

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4086/Add.5
20 April 1959

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fourteenth session

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED
UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER. REPORT OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Caribbean and Western Atlantic Territories

BRITISH GUIANA^{1/}

^{1/} In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1332 (XIII) this summary is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

NOTE: The following symbols are used:

Three dots (...)	data not available
Dash (-)	magnitude nil or negligible
Slash 1948/1949	crop or financial year
Hyphen 1948-1949	annual average

GENERAL INFORMATION

British Guiana lies on the north-east coast of South America bounded by Venezuela, Brazil and Surinam. Its area is 83,000 square miles, which may be divided conveniently into three main zones, namely, the low-lying coastland, which requires artificial drainage and sea defences to avoid inundation during the rainy season; the mountain region extending to a plateau of 22 square miles, reaching to its highest point of 9,000 feet above sea level; and the intermediate region which is almost entirely forest-clad. The coastal plain is the most settled and developed part of the Territory where the population (comprising mainly descendants of East Indian indentured immigrants and African slaves) is mainly concentrated. The climate is pleasant for the greater part of the year. There are two wet and two dry seasons and an average rainfall of about 90 inches in the coastal belt and 59 inches in the savannahs of the interior. The capital of the Territory is Georgetown. On 31 December 1956, the population totalled 507,000, made up of the following racial groups.

East Indians	239,000
Negroes	175,160
Mixed (coloured)	57,250
Portuguese	7,820
Other Europeans	4,380
Chinese	3,340
Amerindians	20,100

POPULATION

Dec. 1947	Dec. 1953	Dec. 1957
290,857	447,280	502,830 ^{a/}

^{a/} Estimate.

Vital statistics

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 population	38.9	44.1	41.9
Death rate per 1,000 population	14.6	13.3	10.9
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	86.0	79.3	68.4 ^{a/}

^{a/} 1956.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In 1947 the principal economic activities were in agriculture, mainly the production of sugar and its by-products, employing the largest number, and of rice, a crop cultivated by peasant farmers. Timber for export from the forests of the interior and the mining of bauxite, diamonds and gold were also of importance. The economy is still essentially characterized by these activities, but some expansion has taken place. The production of rice has become increasingly important in recent years, both as a domestic food crop and as an export to the eastern group of the West Indies under long-term agreements.

In the post-war period, a sizeable development programme has been carried forward. Public and private investment together averaged 21 per cent of gross national product between 1948 and 1951, private investment alone furnishing nearly 17 per cent. A very substantial part of the funds for investment has come from external sources. On the whole, the results were satisfactory. Between 1947 and 1952, exports of sugar rose by 20 per cent, rice by 40 per cent and bauxite by nearly 80 per cent. In real terms, i.e. allowing for the rise in the price level, national income increased by about 14 per cent between mid-1948 and mid-1951. Firm estimates of national income showed \$BWI136 million for 1951.^{2/} Production and price trends since then suggest that, measured at current prices, national income for 1957 is about \$BWI220 million. Private investment in the same year has been estimated at \$BWI33.6 million. In the public sector, investment for development purposes (as somewhat loosely defined) from the end of 1946 to the end of 1952 amounted to about \$BWI28 million. The development programme resulted in the completion of a number of projects, especially in agriculture, and in marked improvements in the health, educational and social welfare services of the Territory. Government efforts to expand industrially were meeting with increasing success. The Government has focussed attention on the utilization of the natural resources and provided incentives for the establishment and expansion of private enterprises both in the processing of

^{2/} The currency unit of British Guiana is the British West Indian dollar, which is equal to 4s. 2d. (sterling) or \$US0.5833.

primary products and in secondary industries through the Industries Aid and Encouragement Ordinance. The development programme has also laid emphasis on the establishment of basic facilities such as transport and communications, drainage and irrigation. In addition, agricultural and industrial credit has been provided through the establishment of the British Guiana Credit Corporation. A number of other institutions have been set up by the Government to help with the planning and execution of the programme on the national and local levels. Technical assistance has been received from the United States International Cooperation Administration.

The impetus of expenditures of the development programme, and additional private investment in the agricultural and mining industries, expanded the Territory's economy. This is shown, for example, in the imports of machinery worth nearly \$BWI17.5 million in 1957, compared with \$BWI11.1 million in 1955, the incorporation of forty-two new companies with a total share capital of approximately \$BWI15.8 million in 1955 and 1956, and the local registration of thirteen overseas companies. The value of external trade \$BWI226.5 million in 1957, was almost three times the value of the 1947 figure of \$BWI75.2 million. Development is also being undertaken by the United Kingdom Colonial Development Corporation, which has approved £4,508,000 capital investment, and by private enterprise, both local and overseas. The latter has long played a part in utilizing the resources of British Guiana. The bulk of the country's sugar, all its bauxite, and a substantial part of its mineral and forest products are produced and are being further developed by capital from overseas.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Agriculture is the chief economic activity of the Territory. Together with the processing of agricultural products, it provides 38 per cent of the national income, employs 40 per cent of the labour force and provides about two-thirds of British Guiana's exports. Sugar and its by-products constitute, by far, the most important exports. It is cultivated and produced by the plantation system characterized by absentee ownership. A substantial proportion of its production is sold to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at a guaranteed price under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. Production in 1947 was 167,491 tons with an average yield of 2.86 tons per acre, 160,172 tons of which were sold to the United Kingdom. By 1957, production had reached the record figure of

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284,973 tons with an average yield of 3.5 tons per acre, 153,181 tons of which were sold to the United Kingdom. Over the period, molasses exports rose from 3.8 million to 7.4 million gallons.

