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British Guiana.

MEMORANDUM

BY THE

HONOURABLE A. M. ASHMORE, C.M.G., GOVERNMENT SECRETARY

ON THE SUBJECT OF

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

FROM THE TIME OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY TO THE
PRESENT DAY;

WITH AN

ECONOMIC CENSUS

OF THE VILLAGES OF BRITISH GUIANA FOR 1902.

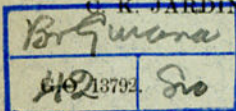


Printed by the Authority of His Excellency the Governor.

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA :

G. K. JARDINE, PRINTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH GUIANA.

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HISTORY OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION.

During slavery, the blacks had no lands of their own, but lived on the front lands of Estates and in the negro yards, the property of their masters. During the brief continuance of the apprenticeship, and for a few years thereafter, they continued to so reside, and between 1838 and 1819 made very high wages, saving much money. This they expended by ill organised companies, through nominees, in the purchase of abandoned plantations, of which, as cotton, coffee and all other cultivations save sugar were given up, there were many on the market, and sometimes on the purchase of front lands of sugar estates, the proprietors of which were anxious to establish a resident population.

The purchasers of such a property, usually after an unsuccessful attempt to cultivate the estate in common, distributed its lands among themselves, and built houses, and a village came into existence.

A village of this kind found itself without any organisation for managing its affairs: it had no communal institutions such as are universal in the East, and no 'King' or Captains of Companies to govern it as a West African village has.^{1*} The villagers realised this want themselves. More than one community prepared a code of rules for itself, and at a later date (1861) most villages were found to have provided themselves with an overseer and watchman, and to have among their inhabitants an understanding and sometimes a written agreement as to contributions for payment. But those measures were generally unsuccessful. More than twenty years after the foundation of most of the villages, the Commissioners of 1864 found them "generally in a most unsatisfactory state, and in some instances in a deplorable condition: the houses in the latter case in ruin and disrepair: and the lands attached to them "undrained, uncultivated and neglected, the means of internal communication most defective, and the most utter disregard for all sanitary considerations."

The history of the villages since their establishment is an account of the efforts of the Government, not yet completely successful, to provide an organisation suitable to village needs.

At the very outset of their new life, the inhabitants found themselves face to face with three principal difficulties: - the difficulty of drainage, (drainage being in Guiana the condition of existence); the difficulty of title, attendant on their having bought in common estates which they desired to hold in severalty; and the difficulty of fulfilling the obligation which rested on owners of plantations to maintain the public road through their properties.

The estates they had bought are parallelograms of land, embanked on all sides, with main drainage trenches running along the foot of the embankments and discharging through one outlet. No individual villager could cultivate his plot with success unless the whole system of main drainage throughout the estate was kept in order. So long as what may be called the "outfit of drainage," with which the plantation was provided at the time of purchase, lasted, it was not impossible things should go well. When it began to give out trouble was inevitable.

The question of title might wait, but the difficulty of the roads came home early. The remedy open to the Government in the case of an omission to repair roads was against the estate (in solidum) liable for maintenance and was in the case of a village obviously unavailable. And it was with this difficulty that the Government first endeavoured to grapple.

As early as 1845 special provision was made by Ordinance for the maintenance of the road through the village of Queenstown in Essequibo by means of an assessment of a rate to be prepared by Commissioners elected ad hoc and levied from the villagers.

A similar remedy was by later Ordinances applied to the like difficulty in other cases, and was more or less effectually put into operation, but even up to a late date complaints of the state of the main roads through the villages were very common.

¹ There is some reason to think that the African organisation by 'Kings' and 'Companies' survived among the slaves until shortly before Emancipation [cf. Rodway. Vol. II. Ch. XXVI. pages 296 et seq.]. The village organisation on the West Coast of Africa is military in its origin and character, and the 'drilling' referred to in Rodway's book may perhaps be thus accounted for.

The election of these Commissioners was the first legislative attempt to provide a village organisation.

In 1851 the Government dealt with the second of the difficulties referred to, the matter of titles, and passed an Ordinance (No. 4 of 1851, amended by No. 1 of 1852) providing for the appointment of Commissioners to divide the lands of villages among, and pass transports to, the individual proprietors.

Meantime in 1850, an attempt was made to establish a general administration for sanitary purposes throughout the Colony. By an Ordinance passed in 1850 two Central Boards of Health were established, one for Demerara and Essequibo, and one for Berbice: and Local Boards of Health, composed of the vestries of the Parishes and the medical gentlemen residing therein, in every rural parish of the Colony (the towns of Georgetown and New Amsterdam being separately provided for.)

