largest single development project in B.G. and is providing employment for about 500 people.

The first of three 10 megawatt turbo alternators at the new power station will go into operation at the end of 1962, after which electricity supplies will be extended immediately as far as Craig Village on the East Bank, Demerara and later to Garden of Eden where the new industrial estate is to be set up.

Poles have already been planted for extending electricity to Mocha, Arcadia, Grove and Craig on the East Bank, Demerara. Submarine cables will be laid to take electricity across the Demerara River to the West Bank, Demerara River to the West Bank and West Coast where work is also in progress.

The new power plant will also enable electricity to be extended up the East Coast, Demerara to Buxton and later as far as Belfield, and workmen are now engaged in planting poles in this area.

Work is also well advanced in the rehabilitation of the distribution system in the present franchise



Power Plant of the B.G. Electricity Corporation.

area. This will greatly improve the present voltage conditions.

Two employees have been sent for training with the Trinidad Electricity Commission and 17 others are undergoing training locally. The aim of the training programme is to ensure enough skilled workers to operate the new plant.

Tourism Tourist bungalow accommodation is now provided at Kangaruma and Tukeit. A 13-passenger bus has been acquired for transportation of tourists between Bartica and Kangaruma. Atkinson holiday camp sites are also being developed. Groups of young men have volunteered free service for work on these projects.

Trade The total value of exports for the first six months of 1962 is \$51.3 million. Rice exports went up by \$2½ million to \$10¼ million. In fact British Guiana's trade in rice from the first of October last year to the end of August this year reached the value of Twenty-one million dollars. The Rice Marketing Board sold to the external market one million, seven thousand bags of rice, earning twenty million dollars. Packaged rice exported to the West Indies for the same period brought British Guiana another one and a half million dollars.

Bauxite exports dropped from \$15 million to \$11 million, but this was more than offset by alumina exports which rose to \$8.3 million. Timber exports increased by \$½ million to \$1.8 million.



Making Sweets.

Industrial Development Three factories have been set up on the Ruimveldt Industrial Estate. Two other factories are under construction. Surveys have been completed for the Garden of Eden Industrial Estate, the P.W.D. is now working on detailed estimates. Seventeen new industrial enterprises were granted the facility of duty-free importation of materials. Four new industries were granted tax holidays.

Discussions have been held with representatives of the local sugar, engineering and printing industries with a view to expanding the local market for the products of these industries.

From time to time limitations have been imposed on imports so as to protect local products. During the year under review such action was taken in respect of imported coffee products, cabbages, ham and bacon.

A preliminary agreement has been signed with Czechoslovakia for supply of equipment and technical assistance to set up factories which will manufacture furniture, plywood, bicycle tyres and tubes, leather footwear, leather goods, rubber and canvas footwear, a tannery and a cement packaging plant.

An agreement was signed in July with Czechoslovakia for the supply of rice. The Czechs have opened a market for 20,000 tons of rice valued \$4,420,000. Shipments have already begun. Czechoslovakia will also buy coffee and oil seeds.

A rice trade agreement with Cuba has resulted in Cuba purchasing over \$12 million worth of rice up to August, 1962. B.G. in turn is now buying Cuban cement which is cheaper than elsewhere.

A B.G. trade mission is to visit Poland for final talks on proposals to set up a steel rolling mill, a concrete block factory and an alcohol distillery.

Visits have been paid to B.G. by trade and economic missions from Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Italy, Israel, Poland, United Kingdom, and possible trade and aid opportunities from these sources are being pursued.



Rice Marketing Board - Rice production has risen from 57,000 tons in 1957 to 126,000 tons for the last crop year. The newly appointed Rice Marketing Board has been carrying out detailed investigations of the Board's operations to save the waste of rice and has given work to as many persons as possible.

The Rice Marketing Board's Electronic Rice-picking Table. Board's Processing Plant has been improved by the installation of four new picking tables and production and distribution of packaged rice has increased considerably.

The Board has reduced the price of stock feed, second hand and new bags to farmers and has contributed nearly \$200,000 to the Department of Agriculture's country wide programme to control rice pests and disease without direct cost to the farmers. The Board has added 25 more motor blowers and other equipment to its stock of pest and disease control equipment and has also purchased large stocks of insecticide and fungicide. It has also embarked on a programme of aerial spraying in the Crabwood Creek areas affected by disease on an experimental basis. In addition, it has assisted farmers who, through loss of crops were unable to meet their instalments on hire purchase agreements for equipment.

