



Ruimveldt Inquiry

Minutes of an Inquiry

to the deaths of thirteen persons who died from the result of
Ballet wounds received at Ruimveldt, British Guiana,
on the 3rd day of April, 1924, held in
Georgetown, British Guiana

By

RODMOUSE REID, ESQ., J.P., LL.B., LOND., LT. R.N.V.R.,
(Late Stipendiary Magistrate, Georgetown) Coroner,

under orders issued by the HON. W. J. GILCHRIST,
Attorney General (Ag.) of British Guiana,
pursuant to Sec. 19 of the Coroner's
Ordinance, No. 6 of 1887

1924

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS,
GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA,
BRITISH GUIANA,
7th April, 1924.

Pursuant to the powers conferred on me by section 19 of the Coroner's Ordinance, No. 6 of 1887, I hereby require you to hold an inquiry into the cause of the deaths of the following persons:—

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-----|
| | 1. James Green Agaday | (M) |
| Tuesday | 2. Gangaya | (M) |
| prked. 1 .. | 3. Ramharak or Rambarak | (M) |
| | 4. Jasodia, Jasoda or Biphia | (F) |
| Mr. a | 5. George Somra | (M) |
| He | 6. Badri | (M) |
| | 7. Boodnie or Bodie | (M) |
| | 8. Gobin | (M) |
| | 9. Umrai or Malai | (M) |
| | 10. Baput or Badloo or Baldeo | (M) |
| | 11. Beeput | (F) |
| | 12. Rampaul | (M) |

You are also within the terms of that section to hold such full inquiry as you may consider necessary into all the circumstances connected with the deaths of the said persons.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. GILCHRIST.

Attorney-General (Ag.).

GR: REID, ESQUIRE, LL.B.,
Justice of the Peace.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS,
GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA

22nd April, 1924.

Pursuant to the powers conferred on me by section 19 of the Coroner's Ordinance, No. 6 of 1887, I hereby require you to hold an inquiry into the cause of the death of Ori, Male East Indian, M63745 Ex Avon, 1894, who died at the Public Hospital on 18th April, 1924.

You are also within the terms of that section to hold such full inquiry as you may consider necessary into all the circumstances connected with his death.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. GILCHRIST.

Attorney-General (Ag.).

REID, ESQUIRE, LL.B.,

LIST OF COUNSEL APPEARING.

- MR. G. J. DE FREITAS, K.C., on behalf of the Police.
MR. P. N. BROWNE, K.C., on behalf of the Immigration Department.
MR. PERCY KING, on behalf of the Government.
MR. CYRIL R. BROWNE, on behalf of the Labour Union.
MR. CRANE, on behalf of the relatives of No. 7 Boodnie and
Sanicharee or Beeput.
MR. FREDERICKS, on behalf on No. 5 George Somra and No. 10
or Badloo.
MR. SINGH, on behalf of No. 4 Jasoda, No. 2 Gangaya and
Rampaul.
MR. CYRIL BROWNE, on behalf of Jumnee (wounded).
MESSRS. FREDERICKS, SINGH and CRANE, for the East Indian As-
socation.

On 11th April.

- MR. H. C. HUMPHRYS and MR. W. S. CAMERON, on behalf of
Demerara Company, Limited.
MR. J. S. MCARTHUR, K.C., for the East Indian Association.

On 16th April.

- MR. OGLE, Sr., for Agatha Fraser (wounded).

1. Jane Agaday, of Farm, East Bank, Demerara, on oath saith:—I am about 60 years of age. *James Green Agaday, decd., was my son. I last saw him on Thursday morning, 3rd April, about 8 or 9 A.M. He said he was coming to town to see his aunt. I did not see him leave. I next saw him at the Mortuary, he was then dead; that was about 4 P.M. I identified the body in the presence of 3814 Police Constable Rahamat as that of my son. The police buried the body. He was 26 years of age and was sometimes agricultural labourer and sometimes worked in the gold fields. He last worked on Tuesday of that week at Farm, forking, but stopped work on Wednesday. The manager stopped the work on Wednesday when nobody worked. I do not know why the manager stopped it.

