

**DEVELOPMENT OF
PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT
IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My major debt of gratitude is to Miss Anita Ebanks, B.A., Assistant Librarian of the Cayman Islands High School who was of tremendous help, having already done some research into the Islands' history and who, during 1982 made two trips to Jamaica to search the various documents in that Island's Institute, etc.

For information supplied I have to thank Mr. E.O. Panton, ISO., MBE., J.P., former Assistant Commissioner of the Cayman Islands Government, Mr. D.V. Watler, CBE, J.P., former Chief Secretary of the Cayman Islands, Mr. W.W. Conolly, OBE., J.P., a former member of the Legislature as well as Mr. O.L. Panton, a past member of the Legislature.

To Mr. David Jewell, of the Cayman Islands News Bureau for his assistance as to the form of production this work should take.

To the many members of the general public who came forward with copies of photographs, many of which have been incorporated into this work.

Finally, but not least, to Miss Wendy Lauer, Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, for her assiduous work, under great pressure, as Secretary of the Committee appointed to make plans to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Parliamentary Government in the Cayman Islands, who assumed extra duties making it possible for me to be relieved of many duties for the compilation of this booklet. I would also like to record my gratitude to the staff of the Legislative Department for their help, particularly in photocopying the many documents involved in the search; they are Mr. Sibert R. Watler, Serjeant-at-Arms, Mrs. Sharon Smith, Miss Nana Bothwell, Mrs. Rachel Ebanks and Miss Lynnette Stephenson, who was appointed to assist the Committee with the extra typing, etc. involved.

S.I. McL

October, 1982

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

"SELF GOVERNMENT IS THE HALLMARK OF A FREE PEOPLE. WITHOUT IT NO NATION CAN TRULY BE SAID TO BE FREE." THOMAS JEFFERSON (FRAMER OF THE U.S. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE)

From the earliest days of recorded history men and women have endured more hardships, struggle, sacrifice of life and treasure over the concept of freedom than for any other human attribute or condition.

The outward and visible sign of freedom for any people has always been self Government—the ability of a Country to determine its own affairs without interference from an outside force.

Self Government is a state of affairs that has never come easily to Nations. Even today there are tens of millions of people in the world whose every move is governed by alien forces far from their own borders.

By this measure then the Cayman Islands must surely be counted among the Blessed lands on this planet since our roots of self-Government can clearly be traced back 150 years to the first meeting of democratically elected representatives of the people on the 31st of December, 1831.

In all this time the Cayman Islands have always been a loyal part of what was once the British Empire and is now the British Commonwealth, not because of any pressure from Great Britain but because the people here have always been deeply loyal to the British Crown and would not have it any other way.

That first meeting of the elected Assembly that took place on the last day of 1831, 21 days after the Cayman Islands' first election, may only have been a ceremonial meeting. In any case we have records that show that it was the second sitting of the Assembly on the 2nd of January 1832 at which legislation was passed formalising the rules and regulations governing the operation of the Assembly, the dates upon which it should sit, the number of representatives to be allotted to various communities throughout the islands, etc.

While those first meetings were held in what was then called "George's Town", now the capital of the country, the seat of Government was later moved to Bodden Town and remained there for many years until it was shifted back to George Town where it now remains.

At the first sitting the Legislature was bicameral, that is divided into two houses, one senior to the other.

The first or lower house was comprised of elected "Vestrymen", sometimes called "Representatives" who held their deliberations in a different room from the appointed "Magistrates" who comprised the second or upper house.

This bicameral pattern was based upon the governmental system then in effect in Jamaica confirming the administrative ties to England that were filtered through the Jamaican Government until 1962 when Jamaica severed its last colonial ties with the British and became an independent Nation.

Laws passed by the Vestrymen in their sittings were not

deemed to be valid until they had been assented to by the Magistrates sitting in their own assembly.

Once the Magistrates assented to a piece of legislation it immediately had the force of law in the Cayman Islands although it was required to be sent to Jamaica for one final step which was the assent of the Governor of Jamaica.

Sometimes many years would pass before the Governor of Jamaica would get around to placing his signature on legislation sent to him by the Cayman Islands Government but there appear to be no instances of his having ultimately failed or refused to do so.

Indeed, the first Act of the Cayman Islands Legislature passed in 1832 was not assented to by the Governor of Jamaica until 1865, a gap of 33 years.

In 1863 the British Parliament cleared up any doubts anyone might have had on this score by passing an Act which validated on an ex-postfacto basis all laws of the Caymanian Legislature.

Thus it can be seen that from the very beginning of self Government on these islands the elected representatives of the people moved quickly and firmly to establish the premise that they were masters in their own house.

This trait of strong independence has always been a hallmark of the Caymanian people who, though passionately loyal to the British Crown, have from their earliest stages of development as a nation, jealously asserted and guarded their right to determine their own future within these islands leaving to the United Kingdom only the power to determine the course of foreign affairs.

The early Caymanians placed such importance on the question of self-government that the Act of 1832 required a fine of 20 shillings to be levied against any Magistrate or Vestryman who wilfully absented himself from a sitting of the Legislature provided that he had received five days advance notice.

In the very beginning the communities of George Town (originally called Hog Styes), Prospect, Bodden Town, East End and West Bay were represented in the elected Assembly.

In 1865 the Legislature passed an amendment to the original representation Act of 1832 to provide for the election of representatives from North Side.

That original Act, called the "Act to Regulate the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands" stipulated that the Legislature should convene each year on the third Wednesday in February or more often if deemed necessary.

The duration between elections was stipulated in this Act to be two years.

That first group of representatives elected on December 10th, 1831 were: George W. Wood and James Hunter Wood of Bodden Town; James Coe, Sr. and William Eden, Sr., of Prospect, John Goodhew of South Sound, James Parsons, Sr., William I. Bodden and Thomas L. Thompson of George Town and Samuel Parsons and William Bodden, Sr. of West Bay.

Originally the right to vote for Members of the Legislative Assembly was confined to male taxpayers. In 1927 this was extended to all males between the ages of 18 and 60 years. And in 1959 this was extended again to universal sufferage by an Act

which also gave the vote to Women. This was the year in which the Cayman Islands received its first written Constitution.

Elsewhere in this publication are more detailed articles dealing with the various component parts of the history of representative Government in these islands that I am sure will be of interest to all Caymanians.

At a time in the world's history when many people in other lands are forced to live under the yoke of foreign and oppressive rule and yearn hungrily for the right to be free and govern themselves the people of the Cayman Islands have every right to be fiercely proud of the remarkable heritage compiled for them by their forebears in the field of representative Government.

One hundred and fifty years of parliamentary Government is a remarkable achievement. I hope that every Caymanian and resident will join with us on the 19th of November when the event is celebrated.

Mrs Sybil McLaughlin, MBE

INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of 1981 when it was realised that 1982 would be one hundred and fifty years (150) years since the Cayman Islands had a form of representative Government, the Government agreed that this should be celebrated. At that time it was not possible to pin-point an actual date which could be set aside to celebrate the occasion. However, once the Government had agreed and appointed a special committee to formulate plans to commemorate this anniversary, a research into the various documents was commenced. The committee was composed of the following persons:

CHAIRMAN Mrs. Sybil I. McLaughlin, MBE, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

MEMBERS Miss Annie Huldah H. Bodden, OBE, Third Elected Member for the District of George Town

Mr. J. Garston Smith, the First Elected Member for the First Electoral District of West Bay (Mr. Smith during 1982 withdrew from the Committee due to the illness of his wife)

Mr. Desmond Vere Watler, CBE, J.P., former Chief Secretary and now Chairman of the Public Service Commission. (Chairman of the sub-committee for religious service)

Mr. Vassel G. Johnson, CBE, J.P., former Financial Secretary (appointed Chairman of the sub-committee for the essay competition)

Mr. Richard E. Arch, MBE, Chairman of the National Council of Social Services (appointed Chairman of the sub-committee for the poem contest)

Miss Anita Ebanks, B.A., Assistant Librarian at the Cayman Islands High School (appointed Chairman of the sub-committee for drama and together with Mrs. Sybil McLaughlin to prepare a historical booklet for the celebrations)

Mr. David Jewell of the Cayman Islands News Bureau for publicity, and lately Miss Karen Thomas

Mr. George Seymour of National Car Rentals (appointed Chairman of the sub-committee for refreshments and fireworks)

Miss Wendy Lauer, Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (appointed Chairman of the sub-committee for fancy dress)

Elected Vestrymen were added to the hitherto body of Justices (Magistrates) who formed the Legislature and passed laws.

Accordingly, the Committee began to work in real earnest to bring about plans which would result in an awareness of all Caymanians of their history, particularly the younger generation and to endeavour to have a genuine united celebration of all the peoples in these Islands.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF JUSTICES AND VESTRY

1932, being the Centenary of the "Assembly of Justices and Vestry" was marked by the issue of special postage stamps and these were the first series of any commemorative issue. TWELVE stamps were issued and were unique in that it was the first time the head of King William IV had appeared on the postage stamp. There was a border of palm trees and turtles, being two of the Islands' principal industries. The vignette of H.M. King George V appeared opposite that of King William IV and to the top left and right hand corners were the commemorative dates 1832 and 1932. The denominations were ¼d. brown, ½d. green, 1d. scarlet, 1½d. red-orange, 2d. grey, 2½d. ultramarine, 3d. olive-green, 10s. black and scarlet. This series was placed on sale at George Town and Cayman Brac on 5th and 20th December, 1932 respectively. The issue was withdrawn from sale at Cayman Brac on 20th March, 1934 and remained on sale in George Town until 5th May, 1934.

So it is most fitting that some fifty years later the Islands should celebrate the one hundred and fifty years of struggle, change and growth within its parliamentary system but underlying these many changes was the tradition of British Parliamentary Government of which these Islands can be so proud today.

At the request the Commonwealth Office was able to obtain from the Public Records Office in London copies of various laws passed by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry and the first of these revealed that it was from the 2nd of January, 1832 that

HISTORY

When Columbus discovered the Islands on his fourth and final voyage in 1503, on the 10th May he sighted only the two lesser Islands, which lay seven miles apart. These two islands lay at 19 degrees 30 minutes North Latitude and 80 degrees West Longitude, while Grand Cayman lay over the horizon at 19 degrees 20 minutes North Latitude and with its eastern tip at 81 degrees 5 minutes West Longitude. Grand Cayman is 20 miles long, seven miles wide, and stands only 10 feet above sea level over the majority of the Island.

Ferdinand Columbus in his Life of his father wrote under that date: "we were in sight of two very small and low islands, full of tortoises (turtles), as was all the sea about, insomuch that they looked like rocks, for which reason these Islands were called Tortugas"

On the Cantino chart of 1502, a group of Islands in approximately the same position as the Cayman Islands appears but is unnamed, and a Portuguese map of the New World drawn in 1593 before Columbus could have communicated his discovery, names two islands—as "Diacona" and "Dia Buda", but it is doubtful that the Portuguese had any direct geographical knowledge of this part of the Caribbean.

Grand Cayman is West North West from Negril Point, Jamaica 178 miles.

Once discovered and charted the islands remained unexplored, unsettled and almost forgotten but recorded history of the Islands begins in the year 1655 when Henry Whistler, who was probably sailingmaster on Admiral Penn's Flagship the Swiftsure, makes mention of them in his diary. He states that they saw three sail of ships and gave sail and discovered that they were the Dover frigate, and Arms of Holland and the Hound, which their General had sent to the Kie Manus (as they were known) for turtle for the fleet. At this time the Lesser Islands were well known in Jamaica for turtles.

England and Spain signed a definitive peace in 1667 but this did not end the naval and colonial warfare in the West Indies, but in 1670 Sir William Godolphin was sent by King Charles II to Madrid to discuss a new settlement and on the 8th July the Treaty of Madrid was signed, and ratified by England on the 28th September. Article VII of the Treaty specifically stated that the English King "shall have, hold, keep and enjoy for ever, with plenary right of sovereignty...all those lands, islands, colonies and places whatsoever situated in the West Indies, or in any part of America, which he and his subjects at present hold...so that no question or controversy be ever moved concerning the same hereafter." So it was in 1670 that Spain at last recognised England's de facto possession of Jamaica, the Caymans and other islands.

The Cayman Islands were a pirates' paradise and it was not until the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, when peace with Spain and France ended the long era of legitimate privateering.

The first settlers appeared to have been two soldiers from the disbanded army of Cromwell who came to Grand Cayman about the year 1658 from Jamaica, whose names were Walter and Bowden. Slaves were not introduced into the Island until the year 1781 at which time a ship called the Nelly, commanded by Captain Fairweather from Africa, with slaves for Jamaica, was wrecked on the Island and a great many of them were sold to pay salvage and other expenses.

The Lesser Islands were settled in the early 1830's.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT—HOW IT ALL BEGAN

A search of documents pertaining to this most important period in the Islands' history has revealed among the Jamaica papers in the Public Records Office in London (C.O. 137/193 S CC 480) that elected representatives were first appointed or elected on the 10th of December, 1831. This document is recorded as providing:

"Grand Cayman "SS"

At a meeting held in Saint James's on the 5th of December, 1831, it was resolved that Representatives should be appointed for the different districts throughout the Island for the purpose of forming local laws for its better Government. The Representatives were accordingly elected on the tenth of same month, and assembled at George's Town said Island, pursuant to Advertisement on the 31st December, 1831, and the 2nd January, 1832. The Magistrates also assembled but did not sit in the same room with the Representatives, forming as it were, two Houses in imitation of the Council and Assembly of Jamaica, and no law framed or passed by the Representatives, deemed valid till it had received the assent of the Magistrate. The names of the Magistrates and Representatives are as follows -

MAGISTRATES

John Drayton, Senior Magistrate
Robert S. Watler
Waide W. Bodden
John S. Jackson
James Coe, Jnr.
Abraham O. Feurtado
Edwin John Parsons
*Nathaniel Glover

*Wm. Eden, Snr. Esq. is now a Magistrate in the room of N. Glover, Esq., resigned."

REPRESENTATIVES

Geo. W. Wood]	Bodden Town
James Hunter Wood]	
James Coe, Snr.]	Prospect
William Eden, Snr.]	
John Goodhew]	S.W. Sound
James Parsons, Snr.]	George Town
William I. Bodden]	
Thos. L. Thompson]	
Samuel Parsons]	West Bay
Wm. Bodden, Jnr.]	

It should be noted that although appointments were made as Magistrates these had to be ratified by Jamaica and in many instances took probably two to four years for the concurrence of these appointments. This, however, did not affect the performance of their duties, which commenced from the time of their appointments in the Islands. Hence, in the case of John Drayton, while there is no record of the actual date of his appointment in the Islands, from the above document it can safely be stated that he was a Senior Magistrate on and before the 5th of December, 1831. Records show that John Drayton's appointment by Governor Nugent of Jamaica was recommended by Governor Bodden on the 10th of March, 1804 as a replacement for his brother James who died on the 31st July, 1803. Drayton's appointment also included one in the Militia.

As will be seen from the document of the meeting held on the 5th of December, 1831, when the Magistrates and elected representatives met for the first time on the 31st of December 1831 and the 2nd of January, 1832, the formation was similar to that of the Council and Assembly of Jamaica, in other words, there was a bicameral Legislature, with the Magistrates sitting in one room and the Representatives sitting in another, with the requirements also that Magistrates had to give their assent to any law passed by the Representatives.

At the second meeting held on the 2nd of January, 1832 the necessity of increasing the elected representation was seen and the following Law was passed to Regulate the Legislative Assembly —

“III. An Act to Regulate the Legislative Assembly
of the Cayman Islands
[JANUARY 2nd, 1832]

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:-

<p>Justices and Vestrymen to meet Election of Vestrymen. Number for each locality.</p>	<p>That a meeting of Justices and Vestry shall be convened annually on the third Wednesday in February or oftener, if the Custos or Senior Magistrate deem it necessary: Upon requisition of the Custos, or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the Districts shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years: Five Vestrymen each shall be deemed a sufficient number for Georgetown, Prospect, and Boddentown; and three each, for East End and West Bay. Five Magistrates and twelve Vestrymen shall be considered a sufficient number to proceed with, and transact any business which shall at any time be brought forward respecting the affairs of these Islands: Any Magistrate or Vestryman, who shall wilfully absent himself from any Session of the Legislative Assembly, whereof five days' notice had been given, without a sufficient cause for such absence (the cause assigned being sent to the Clerk in writing, to be laid before the Justices and Vestrymen assembled), shall forfeit twenty shillings, to be recovered in a summary manner before any</p>
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two Magistrates.

I assent,

23rd March, 1865

E. EYRE Governor of Jamaica.”

Law 2 of 1897 amended the above Act on the 5th of March, 1896 in the following respect -

“The Act III of 1865 entitled “An Act to Regulate the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman” be amended by inserting the words “and two for Northside; in the eighth line after the words “West Bay”.

To give full effect and legality to this and other Laws, Cap. XXXI 26 and 27 Victoriae C.30, 31, A.D.1863 — An Act for the Government of the Cayman Islands, passed on the 22nd of June, 1863 provides in section 1 —

<p>Acts and Resolutions of Magistrates, etc. to be valid.</p>	<p>1. All Acts or Resolutions heretofore passed or purporting to have been passed at any Meeting of the Magistrates or Representatives, or of the Justices and Vestry, or of the Vestry of the Island of Grand Cayman, shall, so soon as a fair copy of the same shall have been signed by the Governor of Jamaica in verification thereof, be and be deemed to have been valid and effectual, for all purposes whatever within the said Cayman Islands, from the date at which the same shall purport to have been passed.”.</p>
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The first elected representatives were -

GEO. W. WOOD	BODDEN TOWN
JAMES HUNTER WOOD	BODDEN TOWN
JAMES COE, SNR.	PROSPECT
WILLIAM EDEN, SNR.	PROSPECT
JOHN GOODHEW	S.W. SOUND
JAMES PARSONS, SNR.	GEORGE TOWN
WM. I. BODDEN	GEORGE TOWN
THOS. L. THOMPSON	GEORGE TOWN
SAMUEL PARSONS	WEST BAY
WM. BODDEN, JNR.	WEST BAY

As previously stated these gentlemen were elected on the 10th December, 1831.

THE CHIEF MAGISTRATES OR CUSTOS

Available documents give WILLIAM CARTWRIGHT as the first Stipendiary Magistrate, and the years of his service appear to be from 1750 to 1775. William Cartwright's name in history will go down as being of an extremely cruel nature. He was considered to be an over-bearing and tyrannical magistrate and

for the slightest offence would have a slave lashed 50 times and ultimately have him hang on the rocks to the north of Hog Styes in the presence of a large gathering of slaves and others.

No records can be found of his commission, but it is known that he was from George Town and was known as a Stipendiary Magistrate and not as Governor, which later title he "assumed".

His successor in office in 1776 was one WILLIAM BODDEN SNR. who was always called "Governor Bodden". He was from the Bodden Town district and was commissioned as Chief Magistrate by the Right Honourable the Earl of Balcarres, Lieut. Governor of Jamaica and this commission was dated the 13th of January, 1798 which also included the names of his two brothers—JAMES BODDEN and JOSEPH BODDEN, Snr. Two other gentlemen were appointed Magistrates by this commission but their names are not recorded.

In 1802 EDWARD CORBET, at the request of Governor Nugent of Jamaica, visited the Islands and in his report of the same year stated that the then Magistrates were perfectly respectable but that as the residence of all is at Bodden Town (which was then the capital of the Island) suggested that as a matter of convenience to the inhabitants some gentleman residing at George Town should be associated with them.

Governor Bodden's period of service was from 1776 to 1823 and like his predecessor, he was of a forceful character but the Islands improved under his rule. One of the many changes was that the place formerly called Hog Styes, was renamed George Town and was at that time the only harbour in the Island into which vessels of any berth could enter. Two forts for the defence of the Islands were built, one at George Town and one at Prospect and the militia increased. From CORBET's report, the militia was in existence in 1802. (The George Town fort was demolished on January 11th, 1972.)

Governor Bodden and his brothers had business dealings outside the Islands, particularly in Honduras and were frequently absent. As a result on the 8th December, 1802 Governor Bodden wrote to the Right Honourable George Nugent, Governor of Jamaica, indicating that it was the wish of himself and his brothers to resign their commission. He felt that it was not in their power to do justice to themselves and the public being called upon so frequently to be off the Island on their business. Governor Nugent did not accept this and advised that as they were the principal proprietors in a British settlement they were bound to give up a portion of their time for the public benefit and should the magistracy fall into improper hands, great mischief might result.

So from then on Governor Bodden was very assiduous in his duties and endeavoured to perform them at the highest standard possible. The first schooner was built on the island. His brother James died on the 31st of July, 1803 and Governor Bodden, in a letter to Governor Nugent dated the 10th of March, 1804 recommended the appointment of MR. JOHN DRAYTON as a suitable replacement both as Magistrate and to the militia. DRAYTON was appointed on the 11th of March, 1834 together with RICHARD PHELAN and JAMES MINOT, JNR.

The Magistrates were understood to have had the same power as those in the Island of Jamaica, but when any new measure was to be adopted it was generally submitted by them for the consideration of the inhabitants. Corbet, in his report of 1802, stated "An ill-disposed individual may give some trouble and one of this description was lately shipped off the Island to America by the United Voice and compulsion of the Inhabitants."

JAMES GOODCHILD COE, both Senior and Junior, played important parts in the history of these Islands. JAMES COE SNR was a Keeper of the Records and Clerk of the Peace and kept the records in good order, although he had been given no special place for their safe-keeping. JAMES GOODCHILD COE JNR was one of the first Custos and on the 24th of November, 1823 was authorised by His Grace, WILLIAM DUKE OF MANCHESTER, to administer to his father the oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, as also the Oath of Adjuration and the Assurance as well and truly to perform the office and duties of Keeper of the Rolls and Records of the Peace for the Islands. Both Coes are buried at Spotts. Hirst, in his history, notes that previous to JAMES COE, JNR. JOHN DRAYTON was Custos of the Island, but there are no records of both appointments and the actual dates are uncertain.

The last Custos was EDMUND PARSONS in 1888.

A list of the known Magistrates for the period 1750 to 1832 is as follows —

WILLIAM CARTWRIGHT, WM. BODDEN, SNR. (CHIEF MAGISTRATE), JAMES BODDEN, JOSEPH BODDEN, JNR. (CHIEF MAGISTRATE), JAMES WATLER, JAS. WOOD, JAS. CONIOR, THOMAS THOMSON, SNR., DARLING WATLER, WILLIAM HUNTER, WILLIAM EDEN, THOMAS HIDE, CHRISTOPHER CHARLES BUSH, WM. TATUM, JOHN H. COLLINS, JOHN DRAYTON, THOS. COLLINS, WM. PAGE, J.E. RIVERS, T.H. THOMSON, J.L. THOMSON, A.O. FEURTADO, JOHN H. THOMPSON, JOHN THOMAS FLETCHER, PETER RODRIQUES, WAIDE BODDEN, GEORGE ED. BODDEN, WM. E. WATLER, WM. NIXON, WM. J. BODDEN, THOS. WARD, ALEX WATLER, HENRY CLARKE, JAMES COE, SNR., ROBERT S. WATLER, JAS. COE, JNR., THOMAS S. THOMSON, RICHARD CARTER, THOS. J. YATES, JOHN S. JACKSON, WM. EDEN McCOY, SAMUEL PARSONS, JOHN BODDEN, WILLIAM M. McLAUGHLIN, JOHN C. JENNETT, THOS. JOHN JENNETT, GEORGE WM. WOOD, THOS. S. JACKSON, EDMUND JOHN PARSONS, NATHANIEL GLOVER, WM. EDEN, JNR.

In 1898 the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combined administrative duties with those of a Judge of the Grand Court. He was selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government was moved from Bodden Town to George Town, where the Commissioner resided.

With the various adjustments to the constitution the Assembly of Justices and Vestry up to July, 1959 consisted of the Commissioner as President, 27 Justices of the Peace and 27 Vestrymen. The Justices of the Peace were commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica and on the 19th of August, 1952 28 Justices of the Peace (including the Commissioner) were appointed.