To improve the efficiency of the rice industry a programme of education has been organised at all levels, cultivation, milling and marketing. The programme consists of courses, seminars, demonstrations, and competitions to assist farmers and millers to adopt better methods and to operate machinery more efficiently.

Geological Survey Intensive geological mapping of recent years culminated during the past year in the preparation of the new Geological Map of British Guiana now about to be published. A geological map is an essential

preliminary to modern scientific prospecting.

The stage attained in the field work enabled commencement of a major map printing programme wherein it is planned to produce sheets on a scale of 1:200,000 covering 75% of the country within two years. Publication commenced in 1961 and up to the present 30 individual maps in this series have been issued, which represents a remarkable achievement. The new geographical map of B.G. just published, shows roads, railways, airstrips and landing pools, rivers and creeks and the main mountain features in much greater detail than has ever been presented before. All the work from compilation to printing was undertaken in British Guiana.

Geological mapping never reaches completion, new information continually becomes available, but in British Guiana it has attained a stage where it can effectively assist the development of the country's natural resources.

Although regional geological mapping must continue since there still remain important areas of the territory inadequately known, the main effort of the Geological Survey Department is now being swung to the direct investigation of mineral potential.

The Geological Survey Department is not yet completely equipped, but during the past year facilities have been markedly improved, particularly in the completion of a new workshop, assay laboratory, rock store and carpenter's shop. The laboratory now has specialised apparatus which has enabled a great speeding up of analytical work. It is possible to process rapidly the large number of geochemical samples which are now being collected.

Operations in the field during the past year have included 14 field expeditions into the interior. Amongst them have been a review of the old Peter's Mine gold area, a geochemical survey of the Marudi Mountain gold region, and another geochemical survey in the middle of the Cuyuni which resulted in the discovery of five regions of anomalous copper values in the soils, one of which warrants drilling. A drilling expedition to the Cuyuni is now examining the region. Investigations continued into the distribution of diamonds in the Pakaraima Mountains and

elsewhere, and the Survey accorded the small prospector considerable assistance in opening up trails to new diamond fields. Studies of the aluminous laterites of the Pakaraima Mountains also continued.

Very important results are stemming from the pollen research programme sponsored by the Geological Survey. Examination of samples by Prof. van der Hammen, an eminent palynologist whose services were retained by the British Guiana Government, has resulted in the discovery that coastal and off-shore sediments include older rocks of the time equivalent to oil bearing strata in Trinidad and Venezuela. The hopes for the discovery of oil in the country have thus been enhanced, and two oil companies, one a major international oil concern, have applied for prospecting licences.

Against the possibility of the discovery of oil in commercial quantity, the Government obtained the services of Mr. R.B. McCall under the auspices of the U.N. Technical Assistance Board to advise them on oil leasing policy, and subsequently obtained the services, through the same source, of two additional oil experts, Drs. V. Fedynsky and S.M. Simakov, Geophysicist and Petroleum Geologist, respectively, in order to evaluate all known data concerning the country's oil prospects. The respective reports have been prepared and will be of great assistance to the Government and to the Geological Survey in the future.

Housing A local contracting firm is completing 188 housing units in the North LaPenitence area. These houses are made up of 138 two-bedroom types which are for hire-purchase, and 50 rental apartments, also of two-bedroom design.

In the South La Penitence area 81 two-bedroom houses were completed by three self-help groups towards the end of 1961; two other self-help groups are now erecting another 42 similar houses which are expected to be completed towards the end of September.

A redevelopment plan for La Penitence Village is also in preparation.

The problem of haphazard building by squatters in

the Wismar-Christianburg area is being tackled and work on a first lay-out has started.

In addition development of the housing sites has been in progress. A local firm has under contract developed $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of surfaced road in the North Ruimveldt area, while in the South La Penitence area roads have been built by another local firm. Now being completed is the road base for the new housing area where it is expected to erect more houses next year on a self-help basis.

In the Kitty area, Government has been proceeding apace with the implementation of the Kitty Railway Land re-development plan and already eight houses and many small buildings have been removed to new positions.