Rice - which occupies nearly twice the acreage of sugar - has become the second most important agricultural export. It is primarily a peasant crop, reaped twice a year and cultivated mainly by farmers of East Indian descent with individual holdings averaging seven acres, although some farmers cultivate as much as 400 acres mechanically. In 1947, this product occupied 89,300 acres which yielded 56,300 tons, a little less than 40 per cent of which was exported. By 1957, estimated production had risen to 70,746 tons, of which 40,309 tons, or about 56 per cent, were exported. This latter figure represented a decline from 78,500 tons in 1956 owing principally to unfavourable weather conditions. It has been estimated that there were almost 21,000 rice farmers in 1953.

In 1956, the British Guiana Rice Development Corporation was established under government sponsorship to carry out an experimental scheme of large-scale mechanical cultivation of rice looking towards the improvement in quality of rice and in the milling capacity of the industry. Under the scheme, 2,800 acres were cultivated in an empoldered area of 12,000 acres, part of the balance of this area being allocated to individual farmers and part as private pasturage for cattle. Since its inception, the Corporation has operated a modern mill with an annual capacity of 18,000 tons. It processes all the padi from the scheme and buys the crops from farmers as well. Two years later, the Corporation had made a similar installation at another site in the Territory with a capacity of 12.6 thousand tons annually.

All rice produced in the Territory, with the exception of that required by producers for their own needs, is sold to the Rice Marketing Board as required by law. The Board is the sole exporter, arranging for contracts for rice exports, primarily to West Indian Territories. In 1947, as a result of a conference between the British Caribbean Territories and British Guiana, various qualities of rice, with their corresponding prices, were agreed upon for a five-year period with an option to renew in three years.

In 1947, the cultivation of coconuts was the cause of much concern and investigation, particularly regarding the inefficient method of oil extraction

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which accounted for 60 per cent of the oil production. The demand for coconut products was at a high level, and it was estimated that at the level of consumption in 1947, the Territory was short of oil and fats equivalent to 320 tons of copra. The gradual but steady increase in production has been assisted by an improved price situation and the application of standards, both controlled by the Government, as well as by the Territory's participation in the British Caribbean Oils and Fats Agreement under which the coconut industry is protected from the competition of products manufactured outside the Caribbean area. A new agreement was signed in 1957 for three years. Two privately-owned modern expeller mills together with the smaller manufacturers produced 554.7 thousand gallons of oil in 1953, while in 1957 the comparable figure was an estimated 824.1 thousand gallons. The acreage of 33,000 has been more or less constant. In 1956, a modern factory was built to manufacture margarine and soap with sufficient capacity to satisfy local requirements thereby encouraging the cultivation of coconuts.

Apart from these three major crops, there is a wide range of minor ones which, in the aggregate, make a substantial contribution to local food production. In terms of export, coffee is the most important.

Land settlement schemes have been operated by the Government over many years, abandoned sugar and other estates having been acquired from time to time for the purpose. The objective is to make available more cultivable land to small farmers and to encourage production of suitable crops. Since 1954, the Department of Land Settlement has been responsible for the operation of the various settlement schemes, in close consultation with the Departments of Agriculture and Drainage and Irrigation. Titles are similar to ordinary Crown and Colony land leases with appropriate variations.

In 1956, the Government commenced a systematic inspection of Crown lands with a view to terminating titles, where the conditions included therein were not being complied with and the areas were not being beneficially occupied, to make those areas available to persons in need of land.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of land settlement schemes	5	5	5
Area (acres)	16,479	21,557	27,233
Families	1,634	1,624	2,361
Expenditure (\$BWI)	...	294,051	265,631
Revenue	...	142,918	161,151

Departmental expenditure in agriculture

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Recurrent	1,376,154	1,354,925
Development	164,847	934,615

Land utilization and production

	Production (thousands)			Acreage (thousands)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Sugar cane (tons)	167	240	285	65	79	86
Rice (tons)	56	126	58 ^{a/}	89	113	137
Coconuts (ea.)	4,500	3,680	4,843	33	32	32
Total area cultivated	...	...	...	...	259	280
Total agricultural land	...	...	...	...	6,988	...

a/ Decline in production due to unfavourable weather conditions.

Livestock

At the beginning of the ten-year period, the Department of Agriculture was working towards the up-grading of the stock population: first, by making available stud services at nominal fees and, later, by the commencement of a programme of artificial insemination. A ham and bacon enterprise was operating despite temporary shortages of pigs. The number of cattle owned varied from one to about 500. Each farmer had a probable average of fifteen head of cattle. Beef cattle is prevalent in the interior and dairy cattle on the coastlands. The majority of the cattle on the coast are owned by small farmers with individual holdings and are used mainly for ploughing and other farm operations. The increased production of rice in this area has tended to restrict pasture lands, with a consequent reduction in the cattle population. Cattle ranching for beef production is carried out extensively in the interior by a development company and a number of private ranchers. The

industry is handicapped by poor communications, the cattle must travel over a 180-mile trail to the coast for slaughter, or be slaughtered in the interior and the meat transported to the coast by aircraft. However, in 1956, the major beef producers set up a limited liability company which is handling about 80 per cent of the beef marketed in Georgetown, the capital of the Territory. The milk marketing organization serves as a clearing house for all milk produced and operates a milk-pasteurization plant which was opened in May 1957.

Livestock

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Cattle	189,400	170,000	171,685
Sheep	48,000	40,600	36,534
Pigs	34,600	21,700	36,889

The co-operative credit banks attached to the Department of Agriculture served as a channel through which the Government provides agricultural credit to the rural community at low rates of interest. In 1954, the statutory creation of the British Guiana Credit Corporation to provide, inter alia, for agricultural credit led to the discontinuance of the credit banks and the transfer of their assets to this Corporation. By the end of 1957, the total paid out in loans was \$BWI12.5 million and repayments amounted to some \$BWI4.5 million. The total number of loans up to this date represented a transaction with one person in every twenty of the population.