Election of Vestrymen was held every two years, as governed by the 1832 Act. Election was by male taxpayers as provided by Law 5 of 1927 which provided for all male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years to vote. Women were given the vote in

1959 by the passing of Law 2 entitled the Sex Disqualification Removal Law brought into operation on the 16th of February, 1959.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF JUSTICES AND VESTRY

It is interesting to record some of the history of the reform of the Vestry. After the appointment of Mr. Sanguinetti as Commissioner, the late Custos Mr. Parsons took a prominent interest in the Reform of the Chamber. He introduced a Bill entitled "A Law to amend Law 3 of 1865" which Law has been quoted elsewhere. The extract concerning this from the Minutes is as follows:-

"Mr. E. Parsons in introducing the Bill pointed out the absurdly large number of members in the Legislative Assembly of these Islands, 47 against 26 for Jamaica. This large number, he said, rendered it difficult or even impossible to get only the proper class of men into an Assembly of this kind. He proceeded to point to the absentee members for West Bay all of whom were off the Island. He also reminded the Assembly of an occasion when to fill the numbers required by Law some patriotic gentleman actually had to volunteer to sit, and sat without being elected.

Mr. W.C. Watler moved and Mr. M. McTaggart seconded that the Bill be ordered to lie over till next Statutory meeting. Mr. Watler pointed out that the present members had been elected for two years and this was their first statutory meeting. The Chairman remarked that he thought this was a matter that concerned the people, and therefore should stand over till the question had been put before them and discussed. — Ordered to lie over."

As with all similar Reform Bills a variety of controversial subjects arose and in 1902 (September) there was introduced a Bill which embodied two main points:

- (i) a reduction in the number of members;
- (ii) the nomination of some and election of others.

This Bill was only technically introduced in order to ascertain the opinion of the Assembly which while concurring in the first did not regard favourably the second. The Measure was dropped.

In 1907 Dr. Hirst made certain suggestions which were held over until a visit by his then Excellency who visited Cayman in August 1908, and decided that apart from a reduction of numbers both among Justices and Vestry and qualifications for voting and candidates there did not seem such need for reform.

In September 1912 the Vestry approved a Resolution that the representation of the District be as follows:-

Georgetown, three; West Bay, two; Boddentown, two; Lesser Islands, two; Northside, one; East End, one; Prospect, one; total 12.

This vote was by 12 for and 6 against. Unfortunately Dr. Hirst died before the matter was carried any further. The following September the Assembly passed unanimously the following Resolution:-

"BE IT RESOLVED By the Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands, as follows:-

Whereas at the Statutory meeting of the Justices and Vestry in September last a resolution was passed agreeing to a reduction of the number of Vestrymen to the number of twelve, and

Whereas no action has been taken in the matter, and circumstances having arisen, rendering such reduction inadvisable, it is resolved that the Resolution reducing the number of the elected members to twelve be rescinded and it is hereby rescinded by authority of the same."

On 30th January, 1914, with one dissentient the Assembly passed:-

(1) "That the number of members be not less than 18 of whom 12 shall be elected by the tax-payers as representatives of the several districts of the Dependency, and of whom five shall be Justices of the Peace to be appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. That the Commissioner shall be a member and presiding with a casting vote but not a deliberate vote.

(2) "That the ancient name of the Legislative Assembly of the Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands be preserved.

(3) "That any Law constituting a reformed Assembly shall also establish a liberal franchise as near manhood suffrage as may be, and shall provide for the registration of voters and the due elections of representatives after open nomination and secret ballot.

(4) "That the members of the Assembly be elected and appointed for a term of three years, and that in filling any vacancy occurring after an election or appointment the person so elected or appointed shall be a member for the remainder of the then current three year term.

(5) "That the Commissioner be requested to prepare and submit to His Excellency a Bill to be laid before this Assembly."

The War intervened and except for a draft Bill drafted by Mr. H.I.C. Brown, the then Acting Attorney General, nothing seems to survive of the controversy which however seems to have been kept simmering, coming into life with each new Governor or each new Commissioner.

In 1921 the following Resolution was passed:-

"Whereas the Census returns show there are now 397 persons in the district of Prospect, of whom 180 are minors, and that 217 adults of both sexes are represented in this Assembly by five elected Vestrymen; and there are now but 562 persons in the district of Boddentown, of whom 267 are minors, and that 295 adults of both sexes are represented by five elected Vestrymen, as compared with 1130 persons in the West Bay district, 667 being minors, and 463 being adults of both sexes represented by three elected Vestrymen;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the number of Vestrymen from the district of West Bay be increased; BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioner be requested to prepare and introduce a Bill to amend the Law governing the election of Vestrymen which will provide for a reduction of the Vestrymen from Prospect, and Boddentown districts by one each and the increase of the Vestrymen from the West Bay district from three to five."

The then Commissioner drafted a Bill which provided for increased membership for West Bay and made no corresponding reduction in the representation of the other constituencies.

The bill was as follows:-

A Law to amend Act III of 1865 and to amend or repeal certain Laws amending the same.

BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands as follows:-

- Short title. 1. This Law may be cited as the Legislative Assembly (Redistribution) Law, 1921.
- Act III of 1865 amended. 2. Act III of 1865, entitled an Act to Regulate the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands, is hereby amended by striking out the words "Five Vestrymen each shall be deemed a sufficient number for Georgetown, Prospect and Boddentown, and three each for East End and West Bay" and the substitution of the following words in lieu thereof:
"Five Vestrymen each shall be deemed a sufficient number for Georgetown, Prospect, Boddentown, and West Bay; three each for East End and Cayman Brac: two for Northside and one for Little Cayman."
- Repeal. 3. Section 2 of Law VIII of 1889 and Law 2 of 1897 are hereby repealed.
- Act III of 1865 amended. 4. Act III of 1865 is hereby amended by striking out the word "twelve" in the ninth line thereof and substituting the word "eight" in lieu thereof.
- Repeal. 5. Law III of 1871 is hereby repealed.

Passed the Assembly this 30th day of November, 1921."

The Governor of Jamaica, however, withheld his consent to the above law.

During Colonel Weston's tenure of office as Commissioner of the Islands, the following Resolution was passed by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry on the 23rd July, 1931:-

"Whereas Law 3 of 1865 — An Act to Regulate the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands, is very unsatisfactory.

AND WHEREAS the Law may be amended or a new Constitution be submitted with a view of overcoming the existing difficulties,

AND WHEREAS His Excellency the Governor during his visit here on the 28th March last, took the opportunity of advocating a reduction in the numbers of the Assembly of Justices and Vestrymen.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Select Committee

be appointed to consider the matter and report or make such recommendations as they may see fit at the next meeting of this Assembly, and that all members not appointed to serve on this Committee be invited to forward, in writing, any proposals they wish to make in this connection to the Chairman of the Select Committee, on or before the 30th September, 1931."

Law 10 of 1920 changed the day for the Statutory meeting of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry from the last Wednesday in November to the Third Wednesday in September and was further amended by Law 13 of 1944 to be the last Wednesday in February.

Law 11 of 1936 set the number of elected Vestrymen for the various districts as follows —

"Five Vestrymen each shall be deemed a sufficient number for Georgetown, West Bay and Boddentown; four for the Lesser Islands; three each for Prospect and East End; and two for Northside".

This situation remained until the last meeting of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry on the 3rd of July, 1959.

The first written constitution for the Cayman Islands came into operation on the 1st of July, 1959 and the Elections Regulations provided for 3 members for George Town and West Bay, two for Bodden Town, two for the Lesser Islands, one for East End and one for North Side, 12 total. Justices of the Peace no longer sat in the Legislature and two nominated members and 2 official members were to be appointed by the Administrator.

Prior to 1959 there are very few documents relating to sittings of the Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry are practically non-existent. However, from letters between the Commissioners and the Governors in Jamaica it was established that statutory meetings were held in September each year to provide for Estimates for the calendar year.

On a few occasions special meetings were held to deal with specific matters and two such incidences were the year 1905 and 1907 when the matter of an Education Law for the Islands was to be considered. There has been an education Law of some sort in operation, but it was decided that this should be repealed and the Commissioner, Hutchings at the time made efforts to have a new bill passed by the Legislature. This would deal with compulsory education. The reason why the original law was repealed was that it was impracticable. It was after the hurricane of 1903 that the motion for its suspension was approved, based on the poverty resulting from the hurricane. The Commissioner indicated during the 18 months the law had been in operation it worked badly, and he found that the Members of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry were stubbornly opposing the introduction of a new one.

The regular statutory meeting was held on the 19th September, 1905 and two more meetings were held on the 8th November and 19th December the same year.

A further meeting was held on the 19th of January, 1907 and again on the 14th February when the new Education Law was hoped to have been presented. To finance education, the Commissioner was proposing that there would be an increase of 2½% import duty, but after discussions with some of the

Members he decided to defer the Bill until the statutory meeting on 19th September. At that meeting it was agreed that it should be deferred, by a vote of 13 to 10.

It should be noted that an Education Bill was passed in 1908.

When Law 2 of 1923 A Law to impose a Duty on certain exports (including spirits) was passed, on the 3rd July, 1923 there was some opposition to the bill. The Rev. R.N. Dickson Presbyterian Minister, who at the time was the elected Vestryman for Little Cayman, supported by a number of members who are elders of the Presbyterian church, in their operation stated that the provision for the payment of an export duty meant the importation and handling of large quantities of spirits which would be demoralizing to the people. The opposers moved a motion to increase the duty to 12s. per case or 6d. per gallon on spirits and wines exported (The import duties on spirits and wines are 6s. and 1s. 6d. per gallon respectively plus, in each, an ad valorem duty of £8.15.0. per centum). The motion, however, was negated in Committee.

During this period the Commissioner possessed wide powers, as well as being Commissioner, he was Judge of the Grand Court, President of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry and as such prepared Legal Reports to bills passed by the Vestry.

On the 16th of September, 1914 at the statutory meeting a resolution was passed conveying an expression of the loyalty and devotion of the inhabitants of the Dependency to the throne and person of His Majesty the King and voting a sum of ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS towards the War fund. The motion was worded as follows — THAT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands at the opening of its annual session beg most respectfully to convey to His Excellency the Governor and through him to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies an expression of the unswerving loyalty and devotion of the inhabitants of these islands to the throne and person of their sovereign Lord King George V, whom God preserve, and their earnest sympathy with His Majesty and the mother country at the terrible war forced upon them by the German Empire in which they recognise that the British Government is defending its treaty obligations and its honour.

God save the King.

The Assembly desire to accompany this resolution by a vote of ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS in aid of the War Fund."

In early 1915 the motion and funds were transmitted by the Governor of Jamaica to London. At the same time the Turks and Caicos Islands donated a sum of ONE THOUSAND POUNDS (£1,000) to the War Fund.

It is most fitting that in this year of celebrations the people of the Cayman Islands once again rallied to the Mother Country and on the initiative of Bert Watler, Serjeant-at-Arms in the Legislative Assembly, large sums were collected and the Government forwarded a cheque in the sum of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS (£500,000) (HALF A MILLION POUNDS STERLING) for the relief of the sufferers following the Falkland Islands' conflict.

The following are some notes on sittings of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry —

1. 25th November, 1937: Present —

Assembly President, Hon. A.W. Cardinall, Commissioner
Mr. Threeman, specially appointed Judge of the Grand Court
Mr. A.E. Panton, Clerk of the Assembly

Inspector J.R. Watler

Jefferson Watler

Delmon McLean

A.C. Panton

E.S. Parsons, C.H.H. Goring, E.J. Lyons, William Bodden, M. McTaggart, R.B. Bodden, E.D. Merren, Clarence Watler, Biddle Bodden, H.O. Merren, Snr., Jacob Manderson, Julius Rankine, Logan Bodden, Bunyan Watler, R.B. Leitch (Cayman Brac), Edison Ebanks, McNee Farrington, Abraham Ebanks, Dickie Bodden, G.N. Overton, Kenneth Chisholm, L.L. Chisholm, Selwyn Watler, T.P. Thompson, Willie Bush, H.L. Ebanks, Wilfred Conolly, C.H. Bodden and Charles Glidden.

The President said that this was the first time that the district of West Bay was fully represented.

The appropriation Law 1935 was passed authorising expenditure of £10,142. Actual Expenditure £9,212. £150 for advertising, beginning on a small scale a publicity bureau.

The President, speaking on the death on the 11th of February, 1937 of Mr. C.J.H. Goring, said that he probably was the most prominent member of the community. He was a Barbadian, but had been settled in Grand Cayman for well over 30 years. He had identified himself in public life from the beginning, first as a school master and then as a Law Agent. He had also been an elected member of the Vestry for over 25 years, and although at times a critic of Government, no man was more staunch and faithful in his loyalty. He had travelled widely in South America, the United States and parts of Europe, and was a very well-read man.

The President announced that on the 17th of May, 1937 the Town Clock was unveiled and had been erected to the memory of His Majesty's late father, King George V. The Coronation Celebration had been a public holiday and school had been closed from the 10th to the 15th of May. The cost of the clock was £140.

On the same day as the unveiling of the clock, the Lambert Hospital had been opened. The hospital was the result of a generous donation by the late Miss Helen Lambert.

In 1937 the Hotels Aid Law was approved to give assistance for construction of hotels.

Also in 1937 a petition was presented from the people of South Sound asking for transfer of their district for purposes of registration of births, deaths and marriages, etc. from Prospect to George Town.

At the opening of the Legislative Council, Jamaica on the 9th March, 1937, the then Governor, Sir Edward Denham, addressed the Council as follows —

"Our Dependencies". The condition of our Dependencies must always be a matter of serious interest and concern. It is gratifying to know that the Cayman Islands continue to prosper under the capable administration of the Commissioner, Mr. Cardinall, whom we congratulate on the distinction conferred on him in the New Year, and can now show a balanced budget with a surplus of £7,871." (Sir Allan Cardinall was awarded the order of the CMG.)

Some notable actions taken by the Assembly of Justices and Vestry over the years included —

1. At its meeting on the 25th November, 1937, the President,

Commissioner Cardinal, noted that it was the first time when the Assembly was fully represented. The Appropriation Law, 1935 was passed authorising £150 for advertising, beginning on a small scale a publicity bureau.

2. Death of C.J.H. Goring. Mr. Cardinal said that Mr. Goring who was probably the most prominent member of the community, died on the 11th February, 1937. He was a Barbadian, but had been settled in Grand Cayman for over 30 years. He had identified himself in public life from the beginning, first as a school master and then as a law agent: he had also been an elected member of the Vestry for over 25 years, and though at times a critic of Government, no man was more staunch and faithful in his loyalty. He had travelled widely in South America, the United States and parts of Europe, and was a very well read man.
3. 12th May. A Town Clock was erected to the memory of H.M.'s late father King George V and was unveiled. The day was a public holiday being celebration of the Coronation. Schools were closed from the 10th to the 12th of May. The cost of the clock was £140.

The same day LAMBERT HOSPITAL was opened in the West Bay Beach. The hospital was the result of a generous gift of the late Miss Helen Lambert.

4. The Hotels Aid Law was approved to give assistance for construction of hotels.
6. A petition was presented from the people of South Sound asking for transfer of their district for purposes of registration, etc. from Prospect to Georgetown.

1938

1. 30th November, 1938. This was a stormy session, marked by plain speaking from the elected Members, principally from Dr. R.E. McTaggart, on constitution reform of the Legislature. Dr. McTaggart spoke strongly against a motion by Mr. E.S. Parsons to accept a report prepared by a select committee to consider a reform in the Legislature's constitution. He gave reasons for his amendment that the report of the select committee should not be received. The amendment was seconded by Mr. E.D. Merren, who was even more outspoken in his remarks and suggested throwing out the report altogether. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried by a large majority.
2. MONEY EXCHANGE. Another matter which was the cause of discussion was the question relating to the rate of exchange paid for US Postal Money Orders. Mr. E.D. Merren asked the Government to supply a list of the Rates of Exchange from April to October. The President read out the list of exchange rates. Mr. Merren asked if the President was aware that the Post Office had not been paying these rates but much less. The President said he did not understand the question and suggested that the deputation should meet him, and to this Mr. Merren agreed.
3. BAD ROADS. Mr. McTaggart complained of the disgrace-

ful state of the roads. He cautioned the Government against depending too much on the sale of stamps, pointing out that last year the Government received only £6,000 instead of the anticipated £15,000. The President pointed out his reasons for believing that this year's estimates of a greater yield from this source would be realised.

1940

1. A resolution of loyalty of H.M. King George the Sixth. —
"Be it resolved that this Assembly of Justices and Vestry of the Cayman Islands wishes to convey through His Excellency the Governor their renewed expression of loyalty and humble duty to His Majesty King George the Sixth and their constant hope and prayers that God will save and protect Their Majesties and the Royal family in this time of peril and lead the Empire to speedy victory. They further wish to again express their determination to bear with fortitude their share of the strain and stress which today is being borne by all other of His Majesty's subjects".
2. Expression of sympathy on death of the Right Honourable Mr. Neville Chamberlain.
3. Expression of sympathy on death of Lt. Col. E.A. Weston, CMG, former Commissioner of the Cayman Islands.
4. Refund of Duty on Organ—moved by J.P. Powell, seconded by E.D. Merren—refund of duty on a Bilhorn Folding Organ imported for the Pilgrim Holiness Church, West Bay.
5. Establishment of a Market at West Bay at a cost of £150 moved by J.S. Smith, seconded by T.W. Farrington.
6. Construction of Road to Town Hall, West Bay—a sum of £300 moved by J.S. Smith, seconded by T.W. Farrington.
7. Disallowing imports of meats, moved by J.S. Smith—seconded by T.W. Farrington.
8. Extension of Newlands Road—moved by E. Hislop, seconded by Lincoln Bodden.
9. Extermination of Rabbits—moved by Lincoln Bodden, seconded by E. Hislop.
10. Increase of pay to Labourers—moved by H.O. Merren, Jr. seconded by E.D. Merren.
11. Amendment of section to Tariff Law, moved by E.D. Merren, seconded by H.O. Merren, Jr.
12. Medical Situation—unsatisfactory conditions, moved by E.D. Merren, seconded by Biddle Bodden.
13. Salary Clerk of Courts, moved by R.E. McTaggart, seconded by E.D. Merren.
14. Wharfage or Landing Fees—moved by J.S. Banks,

seconded by J.P. Powell.

15. Cattle Dips—moved by H.E. Arch, seconded by Lincoln Bodden.
16. Water Supply, East End, moved by Lincoln Bodden, seconded by Biddle Bodden.
17. Cimboco's expenses while searching for Cayman Schooner "HUSTLER" moved by R.E. McTaggart, seconded by E.S. Parsons.

MR. ALBERT COLONRIDGE PANTON was appointed Acting Commissioner after the departure of His Honour A.W. W. Cardinal, CMG, who left in January of 1940 on promotion to the Falkland Islands. Mr. Panton presided over the Statutory meeting of the Justices and Vestry on the 27th of November, 1940 and in his address, sought the cooperation and unity of all members. He quoted the words of His Majesty the King at Victoria B.C. on 30th May, 1939 —

**SOME DAY THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD WILL
COME TO REALIZE THAT PROSPERITY LIES IN
CO-OPERATION AND NOT IN CONFLICT...**

In this Address which was also the Budget address, Mr. Panton asked for an increase of £25 under Advertising. In presenting this proposal he stated:-

"Although for the moment the prospects of developing a tourist industry are small, yet we must not let the matter die. Enquiries are being received continually from persons desirous of visiting our shores at present and more so when conditions change. The sum sought will provide for postage of pamphlets, advertising material; dues to the Federation of the Chamber of Commerce, wireless messages, etc. I am confident that there are good hopes for Cayman as a tourist resort after the war is ended. There will be hundreds of people, tired of the hustle and bustle of this excitable world, people who long for peace and quietness and our tropical isle offers this to them. By the last mail some 10 enquiries were received from the United States and Canada, and among them are some prominent persons."

Agriculture was stressed and at the same meeting a list of suggestions was put forward by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State. He suggested taking such steps as possible to encourage marketing of vegetable produce at prescribed market centres and as a result a new market in George Town was almost completed and its erection would fill a long-felt want in the community. People were applying for stalls in the market.

Essential services which Mr. Panton suggested should be considered included —

- (a) relief of immediate distress in the various districts;
- (b) clearing and marking off the entrance to the North Sound, thus enabling better facilities for vessels during stormy seasons and affording a basin for yachts when the tourist trade is established;
- (c) extension of roads in the Newlands district, to the Town Hall, West Bay, and general improvement of roads throughout the islands;
- (d) hurricane shelters in Cayman Brac;
- (e) a concrete landing-place at West Bay;

(f) water supplies in all districts, including the Lesser Islands.

It was in 1940 that the Schooner "R.L. HUSTLER" was lost in the recent hurricane off the Nicaraguan Coast. Approximately 16 to 18 Caymanians were on board.

The Motor-Ship "Lady Slater", the largest motor vessel at that time, was destroyed by fire off Plumb Point, Jamaica, but there was no loss of life.

1956

With the arrival to the Cayman Islands of Major Alan H. Donald, Commissioner, an Advisory Executive Council was appointed and the first members were —

Mr. E.O. Panton, MBE, J.P.
Mr. D.V. Watler, J.P.
Mr. T.W. Farington, J.P.
Mr. O.L. Panton
Mr. E.D. Merren
Mr. W.A. McLaughlin
Mr. Surgeon A. Ebanks

1957

In 1957 Major Donald put forward a proposal for a Coat of Arms for the Cayman Islands. This was approved by Resolution at a meeting of the Assembly held on the 3rd of April, 1957 and Mr. Donald then approached THE REV. ARTHUR W. SAUNDERS of the Methodist Church, St. Lucea Circuit, Jamaica who was a member of the Heraldry Society. On the 11th of April, 1957 a Government Notice No. 33/57 was issued requesting all interested Caymanians who had ideas on the subject of the preparation of a Coat of Arms for the Islands to submit ideas, with illustrations. A suggestion by the then Advisory Executive Council was annexed to the Government Notice. Rev. Saunders had also been associated with a Coat of Arms for the proposed West Indian Federation.

A Mr. James Ford, formerly of the Cayman Islands Yacht club, now Ports of Call, submitted a design which assisted in the formation of the present Coat of Arms.

The last sitting of the Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry took place on the 3rd of July, 1959 and the speeches made by some of the then members should take a special place in this booklet on this historic occasion.

"A big step forward into the mainstream of modern constitutional practice" was how Major A.H. Donald described the coming into effect of the islands' new constitution on the 4th of July.

Speaking at the final session of the old Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestrymen the day before the constitution was proclaimed, Major Donald said that the change would bring "a more effective machine, working more formally" which would need getting used to. But he said the constitution provided a "flexible instrument which will allow much development within its own framework".

He said the new Legislative Assembly would prove to be a better and more efficient instrument capable of getting through more business more effectively and new statutory executive council would be an integral part of the government machine

instead of an informal advisory council as before.

"Perhaps one of the most important features of the new Cayman Islands will be that women will be expected to shoulder their share of the burdens of state. Hitherto they have been sheltered and protected from the slings and arrows of public life, but this will be no more.

Women are not merely being given the right to vote and to hold public office—they are being given a solemn duty of taking a mature and adult part in running their country.

MR. T.W. FARRINGTON, J.P., WEST BAY

Mr. President, Members of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry. This is indeed an historic occasion. We meet here to-day for the last time under our old Constitution, which dates back to the year 1832. Tomorrow marks the beginning of a brand new era in the history of these islands, when a new Constitution comes into being, a Constitution which though not perfect is really intended to give the people of these islands a greater voice in their own internal affairs. As time goes it is perfectly obvious that amendments and indeed perhaps a completely New Constitution will have to be written depending entirely on how we as a people progress both economically and politically, and in this we ourselves will have to determine by our own performance, how soon this should be brought about.

I have had the honour and great privilege of serving as a member of this house continuously without a break for the past 37 years, and as I look back and take stock of what has happened during this long period of time I can with a certain amount of pride and satisfaction say that we have progressed steadily and surely. This has been most pronounced during the past ten years, and we have now come to the time when we shall have to scrutinize every step we make most carefully if we are to maintain many of the traditions which we cherish so dearly. I would like at this time to quote a remark made to me by Commissioner Cardinal on the eve of his departure on promotion to the Falkland Islands—"Willie, my boy, you have now been put on the map, for God's sake promise me that you will not allow outsiders to come and take this beautiful island away from you." As we take stock of what is happening all around us, we can well appreciate what Sir Allan Cardinal meant. However, if we are willing and ready to shoulder our responsibilities we may well look forward to the future with confidence and optimism.

I should like to take this opportunity to say thank you to His Honour Major Donald and his esteemed wife for their untiring efforts in everything that tends to the general good of these islands. Of their sincerity we have no doubt, and we hope and pray that they both will be long spared to carry on the excellent work which they have been doing so nobly and well.