Health The outstanding improvements in the general health in B.G. is indicated by the fact that in 1961 fewer than 9 persons out of every 1,000 died (it was 11 in 1957); the infant mortality rate dropped from 67.6 to 57.3 and the maternal death rate from 3.9 to 2.9. The improvements in facilities for Maternal and Child Care have led to B.G. winning the coveted Dennis Geffen Rose Bowl (competed for by various Commonwealth countries) for its outstanding achievements in that field.

In 1961 B.G. embarked with the aid of WHO and UNICEF on a campaign for the total eradication of malaria involving the use of medicated salt by the entire population of the interior, and the continued spraying of houses along the rivers to provide barrier protection on the coastlands. Since the treatment began in 1961 not a single case of malaria has been reported in North West District.



Presentation of Geffen Rose Bowl.

Anti-polio vaccines were given to an additional

1,700 children (44,800 in 1960) while combined anti-polio vaccine and tetanus toxoid was given to 17,800 with booster doses.

A Health Education Division has been organised and a new Division of Environmental Sanitation recently established will provide all schools with satisfactory sanitary facilities and promote the use of more sanitary pit privies. The Division completed arrangements to begin work in Essequibo in September 1962 and both WHO and UNICEF are assisting by grants and technical advice.

A Filariasis Research Project has been conducted for the past year with assistance from the U.S. Govt. through A.I.D., and with the advice of specialists from the U.K. and U.S.A. The programme was initiated in the Buxton-Friendship area on the East Coast, Demerara. The old building used by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade has been completely reconstructed to provide up-to-date facilities for Filariasis Research.

The policy of providing free medical service for the people of the Essequibo islands was maintained, and the charging of fees for medical attention at the Leonora & Mahaicony Cottage hospitals was abolished.

Three new hospitals - Leguan, Leonora and Mahaicony, are in use and Skeldon Estate hospital has been acquired by Government and extended to provide for an out-patient service. The hospital now serves a much wider area with a population of approximately 40,000.

23 of the 24 new health centres have been erected and are in operation.

Routine blood testing of all expectant mothers attending 116 antenatal clinics throughout the country is a new feature.

At the Georgetown hospital, two more physiotherapists have been assigned to the newly-opened Physiotherapy Department. An increasing number of children and young adults with paralysed limbs are now being helped by the new Orthopaedic Unit.

A new extension to the laboratory has been completed at the Georgetown Hospital. A lift has been installed in the Maternity Ward for transportation of oxygen cylinders. Also a premature baby unit was provided and a signal system was installed for patients to make contact with doctors and nurses easier. Increased accommodation has been provided for maternity patients attending clinics and an additional doctor provided for these clinics. A cold room has been installed for storage of meat, fish and greens.

Formerly visitors to non-paying patients were only permitted on Wednesdays and Sundays, but daily passes are now issued to all patients to enable them to have visitors every day. New Amsterdam Hospital has been provided with an Ophthalmologist and suitable accommodation made available.

Pure Water Supply During this period 88 wells were completed, of these eighty-two were put in at Black Bush Polder Land Settlement. One well was dug at Port Mourant to serve the hospital compound and another at Stewartville to improve existing water conditions there. Four wells were provided in the Essequibo River district, two at Hog Island and two at Wakenaam.

At Bartica a 100,000 gallon overhead tank was completed. At Sparendaam a 5,000 gallon pressure tank and pumping station were started and completed, at Onderneeming a 30,000 gallon sump and filter were installed and are now in operation. Pumping stations were installed at Bartica, Hyde Park/Parika, Buxton, Beterverwagting, Soesdyke and Enterprize. All these pumps are in operation, except those at Soesdyke and Hyde Park/Parika. The system at Sparendaam provides a house to house supply in the Plaisance-Sparendaam area. The systems at Beterverwagting and Buxton are likewise capable of producing a domestic supply.

A pressurised system with house connections supplying Ruimzight to Hague, West Coast, Demerara was completed and put into operation.

During this period too 53 miles of pipeline were laid throughout the country.

- Labour Welfare** Since October 1961 Government has taken steps to -
- (1) extend certain provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance to new groups of workers (watchmen & gasoline station workers);
 - (2) to fix wages and improve the welfare of laundry workers and workers in shirt and garment factories;
 - (3) to apply the Wages Council (Timber Grant) (Amendment) Order to workers on charcoal grants.