By *Mr. de Freitas, K.C.*:

He did not work that week, he only went seeking for work. He was home on the Monday. He worked the week before under Mr. Rhodes. He lives with me. When he got back on the Tuesday, he said they had allowed him work to do the next day but on the Wednesday nobody went to work as there was a strike. He is not a member of the Labour Union.

The week before he gave me eight shillings out of his wages. I do not know what wages he got. He made no complaint about his wages. His aunt lives in Albouystown and is my sister Julie. I do not know her other name nor where she lives.

By *Mr. Browne, K.C.*:

I have lived in the Estate Range about 12 years. My son was single. East Indians live in my range. I do not know if any East Indians worked on the Tuesday. I heard of his death in the afternoon. I was working at the hospital at Farm. I do not know how many days he worked the week before. He has been working regularly for a year at Farm.

By *Coroner*:

He usually does not work on Mondays but measures work on Tuesdays and then works Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and a half-day on Saturday. I get ten shillings a week as washer at the hospital.

By *Mr. King*:

I have one other son living with me and my husband, also two daughters and three grandchildren. My other son is 28. He works at Farm, too, and gives me nine shillings a week when work is scanty, more at times when it is plentiful. My husband and one daughter are sick.

I have heard there was trouble in the city on Thursday morning. My sons said nothing about it. I heard after the deceased left. I had not heard of any proclamations. I took no notice of them. I can read.

(Sd.) JANE AGEDA.

By *Mr. Browne, K.C.*:

I live in the Range rent free and I and all my family, if they work, have free medical attendance.

(Sd.) JANE AGEDA.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown, this 9th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

2. Chinama being sworn by Soobrian, Interpreter, on oath, saith:—The deceased Gangaya was my husband. He came by s.s. Mutlah in 1917. He was about 26. I last saw him on Thursday about 9 A.M., he said he was going to see a relative, a man named Timmadoo in Albuoystown. He did not take a stick. He left our home at Providence before the crowd came. We live in an Estate house. I heard about 3 o'clock time from a Madrasi Appado that my husband was shot. I went to the Mortuary where I saw his dead body. I identified it in the presence of P.C. 3814 Rahamat as that of my husband. The body was handed over to me and I buried it at the Providence Burial Ground. Ticket " A " is my husband's immigration ticket.

By Mr. Browne, K.C. :

I came here by a different ship. We were married East Indian fashion 5 years ago at Skeldon. I have been 1 year and 3 months at Providence. Gangaya was a shovelman. I have no children. We both worked regularly. I was a weeder. We have saved some money in the Bank about \$135. I have the bank book. We lived rent free and have free medical attendance and free medicine at the hospital. He was going to see Timmadoo as they were not working that week. I stayed at home. We worked the week before. He did not go to mark work on the Tuesday.

By Mr. King :

I did not know there was any trouble in Georgetown. I cannot read or write. I do not know of any proclamations or notices. I never heard of Kawall. My husband never spoke of him. My husband did not go to town at all that week, he stayed at home until Thursday. He said he was not feeling well. I did not feel well either. We saw no one else was going to work so we did not go, too. My husband had a sore on his foot. He could walk. It is three miles to town. He left home walking. I do not know if he meant to take tram ; he usually walks. He last saw Timmadoo 2 weeks before ; he works for Town Council as night pail worker. I do not know if he would be at home.

By Mr. Singh :

I come from Madras. I used to work in the fields there. I did not know my husband there. We were both indentured to Skeldon and worked regularly. We used to get from 4 shillings to 10 shillings each according to the work at Skeldon. I did no other work. I did house work on Sundays. I did not save any money then. The bank book is in Gangaya's name. Both of us earned that money. He was well for the previous five years. I cannot say when we earned the money. Savings Bank Book " B " put in shows 1st entry \$30 on 24th July, 1922. He was a good man and don't make fight. He expressed a wish to return to India.