I must also thank and congratulate members of this Assembly for their individual contribution to all the deliberations in this House for the preservation and continuity of the best traditions which we as Caymanians hold so dear.

It is obvious that some faces that are here to-day will of necessity be left out of the New House but for those of you who will be returned I would say—"Be Watchful! Be Vigilant! Be wise! Let us not lower the flag but press on with Courage and Determination that as we go forward into the future we shall always be proud to be called CAYMANIANS."

MR. LEE A. EBANKS, J.P., WEST BAY

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am no orator, but I should like to say a few words. I am glad that I have been spared to answer my name at this last meeting of the Justices and Vestry. I remember years ago being an elected member of this house, a post I had to relinquish when I was employed as a Civil Servant, until I was made a J.P. and so was able to come back.

Over this period I have seen a number of changes; but I am not going to rehearse all these changes which have already been mentioned by other members.

At 12 o'clock midnight tonight will sound the death-knell of our Constitution. Although the dying constitution might not have been perfect, yet in it were enshrined the principles of British democracy of which we are proud, and in which we have had our share. We have not come to a milestone.

It is because we are trusted by the Queen that we are being given more rein. We are taking a step forward but much depends on the people of these Islands. The Government will be what the people make it. It is a great opportunity for the people of these Islands—the opportunity to elect the right leaders not to be neglected. Every man and woman should go to the polls and choose people of integrity to represent them. I trust we will not lose sight of that responsibility, so that we may repose confidence in the people elected.

I must compliment this Assembly on standing always for fair play. The present Commissioner will have a unique place in the history of these Islands for sitting at the head of this Assembly. We owe him a debt for bringing about this constitution. I trust that for the remainder of time here he will continue to show a fair plan and impartiality he has shown in the past.

May God help this Ship of State to which we look in all its doings.

ASHFORD PANTON, ESQ. J.P., GEORGE TOWN

Mr. President, Gentlemen of the Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am one of the heads being cast out today. I have been representing the people in the Assembly for 40 years at least. I was never a great orator, or a great politician and always felt it better to keep my mouth closed in most instances because I read once that a member of Parliament said it was better to wonder why you didn't speak than to wonder why you spoke. I have done my duty to the best of my ability, and I hope the new Constitution will do no worse than the old.

As one of the old J.P.'s, I will be on the outside, and I will always be ready to help when I am needed.

God bless the new Assembly, and may it ever set as good an example as the old one did for the future of the rising generation, and may the balance of your term of office, Mr. President, working under the new Constitution be as successful as your labours were under the old.

MR. O.L. PANTON, VESTRYMAN, GEORGE TOWN

Mr. President, Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"Politicians may come and go, but Politics remain forever". Such is the case today for us here in Cayman, by the same token as in the aforementioned phrase, so shall Constitutions come and go. We are assembled here today to function for the last time under the legal traditions as was embedded in our old Constitution, one which has lasted and withstood all the good and evils of a modern age, changing times, and a fast moving world. To serve the useful and admirable purpose for which it was instituted. This old Constitution to which I am referring, Ladies and Gentlemen, was instituted in the year 1832, and is now one hundred and twenty-seven years old. To many of us who have been closely connected with this institution for many years it has become a part of us, so to speak, an heritage that we had to think very carefully before we agreed to tamper with it, for fear we got on to something worse. You know this is the case many times during our span of life, we have to be very careful at times in changing the old for the new, so it was with those of us who had to deal with the formulation of a new Constitution for our islands, which tomorrow, we will celebrate, welcome and with faith, trust and determination face the future under which we hope and pray that at its conclusion which I am sure will not be 127 years, we can say "Well done thou good and faithful servant" as is the case today as far as I am concerned with the old one.

This old Constitution has served our islands faithfully and well to me, Ladies and Gentlemen, under this constitution your vestry functioned for all these years legally, justifiably, efficiently, and last but not least as far as I am concerned and know, free of greed and corruption, it was so constituted, that no member had any particular prerogative, or power nor motive, neither was any member bound by any moral, political or social obligation to agree with all that agreed, or to disagree with those that disagreed, we were free servants, and free citizens labouring under our own convictions. That's one of the aspects of our old Legislative Assembly I shall always cherish and remember. I have enjoyed serving you right throughout my tenure of office here in this Assembly. Many a day was rough going. Many a day one's feeling was broken and discouraged when one considered that all things may not have gone in the best interest of all concerned, or when one's hands were tied from doing what he would like to have done through lack of funds or other amenities. But on the whole whatever the outcome of the day's activities, one could always leave the Assembly with a great amount of satisfaction, and always a good feeling toward one's fellow colleague.

I remember, too, the good days, the days when I first entered the Assembly, how for at least two years, I remained silent, listening only, and trying only to vote sensibly. I remember introducing my first resolution, and how happy I was as a young legislator to receive the confidence of the Assembly by their agreement to its passage, I too, remember many older members taking an interest in me and asking my opinion on many subjects and problems, and how I gradually in turn asked their advice and opinion, and how I made a gradual stride for success and keeping in the confidence with my colleagues was more important to me. I too, remember one of the first things I learned, that in political life one must not hold malice or illwill against his colleague, how we must take our opponents on their worth and merits, remembering that his convictions should lead him to believe he is as right as we think we are, and above all, I have always tried to keep uppermost in my mind the oath one takes as a Vestryman, to do good to all manner of men, etc, etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in our old institution you had an

Assembly that has served you earnestly, faithfully, guardedly and unflinchingly, and I am sure that you are very appreciative of that fact. We have tried to combat what we thought to be of no use to our islands' benefit to do what we thought was right, and I doubt very much whether any of us have any regrets in that sense, and it is with that spirit that we must look to the future.

Tomorrow will bring us a step forward constitutionally so now we turn to this aspect of the picture, this new constitution will change many things, Ladies or women is perhaps the better word will have the right to vote, and be elected to the new Legislature, will be eligible for summons as jurors, the number of elected members to the new house will now be twelve, the Governor of Jamaica will be the Governor of Cayman and as you know the title of Commissioner will be changed to that of Administrator, etc. those are the major changes from the political aspect, and changes which I think are good and necessary. Under this new institution I feel and know that your elected representatives are going to have a lot of work to do, in order for them to serve you well it is going to take every minute of their time and almost every ounce of effort. The islands have progressed rapidly as you know and so has the political machinery of our islands grown, as we look back over the past years under the old Constitution we see what has been done, a hospital has been built and operating, airports have been built, second doctor has been placed in Grand Cayman, another is now due for Cayman Brac, new roads have been built, opening up new lands for development, new school for George Town is in the making, public departments have been set up, high school has been opened in which one can obtain the Cambridge Senior Certificate. Air links have been established and air services increased and a multitude of other necessary things have been inaugurated. You know all or most of them, but because all this has been achieved we must not become complacent nor relaxed and not look to the future and see what and how much remains to be done. As I see some of the major things in the near distance, that your new elected house will be faced with, they look unsurmountable, the same as some of the problems we faced in the past, but with greater determination, zeal and unity, and also with the help of some of our partners abroad they will be achieved. I shall outline some of these problems viz. mosquitoes, docks, parks, education, scholarships for our children to go abroad and train for doctors, nurses, lawyers, technicians etc. Tourist development, some form of local industry, there are many more, but let's stop here for a while and digest some of these things I have mentioned and use them as food for thought. It is an honour to be elected to any public office, but to accept that honour as an honour alone is to harm one's self and his fellowman, rather than do any good, and I say to you that in the days ahead each and everyone of us must put on his thinking cap. "Take up his armour in the name of honesty, justice and integrity, for we are entering upon a crucial time of our development a time when suddenly all can be changed from good to bad by the crave of power, filthy lucre, or personal gains.

By the same token many of those vultures may come before you as it were in sheep's clothing, promising you anything, most of which they have no intention of fulfilling even if it were possible to fulfil them and it is in that direction that I am trying to lead your thoughts, you and I have stuck together through thick and thin in the past and what has been achieved is to the complete satisfaction and good of us all, and what's more important we are all happy about. Let us therefore look forward in that same spirit, to strive to do all the good for all the people at all times. And to the

complete satisfaction of them all.

Ladies and gentlemen as I bow from the old scene I leave with you a very famous wise saying —

“There are two great principles in the world, One is christianity, not just christian doctrine, But the basic principles of right and wrong, of clean living, of kindness to one's neighbour.

The other great principle has many names, freedom, liberty or democracy—whatever called—its essence is the right and dignity of the individual.

MR. E.D. MERREN, VESTRYMAN, GEORGE TOWN

Today is the last day of a Constitution that was given to us in the year 1832—a Constitution that we have worked with for 127 years; therefore, you will see that our forefathers paved the way for what is now about to take place, our new Constitution. Our 1832 Constitution actually was never amended technically but there were certain changes made by resolutions, which improved the Constitution.

Those of us who remain at home do not notice the substantial improvements that have taken place during these years as much as Caymanians who have lived abroad for many years and who come home to visit the Island.

It has been customary that our budget for expenditure would be a little less than our estimated revenue. In 1900 our estimate of revenue was about £1,000, in 1953 our estimate of revenue was £41,327 and we have estimated our revenue for this year to be £162,680; therefore, you will see the colossal development that has taken place.

Since 1952 we really started moving ahead, and this progress is gaining momentum each year. In 1954 at George Town/West Bay beach lands were bought and sold for an average 10s. per foot. Today these lands are being sold for as much as \$125.00 per foot, frontage. Real Estate throughout the Islands has increased beyond all expectation. Many poor people owning property have been able to sell to foreigners at unexcelled prices which have helped them to substantially improve their standard of living. I may ask what has brought about this substantial increase in Real Estate. The first is when we undertook to build an airport at a cost of over £105,000.0.0. As a result of having air transportation we were able to invite tourists to the Island which meant the erection of hotels to accommodate them, a great move to improve the economic condition of the Island but the greatest step toward improvement is the employment of our seamen, who are employed by the biggest shipping company in the world, where our fathers, brothers, and sons are able to go overseas, and join these ships, which pay wages equal to any country in the world, with the exception of the United States and Canada.

To add to the improvement of our little Island, we undertook a very big project in the rebuilding of our roads where people can now travel comfortably. Some people may criticize the road project, but I wish to say with the funds that were available nothing better could have been done. Had we accepted other bidders and with the funds available we only could have managed to build the roads throughout George Town and to West Bay.

I should also make mention of Cayman Brac, which is sharing with us in this wave of prosperity. We were able from year to year, out of our budget, to spend monies on an airport for this Island and due to this airport is one reason for their share of prosperity. Both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac are proud of the elaborate

homes built on their Islands by foreigners, but are more proud to see the elaborate homes built by Caymanians themselves.

The Cayman islands are on the map, and are being known throughout the World. There are greater things to come which will mean the spending of millions of dollars, and it will not be long before these developments become a reality.

Before closing I should like to say that this Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands has done a most commendable piece of work. Although we did not always see eye to eye with each other it was always possible to come to concluding decisions for the betterment of the Islands. No doubt there have been some minor mistakes, but no Government can operate infallibly.

I should also like to pay tribute to the Advisory Executive Council which has been created for about six years, and has done a tremendous amount of work. As these meetings are held at the Commissioner's Office without publication, the general public is unaware of the careful deliberations that go into them.

I wish to place on record fond memories of that noble airman, Wing Commander Owen Roberts, who paved the way for air transportation and who as a result lost his life on his own aircraft en route to this Island.

I should like to also record my great respect and admiration for Sir Hugh Foot, formerly our Governor, who was a great contribution in helping to place us in the preferred positions which we enjoy today.

I cannot forget to record my admiration and thanks to His Excellency, Sir Kenneth Blackbourne, who followed very closely in the footsteps of Sir Hugh in advising us and assisting us in so many vital matters.

I cannot close without saying a word on behalf of our present Commissioner, His Honour Major Alan Donald, who has worked very hard and patiently with the people of these Islands. The public will never know the lengthy and strenuous hours he has worked in the interest of the Caymans. I understand that he will be leaving us early in the coming year, and I can only wish him and his family happiness, health and success.

Tomorrow will mark the epoch of the new Constitution, which dates from 4th July, 1959 and I wish for it the blessings of God for its success.

MR. A.B. BUSH, GEORGE TOWN

Mr. President, Gentlemen of the Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to say a word of farewell to this old Assembly of which I have been a member for a number of years. I am particularly glad to be a member at this time when it is being dissolved.

I am also glad to have been a member when we had to make our decision on Federation. Some of the first fruits of this decision can now be seen, with the dissolution of the old Assembly today, and the proclamation of the new Constitution tomorrow.

I feel, we can all be proud of this old Assembly, and say, it has done tremendous good for the Islands and its people and trust that the new Legislature will be even more beneficial because of its far greater powers under the new Constitution.

I realize that all of us here today will not be in the new Legislature because of the decrease in numbers of members, but I do hope and trust, that those of us who will be in the new

Legislature, will keep it as clean and honest as the old one has been.

In closing, I would like to say a word of praise and thanks to you Mr. President for the patience and understanding you have shown in the listening to our discussions.

I know at times our talk must have bored you, but never at any time did you show any sign of impatience or disgust this I'm sure we all appreciate.

I believe we can all be proud that for the past 2½ years we have had good, clean, honest, and true Christian leadership in the person of you sir, as Commissioner of these Islands, and president of this Assembly.

MR. LINCOLN BODDEN, EAST END

Mr. President, Justices and Vestrymen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here I am faced with a privilege that I am unable to express in words. There is more to be said than one can say at this time; But these few words I want to leave with the people of the Cayman Islands.

Most of us remember the struggle and difficulties we passed through twenty years ago, which was World War II. During which we as Caymanians played our part as heroes. We, the people of Cayman have manned the affairs of these Islands through these years. Today, we are still the same people, and we are ready to man this new ship that we are about to embark on The Ship of the New Constitution. Though we have not had a house of Justices and Vestrymen with a College Education, we have done our duty to the best of our knowledge and with that knowledge we are able to keep the old ship off the rocks. Whomsoever the burden shall fall on for the new sailing, I am sure will help to man the ship fearlessly and we'll have Victory as the years go by.

I personally, may not have been able to do much during the three terms I served as a Vestryman in this house, but I am glad to say when they needed one to make three, I tried to fill the place of that one. In closing, I can only say, may God direct the wisdom of our New House as it takes on its new responsibilities.

MR. E.O. PANTON, MBE, J.P., CLERK OF VESTRY

Mr. President, Gentlemen of the Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the end of today's session of the Assembly the President could announce "Here endeth the chapter of the book according to the Legislative Assembly of Justice and Vestry of the Cayman Islands."

In these words there would be recorded, were the President to say them, a closed chapter which has been of greatest importance to the Cayman Islands—an honourable body of men will cease to function as Legislators under the Act of 1832.

Under the wise guidance and leadership of Custodes and Commissioners including our esteemed Commissioner Major Alan H. Donald O.B.E., this Assembly has striven to stand for the rights and privileges handed down to us by the British Government.

The people of the Cayman Islands are a proud people, proud in the fact that the Assembly as the legislating body has stood out for what in their opinion was right and just for the peace, good order and good government of the Cayman Islands.

I feel at this time this Assembly should pay tribute to members of this Assembly who are no longer with us, but who served their time and generation in this Assembly faithfully and well:- Mr. William Farrington, Mr. Malcolm McTaggart, Mr. Hubert Lee Ebanks, Mr. Henry W. Ruddy, Mr. Henry Orin Merren, Mr. Albert C. Panton, Mr. Mearns Coe, Mr. Edmund Samuel Parsons (Custos) and many others including my own father, Mr. Albert Ernest Panton. These men, and those before them handed down to us a torch that must never be extinguished. They have left us a great heritage.

The Membership of this Assembly in recent years, following the precept and example of their forefathers, have manifested wisdom, good understanding and made rightful decisions in bringing Cayman to what it is today.

The Assembly makes no boast that it has been perfect; it has been criticized—but by and large, I feel it can truthfully be said that it has done its utmost for the good of our people. Tomorrow July 4th, will be another eventful day, as it will mark the birth of a new Constitution. The old Assembly will be reduced considerably in its membership, but I feel that from amongst the old body there will be extracted not just a rib, but whole bodies who will be able to form a strong Constitution of Caymanians capable of running its affairs in keeping with the standards which it feels will be of the best value to and in the interests of the people of today and the generations to come. I feel that I can end these few words by saying "Hitherto has the Lord Led us," and under His guidance may the future to us be a glorious expectation.

CLERKS OF COURTS AND CLERKS OF VESTRY

The Courts of Sessions and the Assembly of Justices and Vestry were held on the same day, and one Clerk served in the dual capacity as Clerk of the Courts and Clerk of Vestry. Minutes of the proceedings of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry were, in the early days, recorded in the Courts Record Book.

*RICHARD PHELAN, who was commissioned as a Magistrate on the 11th of March, 1834 appeared to have been appointed as a Clerk of Courts and Clerk of Vestry and the offices are one of the oldest established in the Cayman Islands.

The following persons held the offices of Clerk of Courts and Clerk of Vestry over the periods as stated by their names —

1811 W. BODDEN, JNR.

1820 JAS. COE SNR.

1823 RICHARD PHELAN *It should be noted that appointments were made locally and recommendations sent up to the Governor in Jamaica for issuance of the necessary commission. Phelan's commission from Jamaica is dated the 11th of March, 1834 but he had been serving for many years before this.

1824 JAS. COE, JNR.

1848 JAS. BODDEN COE

1849 JAS. COE JNR.

1855 JOHN J. WOOD
 1855 WAIDE B. COE
 1868 JAMES C. PANTON
 1888 THOMAS M. GAMMIE
 1896 JAMES S. WEBSTER, ACTING.
 1897 ARTHUR J. ROBERTS
 1899 REGINALD E. SEATON
 1899 R.H. THOMAS
 1905 H. AUSTIN COOPER (ALSO ACTED AS COMMISSIONER IN 1823)
 1906 E.J. PARSONS (ACTING)
 1907 H.C. HERBERT COLLMAN (Also Assistant Collector of Customs, Secretary Board of Health, Quarantine Board)
 1910 JAMES H. O'SULLIVAN
 1915 BRONSON McCREADY YATES (Also Assistant Collector of Customs)
 1922 ALBERT COI (NRIDGE) PANTON (Also visiting Officer, Quarantine Officer, Clerk of Market, Clerk of Cemetery)
 1929 ERNEST OTTEY PANTON (Also Acting Treasury Clerk, Assistant Collector of Revenue, Assistant Postmaster and last Clerk of Vestry)
 1959 SYBIL IONE McLAUGHLIN, MBE (First Clerk of the new Legislative Assembly 1st September, 1959 and first female Clerk appointed in the Commonwealth. Also Clerk of Executive Council 1959-1967). At present, still holding the post.
 1960 MISS G. MARJORIE PIERCY (Acted for 6 months)
 1966 MRS. HOPE GLIDDEN-BORDEN (Acted for 6 months)
 1971 MRS. EDNA CHISHOLM MOYLE (Deputy Clerk) (Acted on various occasions during her service between the years 1971 and 1978)
 1981 MISS WENDY LAUER (Deputy Clerk—acted on various occasions)

1906

1912
 1919
 1929
 1931
 1934

GEORGE STEPHENSON SHIRT HIRST. Mr. Hirst was not only Commissioner but also the Medical Officer and was an extremely active man and very progressive. Roads were built, court houses and new schools constructed during his term of office. Crewe Road was built which shortened the distance from George Town and East End, as was the road from West Bay to North Sound. There was a lot of activity and the life of the community, which hitherto had been centered around the churches, began to expand.

The Commissioner's house was built. A Police Force Law was passed, a Woman's Benevolent Society was established. A pier was erected at the North Sound. A Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was formed. A strong room built in the Commissioner's residence for storing births, deaths, etc. registration forms.

ARTHUR C. ROBINSON
 HUGH HOUSTON HUTCHINGS
 CAPT. G.H. FRITH
 ERNEST ARTHUR WESTON
 ALLEN WOLSEY CARDINALL, CMG

Nothing spectacular took place during the years 1912 on the departure of Mr. Hirst until 1934 with the arrival of Sir Allan Cardinall. He arrived after the 1932 devastating hurricane, the worst in the Islands' history, and at the height of the international depression. Worthy of note is that in 1934 the United States even suggested that the Cayman Islands might be ceded to them to cancel Britain's war debt.

Cardinall was 47 years of age when he took over as Commissioner. He was a large man, very vigorous, a great sportsman and a bachelor. He can be remembered taking a stroll every afternoon from Government House along the Harbour Drive down to Old Forté. He was much revered and feared by the young people of his time as being exceeding strict for good manners, good behaviour, etc.

He was the first promoter of the tourist industry and was responsible directly for Cable and Wireless coming in 1935. This was the first consistent contact with the world that Cayman ever had. Eventually by 1937 there were public telephones in all the public buildings in Grand Cayman. Roads were constructed from Bodden Town to East End and from Frank Sound to North Side.

Capt. Royal Brazly Bodden, MBE, J.P. (now deceased) under the direction of Commissioner Cardinall, laid his land-mark by the construction of the Post Office, Public Library, Town Halls at West Bay, Bodden Town, East End and North Side which are still in use today. These town halls were also used as schools.

Cardinall was transferred from the Islands in the year 1940 and with the outbreak of World War II development again came to a standstill. Caymanians, however, evinced their loyalty and devotion to the Crown by serving in the various armed forces.

Capt. Royal Bodden built two 120 feet minesweepers for the Royal Navy. The United States

H.M.'S REPRESENTATIVES AND PRESIDENTS OF THE LEGISLATURE

22.8.1898 FREDERICK SHEDDEN SANGUINETTI, ISO, appointed the Islands' first Commissioner (one of George Town's main roads bears his second name). It was in this year that the responsibilities of the post of "Custos" was recognised by the award of a salary and a change of title. So from that time onwards the office would be held by someone appointed from outside. He assumed the combined offices of Treasurer and Collector General, as well as Judge of the Grand Court which continued until 1957 with the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. R. Carl Rattray) with powers and jurisdiction of Judge of the Grand Court in all cases except capital felony. The Commissioner, sitting in Petty Sessions had the power of two Justices of the Peace.

Mr. Sanguinetti continued in the post until his death in 1906.

1940

Coastguard established a patrol base at George Town in 1943 and this cemented relationships between the Islands and that great country.

ALBERT COLINRIDGE PANTON, SNR, MBE. Mr. Panton served the Government for 35 years and during that time he filled many important positions. He was the holder of the Dormant Commission issued by the Governor of Jamaica empowering him to act as Commissioner of the Cayman Islands in certain eventualities.

From March, 1934, he acted on various occasions as Commissioner and in particular during the war years from January, 1940 to November, 1941. The markets in George Town and West Bay, the annex to the Government Warehouse, the new school building at Savannah, Prospect district, the widening of roads, and the road from East End to Gun Bay were among the improvements made during his period of administration.

During World War II, Mr. Panton was appointed Security Officer in addition to his substantive posts and for a period acted as Naval Representative. He was also responsible for recruiting seamen for the merchant navies and the Trinidad Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He also held the post of Competent Authority and in this capacity was responsible for placing the thatch rope industry of the islands on a sound footing.

He also took an active interest in affairs relating to his homeland and in particular the promotion of better education. He encouraged Caymanians to join the Civil Service and many of those who have since retired and many who still remain, are tributes to his nationalistic devotion.

In 1941 the first Sketch Plan dated 20th October, 1941, for assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act was drafted when Mr. Panton was on duty in Jamaica, in collaboration with the late Sir Frank Stockdale, KCMG, and his advisers. Mr. Panton was born at Grand Cayman on the 30th November, 1896, and joined the Cayman Islands Civil Service in January, 1915, from which time until the 30th June, 1920, he served as a teacher at the Government Elementary School, Prospect.

On 1st July, 1920, Mr. Panton was appointed Assistant Collector of Customs and Taxes, Assistant Postmaster and Treasury Clerk. He held this post until the 21st of June, 1931 when he was appointed Collector of Customs and Taxes, Postmaster, Assistant Treasurer and Receiver of Wrecks.

On the 1st of April, 1947 Mr. Panton was appointed Assistant Commissioner of the Cayman Islands at the same time retaining his other substantive posts. This position he held until he retired from the services on the 30th November, 1953, and died the following year in November.

JOHN PENRY JONES

IVOR OTTERBEIN SMITH

ANDREW MORRIS GERRARD, CMG.