In addition the Government has recently considered the report of the Building Trade Commission of Inquiry and the position is now being reviewed to see if conditions warrant the appointment of a Wages Council.

At present Advisory Committees are investigating wages and conditions of employment of workers in Licensed Premises, Drugs, Dry Goods, Hardware Stores and Groceries, Mechanical Transport, Petrol Filling Stations, Quarries, Rice Mills, Cinemas and watchmen. Several of these Committees are nearing completion of their work.

The Registration facilities of the Employment Exchange were extended to Springlands.

This year too 30 domestics were sent to Canada assisted in part by government loans. They also received training at the Carnegie School of Home Economics before leaving B.G.

Government is also considering the re-establishment of a Seamen's pool to assist seamen, and has sponsored an agreement between the B.G. Seafarers Union and the Harrison Lines for the employment of Guianese Seamen.

Quite recently under the auspices of the Extra-Mural Department of the University of the West Indies, the B.G. Trades Union Council and the Ministry of Labour, a summer seminar for senior Trade Union officials was conducted in Georgetown.

During the period 1st September, 1961, to 31st August, 1962, the Committee approved 2,418 housing loans for sugar estate workers involving an amount of \$793,813. The Committee also approved expenditure of \$195,151 for

the development of three new Housing Areas comprising 187 house lots; \$397,128 for pure water supply; \$152,470 for the construction of permanent roads in the Housing Areas, and \$118,769 for social welfare projects including Community Centres, Girls' Clubs, Libraries, Recreation Grounds and Equipment.

The number of new houses erected and occupied during this period was 533, housing a population of approximately 2,665 persons. In addition, 519 houses were under construction at 31st August, 1962.

Primary Education In the field of primary education the following achievements can be recorded:-

A draft Curriculum Guide has been published and distributed to all schools. This new guide suggests a new approach to education and fulfils a long-felt need in the education services.

A pilot scheme in education has been launched at Diamond Government School. The pupils of 12 years and over from the Grove Government School have been transferred to the Diamond Government School where a special curriculum is being tried out.

A re-organisation of all former primary schools came into effect from September 3, 1962. These schools are now termed all age schools, and are organised with Primary and Secondary Departments. The Primary Departments provide six years of education (ages 6-12 years) and the Secondary Departments provide 4 years of education (ages 12-16 years).

Four new schools have been completed and two existing schools have been extended providing accommodation for 2,380 pupils. There are also seventeen new schools in process of construction, which should provide 13,000 places.

In the field of scholarships the following achievements can be noted:-

The number of annual awards for Teacher Scholarships has been increased from five to ten. These are tenable at the University of the West Indies.

Free places have been introduced. As a result of this, 161 pupils who gained 345 points at the recent Common Entrance Examination have been awarded free places in Secondary Grammar Schools.

In teacher education a further 75 teachers have been accepted for training at the Government Training College from September 1962:

The country has now been divided into eleven educational districts each under the supervision of a District Education Officer, who is responsible for education in all its aspects in his District.

Six new Home Economics and Handicraft Centres have been completed and put into operation.

A Supervisor of Home Economics has been appointed and took office in September 1961. Her major responsibilities are the supervision of Home Economics Education in schools and in-service education of Home Economics Teachers.

During August 1962, a team of seven experienced American educators conducted a two-week seminar for teachers of Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary Schools. 375 practising teachers participated.

Secondary Education There has been no increase in the number of Government Secondary Schools or Government-aided Secondary Schools. Grants have however been continued in respect of Teachers' salaries, of buildings and of equipment. The Anna Regina School is still accommodated in temporary quarters but a plan has been prepared for the proposed new school building. Bishops' High School for girls has been extended so as to complete accommodation for 3 streams. Active consideration has been given to the provision of additional Government Secondary Schools especially in rural areas. Plans have been completed for widening the scope of secondary education and for making it available for all children over 11 years of age.

Technical Education Two new courses were introduced - a wood-machining course and a one-year full-time Secretarial Science course.

A revised one-year full-time Handicraft Teachers' Training Programme was also completed. In collaboration with the U.N. Education Adviser, in-service training was arranged for the first time for typists employed by Government. Government departments also released 20 young men for a course for land surveyors. This course has 30 students.