(Sd.) CHINAMA

X

her mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown, this 9th April, 1924, the same having been read over to her, who appeared fully to understand the same and made her mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

3. The deponent Nallapareddy on oath said:—I know Gangaya and am a countryman of his. We both lived at Providence in an Estate house. We all stayed away from work on Thursday. I heard on Monday that the people had asked the Manager the price for work but were not told. No one in particular told me. I did not ask. I saw Gangaya at Ruimveldt on the Thursday at a range on east of road with some Madras people, he was asking for water, he then made to sit at the door when the shot got him in the belly. Gangaya fell down dead at once. I was there to have a look. I came from Providence. He was over the trench away from the road when hit. I had been on the road but had gone towards the ranges when the horse-riders came. Gangaya was there already. The little girl who handed him the water was struck and dropped dead at the same place. Another person was killed inside the house—a Hindi man. Gangaya came to town before me. I did not see if he had a stick. I had no stick.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C. :

It was Eastern side of road, I saw a big crowd on the road, police and horse guards. The people said they want to go to Crosby when the horse guards go at them. Both East Indians and Blacks say so. I had to follow them as they go to Crosby. I came with the crowd to look on. I came behind but with them. No police told me to go away. I heard the horse riders telling the people to go home and they ride the horses on the people and push us into the trench. I cross the trench and go across to the range. I was not in front but I got afraid because the horses came at us. I do not know the time. We wanted to go to Crosby as we do not get sufficient money to feed and get clothes. I only get five shillings or six shillings a week. I work as shovelman. I worked the previous week up to the Saturday and got ten shillings on that day. I worked the whole week Monday to Saturday. By so much an opening. I was forking new rows and planting. Put a line, fork plant and throw back the earth, and we get paid 12 bits for 12 beds. A bed is about 3 rods by 3 feet. Some weeks I only got 6 shillings, some weeks \$3 or \$4, depending on the soil. I did not make any complaint, either directly or indirectly. I took my money and said nothing. I am not married and do not keep any one. I buy clothes when I work for more money. I did not ask for work on Monday. I told the driver I was tired and want a rest. He said all right. I did not take medicine. I live rent free and have free doctor and medicine, but I had pain about the shoulders through forking. I rub oil on. I felt good next day but did not go to work that week at all. I was in my range. I was not at any meeting on the Saturday night. I heard there was a meeting. People talk about it on Sunday and say they go to Crosby to ask for more wages. On Thursday I came to see what they would do. Some people had sticks but the police took them away. Only "one, one," had sticks. Not plenty of sticks. I only saw 5 or 6 sticks, but I heard it said the police took them. I did not see them taken.

I can't say how many people; the whole road was full. No one stopped me at Providence. We all stopped by the bridge at La Penitence. I saw Kawall passing on the road on Monday or Tuesday up to Diamond and I see people speaking to him and I went to hear what he say on the Wednesday. We came to town to hear what he said. I saw him up there earlier; plenty of people came to hear him on the dam at Providence either Tuesday or Wednesday, I think. He said, "when you go to work you must ask the manager the price before you begin to work, take the work and if the price was good for you go and work. You must work and if you cannot work for

sufficient go and tell the manager or go and work where you like. You must not make fight." Kawall said: "he will speak to the manager to get us sufficient money." I did not hear him tell us to stop work. I heard it said that some of the people will beat us and the people got afraid and stopped. I heard this Monday.