Commissioner Gerrard's period of service in the Cayman Islands saw many strides in its development

take place. In August, 1953 the Owen Roberts airfield was completed. Gerrard was often-times impatient with the delays in the Legislators sanctioning his many proposals for modernisations of the Islands. It was as a result of the Islands' first tourist advertisement by Mr. Gerrard which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post that his office became inundated with hundreds of letters from interested visitors. He did not disillusion them, pointing out the lack of amenities, but reminding them of the unspoiled natural beauty of its beaches and sea. He worked tirelessly to promote the Islands.

The George Town Hospital was built, with 28 beds, a maternity ward, XRay Block and nurses' quarters; Barclays Bank established a branch; Cayman's first newspaper "Caymania" came into being; Gerrard-Smith airport was completed in Cayman Brac. Mr. Gerrard was granted an extension of his tour in order to see the completion of the Cayman Brac airport, named after him and Mr. Jim Smith of the Public Works Department, Jamaica, who supervised both constructions, the airport in Grand Cayman and the one in Cayman Brac. Galleon Beach Hotel was also built by Mr. Benson Greenall from England.

1956 **ALAN HILLIARD DONALD.** Major Donald came from Basutoland and during his administration great strides were made in the field of Education, with the Cayman Islands High School (operated at that time by the Presbyterian Church); Scottish dancing was also instituted.

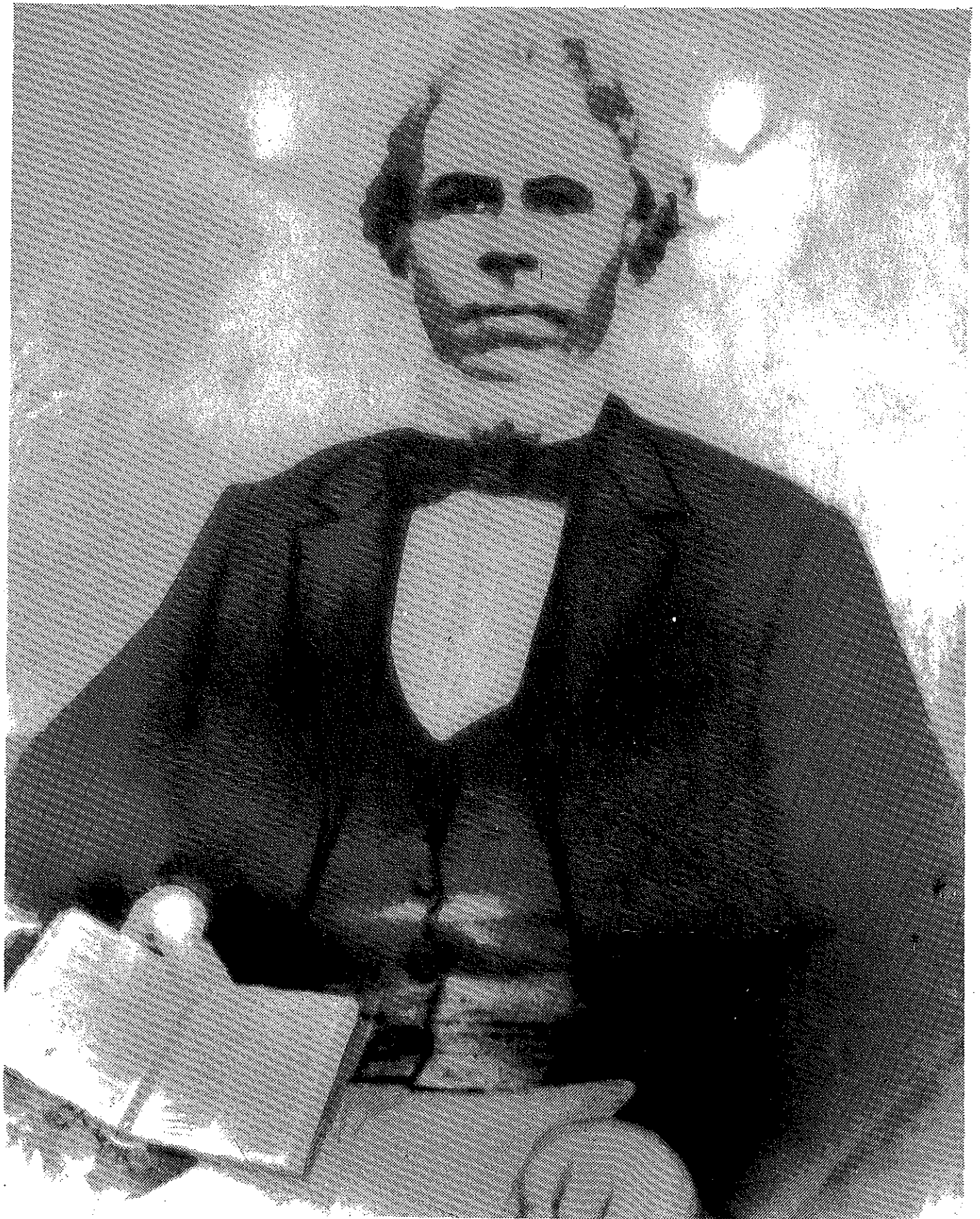
1960 **JACK ROSE.** It was in 1962 during Mr. Rose's tour of duty that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Sir Kenneth Blackburne, visited Grand Cayman from the 2nd to the 5th of April and stayed in the newly completed Government House. On the 22nd March, 1960 Princess Alice of Athlone (then Chancellor of the University of the West Indies) arrived on the Royal Yacht Britannia, leaving on the 23rd for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Mr. Rose was the Islands' last Commissioner and first Administrator, the change having been brought about by the Islands' first written constitution, which came into operation on the 4th of July, 1959. The former Assembly of Justices and Vestry came to an end with the Assembly's last meeting on the 3rd of July, 1959.

The new Legislative Assembly was sworn in on the 2nd of October, 1959 with a composition of 12 elected, 3 official and 3 nominated members.

1964 **JOHN ALFRED CUMBER.** During 1964 the Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was formed and Mr. T.W. Farrington, CBE, J.P. attended the Plenary Conference in Jamaica in November. A group of Parliamentarians from various Commonwealth Territories visited Grand Cayman for one day during the Conference. In May, 1967, the Branch hosted its first conference and this was from the 9th to the 12th, at which 27 delegates from Branches in eleven Caribbean Parliaments and observers from the

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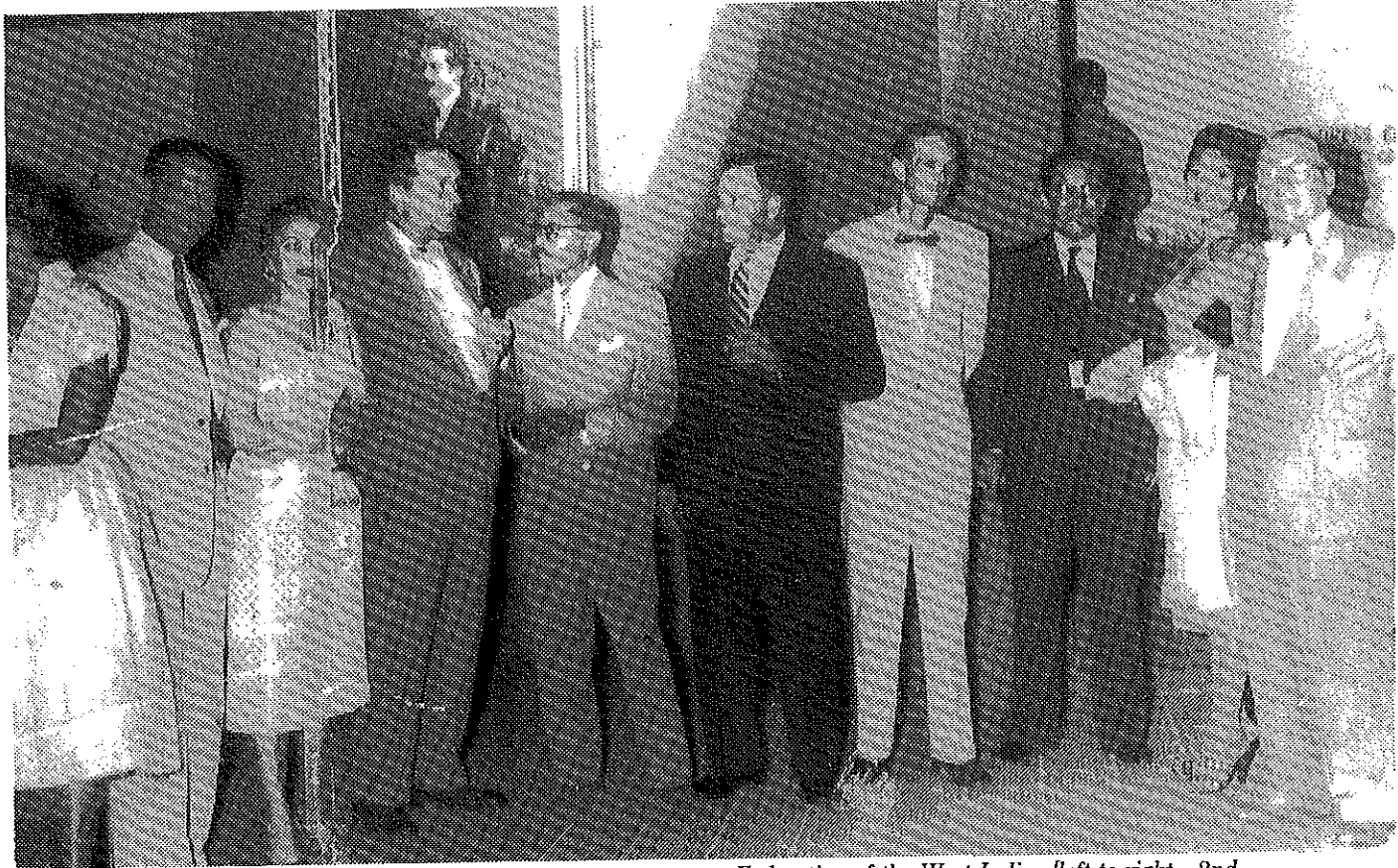
James Goodchild Coe (early Custos)



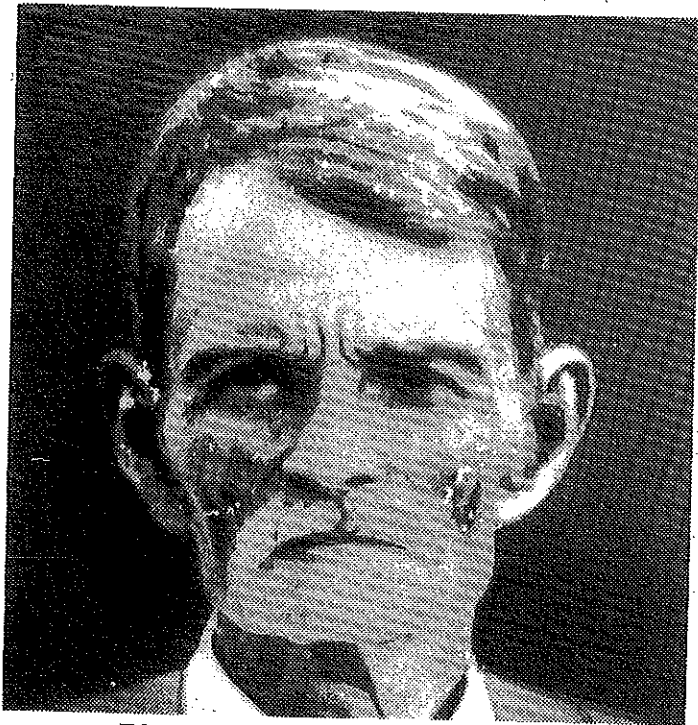
Edmund Parsons (last Custos)



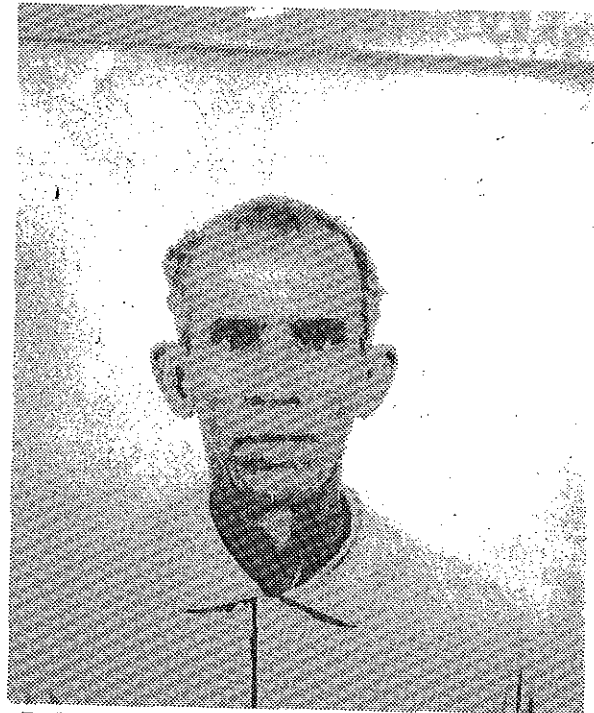
*Bronson McCready Yates
(Clerk of Courts and Clerk of Vestry)*



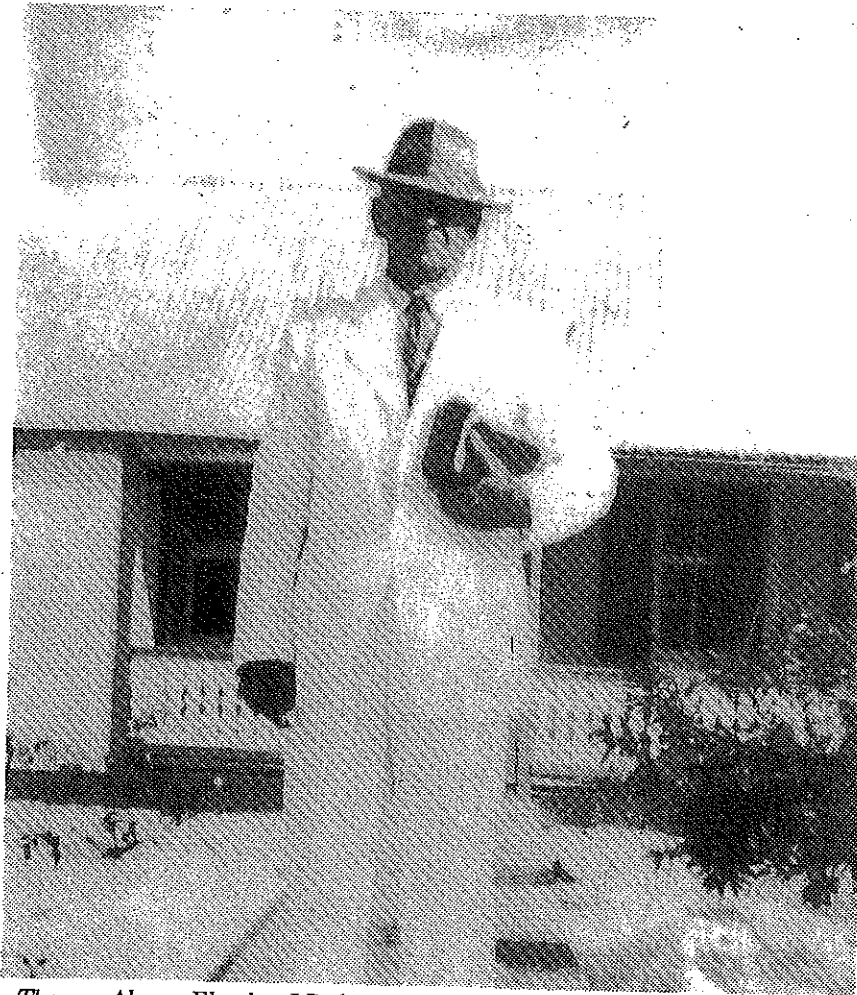
Cayman representatives at Second Conference re Federation of the West Indies [left to right—2nd Frank Hill, 4th E.O. Panton, 6th T.W. Farrington, 7th O.L. Panton, 10th E.D. Merren]



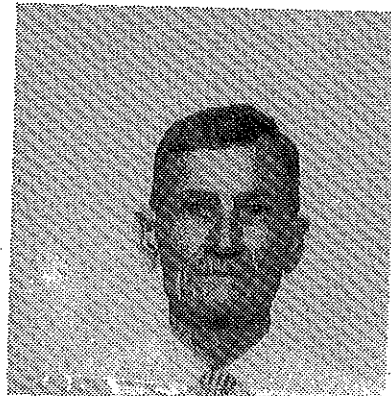
Edmund Samuel Parsons (Clerk of Courts)



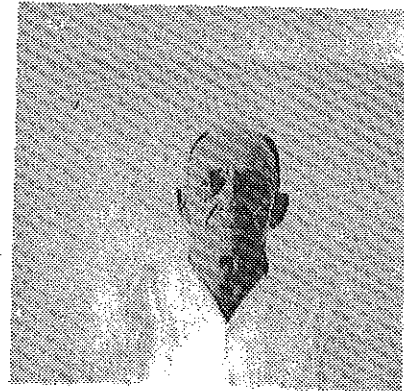
Dodridge Bush (past member of Assembly of Justices & Vestry)



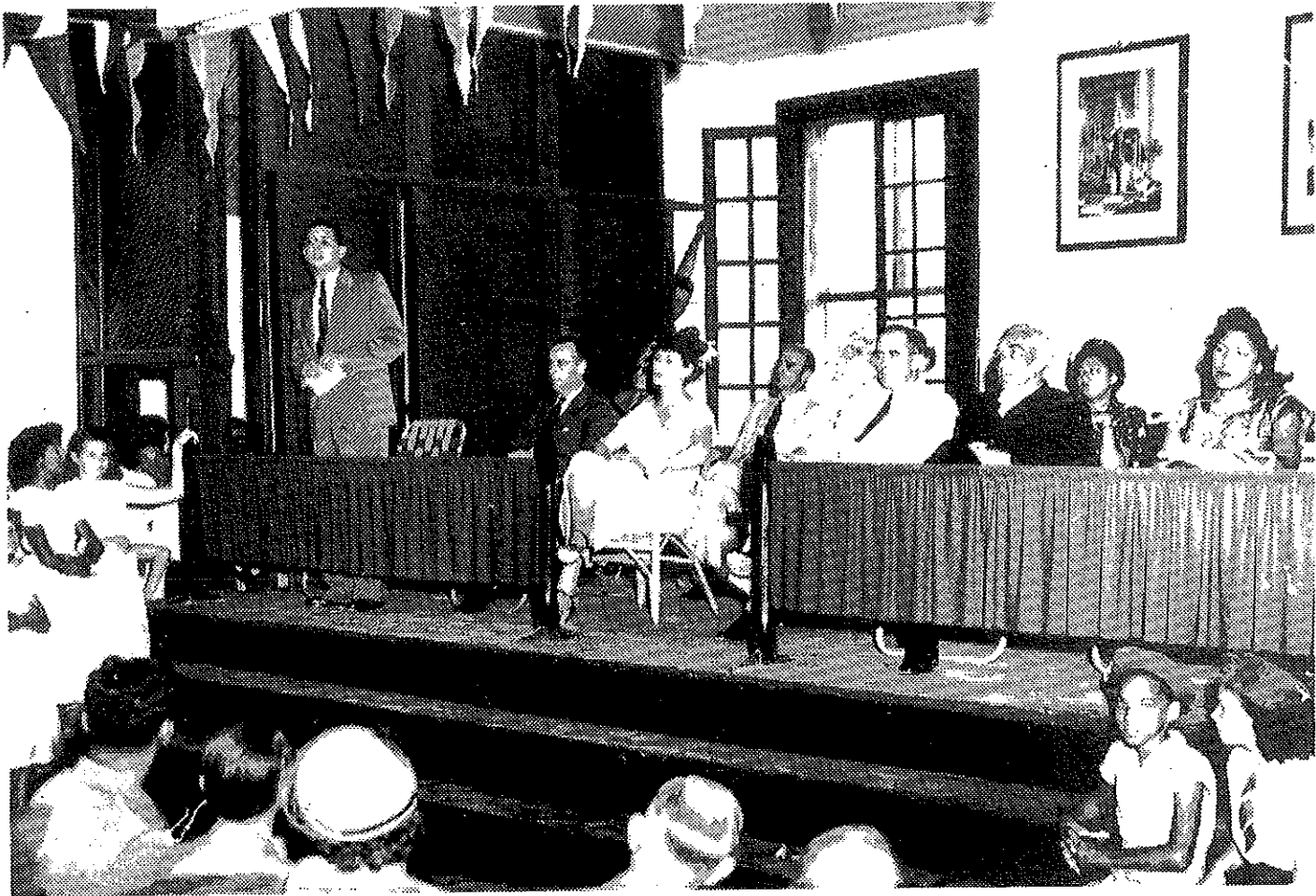
Thomas Abram Ebanks, J.P. (past Member of Assembly of Justices & Vestry)



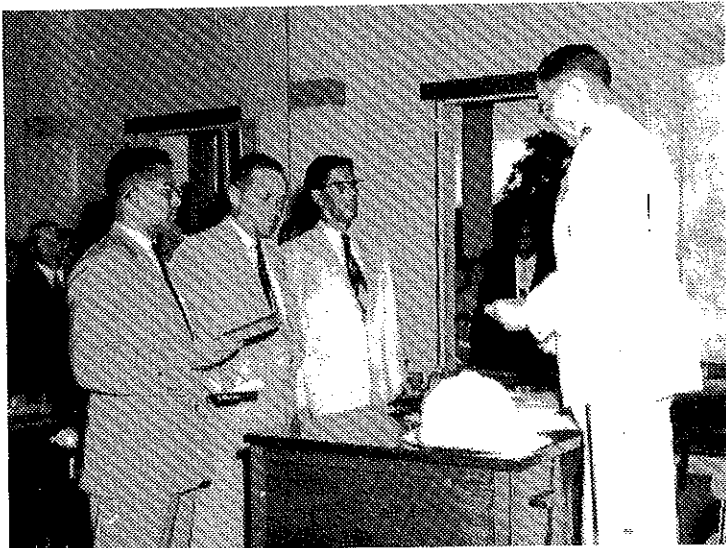
John Samuel Smith, J.P. (past Member of Assembly of Justices & Vestry)



Capt. C.G. Farrington (past Member of Assembly of Justices & Vestry)



October 1959 — On occasion of Cayman's first written constitution. Left, speaking, the late Donald Sangster (Minister of Finance, Jamaica) Commissioner, Gerrard, Major J.R. Watler, Lady Foot, the A.D.C. Sir Hugh Foot, Prime Minister Bustamante, Miss Gladys Longbridge (now Lady Bustamante), Mrs. Rose Leon



Official members being administered the oath October, 1959. From left to right—James R. Astwood, Stipendiary Magistrate & E.O. Panton, D.V. Watler, Commissioner Major Donald (2nd & 3rd Official Members)



E.O. Panton (last Clerk of Vestry)

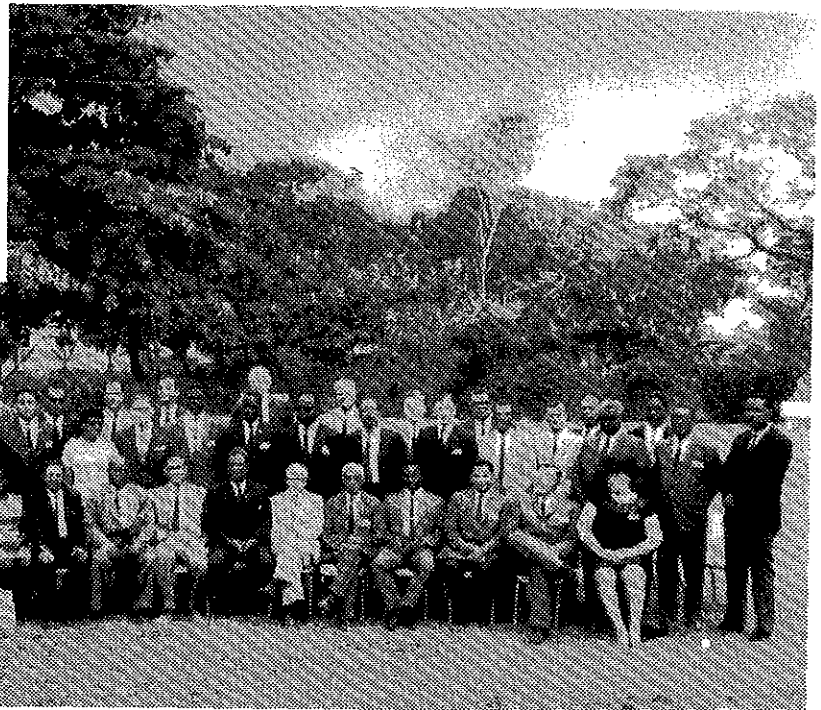


Above:

November, 1964. Visiting parliamentarians from the CPA Plenary Conference, Jamaica. In front, Mr. J.A. Cumber, Commissioner, and Rev. Lucock, Australia.