Civil Servants on Training Scholarships to University of Puerto Rico.

There has been an increase in the number of students reaching the standard of entry to the City & Guilds Trade and Technician courses. For the first time ordinary certificates were awarded in Mechanical Engineering and Building.

A new electrical laboratory built with the aid of a Canadian technical adviser is now in use.

Industry has shown increased interest in the training schemes, especially those connected with the training of technicians and middle-bracket supervisory staff. They are now recruiting more and more apprentices from the various preliminary courses run by the Institute.

For the first time this year 29 Home Economics students entered for the College of Preceptors Examination. Fourteen teachers completed a one-year course and have become qualified to teach in Home Economics Departments.

Scholarships (other than Teachers') and Loans to Students

Sixty-five scholarships were awarded tenable at overseas universities and other institutions. Of these, 12 were offered by Commonwealth Governments. Since 1961,

Government, maintaining its policy of assistance to students, approved loans to 96 students for overseas study and paid out instalments amounting to over \$175,000.

University of Guyana Plans have been announced for the setting up of a University of Guyana. Discussions to this end have been conducted with the former Principal of the U.C.W.I., Prof. Arthur Lewis who has advised on the setting up of a non-residential Liberal Arts College for about 400 day and 200 evening students so as to produce about 150 graduates a year after a four-year course in Arts, Science and Social Science. Students will be admitted at the School Certificate Level.

It is hoped to make a start on this University project by using the classrooms and Laboratory facilities of Queen's College with suitable additional equipment needed for work at a higher level. An extension is to be made to the Queen's College west wing. At the same time it is planned to upgrade the level of work at the Government Technical Institute, the Agricultural School at Mon Repos and the Government Training College for Teachers so as to make these institutions into faculties of the University.

Social Development Plans for the establishment of a Social Development Division integrating Co-operatives, Social Welfare, Community Development and Public Assistance were finalised after long and sustained efforts towards this end. The main objects of the integrated Division are to avoid the overlapping of kindred services in the field and to pool available skills, techniques and experience of staff officers for intensive co-operative and community development work in clearly defined areas. There will be special arrangements for interior communities. The staff of the Social Development Division is to be strengthened by the recruitment of village workers.

The new division will carry out Government's objective of reaching every village in its plan to bring about rapid rural development with communities and Government sharing as equal partners in the process.

Community Development and Self-help Schemes For the period under review, 114 self-help schemes were initiated throughout the country and Government approved grants totalling over \$100,000 to such schemes. These projects cover a wide field including the provision of community centres, recrea-

tion grounds, schools, roads and streets in residential areas, stellingings and bonds and land reclamation projects. Seminars have also been held for self-help leaders.

Co-operatives The promotion and organisation of land Co-operatives as a means of encouraging extensive land development on a co-operative basis continued during the year and fourteen (14) new societies were registered. As a result, more than 12,000 acres of arable land was allocated to approximately 900 farmers who were either landless or whose land holdings were uneconomical. The total number of land societies operating throughout the country is now fifty-one (51), and the amount of arable land held by them totals approximately 38,643 acres.

During the year, the viable Agricultural Credit Societies received on short term, the sum of \$212,300 from Barclays Bank, D.C.O. on Government Guarantee to assist members with the cultivation of this year's rice crop. Other societies also received medium term loans from the B.G. Credit Corporation for the purchase of agricultural machinery.

National Sport A National Sports Council was formed during the year and has begun a country-wide survey of existing recreational facilities.

Assistance (\$700) was given on the Council's recommendation to the Amateur Basketball Association for tour to Barbados; to the B.G.T.A. (\$250) for a delegate to a Physical Education Conference; to Amateur Athletic Association (\$300) for delegate to Conference of International Amateur Athletic Federation; to the Olympic Committee (\$2,500) for team to Caribbean Games; and to the Inter-Schools Cricket Committee for finals of Competition.

Special Committees have been formed to develop various aspects of Sport. Seminars in umpiring for primary schools, and athletic clinics have been held in various parts of the country.

The Government has also decided that the 57 acres of land occupied by the Golf Club in Georgetown should be acquired for the building of a National Sports Stadium, for which funds are being raised.