I cannot say if Coolie or Black tell me I will get beaten. I tell the driver I not well. I had already run over the stop-off when Gangaya was shot. I told the Police I was by Gangaya when he was shot. I did not say I was standing on the road. I was by the logie. I never said I was on the road. I gave the statement to P. C. Rahamat. I do not know what he write, he read it over to me. Gangaya's wife read it over to me in Madrasi and I put my mark to it. The body was taken up and put in a lorry by me. I carried it from where it was to the lorry. A police Inspector and the Doctor was there. The Inspector went and saw where the shot hit a board. I took the body from the range to the road and I went to the Mortuary and identified it. I did not see any bottles thrown.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C. :—

I have worked at Providence 7 or 8 months. I was previously at Farm for 2 years doing the same work. I never struck work there. This is the first time at Providence but I did not strike. I was not well. I would have worked if the others went. I came into Georgetown on Monday to buy goods in the market. No one had asked for more wages then. It was Tuesday they asked for more. I was quite satisfied and would have worked if the others did. I have no complaint so I do not look out for Crosby when he comes to the estate. I know Crosby's office. I did not go there when I came to Georgetown. I came to town on Tuesday to see Kawall Maraj and then we went to see what the black people were doing, about 30 or 40 of us from different estates. We went to a corner shop in Water Street past the market and saw Kawall. About 10 or 20 of us were there and a lot of black people outside. He did not tell us to go to Crosby. I did not stay there long. I left the others there. I saw a lot of black people, and did not wish to stay. The rest of the party stayed about the streets. I have got my badge at home. I got it from Kawall on Tuesday. I did not understand what he said when he gave it to me. I wore it in town then took it off and put it in my pocket. Some took badges I cannot say all took. We paid 36 cents. subscription to Kawall for the badges. We were not told we must pay a monthly subscription to the Association. I pay 80 cents for my shirt. I see everybody take a badge so I think it must be something good. I have not been back to Kawall since. I have seen him going south in Providence Road on Wednesday but did not speak. I have not seen him since. I did not put on my badge on Thursday. I left it at home. Some of them had badges.

By Mr. King:

I see lots of black people moving about on Tuesday and I hear people say they want more pay and will see the Governor, I did not see any posters or proclamations up. I cannot read.

By Mr. Cyril Browne:

There were black people across the dam on Thursday. They were all mixed with the East Indians. I cannot say how many of either but more East Indians. One black I saw shot. I saw him dead in the cart.

By Mr. Crane :

I do not know where the girl lived. She was in the gallery before the man called for water. She was in a room doing some work. He was under the tin roof when the girl handed him the water. She did not come in the gallery but was in the body of the house when shot, she was turning away. I got afraid and stooped down over the man that was shot.

By Mr Singh :

I was at Enmore first for five years as a shovelman. Gangaya was standing when shot. He just turned from drinking water. There is a wide trench dividing the dam from the road. The P. C. Rahamat told Chinama all he wrote down and Chinama told we all at one time.

(Sd.) NALLAPAREDDY

X

his mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown, this 9th April, 1924. The same having been read over to him and translated by Soobrian, Madrasi Interpreter, he appearing fully to understand same.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

4. The deponent Jiau on oath saith :—I came by s.s. Arno, 22 years ago, and was indentured to Peter's Hall. I still work there, though I was at Berbice for a short time. No. 3 Ramharak, deceased, was my son. He was seventeen years old and also worked at Peter's Hall, he lived with me in 2 rooms on the estate range. On Thursday he was with me up to 10 A.M. At 6 A.M. all the estate labourers went to the Manager's office at Providence to enquire about wages. The Manager ask us all what we come for and we must go to work. We ask for an increase of wages because food is dear. He said "He will not give $\frac{1}{4}$ a cent more. If you like work, if you don't sit down at home." This was all on Thursday. We all sat down there till 10 A.M. We ther saw a lot of people going to Crosby's office from Diamond and Farm. We ask them where they going and we join them as we are starving too. On our way at Peter's Hall I ask my son if he is going home for food. I went home with him and we eat our food. My son finished eating and started. I stayed smoking and then followed him. When I reached MacDoom's factory at Jonestown I saw men, women and children running back to Peter's Hall towards me. I ask why they run. They say we were going to Crosby's Office and by Ruimveldt bridge plenty of soldiers stop us, and shots were fired near the factory. I then turned back to my house. Half an hour later a man told me my son died. I went with my wife to Ruimveldt. We searched and went to the Mortuary and in presence of Rahamat P.C., I saw and identified the body of my son about 5 P.M. The body was buried in Georgetown by the Police.