Left:

Mrs. Sybil I. McLaughlin, MBE, present Clerk of the Legislature



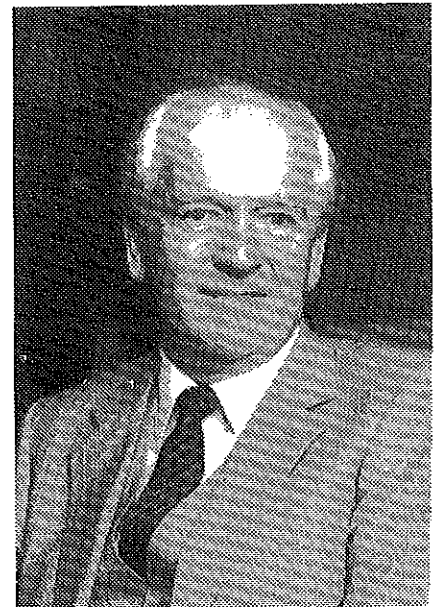
First CPA Regional Conference (17th) hosted by Cayman Islands, May 1967, in area where Legislative Assembly building now stands.



*Governor G. Peter Lloyd, CMG,
Presiding Officer*



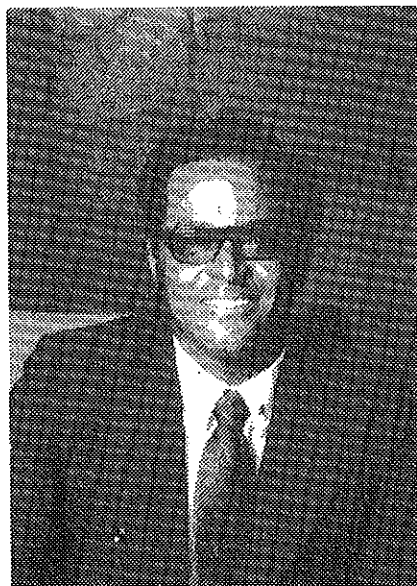
*Hon. D.H. Foster, CBE, J.P.,
First Official Member*



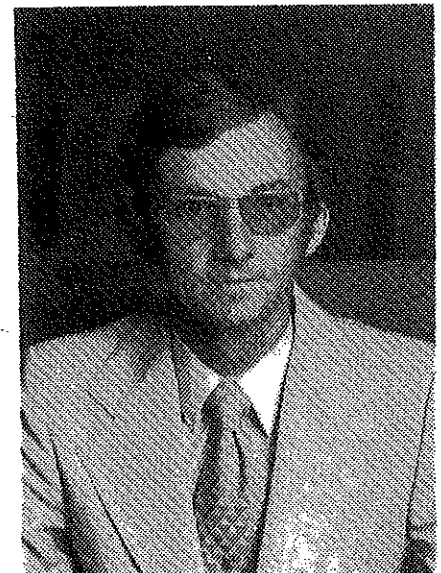
*Hon. Michael J. Bradley, LLB,
Second Official Member*



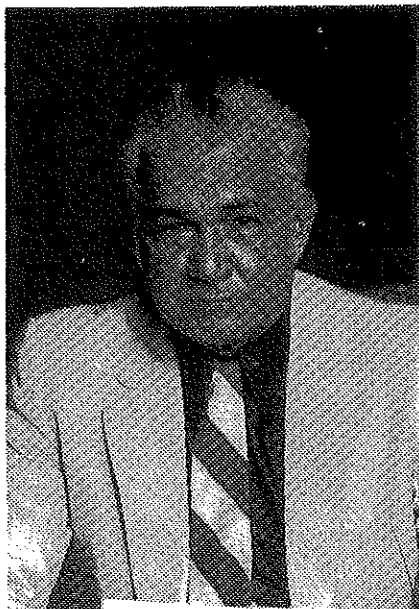
Hon. Thomas C. Jefferson



*Hon. John B. McLean,
first Member to Executive Council*



*Hon. Truman M. Bodden,
second Member to Executive Council*



*Hon. James M. Bodden,
third Member to Executive Council*



*Hon. G. Haig Bodden,
fourth Member to Executive Council*



*Mr. D. Dalmain Ebanks,
first Member for West Bay*



*Mr. J. Garston Smith,
second Member for West Bay*



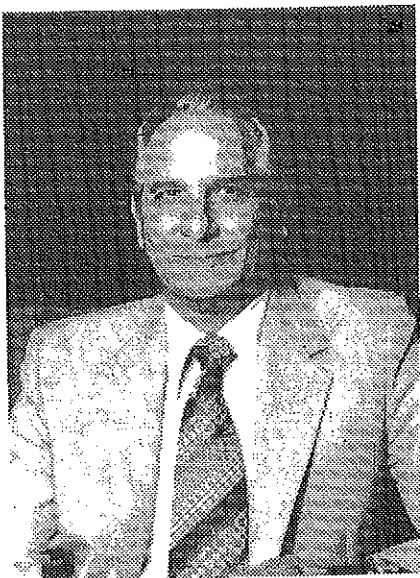
*Mr. Benson O. Ebanks,
third Member for West Bay*



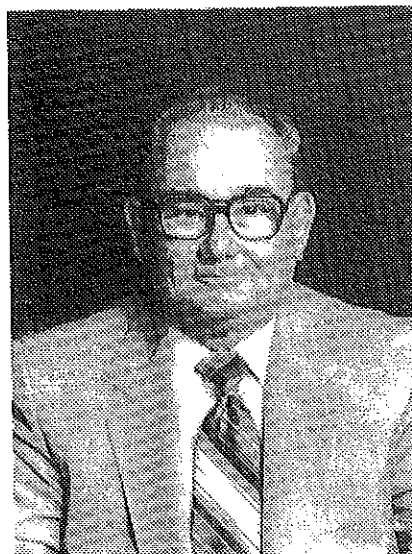
*Mr. W. Norman Bodden, MBE,
first Member for George Town*



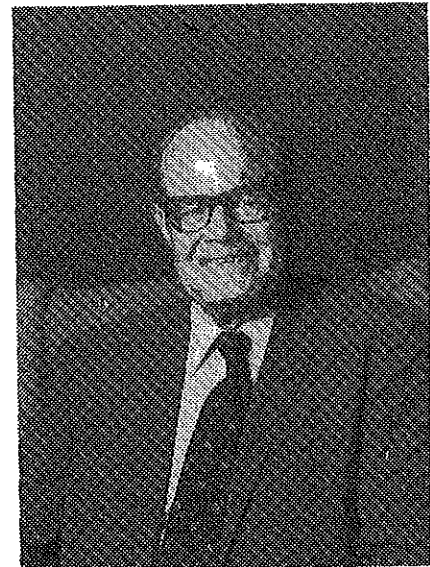
Miss Annie Huldah Bodden, OBE, third Member for George Town



*Capt. Charles L. Kirkconnell,
first Member for Lesser Islands*



*Capt. Mabry Kirkconnell,
second Member for Lesser Islands*



*Mr. Craddock Ebanks, J.P.,
Member for North Side & Father of
the House*

to exercise its legislative powers without any interference whatever from Jamaica: so long, in fact, that the majority of the Assemblymen came to believe that their local autonomy was a right conferred by a written constitution, rather than a privilege generously conceded by the Jamaican Government.

So for the past few months this misunderstanding sparked a public debate that set the 7,000 Caymanians cock-a-hoop with lively spirit. The debate stemmed from the Caribbean Federation, in the detailed arrangements for which the Caymans were (naturally) omitted from representation.

So the Assemblymen, reflecting the proud, independent spirit of these hard-working islanders, got their backs up against Federation. Their pride was hurt that they were to be included in the Federation without their approval. But behind this "national indignity" was a series of deep-laid fears that were rooted in their economy.

Caymanians pay no income tax, or company, land, estate duty or excise taxes. And they fear that, as part of a Caribbean Federation in which they are voiceless, these forms of taxation may be introduced into their territory, even if gradually, to the detriment of their economy.

The Caymans also enjoy a privileged position for their seamen in the U.S. merchant marine. Thousands of them are recruited directly as seamen, send home monthly remittances that average 150,000 for their families. This, in fact, is the Caymans' biggest "industry"; and it is on the strength of these dollar remittances that the Cayman Government is allowed to buy as freely as the people wish in the dollar markets of the U.S. and Canada.

With Federation however Caymanians fear that other West Indian workers will break into their protected preserve with American shippers and further that they may be subjected to the severe dollar restrictions that apply to the other territories of the British Caribbean and also be forced to import "inferior British goods".

And their third major fear concerns their postage stamps. The Cayman stamp issue fetches a high price among collectors and sale of these stamps is one of the big supports of general revenue: 28,454 in 1954-55 out of the total revenue of £92,428.

So Caymanians fear that a Federal Stamp may eventually place their own stamp issue, with the consequent loss of revenue in stamp trading.

These are real fears that the ordinary man on Cayman's dusty roads can easily understand and get angry about; and during the last month he has been led into a flaming anger that has brought these three islands a new and dramatic political vitality.

It was inevitable, however, that Caymanians would have to be told the facts of life; and for two days last week Governor Foot had the lesson with great charm, tact and adroitness, but also with sincere sympathy for their national feeling. So out of the two sittings, the Assemblymen took the decision to get their constitutional fences properly mended with direct representations to Mr. Manley.

Specifically, the Caymanians will ask our Chief Minister to spell out, in definite and unambiguous words to be incorporated into the new self-governing constitution that is now to be written for Jamaica, the rights and powers of the Cayman Legislative Assembly to enact their own legislation covering their internal arrangements without in any way being subject to direction or interference by the Jamaican Legislature.

That is what the sharp-tongued, three-man delegation will put before Mr. Manley; and they have been led to believe, rightly, I

think, that there is no hard opposition in Jamaica to their continuing to enjoy the maximum freedoms that their limited natural resources can support for them.

With this basic guarantee of local autonomy assured, the Caymanians plan to move to the next step to secure from the Caribbean Federation similar guarantees of non-interference in their internal affairs.

No one up to now has worked out any hard-and-fast proposals to govern their relations with the Federation, for these Assemblymen are practical politicians, not theorists; and they prefer to concentrate on the immediate job to hand, weigh the results of their efforts afterwards, and then go on to the next job with drive and resolution.

It is easy to admire and respect the Caymanians. They may be rough-and-ready, many of their leaders unlettered and inexperienced in political niceties, and their vision may be limited by the debit and credit columns of their trading accounts. But they are a steady, thrifty, diligent people, with an unbending pride and natural dignity that counts no material cost when they are aroused. We in Jamaica have much to learn from them in the things that concern the spirit of man and the consistent toil and sacrifice that are necessary to keep that spirit free."

A new constitution was granted to the Islands on the 4th July, 1959. "Commissioner" was changed to "Administrator", but the influence of the post was the same. The Vestry was replaced by a Legislative Assembly and Executive Council. The Legislative Assembly was comprised of twelve elected, three nominated and three official members. The Executive Council had one nominated, two official and two elected members elected by the elected and nominated members of the Assembly.

In 1961 the Cayman Islands agreed to join a federation of the British West Indian islands. The Islands' representatives, Messrs. Ormond Lauder Panton, Vestryman for George Town, T.W. Farrington, J.P. Senior Member of the Legislature from West Bay, Mr. Edgar Ducan Merren, Vestryman for George Town and Mr. Ernest Ottey Panton, Clerk of the Vestry, at the Federal constitutional talks in Trinidad, agreed on a full internal self government constitution within the federation for the Islands. The British Government sanctioned the agreement at a later conference in London, attended by Administrator Jack Rose and representatives, Messrs. Ormond Panton and T.W. Farrington.

A further article in the Daily Gleaner of the 12th of July, 1961 comments as follows and this unbiased reporting is worthy of recording —

"The recent West Indies Constitutional Conference in London has made recommendations which involve great changes in the status and constitutional position of the Cayman Islands.

These changes were discussed in detail by the Governor when he visited Grand Cayman in July. (Sir Kenneth Blackburne replaced Sir Hugh Foot.) After full discussions with senior members of the Civil Service, with the Executive Council, and with the Legislative Assembly, he explained the proposals at a public meeting in George Town on July 7.

Although the proposals had been accepted by the Legislative Assembly, the Governor explained at the meeting that certain points still called for further examination, and that the proposals had still to be approved by the Federal Government and by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. The changes are also, of course, dependent on the West Indies Federation proceeding to independence; and they will not take effect until

the date of independence, at present fixed for the 31st May, 1962.

The changes proposed at the London Conference are summarized in the following two paragraphs from the Report of the Conference —

“33. Although the Cayman Islands are now within the West Indies, they are not represented in the Federal Parliament and do not contribute financially to the Federal Government. The representatives of the islands fear that if they remain part of the Federation after independence their economic development might be prejudiced. The Cayman Islands will cease to be a dependent territory of the United Kingdom, but will withdraw from the Federation at independence. They will enter into a special associated status with the Federation under which they will enjoy full internal self-government, and the Federal Government will, by agreement, assume responsibility for their external affairs and defence.

“34. These arrangements will last for a trial period of five years, after which a joint review of the position will be carried out by the Federal Government and the Government of the Cayman Islands to decide whether the islands should continue in an associated relationship, or seek to become a unit territory. If the decision on review is that the islands should break all connection with the Federation, they will then have a right to petition the Crown for reversion to Colony status. Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will give an undertaking that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the United Kingdom will resume responsibility for the Cayman Islands should they exercise this right.”

“Under this arrangement the position of the Cayman Islands in the world in the next five years will be that of an internally self-governing country within the Commonwealth, but linked with the Federal Government of the West Indies for the special purposes of external affairs and defence. The Federal Government will have power to legislate for the Cayman Islands only in respect of defence and of external affairs and allied subjects. The Federal Government will represent the Cayman Islands overseas, though it is to be expected that the Federal Government may delegate certain powers in this field to the Government of the Cayman Islands, e.g. in the continuance of negotiations with the Government of Nicaragua over fishing rights. The Federal Government will also provide military assistance to the Cayman Islands in the event of an emergency. The Cayman Islands will pay an annual contribution to the Federation for these services.

It is also expected that, after negotiation with the Governments of the Federation and of Jamaica, the Cayman Islands will continue to be able to make use of the University College of the West Indies, and of the prisons and specialist medical services of Jamaica on a re-payment basis. Thus the present arrangements for the transfer of long-sentence prisoners, patients with tuberculosis and other patients requiring specialist medical treatment should continue.

Just as links will be maintained with the Federation and with Jamaica, so will the links with the United Kingdom be preserved by the appointment of a “head of state” for the Cayman Islands by Her Majesty's Government. The people of the Cayman Islands hope that their “head of state” will carry the title of “Lieutenant-Governor”, and this title is accordingly used in the following description of the proposed internal changes in the Islands.

In effect, the proposals of the London Conference give the people of the Cayman Islands a breathing space for five years. At the end of that time the Federal Government and the Government

of the Cayman Islands will jointly review the position. They may then decide either that the Cayman Islands should enter the Federation as a full member, or that they should continue on the existing basis of limited association. If neither course is desired by the Cayman Islands, they may then petition Her Majesty the Queen in order to revert to their present position as a British Colony. There will also be a proviso that, if the islands, which are now self-supporting, should need a grant-in-aid in this interim period of five years, the whole position will be subject to immediate review.

During this interim period the Cayman Islands will retain their right to issue their own passports, although they would have to be subject to any West Indian nationality law which may be passed by the Federal Government, since at that stage the Federation, in handling external affairs, can only represent those who are legally citizens of the West Indies. But the important fact, from the point of view of the Cayman Islands, is that the retention of a Caymanian passport should make it possible to maintain the visa waiver arrangements with the United States of America which is so vitally important to the employment of Caymanian seamen in American owned ships.

In all other respects the Cayman Islands will be free to pursue their own course. Thus they will retain the right to issue their own distinctive stamps, and to fly their own flag, or the Union Jack. They will also have the right to regulate migration to the Cayman Islands from the West Indies or elsewhere.

As regards the internal position of the Cayman Islands, complete self-government is proposed on lines similar to those of other West Indian territories, and the proposals which follow have been agreed with the Legislative Assembly. There will be a LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR as head of state who will be required to act in accordance with the advice of a Council of Ministers, which will replace the present Executive Council. The Lieutenant-Governor will be appointed by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for a period of three years at a time, the appointment being made after the Chief Minister of the Cayman Islands has been consulted and has been able to express the views of the Council of Ministers. The Governor of Jamaica, who is at present also the Governor of the Cayman Islands, will cease to have any responsibilities for the Cayman Islands.

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS will consist of the Lieutenant-Governor, who will normally preside but will have no vote; two or three other Ministers, and the Attorney-General.

THE CHIEF MINISTER will be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor from the members of the Legislative Assembly, and he will be the member who is best able to command the confidence of a majority of the members of the Assembly. He will vacate his office if the Assembly votes in favour of a revocation of his appointment with either a two-thirds majority at one meeting, or a clear majority at two successive meetings.

THE OTHER MINISTERS will be selected by the Chief Minister from the members of the Assembly, and will be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor at the request of the Chief Minister. They will vacate their offices either at the request of the Chief Minister or if the Chief Minister himself resigns or has his appointment revoked.

In order to separate the legal and judicial functions hitherto performed by a single officer—the Stipendiary Magistrate—a new post of ATTORNEY GENERAL will be created. He will be solely responsible for the institution and discontinuance of prosecutions and, as a member of the Council of Ministers, he will

also hold a portfolio. He will be an official, and will be appointed on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

The Chief Minister will be responsible for the allocation of duties to the Ministers, but at the outset the responsibilities of the Government will be carried out on the following lines:-

- CHIEF MINISTER** — Finance and development and certain special duties such as the appointment of Justices of the Peace, repatriation, and hurricane relief work.
- MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES** — Education, public health and social services such as prisons and poor relief.
- MINISTER FOR TRADE, WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS** — Trade and industry, public works, communications.
- ATTORNEY-GENERAL** — Police, Emigration and Immigration, Deportation and various legal matters.

The LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY will continue in existence and will consist of 12 elected members and two nominated members. But the existing two official members will vanish from the Assembly. The Attorney-General will serve as Speaker of the Assembly.

All laws will be made by the Assembly and will take effect when they have received assent from the Lieutenant-Governor.

There will be no "reserved powers", but the Lieutenant-Governor will be required to reserve for signature by the Governor-General any bills which relate to external affairs or defence.

Until now the control of the Civil Service has been in the hands of the Governor and the Administrator. In accordance with the practice elsewhere in the Commonwealth, a PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION will be established to advise the Lieutenant-Governor on the appointment, discipline, dismissal and promotion of civil servants. The Lieutenant-Governor will be required to act in accordance with the advice of the Commission. The Public Service Commission will consist of the Lieutenant-Governor, who will normally preside but will have no vote; one serving or retired public officer appointed by the Administrator; one public officer nominated by the Civil Service Association; and three members who will neither be public officers nor members of the Assembly, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister.

It is hoped that arrangements can be made for civil servants to have a right of appeal to the Federal Public Service Appeals Board which will handle similar appeals from the Commissions of some of the territories in the West Indies Federation.

The judicial arrangements in the Cayman Islands will also require some changes. It will probably be necessary to increase the jurisdiction of the Stipendiary Magistrate or to provide for more frequent sessions of the Grand Court. In addition, it is proposed that appeals from the Courts in the Cayman Islands should lie to the federal Supreme Court and thereafter in appropriate cases to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The arrangements for the internal self-government of the

Cayman Islands follow closely the pattern which has been established elsewhere in the West Indies and in the Commonwealth. In the case of the Cayman Islands, however, the need to introduce the changes to coincide with West Indian Independence in 1962 makes it impossible to provide for the usual method of a gradual approach to self-government. The Cayman Islanders face these great changes with but little time to gain experience in this new form of government. It is for this reason that the proposals for the new constitution contain some minor variations though without derogation from the principle that the elected representatives of the people should control absolutely the affairs of the Islands. It is for this reason that the Lieutenant-Governor will preside over the Council of Ministers and the Public Service Commission, and that the Attorney-General will be a member of the Council of Ministers and hold a portfolio. These officials will thus be able to assist the first Ministers with advice in important matters.

In addition, it is hoped that it will be possible to hold a general election early in 1962, to appoint the Chief Minister-designate and the Ministers-designate and to give them an opportunity of serving as Ministers in an advisory capacity for two or three months before they assume their full responsibilities with the introduction of the new constitution on May 31, 1962.

Finally, consideration is being given to the possibility of including in the constitution provisions for the preservation of "Human Rights".

It is difficult at this stage to estimate accurately the cost of these proposals. But it is thought that the cost should not exceed £25,000 per annum including a contribution to the Federal Government for defence, external affairs and such other services as may be required; repayment for services rendered by the Governor of Jamaica (some of which have been provided free in the past); and a small increase in civil service staff.

If this plan is adopted, the way will be clear for the Cayman Islands to continue, under their own leadership, the great strides forward which they have made in recent years; and the people of the islands will have five years in which to determine where their ultimate destiny lies."

Meanwhile, in order to train the public, the Civil Service and the Members themselves to the machinery of a ministerial system, a "Membership" system would be put into operation as soon as could be arranged. The British Virgin Islands and Montserrat had operated a similar system a few years previously.

Worthy of note at this time is that in 1956, on the arrival in the island of Major Alan Hilliard Donald, OBE as Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, he instituted an Advisory Executive Council which met regularly to deal with matters. The first Members were MR. E.O. Panton, MBE, J.P., Mr. D.V. Watler, J.P., Mr. T.W. Farrington, J.P., Mr. O.L. Panton, Mr. E.D. Merren, Mr. W.A. McLaughlin and Mr. Spurgeon A. Ebanks.

The first Members of the new "Membership" system were Mr. T.W. Farrington, J.P. Member for Finance and Development

Capt. T.R. Bodden, Nominated Member, Member for Social Services

Mr. E.D. Merren, Member for Works and Communications.

Capt. T.R. Bodden was a nominated member of the old Advisory Executive Council together with Mr. W.A. McLaughlin (elected) with the latter resigning.

After the general elections in 1962 Mr. A.B. Bush was appointed a nominated Member in place of Capt. T.R. Bodden

and Mr. G. Burns Ruddy replaced Mr. E.D. Merren.

But, within a very short time, all these plans were to be shelved and the Cayman Islands would embark on a new era.

The largest Island, Jamaica, decided by referendum to quit the Federation. That decision crippled the Cayman Islands' plan for internal self Government. Some of the politicians wanted the Islands to be linked with Jamaica taking the place of the smashed federation, others wanted to become a British Crown Colony. The National Democratic Party, formed by Mr. Ormond L. Panton, in 1961, advocated linking with Jamaica. A prominent member of the party, Dr. R.E. McTaggart, the most influential businessman in Grand Cayman, teamed with Administrator Jack Rose and campaigned with anti-Jamaican sentiments throughout the Islands.

Sir Kenneth Blackburne, then Governor of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, presided over a meeting of the Islands' Assembly in George Town on the 18th of January, 1962. The constitutional issue was decided by the people's handclapping after their representatives Dr. McTaggart and Mr. Panton addressed the Assembly. Approximately five hundred people were present. Dr. McTaggart spoke against the Islands linking with Jamaica. The people applauded loudly. Mr. Panton spoke next in support of linking with Jamaica. There was sustained applause. The Governor ruled that the first handclapping was loudest, and that carried.

The discussions with the Governor of Jamaica continued on the following day, 19th January and a resolution in the following terms was passed unanimously by the Legislative Assembly —

“IT IS THE WISH OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS —

1. TO CONTINUE THEIR PRESENT ASSOCIATION WITH HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:
2. TO NEGOTIATE WITH HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS AS TO TIMING.”

This resolution was moved by Mr. T.W. Farrington and seconded by Mr. E.D. Merren.

The National Democratic Party had a petition signed by eleven hundred people requesting linking with Jamaica, but that had no effect on the Governor. The party continued its “Link with Jamaica” drive until the general elections in 1962.

Before the elections, twelve persons formed the Christian Democratic Party. They elected Mr. T.W. Farrington as their leader. The party was opposed to any form of constitutional change towards internal self-government.