FISHERIES

Fish forms an important part of the local diet. At the beginning of the period, the small supplies which were being caught by primitive methods were not adequate for local requirements. A few private firms engaged in deep-sea fishing. During the later years, a company was incorporated to produce fish meal and to can fish and shrimp. Assistance offered for fisheries development included the refund of duty paid on fishing equipment and materials used in building or repairing boats.

Development projects which have been completed are the establishment in 1956 of a wholesale market with facilities for the processing and storing of fish

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and the provision of a fishing research vessel equipped for trawling in deep water. Since 1950, the British Guiana Credit Corporation has provided \$8,000 annually for loans to fishermen. Intensive research was being carried out in the biology of fresh and brackish-water fishes, and over 300 farm ponds were established for the cultivation of food fish.

	<u>Catch</u>		
	<u>1947^{a/}</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Catch (000 lb.)	3,143	5,998	11,259
Number of fishermen	2,127	3,809	...
Shrimp (000 lb.)	...	30	...
Shrimp meal (000 lb.)	...	27	27

a/ Georgetown only.

MINING

Ownership of mineral rights is vested in the Crown. The value of mining products is exceeded only by that of sugar.

In 1947, mining activities were limited to bauxite, gold and diamonds. British Guiana is one of the largest producers of bauxite in the world, bauxite exports now accounting for almost 90 per cent of the value of the Territory's total mining output. Much expansion has taken place within the industry, although there are only two private companies extracting and exporting the products. Towards the close of the period under consideration, construction had commenced on a \$60-million plant to process bauxite into alumina and exclusive rights were still being granted to investigate further the possibility of bauxite occurrence.

A royalty is paid only on minerals mined on crown lands. Those extracted on private lands are subjected to an export duty. In 1948, the export duty on bauxite, which had been 1.5 per cent ad valorem, was altered to 30 cents per long ton.

In 1949, an agreement was signed with a private company giving it exclusive right to prospect for gold over an area of 5,400 square miles, all but 10 per cent of the area to be surrendered to the Government within six years, on condition that the company expend \$250,000 annually on prospecting or development. Production

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of gold and diamonds has diminished. In 1954, a deposit of manganese was located and a mining lease over the proved area was issued. In May 1957, a mining company, by an agreement with the Government, confirmed its intention to undertake a £4 million manganese mining project and work began on a new railway to facilitate extraction of the ore.

Production

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Gold (bullion oz.)	26,389	20,966	16,491
Diamonds (metric carats)	43,260 ^{a/}	35,306	29,037
Bauxite (long tons)	1,290,407	2,274,583	2,201,903

a/ 1951.

Royalty

(British West Indian dollars)

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Gold	10,483	8,254
Diamonds	17,189	14,158
Bauxite	...	...

POWER

Although power is privately produced by the sugar estates and industrial and mining enterprises and, in some cases, by individual farms and houses, it is supplied to the public only in three towns (Georgetown and its environs, New Amsterdam and Bartica). There were three power plants in 1947, and attempts were being made to extend electrical services. Production continued to rise to accommodate mainly a constantly increasing demand by industrial users. At the end of the decade, there were six power plants in operation, ownership divided evenly between the Government and private enterprise. In one geographic area, power is sold to a co-operative society which resells to consumers. There were eighty such customers in 1956 and 109 in 1957. The Colonial Development Corporation owns shares in a private company which built a small hydroelectric station from which power was first generated in June 1957. The Government continues to investigate the possibilities of further hydroelectric power development in view of the increased interest caused by the installation of a plant to process alumina. Power from this project was first generated in June 1957.

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Production
(thousand kwh.)

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Output	41,246	67,745
Consumers	23,250 ^{a/}	30,199 ^{a/}

a/ Excluding a private company operating its own plant.

FORESTRY

The forests of British Guiana are one of its most important natural resources, covering approximately 70,000 square miles (84 per cent of the land area), only 13,500 of which are considered exploitable. Of the hundreds of species growing, about five are of economic importance. The most important minor forest product is balata (the coagulated latex of the bulletwood [Manilkara bidentata] tree). The bulk of the forests are on Crown lands to which rivers provide the natural means of access. Exploitation is limited owing to falls and rapids which block many of the rivers. In 1947 much of the extraction of timber was done by small operators utilizing primitive methods such as cattle and winch haulage. However, a few large operators functioned on an extensive scale using up-to-date methods, including light railways, heavy logging trucks and tractors. As production was insufficient to meet domestic and export demands, interest in development was sustained. Exports of forest products amounted to \$BWI1,750,000.

Around 1950, the Colonial Development Corporation announced its intention of spending \$BWI4.8 million on the large-scale development of timber, and it acquired large concessions and sawmills. Three years later, it set up a subsidiary for this purpose and constructed a new sawmill costing \$2.9 million which employs over 800 persons and accounts for about one-third of the total timber exports. Substantial loans have also been made by the British Guiana Credit Corporation to improve and modernize the industry.

As late as 1952, development was sporadic, leases being granted as a matter of routine. Subsequently, fragmentation of the forest into small concessions was replaced by the leasing of compact blocks sufficient for the requirements of businessmen. The logging and the milling phases of the industry were integrated to facilitate the operations of large companies that were concerned with the

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export trade as well as small producers who catered to the local market only. Despite a high percentage of wastage from sawing, and the poor quality of their products, the small producers were none the less very important to the economy because of their pioneering efforts in the marketing of a large number of subsidiary species which hitherto had not been accepted by the industry.

In 1953, legislation and regulations promulgated thereunder transformed the Forest Department from an advisory agency into one with full executive powers. As a result, Crown forests were distinguished from Crown lands and the management of approximately 29,000 square miles of forests was transferred to this Department.

As part of the development programme, a central timber manufacturing plant was brought into operation with a resulting improvement in trade conditions, and a forestry school for the training of sub-professional staff was opened, scholarships being awarded to professional staff.