By Mr. Browne, K.C. :

I have not worked at hard work for seven years and I depend on my son for support. I have two other children. Deceased was the eldest. I went to the Manager to get some light work. I used to get light work but now I have had none since January. I then was mending stop-offs, etc., at

thirty-two cents a day. I have always been asking about work since. The last time was four weeks before, when I asked a driver. I did not complain to Crosby as my son supported me, and I did not complain to Crosby when he was visiting Estate.

My son gets 12 shillings a week or 13 shillings, when buildings are grinding, at other times 8 shillings. I go to complain because the other go. The others go for their own belly. I did not see Kawall, but I heard the people at Providence say he was to come. We waited till 10 for him but he did not come. My son worked for 7 shillings the week before. He gave it to me. He was working in the boy's gang on the back dam. He was taking rest on the Monday but he worked Tuesday and Wednesday and the whole Peter's Hall Estate worked then. On Thursday they say the price is not sufficient. On Wednesday they asked the price and decided it was not sufficient. My son had no badge. I worked on Tuesday, preparing new row. Overseer said a bitt a bed was the price.

By Mr. King:

I heard there was trouble in Georgetown sometime before my son was killed. I heard they were asking for more money.

By Mr. Fredericks:

I do not know if Mr. Kawall was at Mr. Anderson's with Mr. S. K. Singh on the Wednesday. We take up work on Tuesday and on Wednesday the price is fixed. The price this week was a gill more than the week before but the work harder.

(Sd.) JIAU

X

his mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 9th April, 1924. The same having been read over to him and translated by Hindi Interpreter, Soobrian, he appearing fully to understand same and made his mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

5. The deponent Etwarah on oath saith:—I live at Ruimveldt. I drive my own cart. I was in town on Thursday working for Mr. Lam. I am the husband of Jasoda or Biphia. No. 4 deceased my brother-in-law Arjune Singh told me about 12 my wife was dead. I had left her at home at 7-30. We live on the west side of the road. I went back home about 12-30. I then found her dead body on the floor at home. She was shot through the chest. There was plenty of my family there and Dr. Earle came about 3 minutes after. Jairam, the dispenser, was there. The police removed the body to the Mortuary. I went and identified the body as that of my wife Jasoda in the presence of P.C. Rahamat 3814. I do not know what my wife was doing when killed.

By Mr. King:

I have a daughter, seven children in all. I cannot remember their names. English names Doris, Gladys, and so.

By Mr. Singh:

I was married by Crosby. My wife used to work. We were married 17 years ago. She was a huckster and often made \$5 or \$6 or \$7 a week profit. The eldest child is 16, we did not quarrel.

(Sd.) ITWARA.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 11th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

6. The deponent Boodnee on oath saith:—I live at Providence. I am the wife of No. 5 George Somra, deceased. We are not legally married. I saw him alive at 9 A.M. on Thursday. He said he was going to Georgetown to buy boards. He is a shovelman. He was not working for 2 weeks as I was sick. We live in our own house in the pasture. He brought \$6 with him when he went to town to buy boards, he had no stick. I heard people say "Bullah get shot." I went to the mortuary afternoon time and I saw his dead body there and identified it as that of my husband in the presence of Rahamat, P.C. 3814. The police buried the body.

By Mr. Fredericks:

I was not present at the burial. He was shot in the temple.

By Mr. Humphrys:

His name was Beeput also, or Bulla.