Despite the privileged position of Administrator Jack Rose, who campaigned on public platforms and the personal influence of Dr. McTaggart, the National Democratic Party's internal self-government campaign gained momentum. It organised groups with officers in every district. Before nomination day, Dr. McTaggart renewed his campaign and rejoined the Nationals. He ran on the party ticket and was one of the seven who won.

The results of the 1962 General Elections and the returns of the Parties were:

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. O.L. Panton

Mr. W.W. Conolly
Mr. A. Colin Panton
Mr. Anton Bodden
Miss Evelyn Wood
Dr. R.E. McTaggart
Capt. E.E. Kirkconnell

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Hon. T.W. Farrington, J.P.
Mr. Spurgeon A. Ebanks, J.P.
Mr. D. Dalmain Ebanks
Mr. G. Burns Ruddy
Mr. Craddock Ebanks

The Christian Democratic Party won only five seats, but formed the Government. Administrator Rose picked nominated members whose sympathies were with the Christians. When the Assembly voted for elected members for the Executive Council, the nominated members, along with the five elected Christian Democratic Party members, voted for William Farrington in preference to the majority leader, Ormond Panton. Seven members of the Legislative Assembly formed the quorum. Mr. Panton tried to create a constitutional crisis by calling on the members of his party to resign with him, but only Dr. McTaggart obeyed. Panton won the by-election handsomely, but Dr. McTaggart did not contest his vacancy. The second seat was won by Mr. W.W. Bodden.

At this general election, the first woman was elected to the Legislature, Miss Evelyn Wood, a mid-wife from Bodden Town.

The new Administrator, Mr. J.A. Cumber, succeeded Jack Rose in 1964. After one year in office, Administrator Cumber made it plain that the Island could assume more political responsibility. Cumber streamlined the government service and delegated more responsibility to civil servants and politicians. His was an administration of participation.

Another constitution came into operation in August, 1962 and this was mainly to transfer the powers previously held by the Governor of Jamaica to the Administrator of the Cayman Islands, as Jamaica would become independent on the 6th of August, 1962.

By 1965, political party unity, loose from the beginning, was disintegrating. General elections were held that year and the National Democratic Party again campaigned for internal self-government. However, some of its members ran as independents. Some switched to the Christian Democratic Party, some of whose members also ran as independents. Dr. McTaggart did not run, but he was opposed to any constitutional change. The Christians were not openly opposed to internal self-government, but the Independent candidates were strongly against it.

A great deal of personal issues were brought into the campaign. John Bothwell, a butcher who lost by three votes, brought a slander suit against T.W. Farrington after the elections. Bothwell alleged that Farrington told a political meeting that he sold “rotten meat” to the public. The case was settled mutually in court with Farrington publishing an apology in the local newspaper.

Mr. Warren Conolly was the only National Democratic Party member who won. Even leader Ormond Panton who by then had become a national figure, lost to three Independents in George Town. Three Christian Democratic Party members, including the

leader, Mr. Farrington, won. The three were —

Mr. Spurgeon A. Ebanks, Mr. G. Burns Ruddy and Mr. Craddock Ebanks.

The Christian Democratic Party denominated the parliamentary debates. The Independents —

Hon. Capt. E.E. Kirkconnell
Mr. A.B. Bush, J.P.
Miss Annie H. Bodden
Mr. Anton B. Bodden
Mr. Benson O. Ebanks, Jnr.,

supported Mr. Farrington. However, they rebelled in 1967 when he, along with an Independent, Capt. Eldon Kirkconnell, a big businessman who was also a member of the Executive Council, voted without consulting them for the United Kingdom to amend the constitution giving the Administrator extraordinary powers to hire and fire civil servants.

At first in 1962, Capt. Kirkconnell was a Christian Democrat, but changed to run for the Nationals in Cayman Brac. Capt. Kirkconnell campaigned in 1965 and was as an Independent candidate in George Town.

Mr. Warren Conolly brought a censure motion against the two members, but it failed because it lacked the required two-thirds majority which was necessary before a censure motion could be effected. Some of the Independents voted against the motion which gained a majority vote.

Shortly after the constitution's amendment became effective in 1967, British civil servants began replacing Caymanians as heads of Departments. The Independents met with Warren Conolly and decided to campaign for internal self-government during the election campaign of 1968."

During the next few years the Legislators were undecided over constitutional affairs, although there were some attempts. In 1966 and again in 1967 select committees of the Legislature considered various proposals and submitted reports but these were all a short way from any request for internal self-government. The recommendations in the 1967 report were for a majority of elected members in Executive Council and the appointment of a speaker of the Legislative Assembly. These proposals were discussed with the various constituents and the result was that they were not pursued.

After various attempts by Select committees for constitutional reform, on the 23rd of June, 1970 it was unanimously resolved by the Legislative Assembly that the reports of its constitutional committee, together with the minutes, be referred to the Secretary of State, through the Administrator, for his advice and guidance and for the consideration of the provision of a Constitutional expert to visit the Islands to meet with the Select Committee and discuss the difficulties and implementation of recommendations.

As a result a Constitutional Commissioner, the Right Honourable the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, KCMG arrived in Grand Cayman on the 23rd of January, 1971.

The Constitutional Commissioner had discussions and was available in the various districts and Cayman Brac for members of the general public to put forward their views.

In the interim in October, 1971 the title "Administrator" was changed to that of "Governor".

As a result of the visit of Lord Oxford and Asquith, the 1972 constitution was formulated with the following changes —

1. Nominated members were removed from the Legislature.
2. The three official members would be the Deputy Governor (Chief Secretary), Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary.
3. Four elected members to Executive Council in lieu of the previous two, to be elected by the elected members of the Legislature.
4. The Members of Executive Council were given portfolios on various subjects, assigned to them by the Governor, with full responsibility.
5. The Financial Secretary was included in the membership of the Executive Council. (His omission, up until 1971, was most unusual.)
6. The voting age was reduced to 18 years.
7. Provision for a Speaker to be appointed by the Governor when the Legislature has passed a resolution that there shall be an office of Speaker.
8. The life of the Legislative Assembly is now 4 years (previously it was 3 and very early in the 1900's it was 2 years.)

The Select Committee of 1969 and 1970 had as one of its recommendations that there should be a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Legislature, with the Speaker having a casting vote only.

A minority report submitted by two members called for a Speaker as well, having a casting vote only.

On the 6th of November, 1975, following a circular to all Members of the Legislative Assembly, His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Thomas Russell, CBE, held an informal meeting with the Members in which he threw out the proposal that consideration should be given to the appointment of a Speaker for the Legislature. The majority of members indicated that the proposal was ill-timed and that for the time being the status quo should be retained.

So today, the Governor of the Cayman Islands is still the Presiding Officer of the Legislative Assembly. In the Commonwealth, the following other territories have no independent Speaker —

1. St. Helena, with the Governor and Commander-in-Chief presiding
2. Hong Kong, with the Governor presiding and
3. The Falkland Islands, with the Civil Commissioner presiding.

With the 1972 Constitution, the assignment to members of responsibility for various portfolios, subjects and Government Departments has been on the following lines —

- (1) The Honourable Chief Secretary (Governor's Deputy)
PORTFOLIO OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
- (2) The Honourable Attorney-General
PORTFOLIO OF LEGAL ADMINISTRATION

(3) The Honourable the Financial Secretary
PORTFOLIO OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- (4) The four Elected Members of Executive Council —
- (i) Portfolio of Health, Education and Social Services
 - (ii) Portfolio of Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources
 - (iii) Portfolio of Communications and Works
 - (iv) Portfolio of Tourism, Aviation and Trade

1960

1. Loan raised of the sum of £130,000 for implementation of development plan.
2. Motion moved by W.A. McLaughlin concerning the privileges, immunities and powers of Members of the Legislative Assembly.
3. Motion moved by W.A. McLaughlin concerning mechanical recordings in the Courts and the Legislative Assembly.

THE NEW LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY — 1959

The Members of the new Legislative Assembly were —

OFFICIALS

James Rufus Astwood	— Stipendiary Magistrate (First Official)
Ernest Ottey Panton	— Assistant Administrator (Second Official)
Desmond Vere Watler	— Treasurer (Third Official)

NOMINATED

Theophilus Rearie Bodden	
Emmis Mortimer Forbes	(Resigned and replaced by Ormond Lauder Panton on 3rd March, 1960)

William Warren Conolly

ELECTED

Thomas William Farrington	West Bay
James Cadian Ebanks	West Bay
Arthur Harris Ebanks	West Bay (Resigned and replaced by James Stafford Banks on 3rd March, 1960)
Edgar Ducan Merren	George Town
Roy Edison McTaggart	George Town
Albert Colin Panton	George Town
Nolan Brown Foster	Lesser Islands
Keith Parker Tibbetts	Lesser Islands
James Malcolm Eden	Bodden Town
Anton Bodden	Bodden Town
Craddock Ebanks	North Side
William Allen McLaughlin	East End

The first meeting of the new Legislative Assembly was held on the 6th of November, 1959.

During the Assembly's time up to the present some of the important matters dealt with are as follows:-

1961

1. Motion by the then Treasurer for Revision of the Cayman Islands Laws.
2. Production of a Cayman Islands Brochure.

1962

1. Acquisition of assets of Cayman Islands Public Service Company, Limited by the Cayman Islands Government.
2. Provision for emoluments for appointment of a Probation Officer.
3. Private Member's motion by Mr. Craddock Ebanks of North Side for rights-of-way to properties.

1963

1. Appointment of a Deputy President of the Legislature.
2. Appointment of an Agricultural Loans Committee.
3. Private Member's motion by Miss Annie H. Bodden re Rules and Regulations of Government Cemeteries.
4. Private Member's motion by Mr. G. Burns Ruddy re prevention of debtors leaving the Islands.
5. Private Member's motion by Miss Annie H. Bodden re illegitimate children to share in father's estate.

1964

1. Motion by Mr. T.W. Farrington re formation of Cayman Islands Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.
2. Government Motion re Acquisition of Old Fort site.
3. Government Motion re appointment of a Public Tenders Committee.

4. Grant to Cayman Islands Boys' Scouts —Government Motion.
5. Government Motion—Display at Commonwealth Institute.
6. Government Motion—Sale of land to Cable and Wireless.

1967

1. Private Member's motion—History of the Cayman Islands—moved by W.W. Conolly.
2. Private Member's Motion—Constitutional changes—moved by W.W. Conolly.

1968

1. The Assembly sat for the first time in the Island of Cayman Brac.
2. Private Member's Motion—Setting up of a Statutory Board to deal with all applications for Work Permits, moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden.
3. Government Motion re purchase or lease of Crown Lands—Old Clerk of Courts and Market Buildings, George Town—moved by Mr. D.V. Watler.
4. Petroleum Production Bill. The Assembly sat until midnight on the 17th of September in committee on the bill, but did not complete its work. The Assembly was dissolved with effect from midnight for the general elections to be held in November, 1968.
5. General Elections were held in November and were carried through with the exception of George Town, where there was a hiatus. The Acting Administrator, Mr. D.V. Watler, on the advice of the Commissioner of Police closed down the polling booth in the Town Hall to avoid a disturbance. As a result Her Majesty the Queen, by Order-in-Council set a date in January for the holding of the George Town election, which was carried through peacefully.

1969

1. Duty free importation of building materials, etc. for Mission Homes, Parsonages or Manses of recognised churches. Private Member's motion moved by John D. Jefferson.
2. Special Pension Scheme—Private Member's motion—moved by Mr. Alford Scott, seconded by Mr. Trevor Foster.
3. Celebrations Tercentenary Festival—Government Motion moved by Mr. W.W. Conolly.
4. Committee for constitutional changes—Private Member's Motion, moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden, seconded by Mr. C.A. Hunter.

1970

1. Motion for Report of Constitutional committee—Private Member's motion, moved by Mr. C.A. Hunter, seconded by

- Mr. Craddock Ebanks.
2. Government Motion—Supply of electricity for East End and North Side, moved by Financial Secretary.
3. Cayman Islands Currency - moved by Financial Secretary.
4. Land Adjudication Legislation—moved by Mr. D.V. Watler, First Official Member.

1971

1. Select Committee for Draft Development and Planning Bill, moved by Mr. A.B. Bush, seconded by Mr. Alford Scott.
2. Passing of the Caymanian Protection Law.

1972

1. Motor Vehicles Insurance Premiums—Moved by Mr. Craddock Ebanks, seconded by Miss Annie Huldah Bodden.
2. Community Hall, Breakers—Moved by Mr. G. Haig Bodden, seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden (Private Member's motion).
3. Recession, Lesser Islands—Private Member's motion, moved by Mr. G. Haig Bodden, seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden.

1973

1. Private Member's motion re reduction of speed limit to 25 mph between Bodden Town and Lower Valley. Moved by Mr. James M. Bodden, seconded by Mr. G. Haig Bodden.
2. Revision of the Poor Persons (Relief) Law to provide additional relief to needy persons—moved by Mr. G. Haig Bodden, seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden.
3. Private Member's motion by Mr. G. Haig Bodden, seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden, re amendments to Dangerous Drugs Law to include new Dangerous Drugs and increased fines, etc.
4. Private Member's motion moved by Capt. A.A. Reid, seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden re Assistant Immigration Officer.
5. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. James M. Bodden, seconded by Mr. G. Haig Bodden recommending the establishment of a contributory social security scheme.

1974

1. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. G. Haig Bodden, seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden re the setting up of a committee with a view to instituting price control on essential products.
2. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. James M. Bodden, seconded by Mr. G. Haig Bodden re the setting up of a Central Bank or Central Authority.
3. Private Member's motion moved by Capt. A.A. Reid,

seconded by Mr. John D. Jefferson re amendment to the Customs Law to allow the erection of pre-fab houses in any part of the Island, except the west side of the West Bay Beach road.

4. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. James M. Bodden, seconded by Mr. G. Haig Bodden for a review of the Maritime Laws regarding registration of ships to provide for foreign registration in the Cayman Islands and the setting up of a Merchant Marine Academy.
5. Private Member's Motion moved by Mr. James M. Bodden, seconded by Mr. G. Haig Bodden re the setting up of a liaison committee between Government and the business community to consider priorities for development.
6. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. G. Haig Bodden seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden proposing that the meetings of the Planning Board be open to attendance by the public.

1975

1. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. James M. Bodden seconded by Mr. G. Haig Bodden re the setting up of a Committee to deal with the showing of unsuitable films in the various cinemas.
2. Private Member's motion moved by Capt. A.A. Reid seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden that every employer of labour to turn into the Immigration Department and/or Caymanian Protection Board a list showing the name, nationality, etc.
3. Private Member's motion moved by Capt. A.A. Reid seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden re changes in immigration policy regarding unskilled labour, etc. requiring a work permit.
4. Private Member's motion moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden, seconded by Mr. John D. Jefferson re the sale of alcoholic liquors in unlicensed premises.
5. Private Member's motion moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden seconded by Mr. John D. Jefferson re sale of obscene literature in supermarkets and shops.
6. Private Member's motion moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden, seconded by Mr. Craddock Ebanks re clearer definition of "local custom" in the Land Adjudication Law in that ONE HALF OF ALL SWAMP, CLIFF AND BUTTON WOOD LAND be equally divided between adjoining land owners.
7. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. G. Haig Bodden seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden re duty free importation of fire fighting equipment since there is no community fire fighting service available.
8. Increase in the capital stock of Caribbean Development Bank—Government Motion.

1976

1. Purchasing of 50,000 shares by Cayman Islands Government in Mariculture—moved by the Financial Secretary.
2. Purchase by Government of additional shares in CAL, moved by the Financial Secretary.
3. Subsidy to CAL for inter-island or domestic operation—

moved by the Financial Secretary.

4. Private Member's motion moved by Capt. A.A. Reid, seconded by Mr. James M. Bodden that consideration be given to keeping long-term prisoners in Grand Cayman and working on a farm for the benefit of the Government.

1977

1. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. John McLean seconded by Mr. Craddock Ebanks re reduction of customs duties on automobiles to 25%.
2. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. Craddock Ebanks, seconded by Mr. John B. McLean regarding increasing of speed limit in certain areas to 30 miles an hour.

1978

1. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. John B. McLean seconded by Mr. George C. Smith re insurance of Government properties with an insurance company not subject to currency restrictions.

1979

1. Private Member's motion moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden re appreciation to Mrs. Helen Harquail, a non-Caymanian resident, of a donation of CI\$6,000 for erection of a Wall around the front of the White Hall Cemetery.
2. Private Member's motion moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden re erection of a wall in front of the Elmslie Memorial Church, George Town to turn back heavy seas.
3. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. D. Dalmain Ebanks seconded by Mr. George C. Smith re amendment to Coroner's law to provide for a jury at inquests.
4. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. J. Garston Smith seconded by Mr. Craddock Ebanks for the appointment of a fully qualified and experienced pathologist.
5. Private Member's motion moved by Mr. J. Garston Smith seconded by Mr. Craddock Ebanks re amendment to Misuse of Drugs Law to provide that a search warrant be issued before a Constable can enter any private dwelling house.
6. Recording of Assembly's regret at the tragic death of LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN moved by Mr. K.P. Tibbetts.
7. Private Member's motion providing that the Governor should obtain advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly for the sale, etc. of any lands vested in the Governor. Moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden, seconded by Mr. Craddock Ebanks.
8. Private Member's motion for the exemption from customs duty of chicken, chicken parts and Irish potatoes. Moved by Mr. J. Garston Smith, seconded by Mr. D. Dalmain Ebanks.

1981

1. Private Member's motion for legislation for proper dress

code moved by Miss Annie H. Bodden, seconded by Capt. Charles L. Kirkconnell.

2. Private Member's motion for the removal of duty from drinking water moved by Mr. W. Norman Bodden, seconded by Capt. Charles L. Kirkconnell.

1982

Private Member's motion that future editions of the Cayman Islands Annual Report contain a statement that the publication is an Official Government Report. Moved by Mr. Benson O. Ebanks seconded by Capt. Charles L. Kirkconnell.

LEGISLATION

Important pieces of legislation dealt with by the Assembly over a period of years included —

- (1) Adoption of Children
- (2) Affiliation
- (3) Age of Majority
- (4) Agricultural and Industrial Aid
- (5) Animals Law (Sanctuaries)
- (6) Arbitration
- (7) Banks and Trust Companies Regulation
- (8) Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association
- (9) Broadcasting
- (10) Cayman Islands Corporation
- (11) Cayman Islands Education
- (12) Caymanian Protection
- (13) Companies
- (14) Confidential Relationships (Preservation)
- (15) Continental Shelf
- (16) Co-operative Societies
- (17) Coroners
- (18) Court of Appeal
- (19) Criminal Procedure Code
- (20) Crown Proceedings
- (21) Currency
- (22) Customs
- (23) Defamation
- (24) Development and Planning
- (25) Elections
- (26) Electricity
- (27) Evidence
- (28) Finger Prints
- (29) Fire Brigade
- (30) Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions)
- (31) Gambling
- (32) Genocide
- (33) Grand Court
- (34) Guardianship and Custody of Children
- (35) Health Practitioners
- (36) Health Services
- (37) Higher Education (Loan)
- (38) Hotel Keepers Liability
- (39) Hotels Aid
- (40) Imprisonment
- (41) Insurance
- (42) Judicature
- (43) Juveniles
- (44) Land Acquisition
- (45) Land Adjudication
- (46) Land Holding Companies Share Transfer Tax
- (47) Land Surveyors
- (48) Land Title Settlement
- (49) Landlord and Tenants
- (50) Law of Torts Reform
- (51) Legal Practitioners
- (52) Legislative Assembly (Immunities, Powers and Privileges)
- (53) Legitimation
- (54) Limitation of Actions
- (55) Limited Partnership
- (56) Liquor Licensing
- (57) Loan (Capital Projects)
- (58) Loan (Caribbean Development Bank)
- (59) Local Companies (Control)
- (60) Maintenance
- (61) Maintenance Orders (Enforcement)
- (62) Marine Conservation
- (63) Markets
- (64) Marriage
- (65) Masters and Servants
- (65) Matrimonial Causes
- (66) Mental Health
- (67) Minerals (Vesting)
- (68) Minimum Wage
- (69) Mining
- (70) Misuse of Drugs
- (71) Mosquito (Research and Control)
- (72) Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks)
- (73) Museum
- (74) Music and Dancing (Control)
- (75) Notaries Public
- (76) Oaths
- (77) Official Gazette
- (78) Passport
- (79) Patents and Trade Marks
- (80) Penal Code
- (81) Prohibited Publications Order
- (82) Pensions
- (83) Pharmacy
- (84) Plants (Importation and Transportation) (Regulation)
- (85) Police
- (86) Poor Persons (Legal Aid)
- (87) Poor Persons (Relief)
- (88) Port Authority
- (89) Postal
- (90) Powers of Attorney
- (91) Probate of Deeds
- (92) Probation of Offenders
- (93) Public Health
- (94) Public Holidays
- (95) Public Library
- (96) Public Loans
- (97) Public Order
- (98) Public Recorder

- (99) Public Service Commission
- (100) Radio
- (101) Registered Land
- (102) Restriction on the Supply of Petroleum to Southern Rhodesia
- (103) Roads (Development Loan)
- (104) Roads
- (105) Settled land
- (106) Sex Disqualification (Removal)
- (107) Stamp Duty
- (108) Statistics
- (109) Strata Titles Registration
- (110) Succession
- (111) Summary Jurisdiction
- (112) Sunday Trading
- (113) Tax Collection
- (114) Tax Concessions
- (115) Telephone
- (116) Tourism
- (117) Tourist Accommodation (Taxation)
- (118) Towns and Communities
- (119) Trade and Business Licensing
- (120) Traffic Law
- (121) Official Road Code
- (122) Travel Tax
- (123) Trusts Law
- (124) Veterinary Law
- (125) Weights and Measures
- (126) Wills
- (127) Workmen's Compensation
- (128) Wreck and Salvage
- (129) Water (Production and Supply)
- (130) Contracts
- (131) Printing of Papers
- (132) Housing Development Corporation

During 1982 when the United Kingdom was at war with Argentina over the future of the Falkland Islands, at the instigation of Mr. Sibert R. Watler, the Serjeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly, various funds were raised to be used for the families of the deceased in the United Kingdom. The Legislative Assembly approved of a sum to be appropriated from Government funds to bring the amount up to a total of Five Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling.

This very generous gesture from the people and Government of the Cayman Islands must go down in history as another very clear indication of the loyalty to the Mother Country.

300TH ANNIVERSARY — TREATY OF MADRID

On the 13th of August, 1969, Mr. W.W. Conolly, then a Member of Executive Council responsible for Tourism moved the following Government Motion —

"In most countries of the world some National Celebration is established to mark and commemorate some historical event

AND WHEREAS it is considered that we should establish some annual National Celebration or festival
AND WHEREAS our celebrations could commemorate the Signing of the Treaty of Madrid, the occasion when we officially became a part of the British Empire (now Commonwealth)

AND WHEREAS as next year is 300 years since the Signing of that Treaty, it is considered that the organization of a tricentenary festival could be the beginning of a Caymanian National event,

AND WHEREAS such celebration would give us added publicity and advertisement and create and stimulate a degree of national pride

AND WHEREAS the benefits derived from the foregoing could outweigh any expenditure incurred;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Legislative Assembly agree to the following:

- (a) the holding of such a celebration;
- (b) the employment in due course of a professional organizer to advise on and implement final detailed plans of the events of the celebration;
- (c) the inclusion in the 1970 Estimates of an amount to cover cost incurred;
- (d) the Executive Council to take the necessary steps to constitute a Committee for the overall supervision of the project."

Mr. Conolly, in his presentation of the motion, stated that it had been felt by a number of Caymanians that the Islands should have some specific time attached to some historical event which could be celebrated as "Caymanian Day" or "Caymanian Week" which could be handed down to the younger generation.

A steering committee was set up, following the passing of the motion unanimously by the House and this committee included in its recommendations the following —

- (i) The celebrations of the Treaty of Madrid in 1970 (300 years) could be held towards the latter part of the year
- (ii) the celebrations should commence on a Sunday as a Thanksgiving or National Day of Prayer
- (iii) Festival to commence on a Monday and continue for 4 or 5 days;
- (iv) Pageantry show, depicting some of the Islands; historical background, taking into consideration the maritime history—with floats, street parades
- (v) school competitions;
- (vi) new issue of postage stamps;
- (vii) a history of the Islands to be written;
- (viii) the opening of one of the prestigious buildings (preferably the Legislative Assembly building);
- (ix) clean-up paint-up campaign.

The Committee also felt that such celebrations might be the start of a Little Theatre Movement in the Islands, bringing back some of the old dances, etc.