This Ordinance probably never had any effect: it was repealed in 1852 and replaced by a more elaborate measure by which a single Central Board at Georgetown was substituted for the two Boards at Georgetown and New Amsterdam: and the parish vestries were created Local Boards of Health for the rural districts with power to establish general systems of drainage for their districts, and to make and enforce sanitary regulations within villages, power being taken to declare new villages, and so to bring them under the operation of regulations. -

The Local Boards of the Sanitary Districts were to be empowered to levy rates so soon as "provision shall have been made by ordinance for the election of the members of the Vestries of the several parishes," up to that date nominated bodies. But no such provision was ever made and no rates were therefore ever struck, with the result that so far as the rural districts, including villages, were concerned, the machinery of administration never came into general operation.²

In 1856, Ordinance No. 33 was passed by Sir Philip Wodehouse to provide villages with an organisation for the management of their affairs generally.

This Ordinance is the germ out of which the existing more elaborate system has grown, and it deserves a particular description.

It began by enabling the Governor and Court of Policy by resolution to bring under its provisions all plantations (and their owners) which having been purchased in common had been divided, or should in future be divided in severality among the proprietors, and it provided means of division for the future.³

It enacted that for every such plantation there should be an overseer whose salary was to be fixed at a general meeting of shareholders, called together for the purpose by the District Registrar.⁴ The salary was subject to approval or alteration by the Governor and Court of Policy. That fixed, a fresh meeting of shareholders was similarly to be called to appoint the overseer and elect two Commissioners, and on failure by the shareholders to appoint and elect, the District Registrar, with the Governor's approval, was to discharge the duty.

At the end of the year the overseer and Commissioners were to vacate their offices and a fresh election to be held.

Every proprietor was declared to be liable to pay monthly for his share "such sum as shall be sufficient to provide for the payment of the salary of the overseer, for the repair of the road and of bridges, for the drainage and other necessary services of the estate," and provision

² See Section 21 of Ordinance 1 of 1866, which appears to shew that the Local Sanitary Boards before that date had incurred expenditure (and levied rates ?)

³ Under the provisions of this and similar ordinances the following villages were divided:-In Demerara-Buxton, Plaisance, Victoria, Friendship, Beterverwagting, Den Amstel, Ann's Grove, Two Friends.

And in Berbice-Gibraltar and Fyrish.

⁴ The District Registrar was the collector of Head money, a tax imposed to meet the cost of the damage done by the Portuguese Riots of 1856. After the repeal of this tax, the Commissaries of Taxation were created to take over the duty of tax collection and the Registrar's duty in respect of the supervision of villages was entrusted to them.

was made for the assessment on the shareholders of their dues and for the collection and accounting for them. A special assessment might be made in cases of emergency; and a particular section of the ordinance laid down that in the case of work "of which the performance is required of the respective shareholders" the overseer might give notice to the shareholder to do it within 7 days, and in default, have it done and recover the cost from the defaulters. This simple measure is still remembered by some of the older villagers, who quote its principles as suitable to their needs. The causes of its failure were probably two: -the lack of a system of Provincial administration, by means of which the central government could supervise its working and influence the people to co-operate for their own good; and a reluctance on the part of the Government to use compulsion to make the recalcitrant minority, always to be found in every community, discharge their share of the common obligations.

The first of these causes still renders village administration difficult and inefficient: the second is passing away.

Special laws were passed to provide for the administration of particular villages. The most important of these were Ordinances 10 of 1862 and 1 of 1863, creating Commissioners with Boards of Advice to manager Buxton, Friendship and Beterverwagting and other villages, if any, brought under their operation. The collection of rates, when the practice was first initiated under these Ordinances, led to some sales of villagers' properties, and a good deal of friction ensued between the peasantry and the authorities, which, in the village of Friendship, culminated in a forcible levy by Police supported by a military force. In 1862, a Resolution of the Combined Court, covered by an Ordinance in 1864, placed \$60,000 of borrowed money at the disposal of the villages by way of loan.

The Ordinance of 1856 remained in operation for 17 years, but for the reason pointed out, it was not very effectual.

In February, 1864, the state of the villages was brought prominently before the Court of Policy, and a Committee was appointed by Governor Sir F. Hincks to (among other matters) "inquire into and report upon the condition and deficiencies of existing villages and to consider whether by any improvements in the legal constitution or regulations thereof or in their management they, i.e., the legal constitution and regulations, can be adapted..... .. to improve the condition of the present villages."

The Committee in the early part of 1865 visited a number of villages in all parts of the Colony, and in May of that year presented a report, the principal finding of which has been quoted already, and framed thirteen recommendations, which have formed the groundwork for much of the legislation that has since followed.

They advised the formation of a Central Board of Management; that provision should be made for inspection by a Government officer; that aid should be provided in the shape of loans; that there should be village Boards of Advice, with overseers to collect rates and transact local business. They also proposed the survey of the villages, and arrangements for giving the several owners good titles.

