1953 Dominica Estimates.

A REVIEW

II.

THE Public Works Department vote r expenditure in 1953 is divided un- er three Heads as follows:—

Head 24—Personal Emoluments,	$56,978
Other Charges	5,867
Head 25—Annually Recurrent,	195,269
Head 26—P.W. Extraordinary,	98,195
	$356,309

These amounts will be met from rdinary revenue including Grant-in- id, save the salary of the Director Works which is paid from C. D. & . funds. But a further sum of $40,-)0 to be expended by the Depart- e: t on Special Work, (that is Prison, o ice and Fire Brigade Re-organisa- o) will be met from the Colony's 6,717 surplus balance at the close of 952.

Normal salary increments and pro- ision for *locum tenens* increase Per- nal Emoluments under Head 24 by ,811 whilst Office ontingencies have creased the vote for Other Charges nder the same Head by $62.

Inadequate provisions on last year's otes for some services, the inclusion f new or additional ones and the re- assification of certain roads have in- reased the cost of annually ecurrent orks under Head 25 by $16,069 for his year.

After dropping a number of expen- ture items that in 1952's extraordin- y works programme called for sums nounting to $120,711 and putting in w on s, Public Works Extraordinary lead 26) decreased to $98,195 from 53,211 in 1952. (This $98,195 vote r 1953 does not include the $40,800 entioned in the second paragraph ove). The chief new items on this ar's programme of extraordinary blic works are:—

Foot Bridge at Bioche	$ 875
Electric Light at Portsmouth	6,000
New Hospital at Goodwill	24,000
Construction Pte. Michel Road	6,500
St. Joseph Police Station	6,000
Senhouse River Bridge	1,520
lephone Line St. Joseph–P. mouth	5,000
ater Supplies to 3 Leeward Villages	7,300

Details of expenditure on the Fire ation, Prison and Police Reorganisa- n sch me, (towards which an allo- tion of $40,800 from last year's sur- us funds has been made) are given an Appendix as follows:—

Farm Prison at Goodwill	$72,826
Conversion Prison into Police Barracks and Fire Station	57,020
Conversion Fort Young into Police Headquarters	19,200
Purchase of Fire Engine	15,096
Contingencies	2,418

This scheme is estimated to cost $166,560 to be met partly from loans and partly from local funds, as the $40,800 already allocated for expendi- ture on it this year.

Admittedly, there is not much of impressive evidence in these projects of a long-term economic value along the material line, especially in the direction of the local resources devel- opment type; but, without a doubt, they hold hope of wage-earning to a large number of casual workers. And this is by no means an unimportant consideration in the social economy of the family and the country. Nor is the building of a bridge, which should facilitate the conveyance of produce and travel, or of a hospital, for restor- ing the sick to health and returning him to productive employment, works that have no more than a social value.

Agricultural and Public Works De- partments having failed to throw much light on the works for development proposed for the year, search must now be made in Colonial Development and Welfare programme. In this is found a really important proposal, namely, a road to the Windward coast. This is a new item in the expenditure of C. D. & W., and forms a new Scheme for which approval is being sought. In the meantime a sum of $15,000 is approved for expenditure on it in the current year. Eight other new schemes have been added to the C. D. & W. list, one only of which—an al- tered Cocoa Propagation scheme—has a direct economic value. Expendi- ture on the Transinsular Road is increased from $25,000 in 1952 (later revised to $7,000) to $90,000 this year. The total of this Scheme is $288,000. Unexpended balance on 31st Decem- ber, 1953, is estimated at $191,000 The Clark Hall-Nebia-Corona Road again figures on the list with an ap- proved expenditure this year of $25,000. This is $5,000 over last year's vote. The Scheme still awaits approval. Approved expenditure on the Layou- Clark Hall-Holmwood Road is reduced to $5 000 this year as against the vote of $100,000 in 1952 (later revised to $42,600). It is anticipated that by the 31st December, 1953, $100,686 out of the $141,600 for the Scheme shall have been spent on this road, leaving a balance of $40 914 unexpended.

Here again, apart from the proposed Road to the Windward Coast, there does not appear to be much in the line of development in store, or has its direction been lost in the search? A sifting of the evidence so far gathered may bring to full view the road signs pointing the direction to economic development in 1953.

(To be continued)

Correspondence.

The EDITOR, THE DOMINICA CHRONICLE.

Mr. Editor,—We beg leave in your valuable column to announce and make known to Agriculturists of this island that an Agricultural Union, has been establish- ed in this Colony. The said Union has been duly registered with the Registrar of this colony under the Trade Union and Trade Disputes Ordinance 1952, and it is to be known and recognised as the "Dominica Agricultural and Farmers Union." The aims and objects of the Union are primarily: to organise, advise, protect and assist as far as possible all those who are indirectly interested in the cultivation of the Land, the Fishing Industry, and Animal Husbandry, in order that they may better utilise their time, energy, and talent for the better- ment of themselves and family, and the general improvement and welfare of their country.

Membership to the Union is open to all persons in this Colony, who are in any way interested in Agriculture.

Any information relative to the work- ing of the Dominica Agricultural and Farmers Union can be had from the Founder.

ROPERT B. DOUGLAS
President Treasurer.

Portsmouth.
28. 1. 53.

Dear CHRONICLE,—There is some reason for Agricultural Exhibitions which enable people at one end of a great Empire to discover what is produced at the other, for these enlarge the comprehension of the ignorant and encourage patriotism by supplying a source of proper pride as opposed to an all-too-common personal conceit.

There is no reason for any exhibition of local goods to local people who know all about them, and between which there is little to choose. One bottle of farine is much like another, and when you've seen one dasheen, or plate of eggs, you've seen