Following a request made to London, Mr. Neville Williams, M.A., D. Phil., FSA., FR.Hist.Soc., Deputy Keeper of Public Records in the Public Records Office, London was commissioned to write a brief history of the Cayman Islands and visited Grand Cayman in March, 1970. His book was published by the Government of the Cayman Islands in 1970.

The celebrations were not continued or carried through at the request of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as the United Kingdom at that time was having disputes with Spain over the future of Gibraltar.

CAYMAN BRAC AND LITTLE CAYMAN

In his report of the 21st of June, 1802 to the Governor of Jamaica on his visit to the Cayman Islands, Mr. Edward Corbet describes "the two small Islands dependent upon Grand Cayman the one called Little Cayman, the other Cayman Brack, are altogether uninhabited, and from the rocks with which they are surrounded almost altogether inaccessible. They are however frequented in the summer season by small vessels employed in fishing for Turtle which is found there—they lay 18 Leagues from the Grand Cayman in an East North East direction—On our return we made these two islands, but on account of the badness of the weather and for the reason I have mentioned we did not deem it proper to make too near an approach to them."

As stated previously the Islands appeared to have been settled in the year 1833.

Mr. G.S.S. Hirst, M.B., Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, visited the Islands on the 23rd of March, 1908 and submitted a lengthy report. He described the Islands thus —

"Cayman Brac is about 10 miles long and 1½ miles wide according to the estimates made by the people. From the shore for about 50 yards inwards the coast is belted with coconut trees. Inside no use is made of the land at all though it would grow sisal in abundance.

The bluff, a high rocky ridge running above the east end south side of the island, has some good land on the top which is used for "provision grounds". Here yams are grown in enormous quantities. The local price being 6s. 6d. per 100 lbs. A little fruit is also grown for local consumption. The people are nearly all white, black people one very rarely meets in the streets. The originals came from Grand Cayman in 1833 and settled here devoted their whole attention to coconut growing. They differ little from the Grand Caymanian except that on the whole they are better educated and all appear to have all they require for their needs. They live principally on yams, cassava, fish, imported American canned goods and rarely meat. As a class they dress much better than the Grand Cayman people, but speak most ungrammatically.

The houses are very neat and tidy and the streets of the settlement are kept in good order and condition. Very few of the lots, however, are fenced. The population of Cayman Brac is estimated by the Collector to be about 200 people. The people are divided into settlements viz. The Creek, Spot Bay, Stakes Bay and West End. All are connected up by a fairly good road which, I understand, has been made by Mr. Ratty. The road does him considerable credit as he must have met with many difficulties. The great complaint of the people is that we take their money and spend it in Georgetown. I try to explain things to them, but they all appear to be under the delusion that any surplus made in Cayman Brac is kept separately from the other money in the Treasury and never touched until they decide here to take what they want of it.

The people are religious, that is to say they never lose a chance of going to "meeting". There are four churches on the Island with

seating accommodation for about 700 in all. These churches are under the Baptists of Jamaica, the Rev. C.H. Barron being the minister. The majority of the people, even if they are not members of the Church, attend the services.

There is another religion called the "Holy Jumpers" but their adherents are very few indeed. They have a church capable of seating about 50 people.

There is no social life at all.

Little Cayman is distant about 6½ miles by sea from Cayman Brac and the remarks re coconuts apply to them also. There are, according to Mr. Ratty less than 100 people residing there, but they send two representatives to the Legislative Body, viz. a J.P. and a vestryman. Their total revenue last year did not exceed £39. Among the most urgent improvements sought by the people are the construction of a road from South Hole to the other side of the Island where the applicant had recently built himself a house—estimated cost £150. 2. Drainage of a swamp before the mosquito season begins, estimated cost £100. 3. Make a channel for canoes, estimated cost for a small part of the channel anything over £200.

There are no schools in Little Cayman, but they have a church which is visited every now and again by the minister in Cayman Brac.

There are no roads.

Little Cayman possesses the only safe harbour in the Lesser Caymans, but the bar is so shallow only light draught vessels can enter.

There are no stores.

The people are practically all one family. Shipbuilding is carried on here as it is in Cayman Brac. The largest sloop belonging to the Cayman Islands having been recently launched from South Hole, Little Cayman.

Labour in both Islands cannot be procured except at an exorbitant rate. I find Mr. Ratty has been paying the poorest class of labour 3s. a day. As we pay only 2s. 6d. a day in Grand Cayman for good labourers I have told him not to exceed this amount or it will soon be impossible to get labour in Grand Cayman for less than 3s. a day.

On the other hand carpenters at 1s. 6d. a day cheaper here than in Grand Cayman.

The people as a class are healthy, the only common complaints appearing to be Dyspepsia and Rheumatism.

In Stakes Bay, the seat of Government of the Lesser Cayman Islands, there is little or no property belonging to the Government except the site on which the buildings stand. The buildings consist of Court House. This building is used for every official purpose, Customs, Magisterial, Post Office, etc. etc.

Stone here is very plentiful and the rock from which lime is made is close at hand.

The Commissioner's Bungalow is about 10 ft. from the Gaol and 8 from the Court House, a small two roomed building of wood. This was erected by Mr. Sanguinetti and a great boon it has been. Previous to the erection of this bungalow Mr. Sanguinetti had to live and sleep at the Gaol, there being no other accommodation available.

The School House and kitchen. These adjoin the Commissioner's bungalow and for some years have been empty.

There are five Justices of the Peace for the Lesser Cayman Islands or 1 for every 200 of the inhabitants.

Mr. Ratty complains there are not enough. My suggestion would be not to increase the number of Justices but to decrease

them as opportunity offers, secondly to appoint a medical man Collector and a J.P. An impartial Judge is all the people ask for. The present array of Justices is not only quite unnecessary but the honour being so liberal it has diminished to vanishing point. The removal of a Justice of the Peace's name from the list for smuggling or any other offence does not in his (Mr. Ratty's) eyes or the eyes of the people appear in any way dishonourable, because they cannot see what honour he has lost. If the number were reduced by 75%, the appointment would ipso facto be an honourable one, and one sought after by the best man in the dependency. In the same way election to the Legislative body would become an honourable selection instead of now a mere farce, if the numbers were reduced by 75%.

Under this head I may deal with "Justices and Vestry" in the Lesser Caymans. The only complaint advanced to me is that it is next to impossible to get to a Vestry meeting in Grand Cayman. This is not in fact the truth. I find over and over again the opportunities have been many but they were never taken advantage of. In drawing the attention of one or two to this I was immediately asked "Yes, that's true, but who is going to pay us for our trouble?". To overcome any further complaints I had in my mind the idea of subsidising a schooner to connect with the S.S. Oterio every month at Georgetown. One of the conditions was that the schooner should carry free all Government officers when travelling on duty and all Justices and Vestrymen when going to or returning from a Vestry meeting.

There are or were three District Constables, one at the Creek, one at Stakes Bay and one at West End. The District Constable at the Creek is a Welshman.

The only light is at Stakes Bay which is kept by a boy of 12 years for which he receives 6s. per month. He does the work well and his lamp is always bright and clean. This light is erected on a scaffolding in front of the Government offices and is said to be visible ten miles out at sea.

There are four schools, two at Creek, one at Stakes Bay and one at West End. Of these three are private schools and one (at the Creek) is partially kept up by the Government.

There are no schools in Little Cayman. The population is less than 100 of whom not more than 20 are of schoolable age.

Mr. H.W. Ratty, J.P. is the Collector of Customs, Postmaster, Tax Collector, Inspector of Roads, and holds every other office. He finds his own quarters and his appointments are not pensionable. He is a native of Cayman Brac though his parents are Jamaicans. He performs his duties well and is very much liked by the people. Mr. Ratty is assisted in his duties by Mr. W.S. Ryan as "Assistant to Collector". Mr. Ryan is a young man living in Cayman Brac and a native of the place. He has a very good knowledge of the work and in the event of anything happening to Mr. Ratty would be able to conduct the office quite properly. Mr. Ryan is also Assistant Bailiff. There are no other officers except District Constables and Boat Boys, one of whom is Lighthouse keeper also.

Post Office. This office transacts all its business direct with Kingston, Jamaica. The total revenue derived from this source last year was a little over £15.

The islands are at present in a very healthy condition financially but I have urged upon the people the necessity of having a second string to their bow by adding sisal to their crops.

The establishment of better communication between the Islands would be a great factor in the social advance of all the Islands. A Mr. Kirkconnell here is laying down a vessel with the

intention of fitting her with gasoline engines and plying between here and Montego Bay. There is however very considerable traffic between these Islands and Cienfuegos in Cuba, and my suggestion to him is to run his vessel between Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman to connect up with the S.S. "Teri" every month or if she runs every fortnight, fortnightly. On his return from Grand Cayman proceed to Cienfuegos from thence to Montego Bay and back to Cayman Brac. His vessel will be about 80 tons and he is willing to fit her out with passenger accommodation.

Summary showing the numbers of

Cattle	Horses	Vehicles	Vessels
88	30	6	19

owned in the Lesser Caymans on 1st January, 1908.

Summary showing the number of

Births	Deaths	Marriages
57	15	

between 30th September 1907 and 1st October, 1908 in the Lesser Caymans.

Summary showing amounts received in Local Taxes

for 1906 - 1907	£41. 1. 0.
for 1907 - 1908	£101. 0. 0. (6 months only).

An address was presented to Commissioner Hirst on his arrival as follows —

"Welcome to Cayman Brac

To His Honour
G.S.S. Hirst, M.B.
Commissioner of Cayman Islands.

March 23, 1908

Your Honour,

On behalf of the inhabitants of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, who are second to none in their loyalty to the British Crown, and to all good government we hereby extend to you a hearty welcome and a cordial greeting as you come into our midst. We trust that the time you may spend in our Islands may be pleasant to you and profitable to us and that the term of your commission will be characterized by progress in all Departments of knowledge and in the various branches of commercial activity in which we take a part.

2. We are thankful that at the beginning of your residence in our midst we are able to show a clean balance sheet, in our Treasury accounts, as well as a further Balance to our credit in the "Reserve" Fund lately created. We can therefore congratulate ourselves, and confidently hope that there will be no necessity for increased taxation, to meet our various liabilities in the near future.

3. There are, however, various improvements that we very

much desire to see effected and we doubt not our income for the current year will enable some portion of these to be accomplished; while the remainder can be done in the near future as the opportunity presents itself.

4. The following may be considered amongst the most important of these

i. Roads

a. Our Main Road needs to be considerably widened to allow two vehicles to pass one another; and the soil hardened, to enable pedestrians to walk with a degree of comfort.

b. Our Cross Roads, over the Bluff at various points needs very large improvement and

c. A Seaside road along the Sea Beach on the South coast is a necessity if it can be done.

ii. Mails

a. Our Mail Service direct with Jamaica would be considerably improved, if a small Govt. Subsidy were given to our Captains bringing the mails, in addition to the freights on letters payable at Postal Union rates.

b. Especially at some seasons of the year, our Mail Service is exceedingly deficient and needs improvement, apart from the steamer service at Grand Cayman.

iii. Education

Facilities for Education for the young people of our Islands should be given to a fuller extent than at present.

iv. Nuisances to be corrected

Our nuisances are the following:-

a. Swamps—the filling or draining of which would largely prevent malaria and mosquitos.

b. Wild Cats—which destroy our chicken and egg industry—should be suppressed.

v. Harbours

a. Harbour buoys are necessary as marks for the entrance of channels in East End South for the protection of vessels entering or leaving.

b. A Boat Channel is necessary to be dug out, along the Modyfords (muddy foats) portion of the canoe passage within the reef at Little Cayman, to prevent men having to get out into the water and push the boat along when the tide is low. This is highly necessary and would cost very little comparatively.

vi. Justices and Vestry

Better provision is needful for our Justices and Vestrymen when visiting Grand Cayman on official business—and travelling to or from one place to another for that business.

vii. Wages

We regret to observe by Government notice some attempt to

curtail the current rate of wages for work to be done. We would respectfully request that rates of wages be allowed to the labourers (who are also the taxpayers of the Island) at the rate given by employers of labour in the Island, but that the quality and amount of work expected from each worker, be in accordance to such wage allowed.

On these and kindred matters we ask your earnest co-operation and help, while we also do our part to make them a success.

With all good wishes
We are On behalf of the Islands
Respectfully yours —

1. Charles Barron
2. W.S. Regan, Senr. J.P.
3. E.H. Foster, J.P.
4. J.P. Morton, Vestryman, L.C.
5. V.T. Wood, West End
6. W.R. Scott, West End
7. J.E. Bodden, Creek
8. Jason N. Tibbetts
9. J.N. Scott & Bros., Creek
10. Edward J. Scott, Creek
11. J.H. Scott, West End
12. S.S. Saunders, Creek
13. J.I. Foster, Vestryman
14. John A. Lazzari, Creek
15. W.S. Hurlston, Central
16. A.B. Owen, West End
17. E.H. Foster, Jnr., Central
18. Timothy Ritch
19. Henry F. Hewett
20. Jacob Tibbetts
21. Nathaniel Tibbetts
22. Wilson Tibbetts
23. E. Scott."

ANNEXURE A

IMPORTANT DATES TO BE REMEMBERED

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1503
(10th May) | — Cayman Islands discovered by Christopher Columbus | 1959
(February) | — The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Law was passed by the Justices and Vestry to remove disqualification of voters on the grounds of sex or marriage. |
| 1670 | — Treaty of Madrid—Jamaica ceded to the British Crown and with it the Cayman Islands | | |
| 1750 | — William Cartwright—First recorded Chief Magistrate. | 1959
(4th July) | — Proclamation of the first written Constitution in the Islands' history came into operation. Elections under universal adult suffrage held. The new Constitution provided for an Administrator, Legislative Assembly and an Executive Council. |
| 1776 | — William Bodden, Senior Magistrate. | | |
| 1798
(13th Jan) | — Five appointed Magistrates under a Commission from the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Balcarres Lieut. Governor of Jamaica. | | — The Cayman Islands ceased to be a dependency of Jamaica. |
| 1811 | — First Clerk of Courts appointed. James Coe, Senior Chief Magistrate appointed. | 1962 | — The Cayman Islands became a direct dependency of the British Crown for the first time. |
| 1823 | — A keeper of the records of the Courts appointed. | | |
| 1829 | — John Drayton, Chief Magistrate and the first Custos. | | — Institution of the first political parties in the Islands' history—National Democratic Party and Christian Democratic Party. |
| 1832 | — The inauguration of an Assembly known as the Justices and Vestry came into being. It was set up similar to those of a Jamaican parish. The position of Chief Magistrate which had been an informal governorship was given the new designation of Custos. | 1971 | — Administrator changed to Governor. |
| 1834 | — Emancipation of Slaves. | 1972 | — New Constitution giving the four Elected Members and the three Official Members in Executive Council responsibilities for various portfolios. |
| 1842 | — James Coe, Jr. Custos. | | |
| 1849 | — An Act was passed with a view to establishing a more extensive legal system, e.g. Quarterly Petty Courts, Court of Reconciliation and Grand Court. | | |
| 1863 | — By an Imperial Act the Cayman Islands were placed under direct control of the Government of Jamaica. This Act also ratified administrative arrangements introduced in 1832. | | |
| 1893 | — The Cayman Islands Government Law was passed which further defined the powers of the Justices and Vestry than those found in the Imperial Act of 1863. | | |
| 1874 | — Law 8 provided for the appointment of a suitable person to act as Clerk of Peace in each District. | | |
| 1898 | — Law 34 of Jamaica enabled the Governor of Jamaica to appoint a Commissioner for the Cayman Islands. The Constitution was somewhat changed by the appointment on 22nd August of His Honour F.S. Sanguinetti, I.S.O., as Commissioner of the Cayman Islands. Thus the office of Custos, with Caymanians as incumbents, was abolished and was from then on held by someone appointed from outside the territory. | | |
| 1957 | — Stipendiary Magistrate appointed for the first time. | | |

ANNEXURE B

LIST OF COMPENSATION FOR SLAVES

GAYMANAS

Date of Award	No. of Claim	Name of Party to whom the Payment is Awarded	No. of Slaves	SUM		
				£.	s.	d.
10 Oct. 1835	1	Darling Watler	11	217	9	1
—	2	Zebulon Farrell	7	119	8	8
—	3	Ebin John Parson	4	105	1	3
—	4	Bridget Ann Parson	3	82	7	7
—	5	Elmy Chloe Parsons	3	62	10	9
—	6	Elizabeth Sarah Parsons	2	60	2	3
—	7	Thomas S. Watler	5	104	13	10
—	8	Robert Stephen Watler	17	305	8	4
—	9	Elizabeth Watler	9	221	15	2
—	10	Waide Watler, sen.	6	143	12	10
—	11	James Hughes Watler	4	81	7	9
—	12	Thomas Knowles Eden, sen.	15	279	18	4
—	13	Robert H. Thomson	12	215	15	-
—	14	Thomas Thomson	10	200	4	1
—	15	George Edward Bodden	16	287	12	5
—	16	Elizabeth Bodden	1	12	16	2
—	17	James Coe, jun.	33	580	3	7
—	18	James Coe, sen.	7	123	15	4
—	19	James Shearer Jackson	6	107	14	1
—	20	William Bodden, sen.	11	193	4	5
—	21	Richard James Bodden	8	167	13	2
—	22	Elizabeth M. Bodden	8	138	5	8
—	23	John Tharp Jackson	2	48	13	11
—	24	William Thomas Bodden	6	85	6	2
—	25	William Watler	18	406	12	2
—	26	William Eden, sen.	23	411	19	3
—	27	George E. Merren	17	312	10	11
—	28	Thomas K. Eden, jun.	1	19	10	10
—	29	Mary Bodden	45	843	12	-
—	30	Susanna Watler	7	128	10	3
—	31	James Hunter Wood	29	529	5	3
—	32	Nathaniel U.B. Glover	34	624	7	8
—	33	Joseph Bodden, sen.	27	462	2	3
—	34	John Michael Webster	39	750	18	11
—	35	William Bodden, jun.	13	239	6	8
—	36	Waide Watler Bodden	23	479	-	2
—	37	George William Wood	28	495	9	8
18 Mar. 1837	38	Waide Watler Bodden & Susanna Ann Morton	10	191	19	7
19 Oct. 1835	39	Ann Greenwood	5	84	11	9
—	40	William Eden M'Coy	6	143	17	9
—	41	George M'Coy	8	152	18	4
—	42	Sarah Ann Bodden	1	12	16	2
—	43	Elizabeth Bodden	1	19	10	10
—	44	James Conior Tatum	3	61	10	2
—	45	John Leitch	2	39	8	5
—	46	William Bodden	1	12	16	2
—	47	James Tatum	2	46	3	1
—	48	Charles Pouchey	1	12	16	2
—	49	Elizabeth R. Hunter	6	138	16	-
—	50	James Wood	19	410	10	-
—	51	James Watler, sen.	50	915	13	3
—	52	William James Watler	4	107	-	2
—	53	Richard Carter	15	254	4	4
—	54	Catherine Rachel Watler	9	190	1	8
—	55	William James Conior	4	92	12	11
—	56	Rebecca Sutherland	2	41	19	4
—	57	Alexander Watler	19	374	9	6
—	58	Thomas Egbert Watler	6	148	1	6
—	59	William M. M'Laughlin	1	29	3	1
—	60	John M'Laughlin	3	75	6	2
—	61	John Richard Greenwood	3	45	3	3
—	62	Mary Bush	3	58	19	3
—	63	Dorothy Hind	26	500	18	4
—	64	James Hind	1	26	12	2
—	65	James Benjamin M'Coy	1	19	10	10
—	66	Christopher C. Bush	14	244	14	-
—	67	William C. Bush	8	203	16	10
—	68	Ann Collins	3	51	17	11
—	69	William James Collins	11	188	4	5
—	70	Hugh Mitchel Collins	1	26	12	2
—	71	Susanna Collins	7	114	4	4
—	72	W. Davenport Hurlstone	4	102	10	5
—	73	Elizabeth S. Reeves	6	91	15	10
—	74	Abraham O. Feurtado	5	83	15	1
—	75	Richard Phelan	4	95	3	9
—	76	William R. Scott	2	39	8	5
—	77	Frances Ann Thompson	3	72	18	6
—	78	Rebecca Ann Rivers	4	80	16	1
—	79	Elizabeth Wright	2	53	4	5
—	80	Mary S. Stanley	3	65	13	11
—	81	John Edward Rivers	4	56	11	4
—	82	James Parsons, sen.	35	660	9	-
—	83	Ann Bodden	2	30	18	10
—	84	Samuel Parsons	2	49	14	6
—	85	Ann Rivers	1	29	3	1
19 Mar. 1836	86	Richard Phelan	7	116	8	11
19 Oct. 1835	87	John B. Bush	5	135	12	-
—	88	Thomas John Jennett	1	29	3	1
—	89	Ann Jennett	2	39	8	5
—	90	Mary Ann Rivers	1	26	12	2
—	91	George E. Bodden	6	137	3	2
—	92	William Nixson	5	112	3	9
—	93	Elizabeth M. Clarke	8	163	-	10
—	94	William Bodden, sen.	4	78	16	11
—	95	John A. Rivers	10	220	3	9
—	96	Mary Bodden	6	113	3	2
—	97	John Bodden	1	26	12	2
—	98	William James Bodden	8	185	17	5
—	99	Thomas L. Thompson	4	107	12	2
—	100	John Drayton	11	273	5	5
19 Oct. 1837	101	William Bodden, jun.	1	12	16	2
—	102	John Shearer Jackson	8	138	3	11
—	103	Grace Hide	7	174	13	9
—	104	William Brown	4	92	6	2
—	105	Joseph D. Ebanks	2	46	3	1
—	106	William J. Hide	2	53	4	5
—	107	Edward S. Rivers	6	75	9	-
—	108	Thomas John Yates	5	124	6	11
—	109	Eleanor Jane Yates	9	188	4	5
—	110	William J. Ebanks	3	44	18	4
—	111	Benjamin Ebanks	2	41	19	4
—	112	John Henry Ebanks	2	39	8	5
—	113	Thomas Bodden	1	26	12	2
—	114	William Robert Scott	1	29	3	1
—	115	William Page	7	140	7	4
—	116	John Daly	1	26	12	2

ANNEXURE C

TREATY OF MADRID

TREATY between Great Britain and Spain. Signed at Madrid the ⁸/₁₆ Day of July, 1670.*

EXTRACT. (Translation from the Latin.)

I. First, it is agreed between the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries, Sir William Godolphin and the Earl of Penaranda, in the names of the Most Serene Kings respectively, their Masters, that the Articles of peace and alliance made between the Crowns of Great Britain and Spain, in Madrid, on the ¹³/₂₃ of May, 1667, or any clause thereof, shall in no manner be deemed or understood to be taken away or abrogated by this present Treaty; but that the same shall remain perpetually in their ancient force, stability, and vigor, so far forth as they are not contrary or repugnant to this present Convention and Articles, or to any thing therein contained.

II. That there be an universal peace, true and sincere amity, in America, as in the other parts of the world, between the Most serene Kings of Great Britain and Spain, their heirs and successors, and between the Kingdoms, states, plantations, colonies, forts, cities, islands, and dominions, without any distinction of place belonging unto either of them, and between the people and inhabitants under their respective obedience, which shall endure from this day for ever, and be observed inviolably, as well by land as by sea and fresh waters, so as to promote each the welfare and advantage of the other, and favor and assist one another with mutual love; and that every where, as well as in those remote countries as in these which are nearer, the faithful offices of good neighbourhood and friendship may be exercised and increased between them.

VII. All offences, damages, losses, injuries, which the nations and people of Great Britain and Spain have at any time heretofore, upon what cause or pretext soever, suffered by each other in America, shall be expunged out of remembrance, and buried in oblivion, as if no such thing had ever past.

Moreover, it is agreed, that the Most Serene King of Great Britain, His heirs and successors, shall have, hold, keep, and enjoy for ever, with plenary right of sovereignty, dominion, possession, and propriety, all those lands, regions, islands, colonies, and places whatsoever, being or situated in the West Indies, or in any part of America, which the said King of Great Britain and His subjects do at present hold and possess, so as that in regard thereof, or upon any colour or pretence whatsoever, nothing more may or ought to be urged, nor any question or controversy be ever moved concerning the same hereafter.