The report resulted in the passing of "An Ordinance," No. 1, of 1866, "to provide for the better management and sanitary superintendence of villages." This law created a Central Board of Villages, to consist of the Governor and members of the Court of Policy and other nominees of the Governor, and conferred on it the powers of sanitary control previously held by the Central Board of Health, but, in respect of the villages, not, it would appear, exercised.

The new law vested in the Board power to declare places to be villages and to divide villages into incorporated and unincorporated, and it set over all, of whatever category, a Superintendent or Board of Superintendence, nominated by the Governor; but the elected Commissioners under the Ordinance of 1856 were not swept away but might be continued by order of the Board, and in that case the direct supervision of them was withdrawn from the Commissaries in whom it had been vested, and placed in the Central Board or any one or more members thereof.

Authority to initiate village works in both incorporated and unincorporated villages rested in the Superintendent or Board. In incorporated villages the cost was recoverable from rates, but in unincorporated villages work might be set out by the overseer and done by the

villagers under a threat in case of failure to sell the village as a whole (!), or in the alternative to levy a rate.

The result of all the legislation passed up to 1856 had been to create a number of different kinds of local government for the villages. Four-Buxton, Friendship, Beterverwagting and Queenstown-had special constitutions under special laws of their own. Under the new law there were two more kinds of villages, incorporated and unincorporated, with differing forms of government, and under the Ordinance of 1856 there were villages with yet a different kind of constitution; while, side by side with the Central Board of Villages, there still existed the Central Board of Health.

The law gave the Central Board of Villages power to borrow on behalf of any village and to recoup itself out of the rates.

The Central Board of Villages, constituted as above described, made under the presidency of Sir F. Hincks a determined effort to remedy the evils disclosed by the report of the Commissioners.

It created 18 incorporated villages, for each of which it appointed a Board of Superintendence, making use for the most part of the services of the local Clergy and some of the gentry. And it declared almost every property in the Colony, not in European hands, an unincorporated village, entrusting the supervision of them to local Boards of Superintendence, of which there were two or perhaps more to a Parish. Overseers were appointed and rates levied for local improvement in very many villages.

Under its borrowing powers, the Board raised and lent considerable sums of money to the villages, very large loans being made to provide the East Coast villages of Buxton, Plaisance, and Beterverwagting, with drainage by steam machinery.⁵

This system of management, though no doubt it effected material local improvements, broke down from its own weight. The smaller villages could not bear the cost of overseers, whose salaries swallowed up nearly the whole of the rates. The unpaid Boards of Superintendence failed to recruit suitable volunteer members who would face the petty squabbles and disagreeable details of village politics: the Clergy found themselves involved in chronic disagreement with their parishioners: while not the smallest detail of village administration could be finally settled until submitted to a Board which included all the principal officers of State, from the Governor downwards.

In 1871 the failure was apparent. and a further Commission of enquiry was appointed. The report of this Commission, submitted in March, 1872, recommended that Government officers should be appointed to manage the villages, assisted in each case by an elected council of advice, and that proper accounts should be kept and duly audited. The report makes reference to financial mismanagement and disorganisation, and not to the same causes of complaint, -want of drainage, and breakdown of village works,-as the former report, and it may perhaps be assumed that in these last respects there was less to complain of than there had been in 1864.

There followed on this report the enactment of the elaborate Ordinance (No. 10 of 1873) - to consolidate and amend the law "relating to villages and to provide for the management, regulation and sanitary superintendence of villages." This Ordinance continued the Central Board of Villages, consisting of the Governor and members of the Court of Policy and any number more Government nominees. Under the Ordinance of 1866, the Government had relied for aid in its village administration on local voluntary effort. The result had been failure and the plan was frankly abandoned. The new Ordinance created a paid Inspector of Villages, and provided for placing the local institutions under the supervision -of the Commissaries of Taxation. It, at the same time, made general the system of public election, by which the inhabitants were themselves to choose Councillors to advise and assist the Commissaries in their duties. Rates were to be levied, and provision was made for estimates, for keeping accounts, and for village works of all kinds. Provision was also continued to enable the Central Board to borrow on behalf of villages.

The general extension of the practice of electing Councillors was not at first successful and it was found in practice that villagers frequently would not assemble to elect Councillors, and that

⁵ cf. Return of village indebtedness attached

sometimes when got together for the purpose, they refused to elect, and it became incumbent on the Central Board in most cases to nominate, but this difficulty gradually passed away. Under this Ordinance 18 incorporated villages were administered.⁶ All endeavour to work the smaller (unincorporated) villages appears to have been abandoned. The business of the incorporated villages was however still carried on at excessive expense. In two villages, Buxton and Fyrish, the rates ran up to 4 per cent. In Plaisance they were raised to 32 per cent. on the valuation. A number of villages on the East Coast petitioned against the continuance of the Ordinance.