(Sd.) BOODNEE
X
her mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 11th April, 1924, the same having been read over to deponent and translated to her, who seemed fully to understand same and made her mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

7. Natho Singh on oath saith:—I am watchman at Diamond. I know Badri No. 6 also Gobin No. 8 and Umrai or Mulai No. 9. I saw all three of them on Thursday morning standing near the office at Diamond on the Public Road. I did not speak to them. I did not see if they have sticks. That is the last I saw them alive. Next day Friday the Manager sent me to the Public Hospital, Georgetown, to see who dead belonging to Diamond. I went about 9 A.M. I saw all three Badri, Gobin and Mulai and I identified their dead bodies in the presence of Richard Williamson, P.C. 2743. Mulai was shot in the right shoulder. I did not see the wounds on the others.

By Mr. Humphrys:

Badri was indentured to Diamond but I do not know where he lived, he is not the same as Bodie or Boodnee.

By Mr. Browne, K.C.:

I think all three were shovelmen,. There were plenty of men more than 100 there on the road. Diamond people were working up to Wednesday. On Thursday they were all on the road but not behaving bad. Some of the crowd were from Grove, a big number. I saw them on the road about 9 A.M., they had all gone when I returned at 10 A.M. I went on with my work. I live by the waterside near the koker. I do not go to meetings. I cannot say if there were meetings. I did not see Kawall there. I do not belong to the Association. I was to Court in Georgetown on Tuesday and Wednesday. I saw a lot of people walking about streets. I tell my friends about it. I have been there 15 or 16 years. I am quite satisfied with my wages.

(Sd.) NATHOO SINGH
X
his mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown, this 11th April, 1924, the same having been read over to deponent, who appeared fully to understand same and made his mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

8. The deponent Prince Edwards on oath saith:—I live at Diamond and am a driver on the estate. I knew Bodie (or Boodnie) No. 7, deceased ; he worked under me. I saw him on Tuesday and Wednesday morning on the road outside with a crowd, also on Thursday morning at the same place. On Thursday they were talking and shouting, I left them there, I try to advise them to go to work but they say they are going to town, that was 7-30—8 A.M. I was sent down by the manager to the mortuary in the afternoon to identify if there were any Diamond or Grove people there. I saw Bodie's dead body at the Cemetery mortuary. I did not see the wound. I identified the body in the presence of P.C. 3814, Rahamat as that of Bodie. I also saw the body of James Agaday from Covent Garden.

By Mr. de Freitas:

I am a Rural Constable. No one worked on Monday except the free shovel gang. The task shovel gang did not work. On Tuesday my gang went out to work ; it is a mixed East Indian and black task shovel and forking gang. They marked work and worked for an hour or two as they usually do. On the Wednesday I was aback and I saw some three people running aback on the north side of the estate. I was in the field. They were shouting to the people to leave their work and come out and said "Everybody striking for price." I heard them holler but could not identify them. My gang then left, all except five men, who remained till afternoon. A large crowd left. My gang is over 50. I saw the other gangs leaving too with their tools. I remained till afternoon. I heard that a band was there that afternoon but did not see it. On Thursday I saw my gang at the gate and only three went back to work. I had no intimation of trouble till I saw the men leaving work on Wednesday. I heard of trouble in town it was common talk on Tuesday that there was a strike in town I cannot say if there were meetings on the estate. On the Wednesday I saw an East Indian

who told me that Mr. Kawall and Mr. Singh were there that day. He was by the road as I came qu' at Grove. He is one of my gang. He told me last night that Mr. Kawall was preventing the people going to town by Houston Square on Thursday. I can identify the boy. He said they were not going to get any more price now. He was one of those who left work. I went aback on Thursday leaving the crowd on the road. I had three men working. One or two in mob had sticks, a good many, but not all of them. I saw plenty of them with sticks.

By Mr. Browne, K. C. :

The East Indians who live on the estate are called "Free Shovel Gang." The Task Shovel Gang live in their own houses.

By Mr. King :

Proclamations similar to "C." and "D." were posted at the rumshop at Diamond and were the subject of general conversation.

By Mr. Crane :

On the Thursday morning the crowd was shouting in an excited way, I do not know East Indians usually speak loudly. On Wednesday I saw Bodie opposite the building gate. One McGusty was there too. Brathwaite was there. They remained out there and said they were not going to work when I asked them.