Production
(thousand cubic ft.)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Timber, including round and split wood	2,881	6,024	7,183
Fuelwood - firewood	5,041	4,073	2,039
Charcoal	1,531	2,085	1,616
Balata (lb.)	720	617	428

INDUSTRY

Except for bauxite in the interior, industrial activity is almost wholly confined to the coastal zone, and consists mainly of the processing of local raw materials - rice, sugar and timber - and some light manufactures such as cigarettes, matches, and shirts for domestic and export use. In 1947, relief from customs duties on imports of capital equipment was being given. In 1951, another incentive was added in the form of a five-year tax holiday for acceptable new industries. Up to that time, except for sugar mills, industrial establishments were generally small, most of them owned and operated by private firms or individuals. Moreover, cottage industries, e.g. the making of hats and handbags from straw were encouraged.

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Private enterprise has shown confidence in the Territory's economic potential by expanding physical plants and building new ones, as indicated by the rise from \$BW11.4 million in 1955 to \$BW110.1 million in 1957 in the amount of duty-free importations of machinery for private industry. New factories and new industries include those to manufacture margarine and soap and to process bauxite into alumina. In addition a concession was granted to a United States firm to establish a combined wood pulp and timber utilization plant to cost \$US16 million. By the end of the period under review, an Industrial Development Committee was set up and increasing emphasis was given to the provision of basic services such as internal transport and rural electrification. The prospects for industrial development in the near future are dimmed by such factors as the small local market, the lack of skills and craftsmanship in the labour force and the few industrial entrepreneurs. However, with present plans for technical training, the future of industrial expansion becomes more promising.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transport

During the earlier years, both transport and communications suffered from many years of accumulated arrears of maintenance, renewals and improvement. Accordingly, a Mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 1953 recommended that, next to agriculture, this sector should have the largest investment under the development programme.

An improved road system was considered in 1952 to be the most important requirement in the field of transport. Under development schemes, road construction was undertaken and an expert from the United States of America visited the Territory to advise generally on road construction, maintenance and administration.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Main roads	263	318	
Secondary roads	266	244	
Motor cars)			
Motor trucks, buses)	2,623 ^{a/}	7,710	27,538

a/ Licenced vehicles.

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Legislation was passed that, inter alia, afforded protection to the railways - then in a bad financial situation - against competition by motor vehicles. In view of the importance of railways to the economy, it was recommended that, despite the deficit, they should be maintained and equipment and operation modernized. Within the limitations of manpower and finances, rehabilitation and modernization of tracks as well as rolling stock have taken place.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Mileage	79	79	79
Passengers carried (thousand)	...	1,773	2,522
Goods (long tons)	...	92,769	68,389
Gross receipts (thousand \$BWI)	688	991	1,116

There is an international airport located thirty miles from the capital with adequate facilities for present traffic requirements. There are four airlines which provide scheduled flights, three of which link British Guiana with points north and south. Air transport provides an efficient and regular service to the interior by the use of landing strips and access roads.

International traffic

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Passengers:		
Arrivals	8,226	12,086
Departures	8,109	13,137
Freight: (tons)		
Incoming	876 1/4	853.5
Outgoing	1,128 1/4	1,755.5

The steamer and ferry service, like the railways, have suffered from long neglect with the resulting inadequacies of service and heavy operating losses. The main port is at Georgetown. The Transport and Harbour Department operates a compulsory pilotage service for specified areas. Development schemes for the period 1955-1960 include rehabilitation of steamer and harbour services and the provision of two large vessels with a freight capacity of 250 tons to encourage the expansion of shipping between British Guiana and other Caribbean territories.

Ships, tonnage and cargo

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of vessels:			
Steam	1,455	926	1,074
Sail	...	174	100
Tonnage (000)	1,740	2,050	1,621

Internal shipping

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Passengers carried (thousand)	2,416	3,266
Tonnage	...	90
Gross receipts (thousand \$BWI)	830	1,165

Communications

During the early years, there was acute overloading on the Georgetown exchange and trunk line. A rehabilitation and expansion programme was commenced in 1953 under the impulse of heavy demands for adequate as well as additional telephone service. By the end of 1957, the programme was still in effect: \$BWI7 million had been allocated, \$BWI2.5 million of which had already been obligated. The number of telephones rose from 2,902 in 1947 to 4,970 in 1957.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The budget figures for the period reflect approximately the rate of economic growth. Although revenues and expenditures in 1947 were the highest recorded up to that time, the Government felt that it would be prudent in view of the artificial conditions obtaining during the year to regard this improvement as transient. However, the financial picture continued to improve. Revenue and recurrent expenditure for 1957 were slightly more than two and one-half times greater than in 1947. A factor that undoubtedly has influenced the expansion in revenue was the requirement since 1947 that persons who are domiciled in British Guiana are assessable for income tax purposes on income other than earned, no matter whence it comes.

Revenue and expenditure
(thousand British West Indian dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Revenue			
Ordinary	17,726	32,294	45,754
Expenditure			
Ordinary	16,183	31,369	43,691
Main heads of revenue			
Income tax	4,908	11,507	15,938
Customs	6,952	14,934	21,470 ^{a/}
Fees of court	753	1,355	2,148 ^{b/}
Excise and licences	2,399	625	925
Main heads of expenditure			
General (administrative)	2,080	6,668	6,419
Education	1,614	3,455	6,175
Public health	1,800	3,289	5,528
Public works	1,236	3,285	4,461
Economic development	1,336	3,328	4,070

^{a/} Including excise receipts.
^{b/} Licences only.

Development finance

In 1947, a development committee submitted a ten-year plan for economic and social development which would involve an expenditure of \$BWI26 million to be financed partly by an allocation of £2.5 million under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945. The chief objects of the plan were increased agricultural, mineral and forest production while maintaining price stability.