In 1878 an Ordinance was passed to provide for the Sanitary Administration and Regulation of the Colony.

It classified the whole Country into

Town Sanitary Districts,

Village Sanitary Districts. and

Country Sanitary Districts. ;

the first being the Municipalities, the second the villages incorporated as such under the Villages Ordinance, and the third the remainder. It left the first two to be administered by the Authorities already provided for them, and made fresh provision for the local Government of the third by Sanitary Authorities to whom were given certain powers of administration and of levying rates. It created a Board of Health to generally supervise and direct the machinery, and remains still in force.

There were thus two superior authorities, dealing with local government, in existence side by side - the Board of Villages governing 18 villages, all control over which was expressly vested in it to the exclusion of the Board of Health, and the Board of Health, to whom the local Authorities of the rest of the Colony were subject.

The former had the assistance of an Inspecting Officer, the Inspector of Villages; the latter had no effectual supervisory staff at all; and it is not very clear how it was expected to put its powers into operation. It appears to have contented itself, whenever complaint was made to it that any inhabited place was in bad order, with procuring the creation of the locality as a Sanitary District, appointing a Local Sanitary Board, and leaving it to act or not as it chose. Speaking generally, such Boards did nothing, and from the date of the passing of the Ordinance of 1873, if not from before that time, the whole community, with the exception of the Municipalities of Georgetown and New Amsterdam and the incorporated villages, was left without local government of any kind.

In 1883 the discontent and dissatisfaction at the administration of the incorporated villages led to the passing of Ordinance No. 4 of that year, by which the whole of the machinery for incorporated village management was swept away. The Board of Villages had been too ambitious and extravagant. It had among other things started dispensaries in some villages which had to be swept away; and had accumulated a heavy debt, to repay which no serious effort was ever made. It ceased to exist, and the administration was divided between the Public Works Department and the Inspector of Villages, the latter being created for the purpose of the Sanitary Authority under Ordinance 3 of 1878 and so made subject to the Authority of the Board of Health. All village property of a communal character, which had been vested in the Board of Villages, was transferred to the Colonial Civil Engineer, and all the work of the villages was done, and funds available for their maintenance expended, by the Department of Public Works, a two per centum rate being levied generally on villages, and the deficiency, which was chronic, made up out of public funds.

In anticipation of this change, in the Colonial Budget for 1883, a grant in aid of village administration had been voted by the Combined Court of \$25,000.

In the same year (1883) the maintenance of the Trunk Roads, other than those passing through Sugar Plantations or through Georgetown and New Amsterdam, was assumed by the Government, and the villages finally relieved of one burdea on their poor resources. \$150,000 was represented to be outstanding and uncollected on account of the maintenance of these roads: not of course only or principally on account of villages. But the problem of village indebtedness was not, as it should have been, grappled with. Fifteen villages, most of

⁶ List annexed.

them incorporated, at that time owed in round figures \$94,000. It was recognised that they could not manage their own affairs and also pay their way. Their property and the responsibility for their future was on that account taken out of their own hands and assumed by the Government, in return for a fixed rate of annual taxation, the general revenue providing for the deficiency, but their several debts to the Government were retained on the Colony's books.

This state of things continued until 1892, when, on the occasion of the passing of a new Village Law, all the smaller debts were written off by authority of the Combined Court, but the liabilities of Beterverwagting, Plaisance and Buxton aggregating nearly \$75,000, continued to appear as assets of the Colony until 1902, when all but a small balance, specially secured, was written off the books. No reason was given in 1883 for treating the two sets of debts in different ways, and it can only be surmised that the Government was reluctant to admit that so considerable a sum of money had been totally lost. That it had been for a long period before 1883 hopelessly irrecoverable an inspection of the account shows clearly.

In 1892 a new Village law was enacted. It remains still in force. It placed the villages, i.e., villages declared to be such, under the control of the Board of Health created by the Ordinance of 1878, and it made the Inspector of Villages an officer of the Board. It put their affairs under the immediate direction of elected Village Councils, to which it gave powers of voting funds and taxes, of appointing Village Officers, constructing village works, etc., etc., and it re-vested in the Village Councils all the village property which by the Ordinance of 1883 had been transferred to the Public Works Department. By this Ordinance, the problem of village management in those larger communities, from whom there can be raised by taxation funds sufficient to pay a local staff as well as to provide for village works, may be regarded as solved. The administration since 1892 has shewn a gradual improvement; the Councils pay their way, and a moderate amount of interest is shewn by the inhabitants in their working. In some cases rather more stringent supervision from above would be productive of advantage, and a recent amendment of the law has made this more easy. But there remain a great number of less populous and poorer communities, the condition of which is still unsatisfactory. They are too poor to pay for a supervisory and tax collecting staff, the cost of which consumes nearly all that a rate produces, and they are too scattered and their interests are too distinct to permit of their combining and working under a common centre or head.