People does congregate there if they have cause. Such as if their pay is not right or if they have a grievance. I was at Plaisance before I went to Diamond. I earn nineteen shillings, 57 bitts a week. It was more until two years ago. I got \$6 then. I have to wait until they give me more. I do my best to please them.

By Mr. Fredericks :

You don't mark row on Monday for many years. It is not a regular rule. You mark row when it suits you on Monday or Tuesday.

By Mr. C. R. Browne :

It was black men who remained working.

By Mr. Humphrys :

Bodie works in any gang but not regularly. He has not worked with me for some time. The crowd I saw on Thursday was outside the building. The East Indian I spoke to last night told me that the East Indians had never made any complaint. The crowd on Thursday was East Indians and Black mixed.

(Sd.) PRINCE EDWARDS.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 11th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

9. The deponent Lakhan on oath saith:—I live at Diamond and am in a boy gang. Malai No. 9 deceased is my father-in-law. I never heard him called Umrai. I saw him in his house at Diamond range on Thursday morning about 7 A.M. I went on the road and see a crowd by the building

gate. They say they want more money, I stay there till 9 A.M., then I went home, I went to Malai's house about twelve, he was not there then. I hear about 5-30 from Cheddi Maraj that he was killed. I went to the Public Hospital on Friday morning about 9 A.M. reaching there 11 A.M. and I identified the body as that of Malai. I also saw and identified the body of Badri No. 6 also at the Hospital both to the detective. Malai worked Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

(Sd.) LAKHAN,

X

his mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 11th April, 1924, the same having been read over to him, who appeared fully to understand same and made his mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

10. The deponent Hokan on oath saith:—I am a driver at Pln. Farm. I know Badloo No. 10. I never heard him called Bapat. He worked in my shovel gang. He worked on the Tuesday at half banking. On Wednesday he went to take work but he was driven out of the field by a lot of strange people. I believe they came from Georgetown, mixed East Indians and Blacks, all the shovel gang and weeders were out working, this was 8 to 9 A.M. Only a few women left on the road who say three men pass and warned them not to go to work. There were about 100 shovelmen and 200 weeders who had taken work and were working. About 20 or more went all round and drive them out, they just persuade them to go section by section. They also went to Little Diamond, Covent Garden and Herstelling, dividing themselves up. I saw no sticks used, they had sticks. The workers were told if they don't leave work they will be licked. No one threatened me personally, it was what the shovelmen said as they came from work. I went home. On Thursday no one turned out, we gave orders as usual. They all gathered on the public road. I did not see Badloo there. I stayed at home. In the afternoon I was sent to the mortuary at the Cemetery by the manager to see if any dead from Farm. There I saw and identified the body of Badloo in the presence of P. C. Rahamat. He was shot in the right shoulder. I did not know before that he had come to town.

By Mr. Crane:

I was summoned to give evidence by the Police. I have not been spoken to by anyone since as to my evidence. I saw no violence aback. They simply told them they must not work. I was in the field as the men went round the side-line dam. I saw 20 or more go by the side-line dam and then I saw the shovelmen leaving. I saw them waving sticks at the men working in the field across the trench about 20 rods off. I was born in this Colony. They were threatening to beat the men in the field. I heard it in my field but not in the other section.

They were strangers to Pln. Farm, they may have come from Diamond. Our men had no trouble before this. If they are not satisfied they would see the manager and then the indentured men would go to Crosby.

Indentured men used to go before seeing the manager, I have seen them go to Crosby since 1917. Usually the whole gang goes. I was born 1871. I have often seen them go to Crosby, they take their tools, shovels, sticks and cutlasses as they left the estate. They don't allow them to go to Crosby with all these but make them leave tools at Brickdam. If East Indians go a walk to see family on another estate they generally take their sticks. Not long sticks usual short sticks.