At the request of the Government of British Guiana, a Mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development visited the Territory in 1953 to survey the economic potential and make appropriate recommendations. While the need for expansion of social services was recognized, stress was laid on economic development in the Mission's report. It urged a government investment programme of \$BWI66 million over the five years 1954-1958, 70 per cent of which was to be in agriculture, transport and communications, while the remainder would be in forestry, industrial production, electrical power and various public works. It was estimated that this programme of investment would increase the national income by 20 per cent between 1954 and 1958. Instead, a two-year

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programme was launched in 1954 at an estimated cost of \$BWI44 million. To quicken the pace of development, the British Guiana Credit Corporation was established by law as the channel through which government credit was obtainable for agriculture, industry and housing. The unexpended balance was incorporated into a five-year development programme for the period 1956-1960. A major item in the revised programme is provision for the completion of two large-scale drainage and irrigation schemes begun under the previous development plan. Expenditure on development projects in 1956 amounted to \$BWI20.5 million, compared with \$BWI8.5 million in 1954.

BANKING AND CREDIT

Two commercial banks and the government-operated post office savings bank, whose branches also serve the rural areas, have generally met the banking needs of the Territory. Deposits in the latter have risen during the period under review from a little less than \$BWI14.5 million to almost \$BWI19 million. Commercial rates paid on deposits rose from 2 to 3 per cent and lending rates, which ranged from 5 1/2 to 7 per cent, were increased to a new range of 7 to 8 per cent. Following the recommendations of a conference held earlier in Barbados, notes in denominations of \$BWI1, \$BWI2, \$BWI5, \$BWI10, \$BWI20, and \$BWI100 were issued by the Currency Board of the British Caribbean Territories and put into circulation in August 1951, and British Caribbean coins have been introduced in substitution for those of the United Kingdom which are being withdrawn. It has been noted, paradoxically, that while most of the liquid savings held in banks and other such institutions were invested outside the Territory, the bulk of private investment came from external sources. However, there is evidence of an increasing awareness that local capital must contribute to the Territory's development. In this respect, share capital for a brewery and a particle board industry of some \$BWI3 million was raised locally. In the five years, 1947-1952, it has been estimated that the inflow of private capital totalled over \$BWI60 million and for 1957 it has been estimated at \$BWI34 million.

Post office savings banks

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of branches	...	56	57
Number of depositors	...	112,829	130,895
Deposits (thousand \$BWI)	11,442	15,545	18,971

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The value of imports and exports for 1957 were approximately three times greater than in 1947, aggregate trade having risen from \$BWI75.2 million to about \$BWI225 million. As has already been pointed out, sugar accounts for one half of the total value of exports. It is followed by bauxite and rice. The largest category of imports is machinery worth nearly \$BWI17.5 million in 1957. Other large groupings include petroleum products, fabrics, motor vehicles and flour.

Imports and exports (thousand British West Indian dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953^{a/}</u>	<u>1957^{b/}</u>
Imports	40,722	71,987	118,469
Exports	34,464	83,361	106,979
Principal imports:			
Food, beverages, tobacco	12,073	18,255	23,799
Raw materials and fuels	1,698	5,942	9,423
Metal manufactures	2,100	11,149	32,853 ^{c/}
Machinery	4,189	11,687	28,243 ^{d/}
Principal exports:			
Sugar	19,076	38,341	55,764
Bauxite	6,729	23,540	33,927
Rice	2,295	9,582	9,170
Beverages	1,979	2,171	4,125

^{a/} Owing to a change in trade classification, categories in 1953 are not strictly comparable with those for previous years.

^{b/} According to the Standard International Trade Classification list.

^{c/} Including non-metallic manufactures.

^{d/} Including transport equipment.

Direction of trade
(percentage of value)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Origin of imports:			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	27	49	44
Canada	33	14	9
Other Commonwealth countries	8	17	15
United States of America	26	11	18
Other countries	6	9	14
Destination of exports:			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	45	40	40
Canada	37	36	37
Other Commonwealth countries	10	14	12
United States of America	6	8	7
Other countries	2	2	4

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

British Guiana's multi-racial society has led to no racial problem. The natural tendency is for members to marry in their own ethnic groups, but marriages outside these groups are fairly common.

Generally, the status of women is the same as that of women in the United Kingdom.

Social advancement followed in the wake of economic development generated by financial assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts for welfare, public health and education. This progress must be evaluated against the background of a sharp increase in the rate of population growth which has taken place since 1945.

The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund was established in 1947 to provide for the improvement of social and health services among sugar workers. It is administered by a committee appointed by the Governor in Council consisting of representatives of the Government, the employers and the workers.

The indigenous inhabitants (Amerindians) have increased from some 16,000 to almost 21,000. Generally they reside on reservations in the interior, where they use land free from all rates and taxes but do not hold title. Projects to promote their economic and social development are being carried out with the object of encouraging permanent agricultural settlement and expansion of their cattle industry. A training programme is being assisted by a grant from the International Cooperation Administration of the United States in crafts such as dressmaking, carpentry, spinning, and boat-building. Some are being trained as instructors.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

In 1954, the report of the British Guiana Constitutional Commission referred to the failings of the trade union movement. The Commission noted that with a large percentage of workers engaged in seasonal or casual employment as unskilled labourers, their interest in unions tended to alternate between enthusiasm and apathy. In 1953 there was a territory-wide sugar strike. In order to help trade union executives to pursue their industrial objectives, the Trades Union Congress of the United Kingdom has assigned an adviser to the local unions.