Interior & Amerindian Development

Amerindian training centres have been set up in the Rupununi and a course in cotton spinning has been started at Lethem, using a type of machine specially imported from India. The trainees from this centre are being sent out as instructors to the surrounding villages.



Modern cotton spinning at Lethem.

The improvement of the water supply has made a great contribution to the health and welfare of the residents of Rupununi and Mazaruni Potaro.

Improvement in the general health of Amerindians in the Rupununi and North West District is largely attributable to the use of medicated salt in the Health Ministry's campaign against Malaria.

In the North West Amerindian District work continued on the Kumaka - Quebanna scheme where 400 families are to be settled. Eighteen miles of roadway linking Kumaka on the Moruca River with Quebanna on the Waini River have been completed.

A pilot project in communal farming has begun at Nappi in the Rupununi.

The boundaries of the Kaieteur National Park were varied and the area reduced to open more areas to mining.

A site has been cleared for the proposed airstrip at Kaieteur. A light aircraft strip has already been built on the Kaieteur plateau by private enterprise.

Local Government During the year under review, the Central Government paid out to Local Authorities the sum of \$154,080 in the form of loans and grants, of which sum, loans amounted to \$145,555. These loans were given for various village projects covering construction of streets, execution of drainage and irrigation works, purchase of



A Potato Plantation at Monkey Mountain

mechanised equipment, i.e. tractors with tipping trailers and draglines, construction of community centres and also for the construction and extension of village markets.

Draft legislation for the holding of village elections on the basis of adult suffrage is now being prepared.

Government is giving consideration to a preliminary report on the introduction and establishment of a system of valuation for local government rating submitted by a United Nations Valuation Adviser, Mr. J.M. Copes, F.C.I.V., F.R.E.I., who visited British Guiana last year to examine the nature of the task and the resources available. On his recommendations the field staff appointed last year have completed a course of training in Building Construction at the Technical Institute together with training in Elementary Surveying organised by the Valuation Officer. The high cost of acquiring additional expert staff is proving a problem but it is expected that Mr. Copes will take up office here in 1963.

Police Three contract expatriate officers have been recruited to strengthen the senior ranks of the Force and to assist with the training of Guianese officers. Country-wide recruitment has continued and several initial training courses held. The salaries of all ranks have been increased, in common with those of other Government servants.

Five married quarters have been built and plans are in hand for a new police station at Rosignol.

Ten new motor cycles have been acquired for the Force and four new sets of traffic lights have arrived for early installation. New luminous traffic signs for installation throughout the roads of the country have been imported and are being installed. Also put into use is a traffic analyser to check on the speed of motor vehicles.

A country-wide road safety campaign has been instituted in an effort to reduce the number of road accidents and fatalities.

The Traffic Department has also started checking on the loads of lorries and trucks in an effort to reduce overloading which is causing damage to the roads.

Fire Protection A land rover has been specially equipped for fire-fighting purposes and this has been going about the country on demonstrations with the Fire Prevention Officer. A new fire station in New Amsterdam is nearing completion and is expected to be in use before the end of 1962.

New and modern fire-fighting equipment has been provided for airstrips in the Rupununi.

Rehabilitation of Prisoners There has been a striking advance recorded in educating illiterate prisoners. An adult Literacy Officer is at work both at Mazaruni and New Amsterdam Prisons.

A pre-release programme was also started at the Georgetown Prison by the B.G. Adult Education Association to prepare prisoners for readjustment to normal society.

Trade courses being run in the prisons have proved very successful, prisoners being taught tailoring, shoe-making, decorticating fibre, mattress making, acetylene welding, tinsmithing, carpentry, masonry, cement block making, building maintenance, painting, printing, book-binding, woodwork, cooking, baking, agriculture, poultry keeping and tractor driving.

Government Printery During 1961 the Government Printery was expanded by a \$50,000 investment in modern small offset printing equipment. This has resulted in an appreciable decrease in printing costs. The printing of the voters Lists was one of the major operations undertaken by the Government Printery.

EPILOGUE

That, briefly, is the story which did not get the headlines. It is not the story which the few tell, but it is the story which the many understand. It is the story of the hungry fed, of opportunities for the underprivileged, of poverty diminished. It is the story of the pangs of a nation slowly coming to birth, this story of the FIRST YEAR.



New aided self-help houses at La Penitence.

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