An experiment has been successfully tried in one or two places, and is now being extended to other communities, of requiring the inhabitants to contribute each his portion to communal administration in the form of labour. The execution of the village works of drainage, embankment, etc., is supervised by Local Committees, on each of which there is at least one Public officer who forms the medium of communication between the Board of Health in Georgetown and the local Committee, and the results are kept under observation through the Inspector of Villages, or by means of visits of members of the Board itself.

The law has recently been altered to facilitate the working of this system, and if carefully and diligently pursued, it promises a general improvement in the welfare of the smaller groups of peasantry.

(Sd.) A. M. ASHMORE,
22nd April, 1903.

A Return of Village Debts outstanding for every Village on the last day of every Financial Year since the year 1860 to 1901-2.

| Villages. | 1860. | 1861. | 1862. | 1863. | 1864. | 1865. | 1866. | 1867. | 1868. | 1869. | 1870. | 1871. |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sandvoort ... | \$ 250 | \$ 250 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 |
| Beterverwagting ... | ... | ... | 653 77 | 653 77 | 4,194 24 | 7,803 01 | 8,033 60 | 8,033 60 | 7,933 60 | 7,727 00 | 1,350 20 | 6,827 00 |
| Buxton and Friendship } ... | ... | ... | 1,732 84 | 2,034 38 | 2,376 04 | 1,976 04 | 1,976 04 | 1,976 04 | 13,822 99 | 27,467 78 | 42,830 86 | 32,993 10 |
| Hopetown ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,262 22 | 2,262 22 | 2,131 70 | 2,023 68 | 1,851 18 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 |
| Craig ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 |
| Danielstown ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 118 60 | 814 52 | 750 00 | 558 52 | 401 54 | 401 54 |
| Kitty ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 300 00 | 300 00 | 258 70 | 258 70 | 258 70 | 125 42 |
| Phoenix ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 250 00 | 250 00 | 150 00 | 100 00 | 50 00 | ... |
| Plaisance ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 250 00 | 100 00 | 2,182 59 | 21,767 55 | 29,734 91 | 28,957 91 |
| Golden Grove ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 848 84 | 1,000 00 | 956 96 | 930 96 | 1,063 12 | 963 12 |
| Sparendaaam ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 500 00 | 500 00 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bagatelle ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 |
| Cumberland ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 900 00 | 900 00 | 900 00 | 758 00 | 651 16 |
| Den Amstel ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,185 48 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,290 00 | 2,290 00 |
| Mahaica ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 250 00 | 166 67 | 83 34 | ... | ... |
| Blyendaal ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 |
| Nabaclis ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 500 00 | 500 00 | 500 00 | ... |
| Queenstown ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 400 00 | ... | ... | 1,040 00 |
| Ann's Grove ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 200 00 | 400 00 | 400 00 | 173 42 |
| Two Friends ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,100 00 | 1,100 00 | 1,100 00 | 517 75 |
| Patientia ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 400 00 | 400 00 | 400 00 |
| Fellowship ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 00 |
| Letter Kenny ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Agricola ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| De Edward & Sir James ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

A Return of Village Debts outstanding for every Village on the last day of every Financial Year since the year 1860 to 1901-2.—(Continued.)

| Villages. | 1872. | 1873. | 1874. | 1875. | 1876. | 1877. | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sandvoort ... | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 |
| Beterverwagting ... | 6,827 00 | 6,627 00 | 7,470 16 | 8,213 16 | 8,213 16 | 18,213 16 | 18,213 16 | 18,213 16 | 18,213 16 |
| Buxton and Friendship } ... | 41,439 52 | 48,859 99 | 52,167 05 | 52,606 69 | 55,873 37 | 54,727 57 | 54,727 57 | 49,301 65 | 43,980 49 |
| Hopetown ... | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 |
| Craig ... | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 | 2,000 00 |
| Danielstown ... | 401 54 | 251 54 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Kitty ... | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 |
| Phoenix ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Plaisance ... | 28,957 91 | 28,198 01 | 27,787 08 | 28,191 64 | 28,514 28 | 28,514 28 | 28,514 28 | 28,514 28 | 28,514 28 |
| Golden Grove ... | 963 12 | 293 29 | 201 62 | 701 62 | 734 95 | 734 95 | 734 95 | 484 95 | 484 95 |
| Sparendaaam ... | ... | 1,205 04 | 1,203 36 | 803 36 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bagatelle ... | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 |
| Cumberland ... | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 |
| Den Amstel ... | 2,290 00 | 2,190 00 | 2,190 00 | 2,162 12 | 2,162 12 | 1,862 12 | 1,562 12 | 1,562 12 | 1,462 12 |
| Mahaica ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Blyendaal ... | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 |
| Nabaclis ... | ... | ... | 33 33 | 33 33 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Queenstown ... | 1,040 00 | 1,240 00 | 1,140 00 | 1,140 00 | 1,140 00 | 1,140 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 |
| Ann's Grove ... | 173 42 | 152 91 | 107 91 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Two Friends ... | 517 75 | 233 81 | 123 09 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Patientia ... | 400 00 | 400 00 | 400 00 | 400 00 | 400 00 | 400 00 | ... | ... | ... |
| Fellowship ... | 100 00 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Letter Kenny ... | 250 00 | 250 00 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 |
| Agricola ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 |
| De Edward & Sir James ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 |