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Conditions of employment

The sugar estates are by far the largest employers of labour, although there has been a decrease in the weekly average of workers from 29,000 in 1947 to 20,000 ten years later. Sugar as well as rice are seasonal occupations and there is considerable under-employment. An unemployment survey was completed by an International Labour Organisation consultant in 1957. It has been government policy to issue wage regulations only for those sections of industry where workers are not organized.

	<u>Wage earners</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Sugar	28,800	26,307	26,036
Rice milling	539	750	820
Bauxite	1,813	2,842	2,844
Government service	...	4,299	4,532
Sawmilling	1,100	1,018 ^{a/}	1,023
Stevedoring	...	669	858
Gold, diamond mining	7,000	...	195 ^{b/}

^{a/} Number registered.

^{b/} Gold mining only.

Wage rates (British West Indian dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953^{a/}</u>	<u>1957</u>
Sugar ^{b/}			
Field, male	...	11.24	14.43
" female	...	4.86	5.90
Factory, unskilled male	6.14	11.95	13.91
" " female	3.02	6.40	6.92
Rice ^{b/}			
Male	...	12.92	17.12
Female	...	7.14	7.45
Bauxite ^{c/}			
Skilled	.44¢	.40¢	.53¢
Unskilled	.25¢	.60¢	\$1.08
Sawmilling ^{d/}			
Unskilled	...	2.09-2.93	2.52-3.40
Stevedoring ^{d/}	...	2.40-3.66	2.90-4.36
Gold ^{b/}			
Skilled	.27¢	.55¢	.45¢

^{a/} Average.

^{b/} Weekly.

^{c/} Hourly.

^{d/} Daily.

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Workers' and employers' organizations

On the whole, there has been a marked improvement in industrial relations. From its inception, the Department of Labour has fostered the development of trade unions and the settlement of disputes by direct negotiation or through conciliation. In several industries, collective bargaining agreements have become the rule and machinery has been set up for the avoidance and settlement of disputes.

By law, the Commissioner of Labour is empowered to supplement collective bargaining machinery, for example, by referring the matter to arbitration where a trade dispute exists or is anticipated. The Governor in Council may appoint advisory committees to recommend minimum wages. The training of trade unionists in various aspects of the movement has played an important part in the development of the trade union movement and of sound industrial relations. The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies has been instrumental in developing this programme.

	<u>Organizations</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Workers	37	33	37
Employers	...	9	10

Vocational education

Vocational training is offered under government auspices in the Government Departments of Education, Public Health, Public Works, Lands and Mines, Transport and Harbours. Additionally, under the joint sponsorship of the government-established technical institute and commercial firms, apprenticeship schemes exist under the supervision and control of the Board of Industrial Training.

The first Apprenticeship Training Centre was officially opened in 1957. The scheme is financed by a leading local firm and covers a period of five years' training under the auspices of the Board.

	<u>Apprentices^{a/}</u>	
	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number:		
Completed training	1,526	938
In training	3,193	3,381

^{a/} In government departments only.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

In 1948, a Co-operative Societies Ordinance was enacted and a special department established to promote the development of the co-operative movement. From a total membership of about 1,500 and assets of some \$BWL2,000 in 1947, thrift and credit societies alone, the most popular types, had a membership of about 10,000 and shares amounting to \$BWL 86,000 at the end of the ten-year period. The British Guiana Co-operative Union, established in 1949, assists in the educational phase of the movement and receives a grant from the Government for this purpose. Co-operative societies now total 536 with savings and deposits of \$BWL644,000.

	<u>Number and membership</u>					
	<u>Number</u>			<u>Membership</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Thrift and Credit	3	34	149	1,500 }	1,983	10,174
Consumer	...	13	22		1,000	3,131
Producer marketing	5	8	33		542	1,408
Thrift	...	67	109		1,365	3,183

	<u>Share capital</u>	
	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Thrift	50,079	156,371
Thrift and Credit	56,684	186,457
Consumer	9,540	88,379
Producer marketing	...	36,553

STANDARD OF LIVING

In 1957, an ILO consultant assigned to British Guiana completed a survey of family expenditures to provide data for a revision of the cost-of-living indices. Hitherto, there were two: one for working class families in Georgetown and the other for East Indian working class families on the sugar estates. The expert recommended that a monthly urban and a quarterly rural index be compiled for working class families and the two combined into a quarterly index by using urban/rural population weights with 1956 as the base year. The survey showed that working class families in 1956 spent an average of \$BWL27.66 weekly for current living. Expenditure for food was almost one-half, followed by clothing and housing costs. The new index became effective in September 1957.

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Cost-of-living index^{a/}

1938 = 100		1956 = 100
1947	1953	1957
191	267	102.5

a/ Georgetown.

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

Housing is one of the Territory's most urgent problems. A survey conducted in 1945 disclosed that a very large percentage of the houses surveyed were unfit for human habitation or in need of repair. With population increasing by about 13,000 a year in 1953, an annual need for about 2,000 new houses was superimposed upon replacement, resettlement and slum clearance requirements. Improvement of these conditions is the responsibility of the Central Housing and Planning Authority, with the more recent assistance of the International Cooperation Administration of the United States. A concerted effort was made under the development plan of 1954 with an important contribution from the Government's aided self-help building schemes launched at that time, whereby persons in the lowest income groups were given the opportunity to build their own homes in teams. Government assistance is confined to land preparation, bulk purchase of materials and the provision of skilled supervision. Between 1954 and 1957, the Housing Authority started work on about 2,400 houses; a little over one-third of these had been completed and the remainder were in various stages of construction at the end of 1957. A significant aspect of the housing programme is the extent to which private enterprise has participated. Sugar estate workers have been granted loans to build their own homes on land made available by the estates. Of a little over 16,000 applications made in 1957 under this scheme, almost 14,500 were approved, involving an expenditure of slightly less than \$BW16.5 million. For the period 1954-1957, the Sugar Industry and Welfare Fund had financed the building of 33,553 new houses for sugar workers.