VIII. The subjects and inhabitants, merchants, captains, masters of ships, mariners of the Kingdoms, Provinces, and Dominions of each confederate respectively, shall abstain and forbear to sail and trade in the ports and havens which have fortifications, castles, magazines, or warehouses; and in all other places whatsoever possessed by the other Party in the West Indies; to wit, the subjects of the King of Great Britain shall not sail unto, and trade in the havens and places which the Catholic

King holdeth in the said Indies; nor in like manner shall the subjects of the King of Spain sail unto, or trade in those places which are possessed there by the King of Great Britain.

IX. But if, at any time hereafter, either King shall think fit to grant unto the subjects of the other, any general or particular licence or privileges of navigating unto, and trading in any places under His obedience who shall grant the same, the said navigation and trade shall be exercised and maintained according to the form, tenor, and effect of the said permissions or privileges to be allowed and given; for the security, warrant, and authority whereof, this present Treaty and the ratification thereof shall serve.

X. It is also agreed, that in case the subjects and inhabitants of either of the Confederates with their shipping (whether public and of war, or private and of merchants) be forced at any time through stress of weather, pursuit of pirates and enemies, or other inconvenience whatsoever, for the seeking of shelter and harbour, to retreat and enter into any of the rivers, creeks, bays, havens, roads, shores, and ports belonging to the other in America, they shall be received and treated there with all humanity and kindness, and enjoy all friendly protection and help, and it shall be lawful for them to refresh and provide themselves, at reasonable and the usual rates, with victuals and all things needful, either for the sustenance of their persons, or reparation of their ships, and conveniency of their voyage; and they shall in no manner be detained or hindered from returning out of the said ports or roads, but shall remove and depart, when and whither they please, without any let or impediment.

XI. Likewise, if any ships belonging to either Confederate, their people and subjects shall, within the coasts or Dominions of the other, stick upon the sands, or be wrecked (which God forbid) or suffer any damage, the persons shipwrecked and cast on the shore shall in no sort be kept prisoners, but, on the contrary, all friendly assistance and relief shall be administered to their distress, and letters of safe conduct given them for their free and quiet passage thence, and the return of every one to his own country.

XII. But when it shall happen, that the ships of either (as is above-mentioned) through danger of the sea, or other urgent cause, be driven into the ports and havens of the other, if they be three or four together, and may give just ground of suspicion, they shall immediately upon their arrival acquaint the Governor or Chief Magistrate of the place with the cause of their coming, and shall stay no longer than the said Governor or Chief Magistrate will permit, and shall be requisite for the furnishing themselves with victuals, and reparation of their ships: and they shall always take care not to carry out of their ships any goods or packs,

exposing them to sale, neither shall they receive any merchandize on board, nor do any thing contrary to this Treaty.

XIII. Both Parties shall truly and firmly observe and execute this present Treaty, and all and every the matters therein contained, and effectually cause the same to be observed and performed by the subjects and inhabitants of either nation.

XIV. No private injury shall in any sort weaken this Treaty, nor beget hatred or dissensions between the foresaid nations, but every one shall answer for his own proper fact, and be prosecuted thereupon; neither shall one man satisfy for the offence of another by reprisals, or other such like odious proceedings, unless justice be denied or unreasonably delayed, in which case it shall be lawful for that King, whose subject hath suffered the loss and injury, to take any course according to the rules and method of the law of nations, until reparation be made to the sufferer.

XV. The present Treaty shall in nothing derogate from any pre-eminence, right, or dominion, of either Confederate in the American seas, channels, or waters, but that they have and retain the same in as full and ample manner as may of right belong unto them; but it is always to be understood, that the liberty of navigation ought in no manner to be disturbed, where nothing is committed against the genuine sense and meaning of these Articles.

In testimony of all and singular the contents hereof, we, the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed and sealed this present Treaty, at Madrid, the ⁸ 18 day of July, 1670.

Signed

**Wm. GODOLPHIN, (L.S.) THE COUNT OF PENARANDA,
(L.S.)**

*Renewed by Article II of the Treaty of Versailles, 1783.

ANNEXURE D

SOME OF THE EARLIER LAWS

An Act to prevent persons from selling Spiritous Liquors without a License.

Be it enacted by the Authorities of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the same. That from and after the first day of February in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty two: No person (being a White person or free person of Colour) in this Island, shall sell any Rum, Brandy, Gin or other distilled spiritous liquors, in a less quantity than twenty gallons, without a license first had and obtained from the Clerk of the Court (who is hereby authorized to grant the same) under the penalty of forfeiting the sum of five pounds for each and every offence.

And be it also enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that such License may be granted to Slaves, provided he, she or they producing to the Clerk of the Court a Certificate from his, her or their owner or owners or trustees, stating that he, she or they, is or are worthy to be entitled thereto. And any Slave convicted of selling as aforesaid without such License, shall forfeit all such Liquors as may be found in his or her possession and debarred from obtaining a license in future.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that no License shall be granted for a shorter period than three months.

And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that before any such License is granted, the applicant shall pay into the hands of the Clerk of the Court, the sum of Seventy shillings for a License for three months, and if granted for a longer period, the same sum for every additional three months, and every addition of time to the License, shall not be less than three months.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all penalties and forfeitures under this act shall and may be recovered in a summary manner before any or either of the magistrates, he shall (if the party refuse to pay the fine) issue his Warrant to levy for the same. And if proof appear against any Slave violating this act, the magistrate shall issue his Warrant to seize all such Liquors as may be found in his or her possession.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Clerk of the Court, shall keep in a Book provided by the public for that purpose, a regular account of all Licenses granted, and to whom, when granted, and for what period; And the said Clerk of the Court shall retain the sum of one shilling and eight pence for license granted for three months, and the additional sum of five pence for every additional three months that Licenses may be granted for.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid that all penalties and forfeitures under this Act shall go one half to the Informer and the other half into the public Treasury.

Passed Nem. Con. by the Representatives and Magistrates at Grand Cayman the 31st of December 1831.

Amendment to this Act i.e. the above Act

Be it enacted by the Authority of the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island and it is hereby enacted by the

same: That in future any person may sell, Rum, Brandy, Gin or other distilled Spiritous Liquors, to the quantity of ten gallons without a License but in no less quantity.

And be it further enacted, that from henceforth, Licenses may be granted for six Weeks, the person applying for such License paying the sum of ten shillings for the same and that the fees of the Clerk of the Court for granting such License, be the same in proportion as for other Licenses.

Be it further enacted, That any free person convicted of selling any spiritous Liquors in two places under cover of one License, to forfeit the penalties inflicted in the said Act, for selling without a License. Also any Slave convicted of the same, to forfeit all such Liquors found in his or her possession.

Passed the Assembly Nem. Con. and the Magistrates with the exception of R.S. Watler Esq. at Grand Cayman the 20th day of September 1832.

An Act to regulate the cleaning of the Public Roads

Whereas there has been great neglect and deficiency in working out the Allotments in some parts of the Public Roads.— Be it therefore enacted by the Authority of the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, the Public Roads shall be cleaned twice a year, i.e. to commence on the second Monday in February, and the second Monday in August, the Magistrates of each district giving six days notice by Advertisement, that every Slave holder, shall send such a proportion of their Working Slaves each day, so that the whole Number of Working Slaves may have Worked in three days, under the penalty of forfeiting the sum of three shillings and four pence for each Working Slave deficient of their Number, at the expiration of said three days.

2nd The Waywardens appointed to superintend the Working on the Roads, before commencing Work in the Morning shall take an Account of the Number of each persons Slaves sent to Work, and on the fourth day from the Commencement of Working, shall give in to the nearest Magistrate, or the said Magistrate in the district, if any the said Account, and any person deficient of the Number of Working Slaves on the Road, shall pay the fine specified in section the first, and in default thereof, within three days, the Magistrate to issue a Warrant to levy for the same.

3rd The Waywardens appointed to superintend the Working on the Roads, shall be on the Roads with the Slaves ready to begin their Work by eight O'Clock in the Morning (if the distance does not exceed two miles, in which case, in half an hour after) and to work them until five O'Clock in the evening (except the distance they have to return exceeds two miles, in which case they are to allow them within that time two hours for their meals).

4th That should any Slave or Slaves come to Work on the Roads after the time herein specified in the morning, if the time should exceed half an hour, the said Slave or Slaves shall not be allowed to work on the Road that day, but shall be sent, or

ordered back to their Owner or Owners, and if the deficiency is not Made up within the time specified in this Act, for Working out their allotment, the owner or owners of such Slave, or Slaves shall be subject to the penalties enacted in the first section.

5th Should the Roads not be finished within the three days, and if there are any deficiencies, the Waywardens may hire such a number of Slaves as will make up those deficiencies, giving in an attested account of the same to the Magistrate of said district, or the nearest Magistrate, after the Completion of the same, who shall issue an Order to the Treasurer to pay the same from the public Treasury.

6th Should the Roads then remain unfinished after one days work of the whole number of Working Slaves in each district, then each Slave holder shall send such a proportionable number of their Working Slaves as may be deemed necessary by the Waywardens for the completion of the same, by the said Waywardens giving one day's notice by advertisement, under the like penalties as in section the first, to be recovered as in section the second.

7th Working Slaves to be considered those from twelve years old and upwards, except those disabled by disease or infirmity, but young or decrepit or unable Slaves, not to be allowed to work for able ones, and every Slave shall be provided with sufficient Tools for Working on the Roads, and in default thereof, may be sent Back and the Owner thereof to be subject to the penalties inflicted in the fourth Section as for those coming too late.

8th Waywardens proved Guilty of neglecting their duty required by this Act, shall forfeit the sum of fifteen shillings, to be recovered in a summary manner before any two Magistrates, provided the Complaint is laid within one month.

9th Waywardens (not more than two of which shall be appointed in any district) the Magistrate of the district, or nearest Magistrate, to appoint the Waywardens and number, who shall receive six shillings and eight pence per day while employed, for which the Magistrate shall issue an order to the Public Treasurer, who is to pay the same.

10th All fines and penalties inflicted by this Act, to one half to those who shall sue for the same, and the other half into the Public Treasury.

11th All former Laws passed in this Island respecting repairing the Public Roads, to be and stand repealed.

Passed Nem. Con. by the Assembly and Magistrates at Grand Cayman the 20th day of September 1832.

Cattle Law

Be it enacted by the Authority of the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the same, that from and after the passing of this Act, Pounds shall be erected at Bodden Town, George Town, West Bay and Spott's District— And any Horse, Mare, Gelding or any Horned Cattle found trespassing or committing damage in any person's plantation or provision Grounds, or found in any such Grounds, shall or may be caught, and conveyed to the next pound, and the person keeping such pound shall receive the same and keep it, or them, in the said pound until relieved as hereafter specified.

2nd That the said pound keeper shall not refuse receiving such Horse, Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle so brought to said pound, under the penalty of forfeiting the sum of fifteen shillings for such offence.

3rd The person who has received any damage in his or her plantation, from any Horse, Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle so pounded, shall within forty eight hours after such stock is pounded, have such damage valued, by three Freeholders who are to attest to such Valuation before either of the Magistrates, and such Magistrate shall then direct the poundkeeper to advertise such stock within twenty four hours, and if the owner thereof come forward, he, or she may receive the same by paying as follows: First the full amount of the value of damage, and the sum of five shillings (if required) for those valuing the same for the expense of Valuation; Secondly the sum of one shilling and three pence per Mile for the distance such stock may be brought, thirdly the sum of five shillings for the pound-keeper's advertisement, if any advertisement is required, and fourthly, the sum of one shilling and three pence per day for feeding each Horse, Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle. But if any stock, before advertising, he shall or may receive the same by paying the value of the damage, Mile Money, and poundkeeper's fees for keeping, and no more.

The poundkeeper shall furnish and allow each Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle with fourteen pounds of Guinea, or other wholesome grass, with sufficient water each day, under penalty of forfeiting all Fees due for such stock that he allows deficient.

5th Any Stock so pounded and advertised, if not claimed within ten days, shall be then advertised by the poundkeeper to be sold at public sale in seven days after the highest and best bidder, and from the Monies arising from such sale, all the charges in the third Section are to be deducted, and also the sum of five shillings for the advertisement for public sale and the sum of five per cent on the gross sales, and surplus, if any to be paid to the owner of such Stock.

6th Should any Horse, Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle be found committing Injuries in any plantation, and such Stock cannot be caught the same shall be advertised that the Owner thereof may have them caught, but the damage such Stock committed, on proof thereof shall be paid by the Owner of such Stock. And if such owner of stock refuse to pay the value of such damage the same to be recovered in the manner as any other debt.

7th Any Slave receiving Injury from any stock herein described in his or her provision grounds, shall apply to his or her Owner or Manager, who shall proceed in the like manner as if for himself, or herself, that the said Slave may receive the same satisfaction for the injury sustained.

8th Any Free Person convicted of killing or maiming any Horse, Gelding or Horned Cattle shall pay the full value of such Horse, Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle if killed, or the full value of the damage it received, if maimed such valuation to be made by three freeholders, to be recovered as in section the sixth, **Provided** that unless such person shall first have advertised, that such stock were committing depredations in his, or her plantation and cannot be caught, and no notice having been taken of such advertisement in two days.

9th Any Slave convicted of killing or maiming any Horse, Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle (except by orders from his or her owner or manager, in which case, such owner or manager shall be liable as in Section the eight) such Slave shall suffer such punishment as any two or more Magistrates may think proper to inflict not exceeding fifty Lashes.

10th Any free person convicted of casting loose any Horse, Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle, from the place where it may be, or is tied, or taking the same from where it is enclosed, or driving it, or them, towards his, or her, their plantation, shall forfeit the

sum of eight pounds, and if any Slave shall be guilty of a like misdemeanor, he or she, shall suffer such punishment as any two or more Magistrates may think proper to inflict not exceeding fifty Lashes.

11th Any person convicted of taking or attempting to take any Horse, Mare, Gelding or Horned Cattle, from any pound where they may be duly pounded, without proper Authority for so doing shall be subject to the like penalties and inflictions as in the tenth section, the penalties in both Sections to be recovered as in the sixth Section.

12th All forfeitures under the second, tenth and eleventh sections of this Act, shall go one half to those who shall sue for the same, and the other half into the Public Treasury the same to be recovered in any Court in this Island, provided the Complaint is laid within two months.

13th All former Laws passed in this Island respecting the within mentioned stock, to be and stand repealed.

Passed the Representatives and Magistrates Nem. Con. at Grand Cayman, the 20th day of September 1832.

An Act for Levying a Tax

Whereas it is expedient that a Tax shall be raised for the purpose of Building a Parsonage House and jails, and other purposes required,— Be it therefore enacted by the Authorities of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the same. That the following Taxes be raised, and paid in on or before the first day of August next ensuing.

First.— Every person holding or possessing Slaves, shall pay the sum of one shilling and eight pence for each Slave, **disabled Slaves exempted.**

Secondly.— Owners of vessels shall pay the sum of sixpence per Ton on each vessel according to Tonnage.

Thirdly.— Every White person or free person of Colour, or free Black person occupying a dwelling House, shall pay a Tax in the following manner. For a House of the value of sixteen pounds and under the sum of ten pence, for a House of the value of sixteen to Thirty pounds, the sum of one shilling and eight pence, for a House of the value of from thirty to fifty pounds the sum of two shillings and six pence; for a House of the value of from fifty to sixty pounds the sum of three shillings and four pence; for a House of the value of sixty to eighty pounds the sum of four shillings and two pence; for a House of the value of from eighty to one hundred pounds, the sum of five shillings; for a House of the value of one hundred Pounds the sum of six shillings and eight pence, and so on in a proportionate rate according to the value of the House. All Houses to be valued by the Magistrates of the district and one of the Representatives of the district in which such House or Houses, is or are, and should there not be two Magistrates residing in the district, the two nearest Magistrates, shall with the Representative, value the same. Valuation to take place on or before the first day of May next.

Fourthly.— Owners of Canoes shall pay for each and every Canoe above the length of sixteen feet, the sum of one shilling and eight pence. All Canoes from sixteen feet and under to be considered fishing dories, and to be exempted. This Clause not to be extended to Canoes belonging to vessels, and used by them on turtling voyages—they being considered as part of the vessels.

Fifthly.— Owners of Stock shall pay for each and every Horse, Mare or Gelding the sum of one shilling and eight pence, and for each and every Horned Cattle, via Bull, Cow, Steer or heifer, the

sum of one shilling and three pence.

Passed Nem. Con. by the representatives and Magistrates at Grand Cayman the 2nd of January 1832.

A Bill to Regulate the Attendance of Jurors

Whereas great inconvenience and loss may be sustained by persons in this Island, who are in the habit of going to Sea for their support, in consequence of being summoned to attend as Jurors fourteen days before the Courts are held, it is therefore expedient that the same be located to suit the Convenience and interest of such persons.

Be it therefore enacted by the Authority of the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, that the Courts of this Island be advertised twenty days previous to being held, and that summonses to Jurors shall be served by the Constable six days previous to the Court being held instead of fourteen days, and any person who shall depart the Island before such Court is held after being duly summoned, shall pay a fine of five pounds. Providing nevertheless that the said Enactment shall not interfere with the Master and Crew of any Vessel that may have a Cargo of Turtle in any crawl in this Island and bound for Jamaica, or any person that may wish to go in such Vessel as Passenger, by such Master, crew and passenger sending in a notification to the Clerk of the Court three days previous to the time of summoning, in which case such Master, Crew and Passenger are not to be summoned.

That the Clerk of the Court shall strictly adhere to the performance of every duty required by this Act, and in default shall forfeit for every neglect the sum of twenty shillings.

Passed Nem. Con. by the Representatives and Magistrates of Grand Cayman the 28th February 1833.

Annual Tax

Be it enacted by the Authority of the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, there shall be a Tax laid on the Inhabitants annually to the Amount of One third part of the general Tax laid on, on the second day of January 1832, to be collected on or before the first day of August in each year, commencing the first or the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Passed the Assembly by a Majority, and the Magistrates unanimously, at Grand Cayman the 3rd of June 1833.

An Act for the Regulation of the Militia of this Island

1st Be it enacted by the authorities of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the same, That every Free Male Inhabitant from the age of sixteen to sixty years capable of bearing arms, be compelled to do Militia Duty, the Magistrates excepted, and all Magistrates holding Commissions as Militia Officers are also bound to turn out in their respective Ranks.

2nd That every Militia Man be compelled at the expiration of

twelve Months from date hereof, to find himself with a good Musket, Bayonet and Cartouch Box, or give in on Oath to his Commanding Officer, that he cannot accumulate as much as to purchase them, then such person or persons to be armed and accounted at the expense of the Island.

3rd That Regimental Courts Martial be deemed lawful for the trial of Officers as well as privates without any further appeal, and that any five Commissioned Officers can form a Regimental Court Martial to try privates, and seven to try Officers, without any distinction of Rank whatsoever.

4th That Offenders be subject to the following fines for neglect of duty, each offence: A Major one pound six Shilling and eight pence, a Captain one pound, a Lieutenant sixteen shillings and eight pence, an Ensign fifteen shillings, a Sergeant ten shillings, a Corporal eight shillings and four pence, and a private six shillings and eight pence, and that there be a Marshal appointed to each Company throughout the Island with full power to levy for all fines sent in by Commanding Officer.

Passed Nem. Con. by the Representatives and Magistrates at George Town Grand Cayman the 31st December 1834.

An Act to regulate the times for holding the Courts

Be it enacted by the Authorities of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the same, that the Courts of this Island, shall hereafter be held semiannually, that is on the third Wednesday in February, and the third Wednesday in August. It is also enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that in case there are no actions or an Action entered at the Clerk of the Court's office, twenty days previous to the time appointed for such Court, the Court shall not be summoned, but the same shall lay over to the next term.

Provided also, that in any Criminal case, a Court may be summoned to be held at any other period at the discretion of the Authorities of this Island.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Courts shall have power to try all debts contracted in the Island, and levies to be made twenty one days after Judgment provided not sooner paid.

Passed by the Assembly and Magistrates at Grand Cayman the 31st Day of December 1831.

Amendment

Be it enacted by the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, that the first Sessions of the present year be held on Friday the tenth Inst. and in future on the first Wednesday in January, instead of the third Wednesday in February and the second term to be on the third Wednesday in August as heretofore—passed Nem. Con. at Bodden Town Grand Cayman the 2nd January 1834.

Weaker Spirits than Proof 26 forfeited

Whereas great impositions have been practised and are now practised by the Retailers of Rum, Brandy, Gin and other

distilled spirits, in this Island, by mixing unusual quantities of Water therewith, whereby the Inhabitants are defrauded, Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island, that from and after the first day of October 1834, any person not being an Apprentice, who shall be found Retailing any Rum, Brandy, Gin, or other distilled spirits, not sinking the proof Bubble Twenty six, shall forfeit all such Spirits found in his or her possession, and pay a penalty to the Island of a sum not less than one pound, and not exceeding five Pounds, should the Vendor be an Apprentice all Spiritous Liquors found in his, or her possession shall be forfeited, and his, or her, license taken away, and held incapable of obtaining a license during the Apprenticeship system, and be it enacted that the Magistrate of the district, shall seize all such Rum, Brandy, Gin and other distilled spirits, and have them sold at public outcry, three days after seizure, one half the nett proceeds for the informer, the other half for the use and benefit of the Island.

Passed the Representatives and Magistrates at Bodden Town, Grand Cayman, the 26 September 1834.

Militia Dinner Bill, at the annual Review

Whereas the Militia Department of this Island have no fund appropriated for their use and benefit, for defraying the necessary expences, at their annual general Reviews.— Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island, that the sum (twenty pounds) shall be annually appropriated for that purpose, which shall be called the "Militia Appropriation Fund" and for the raising of this sum, every person capable of bearing Arms and serving in the Militia of the Island, either as an Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer, private or Musician, shall pay the sum of one shilling and eight pence Annually—which sum shall be collected on the first day of August, by the Marshal of each Company, every successive year, and from which fund thus appropriated, No Monies shall be drawn unless by Orders, signed by one Magistrate, the Major of the Regiment and two Captains.

Passed the Representatives Unanimously, and the Magistrates by a Majority of one (there were only five magistrates assembled, three for, and two against the Bill) at Bodden Town, Grand Cayman the 26th day of September 1834.

An Act for Laying a Duty on Transient Traders

Be it enacted by the Authority of the Magistrates and Representatives of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, all transient Vessels Anchoring in any of the Bays or Harbours of this Island, with intent to dispose of any goods, Wares or Merchandize, shall consign to some person Resident in the Island paying a duty of three and one half per Cent, on the Amount of all Goods, Wares or Merchandize so sold, the Consignee appearing before a Magistrate and attesting to the Amount of Sales, and

paying the Amount collected into the public Treasury of this Island, and in default thereof, any two Magistrates can inflict a fine on the Consignee to any amount not exceeding five pounds, besides paying the Amount of Transient Tax the same to be recovered in a summary manner.— And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid. That if any person resident in this Island shall go on Board any Vessel not consigned, and purchase any Goods, Wares or Merchandize for traffic or Trade he shall collect from the Master or Supercargo of such Vessel the said duty of three and one half per Cent and in default thereof to be recovered as in Section the first, this shall not extend to persons selling Turtle and taking Articles in Barter.— All former transient Tax Laws heretofore made, to be and stand repealed.

Passed the Representatives and Magistrates Nem. Con. at Bodden Town, Grand Cayman the 26th September 1834.

Observance of the Sabbath

Whereas the Sabbath day in this Island is frequently, grossly profaned by any persons, who totally insensible to all Religious obligations, have converted this Holy day into a Season of ungodly Mirth.— Be it therefore enacted by and with the Advice of the Magistrates and Representatives and it is hereby enacted accordingly, That from and after the first day of February next any White or Free person or persons, who shall have by and with their advice and consent, within their House or Houses, or about any part of their premises Whatsoever, any dance or any other Noisy Entertainment, such as Fiddling, Dancing, Fifing etc after the hour of eleven O'Clock on Saturday night, and before the hour of two O'Clock on the Monday Morning, shall on information being filed, be summoned before any two Magistrates who, on conviction of the Offender or Offenders, shall issue a Warrant against him, her, or them, for the sum of two pounds ten shillings each, and in default of payment thereof, the goods and Chattles of each, shall be levied on, and sold at public outcry to the highest and best bidder, after three days Notice shall have been given, and the overplus (if any) returned to the offender one half of the fine to go to the Informer, and one half into the public Treasury of this Island, and if a Slave or Slaves, shall thus transgress, he, she, or they, shall receive twelve lashes for the first offence, twenty four for the second, and for every subsequent offence, at the discretion of the Magistrates of the district, or any two Magistrates, not exceeding thirty nine Lashes.

Passed Nem. Con. by the Representatives and Magistrates at Grand Cayman the second day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four.