A Return of Village Debts outstanding for every Village on the last day of every Financial Year since the year 1860 to 1901-2.—(Continued.)

| Villages. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. | 1885. | 1886. | 1887. | 1888-9. | 1889-90. | 1890-1. | 1891-2. |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sandvoort | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 | \$ 250 00 |
| Betervewagting | 18,213 16 | 18,213 16 | 20,089 44 | 21,233 33 | 21,203 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 |
| Buxton and Friendship | 43,980 49 | 40,980 49 | 39,141 66 | 34,728 82 | 35,580 62 | 30,080 62 | 30,080 62 | 28,580 62 | 27,580 62 | 26,580 62 | 26,580 62 |
| Hopetown | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 | 1,823 70 |
| Craig | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Danielstown | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kitty | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 | 125 42 |
| Phoenix | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plaisance | 28,514 28 | 28,514 28 | 29,508 40 | 29,247 86 | 29,173 86 | 28,764 46 | 28,671 46 | 28,623 46 | 28,616 46 | 28,560 94 | 28,523 34 |
| Golden Grove | 484 95 | 484 95 | 484 95 | 484 95 | 484 95 | 420 95 | 420 95 | 420 95 | 420 95 | 420 95 | 420 95 |
| Sparendaam | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bagatelle | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 | 112 88 |
| Cumberland | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 | 598 40 |
| Den Amstel | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 | 1,462 12 |
| Mahaica | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blyendaal | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 | 100 00 |
| Nabaclis | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Queenstown | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 | 840 00 |
| Ann's Grove | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Two Friends | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Patentia | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fellowship | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Letter Kenny | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 | 193 37 |
| Agricola | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 | 60 00 |
| De Edward & Sir James | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 | 150 00 |

A Return of Village Debts outstanding for every Village on the last day of every Financial Year since the year 1860 to 1901-2.—(Continued.)

| Villages. | 1892-3. | 1893-4. | 1894-5. | 1895-6. | 1896-7. | 1897-8. | 1898-9. | 1899-1900. | 1900-1. | 1901-2. |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Sandvoort | *Written off. | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Betervewagting | \$ 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | 21,182 33 | \$ |
| Buxton and Friendship | 25,080 62 | 24,330 62 | 23,580 62 | 21,580 62 | 20,830 62 | 18,580 62 | 17,830 62 | 17,455 62 | 16,955 62 | 8,125 00 |
| Hopetown | *Written off. | | | | | | | | | |
| Craig | | | | | | | | | | |
| Danielstown | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kitty | * do. | | | | | | | | | |
| Phoenix | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plaisance | 28,444 94 | 28,426 94 | 28,406 94 | 28,406 94 | 28,406 94 | 28,391 94 | 28,391 94 | 28,391 94 | 28,391 94 | |
| Golden Grove | *Written off | | | | | | | | | |
| Sparendaam | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bagatelle | * do. | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumberland | * do. | | | | | | | | | |
| Den Amstel | * do. | | | | | | | | | |
| Mahaica | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blyendaal | * do. | | | | | | | | | |
| Nabaclis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Queenstown | * do. | | | | | | | | | |
| Ann's Grove | | | | | | | | | | |
| Two Friends | | | | | | | | | | |
| Patentia | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fellowship | | | | | | | | | | |
| Letter Kenny | *Written off. | | | | | | | | | |
| Agricola | * do. | | | | | | | | | |
| De Edward & Sir James | * do. | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | \$ 66,529 89 | |
| | | | | | | | | | 1901-2 paid on account | 2,250 00 |
| | | | | | | | | | | \$ 64,279 89 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 56,147 17 |
| | | | | | | | | | | \$ 8,132 72 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 7 72 |
| | | | | | | | | | | \$ 8,125 00 |

* Amount of \$6,136 64 written off. Resolution C. C., Session '93, No. VIII. (These balances are at the end of each Financial year.)
 † Amount of \$56,147 17 written off by Resolution C. C. VI., 1901, Second Special Session.