	<u>Housing</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Urban:				
New dwellings	93	131
Additions to existing buildings	183	270
Rural:				
New dwellings	1,734	3,134
Additions to existing buildings	830	957

SOCIAL SECURITY

There is legislation covering the welfare and safety of workers in all establishments defined as factories. There is no social insurance scheme providing unemployment compensation. Compulsory insurance of workers is required of employers in certain industries only, liability being fixed under the Accidental Deaths and Workmen's Compensation Ordinances. The total number of industrial accidents reported in 1953 was 13,773, seventeen of which were fatal, as compared with 7,774 for 1957, including sixteen fatalities.

SOCIAL WELFARE

There is a well established system of social assistance, including non-contributory old age pensions, cash payments being granted on the basis of a means test. As a result of the recommendations of an expert from the United Kingdom the rates of old-age pensions and other forms of public assistance were increased. His main recommendation - the establishment of a contributory social insurance scheme - was accepted in principle by the Government. Some of the large private companies, including those in the sugar and bauxite industries, have introduced voluntary social security schemes which make provision particularly for sickness and old age. Most of these schemes, however, are for salaried monthly paid staff, whereas the greatest social security needs are among the lower paid manual workers. A few of the company schemes make some provision for these workers, and others are being prepared. Friendly Societies play an important role in social security activities by providing sickness and funeral benefits for their members, and by encouraging short-term savings.

Old-age pensions and public assistance

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of recipients:			
Pensions	8,810	10,900	12,500
Public assistance	4,750 ^{a/}	3,800	4,700
Expenditure (\$000)			
Old-age pensions	294	498	895
Outdoor relief	131	140	320
Institutional care	64	115	130
Grants to voluntary institutions	...	6	11
Administration	80	135	262

^{a/} Number of families.

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Community development

Community development and the principle of self-help has been extended to activities other than the building of houses. Since the introduction of the idea in 1954, many rural self-help schemes have been approved, including those for the reconstruction of village roads, community centres and co-operative buildings and shops. The growth of the programme received a significant boost from the presence of a specialist in community organization, education and development assigned under the International Cooperation Administration of the United States in 1956. While the Government meets the cost of materials and the purchase or hire of equipment with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds the communities contribute free labour and operate the scheme through their community councils. The councils consist of representatives from each social organization in a given village and take charge of such activities as the operation of community centres and play fields. It is hoped that these agencies will eventually co-ordinate all social activities in their respective neighbourhoods and provide a channel of communication between the Government and the people.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Towards the end of the decade, legislation was enacted setting up district committees to exercise general supervision over the probationary system which had been in operation for both adults and minors. The chief probation officer was awarded a United Nations fellowship to the United States to study prevention and treatment of juvenile offenders. A new institution was built to segregate all first and young offenders from other prisoners. Rehabilitation includes vocational training, handicrafts, vegetable farming and animal husbandry. The daily average prison population in 1957 was 650.78. This is the first decline since 1948. The number of convictions has increased from 112 in 1947 to 528 in 1957.

Juvenile delinquency

Generally, since 1953, the incidence of juvenile delinquency has been declining. A significant drop took place between 1956 and 1957, from 5.85 to 4.84 per thousand. At the Essequibo School, where delinquent boys are housed, increasing emphasis has been placed on trade instruction. There was also a remand home for boys as well as a school for girls and for boys under ten years old, managed by the Salvation Army

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with government subsidies. Voluntary workers render valuable assistance in supervisory roles in the after-care treatment, particularly in remote areas.

Offences committed by juveniles

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Assault	85	131
Breaking offences	14	57
Larceny	228	342

PUBLIC HEALTH

Beginning in the mid-1940's, the malaria-carrying mosquito has been progressively eliminated and drastic reductions in new cases were in evidence. Malaria control contributed to the increase in the rate of population growth. A commission from the United Kingdom, inquired into the medical needs during 1954 and outlined a plan of reorganization expected to take three years to implement. It contemplated the establishment of a network of hospitals and community health clinics and the provision of free medical care to the lower income group. The commission also recommended the increased provision of specialists and, consequently, an obstetrician, a gynaecologist, a surgeon, an ophthalmologist and pathologist were added to the medical staff in 1956. Recurrent medical expenditure has risen from \$BWL8 million to \$BWL5.5 million.

Generally, the health of the population has been good, although there have been occasional epidemics of one kind or another during the period. A survey of the rural population in 1953 indicated that 15 to 20 per cent of them were suffering from hookworm and other helminthic infestation. This condition, in addition to dental caries, scabies and signs of malnutrition are the deficiencies most frequently found in school children who undergo regular school medical examinations. Malnutrition was found either slightly or moderately in 30 per cent of some 11,500 primary school children in the rural areas in 1953. This led to the establishment of a school-feeding scheme in 1954 with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund under which meals, consisting of milk, fish liver oil capsules and yeast enriched biscuits, are served free to about 20 per cent of the school children.

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In 1954, a BCG immunization campaign was started with the aid of UNICEF and the World Health Organization. A year later, its success had justified its integration into the general health services. An anti-filaria pilot scheme, commenced in 1955, was continued. During the early years, treatment of leprosy by sulphone drugs was being carried out at the new leprosarium with satisfactory results. The incidence of enteric fever is generally related to poor sanitation, particularly contaminated water supplies. At the outset, the principal water supply in the main cities, towns and villages was rainwater, collected from roofs and stored in private receptacles. During the decade, artesian wells have been replacing this method in villages. Since 1951, Georgetown has been served with a potable water supply. The enlargement of this system was completed during 1957 to provide about 8 million gallons daily.

Cases of infectious diseases

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Enteric fever	353	682	366
Chicken pox	114	65	197
Tuberculosis	215	109	192
Diphtheria	54	33	23
Influenza	1,711	946	4,281 ^{a/}

a/ There was an epidemic of Asian influenza.

The problem of insufficient staff has become urgent although salary increases has been employed to reduce the number of doctors going into private practice. Nurses also have been resigning to go to the United States for more remunerative employment. In 1956, a special committee on nurses' salaries recommended an up-grading, which has been approved. There are no training facilities for doctors, but British Guiana students are admitted to the University College of the West Indies. The public hospital in Georgetown has been approved for pre-registration training of qualified medical students. However, nurses, midwives, chemists, druggists are trained locally, about seventy nurses qualifying annually.

The clinics of the Infant Welfare and Maternity League have expanded their activities.

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Medical and health staff

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Private</u>
Registered physicians	92	...	50	70	69	55
Licensed physicians	...	...	5	21	1	26
Dentists	31	...	...	...	4	...
Nurses (senior training and certificated)	374	...	340	395	358	457
Partially trained nurses	...	...	243	50	190	62
Midwives (senior training and certificated)	645	...	162	608	358	...
Partially trained midwives	...	...	33	6	32	...
Sanitary inspectors	...	...	61	23	63	43

Institutions

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Number of beds</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
General hospitals	5	7	10	995	1,304	1,371
Cottage hospitals	3	22	23	1,326	2,279	328
Dispensaries	21 ^{a/}	20	25	1,409 ^{a/}	26	51
Mobile units		1	11			
Specialized units			11			
Tuberculosis		2	2			
Venereal diseases		1	1			
Leprosaria		4	7			
Mental hospital		1	1			

a/ Private hospitals on plantations.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Number of:			
Clinics held	1,340	1,656	2,081
Children attending	26,000	33,882	49,868
Expectant mothers attending	12,408	19,673	28,683

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Ministerial responsibility for matters concerning education was delegated to the Chief Secretary until September 1957 when a Minister was appointed and charged with the portfolios of Community Development and Education.

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Compulsory education introduced in British Guiana in 1876 now applies to all children between the ages of six and fourteen. An important trend in the curricula of primary schools in recent years has been the increasing emphasis being given to practical work such as handicrafts, domestic science, agriculture and gardening. Beyond the primary stage, education is limited to children bright enough to win scholarships or whose parents can afford school fees. The post-primary education, open to them is of a strictly academic type. The demand for technical education has increased rapidly since the establishment, in 1951, of the Government Technical Institute. It provides full and part-time technical training for boys and girls over fourteen years old and for adults. Technical training for women is given at the Carnegie Training School which is maintained by the Government. School enrolment rose from 65,800 to 106,000.

There are three types of primary schools: government, government-aided, and non-assisted. Of the second type the majority are owned by the churches, the Government making annual grants for teachers' salaries, equipment and maintenance. School buildings have been seriously over-crowded and many are in need of urgent repair. This situation was aggravated by the necessity of providing for an annual increase of the school population by about 3,000. To this may be added the lack of qualified teachers, the percentage of those fully trained in relation to the total number of teachers having been more or less 20 per cent during the period. Secondary education is available at two government and two grant-aided secondary schools. A memorandum reviewing all aspects of secondary education and recommending lines of development was accepted during 1957. An extensive school-building programme was launched between 1945 and 1957. Although accommodation was increased by 3,207 places in 1957, deficiency of places still amounted to approximately 19,720. More recently, substantial grants have been made under Colonial Development and Welfare Acts to carry out schemes of teacher training. Progress has been slow and limited to an increase of from twenty to thirty in the number of qualified teachers graduating from the Government Training College.

Radio broadcasting to schools was first introduced in 1954 and has developed to the point where more than half of all government and aided primary schools include this in its educational activities. Features include discussions of geographical and historical aspects of the Territory.

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There is no centre for higher education in British Guiana but many Guianese attend the University College of the West Indies or centres of higher study in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

Expenditure
(thousand British West Indian dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Recurrent	...	3,260	6,740
Grants-in-aid	...	390	369
Capital	...	96	74
Extraordinary	...	167	...
Total	1,614	3,913 ^{a/}	7,278 ^{a/}

^{a/} Rounded figures.

Schools

	<u>1947</u>			<u>1953</u>			<u>1957</u>		
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Independent Aided</u>	<u>Non-aided</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Independent Aided</u>	<u>Non-aided</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Independent Aided</u>	<u>Non-aided</u>
Primary	13	274	...	13	274	...	309		
Secondary	2	2	...	2	2	...	2	2	36
Vocational-technical	3	-	...	3	...	...	3	-	-
Teacher training	1			1	1		1	-	-

Pupils

	<u>1953</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Primary	43,357	40,734	55,098	51,361
Secondary	1,035	4,476	1,261	565
Vocational-Technical	703	290	1,828	627
Teacher training	24	16	30	30
Higher education:				
United Kingdom	215		423 ^{a/}	
University College of The West Indies	32		85	
Canada and elsewhere	26		49 ^{b/}	

^{a/} Including Irish Republic.

^{b/} Canada only.

Teachers

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Primary	1,973	2,682
Secondary	76	85
Vocational-technical	29	39
Teacher education	4	5

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CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

There are some eight general libraries, two reference and twelve special and technical libraries attached to government departments or to religious and cultural organizations. There is also a museum which displays specimens of the Territory's natural history and science. The activities of many cultural, religious and youth groups engaged in the fine arts, drama and music, are co-ordinated by a central organization. Valuable work is carried out under the auspices of the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies which organizes lectures and evening classes on subjects such as trade unionism, co-operatives, civics and economics.

Broadcasting services are provided by a private company which operates under an agreement with the Government. The Government Information Service utilizes ten hours weekly for information and educational purposes. A film library continues to be in considerable demand. The many newspapers and periodicals appear to provide adequate coverage and sufficient circulation.