(Sd.) FRED. MAY,
 Treasury,
 October, 1902.

List of Incorporated Villages dated April, 1882.

Ann's Grove.
Two Friends.
Nabaclis.
Golden Grove.
Friendship.
Buxton.

Beterverwagting.
Plaisance.
Den Amstel.
Fellowship.
Sisters.
Good Intent.

Bagotville.
Stanleytown.
Craig.
Queenstown.
Danielstown.
Agricola.

Digest of Economic Census taken in the Villages of British Guiana in 1902, and arranged according to the several Counties.

| County. | Number of Villages dealt with. | Total acreage of Villages. | Number of Proprietors. | Population, Census 1891. | Value of House Property. | Land available for extending Villages, Acres. |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Essequibo ... | 52 | 5,236 | 2,540 | 17,918 | \$ 195,772 | 1,630* |
| Demerara ... | 66 | 27,519 | 5,927 | 45,676 | 841,852 | 3,966* |
| Berbice ... | 96 | 44,479 | 5,502 | 23,341 | 269,932 | 15,671* |
| Total Colony of British Guiana ... | 214 | 77,234 | 13,969 | 86,935 | \$1,307,556 | 20,267 |

* Crown Land available for 2nd and extra depths

H. A. CAMERON,
16th April, 1903.

Digest of Economic Census taken in the Villages of British Guiana in 1902 and arranged according to the several Fiscal Districts and Counties.

| FISCAL DISTRICT. | Number of Villages. | Total Area of Villages, Acres. | Number of Proprietors. | Population, Census, 1891. | Valuation of House Property. | Land available for Extension of Villages, Acres. | LIVE STOCK. | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|---------|-------|--|
| | | | | | | | Horses and Mules. | Donkeys. | Cows. | Sheep. | Goats. | Pigs. | |
| <i>County of Essequibo.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Essequibo District ... | 10 | 468 | 582 | 5,839 | \$ 65,761 | Nil. | 45 | 74 | 652 | 150 | 260 | 320 | |
| South Essequibo " ... | 16 | 2,935 | 1,196 | 6,659 | 67,977 | 30 | 54 | 173 | 828 | 15 | 488 | 475 | |
| Essequibo Island " ... | 17 | 1,431 | 452 | 4,035 | 41,484 | Nil. | No | numbers, only | description | | | | |
| West Coast District (in County of Essequibo) ... | 9 | 402 | 310 | 1,385 | 20,550 | 1,600 | 101 | had | of cat | tle. | [given. | | |
| TOTAL, COUNTY OF ESSEQUEBO ... | 52 | 5,236 | 2,540 | 17,918 | \$ 195,773 | 1,630 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| <i>County of Demerara.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West Coast District, (in County of Demerara) ... | 8 | 1,014 | 761 | 6,860 | \$ 125,152 | Nil. | 736 | head | of cat | tle. | | | |
| West Bank, Demerara River ... | 8 | 2,284 | 923 | 7,338 | 32,900 | " | 500 | head | of cat | tle. | | | |
| Demerara River District ... | 13 | 13,810 | 466 | 1,455 | 30,175 | " | ... | 3 | 140 | ... | 61 | 101 | |
| East Bank " ... | 8 | 950 | 847 | 5,811 | 71,170 | " | 36 | 67 | 439 | 5 | 96 | 100 | |
| East Coast District ... | 6 | 2,492 | 1,666 | 13,806 | 433,416 | 1,216 | No | numbers, only | description | | | | |
| Mahaica " ... | 8 | 2,879 | 859 | 8,620 | 117,389 | ... | ... | Not given | description | | | | |
| Abary (in Demerara) ... | 15 | 4,090 | 405 | 1,786 | 31,650 | 2,750 | 9 | 3,645 | 180 | 131 | | | |
| TOTAL, COUNTY OF DEMERARA ... | 66 | 27,519 | 5,927 | 45,676 | \$ 841,852 | 3,966 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| <i>County of Berbice.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abary (in Berbice) ... | 5 | 2,175 | 211 | 797 | \$ 9,500 | ... | 50 | 50 | 450 | 30 | 250 | 100 | |
| West Coast Berbice District ... | 24 | 12,119 | 1,540 | 5,120 | 69,065 | 5,750 | 87 | 221 | 1,762 | 528 | 1,204 | 1,035 | |
| Berbice River " ... | 20 | 9,612 | 547 | 4,497 | 48,747 | 1,850 | No | numbers, only | description | | | | |
| New Amsterdam " ... | 10 | 4,312 | 925 | 4,184 | 68,694 | 321 | ... | ditto. | | | | | |
| Corentyne " ... | 37 | 16,261 | 2,279 | 8,743 | 73,926 | 7,750 | ... | ditto. | | | | | |
| TOTAL, COUNTY OF BERBICE ... | 96 | 44,479 | 5,502 | 23,341 | \$ 269,932 | 15,671 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |

Schedule of Villages under Local Government.

| Names of Villages under Local Government. | Nature of Government. | Under what Ordinance appointed. |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>North Essequibo Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Danielstown | Council of 7 persons ... | Under Villages Ordinance, No. 6 of 1892. |
| Aberdeen | Local Authority of 4 " ... | Public Health Ordinance, " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>South Essequibo Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Queenstown | Council of 10 persons ... | Villages Ordinance, " 6 of 1892. |
| Maria's Lodge | Local Authority of 4 " ... | Public Health Ordinance, " 3 of 1878. |
| Adventure | do. of 4 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Huis t' Dieren | do. of 4 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>Essequibo Islands Fiscal District—</i> (<i>Leguan</i>)— | | |
| Endeavour | Local Authority of 4 persons ... | Public Health Ordinance, " 3 of 1878. |
| Amsterdam | do. of 4 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Uniform and Clairmont | do. of 3 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Kingston | do. of 4 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| La Bagatelle | do. of 3 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>(Wakenaam)—</i> | | |
| Zeelandia | Local Authority of 5 persons ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Arthursville | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Fredericksburg | do. of 3 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Melville | do. of 3 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Rushbrook | do. of 3 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Concordia | do. of 4 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>West Coast Demerara Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Den Amstel and Fellowship | Council of 10 persons ... | Villages Ordinance, " 6 of 1892. |
| Blankenburg | Local Authority of 2 persons ... | Public Health Ordinance, " 3 of 1878. |
| Hague | | |
| Anna Catherina | | |
| Stewartville | | |
| Uitvlugt | | |
| <i>West Bank Demerara River Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Good Intent and Sisters | Council of 6 persons ... | Villages Ordinance, " 6 of 1892. |
| Stanleytown | do. of 7 " ... | " " 6 of 1892. |
| Bagotville | do. of 8 " ... | " " 6 of 1892. |
| Goed Fortuin | Local Authority of 3 " ... | Public Health Ordinance, " 3 of 1878. |
| Pouderoyen | do. of 2 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>Demerara River Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Hermanstynne, Camoonie Creek | Local Authority of 4 persons ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>East Bank Demerara River—</i> | | |
| Albouystown | Local Authority of 3 persons ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Meadow Bank | do. of 3 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Agricola | Council of 6 " ... | Villages Ordinance, " 6 of 1892. |
| | | |
| Mocha | Council of 7 persons ... | Under Villages Ordinance, No. 6 of 1892. |
| Craig | do. of 8 " ... | " " 6 of 1892. |
| <i>Georgetown District—</i> | | |
| Lodge | Local Authority of 3 persons ... | Public Health Ordinance, " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>East Coast Demerara Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Kitty and Alexanderville | Local Authority of 5 persons ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Sparendaam | Council of 6 " ... | Villages Ordinance, " 6 of 1892. |
| Plaisance | do. of 9 " ... | " " 6 of 1892. |
| Beterverwagting | do. of 11 " ... | " " 6 of 1892. |
| Buxton and Friendship | do. of 10 " ... | " " 6 of 1892. |
| Triumph | Local Authority of 3 " ... | Public Health Ordinance, " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>Mahaica Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Golden Grove and Nabaclis | Council of 8 persons ... | Villages Ordinance, " 6 of 1892. |
| Victoria | do. of 6 " ... | " " 6 of 1892. |
| Ann's Grove and Two Friends | do. of 6 " ... | " " 6 of 1892. |
| Mahaica | Local Authority of 4 " ... | Public Health Ordinance " 3 of 1878. |
| Virginia | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Supply | do. of 4 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>Abary Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Eldorado | Local Authority of 5 persons ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Belladrum | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Paradise | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Golden Fleece | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Mahaicony | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>West Coast Berbice Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Lichfield | Local Authority of 6 persons ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Golden Grove | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Trafalgar and L'Union | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Hepetown | do. of 6 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| Ithaca | do. of 4 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>Berbice River Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Enfield and Kortberaad | Local Authority of 4 persons ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| De Kinderen | do. of 4 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| <i>New Amsterdam Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Cumberland | Council of 8 persons ... | Villages Ordinance, " 6 of 1892. |
| <i>Corentyne Fiscal District—</i> | | |
| Bloomfield | Local Authority of 4 persons ... | Public Health Ordinance, " 3 of 1878. |
| Letter Kenny | | |
| Auchlyne | | |
| Nos. 67 to 74 (Corentyne) | | |
| Nos. 78 and 79 do. | do. of 5 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |
| | do. of 3 " ... | " " 3 of 1878. |

H. A. CAMERON,
Inspector of Villages and Secretary,
Central Board of Health.