By Mr. Fredericks:

Badloo was a quiet hard-working man. On Thursday the estate people gathered on the road and most left to go home.

By Mr. Browne, K.C.:

They do not bring a band to see Crosby usually. I have never seen it yet and they do not mix with Black people on these occasions. I live by the road. I saw a band pass up to town on Thursday morning. The crowd with it was East Indians and Blacks, mostly boys. There were some women. Women come with their hoes sometimes but usually only men come to see Crosby alone.

By Mr. Humphrys:

Women might come but only if dissatisfied with the price. I mean up to 16 or 18 by boys.

(Sd.) HOOKMAN.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 11th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

11. The deponent Mahamet on oath saith:—I live at Albouystown and am a cartman for Nobrega. I know No. 11 Sanicharee deceased. I do not know her as Beeput. I am her brother-in-law. She lived at Ruinveld to the east of the Main Road, she married my brother. My brother shouted to me from car about 2-30 P.M. that Sanicharee get killed. I went to discharge my load, then went to the mortuary and identified the body at 5-30 P.M. in the presence of Rahaman, P. C. 3814 and Ramnarain Pundit. They tell me I will have the body to bury but when I went for it on Friday it was buried already.

(Sd.) MOHAMMAD.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 11th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

12. The deponent Changuri on oath saith:—

I live at Peter's Hall. Rampaul No. 12 deceased was my son. He lived with me. I saw him on Thursday morning. He takes his food and went out about 9. He did not say where he was going, no stick. I heard at 2 P.M. from Jiaou that he was shot, he said he was lying dead on the dam at Ruinveld range. Jiaou said he took him from the logie to get him

home but was not able and left him on dam. I came in search and found him at the hospital, but I did not get to go in and see him. I identified him at mortuary on Friday in presence of a Police Constable. He went to work Tuesday but not on Wednesday, he was in the big boy gang moulding canes. He went on Wednesday but came and said the others were not going, and people would not let him go to work as they were going to Crosby to ask for more money.

By Mr. Singh:

He was 16 and unmarried. I have a small girl too. He worked regularly and supported me. He worked at Peter's Hall regularly. He was quiet and well-behaved. He never complained to Crosby. I was present at the burial on Saturday.

By Mr. Humphrys:

His father was Bhoda. He went to the backdam Tuesday and returned afternoon. They did not chase him back, only told him not to go. I never heard of his making any complaint.

(Sd.) CHANGURI,

X

her mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 11th April, 1924, the same having been read over and explained to her, and translated, she appearing fully to understand the same and made her mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

13. The deponent Ramprashad on oath saith:—I am an engineer and live at Saffon Street. I was present on Thursday, the 3rd, at Houston by MacDoom's house about 9-30 A.M. I was with Kawall, Ramnarain Pundit, Aaron Britton on the road coming from Georgetown, we saw a large crowd in front of MacDoom's house. We got out of our car and spoke to the crowd, the crowd assembled to give us a hearing. I think about 4,000 or 5,000 were present, filling the road for 200 or 300 yards. They were all East Indians in front, boys, women and young men. They told us they were going to see Mr. Critchlow in Georgetown. There was a band behind and the people behind had sticks. We formed a barrier and the people in front gave us a peaceable hearing. When the band reached us they were mixed, Blacks and East Indians, the only alarming thing was the sticks they had. We continued to address them but the crowd continued to grow. We were there half an hour then, as we got pushed aside on the car line and they said we were paid officers of the Government. Kawall and Ramnarine then telephoned from MacDoom's house to Brickdam that we could not hold the crowd back. The crowd then passed us and I telephoned Dr. Earle's to ring up the Police. We then came motoring through the crowd to Ruimveld. When I rang Dr. Earle's house, I told whoever spoke not to interfere with the people as we would come and speak to them again. We met a crowd at Ruimveld then and Captain Ramsay and Mr. Legge and other commissioned officers, and some mounted police and policemen armed with guns. The four of us

came to where Mr. Legge and Captain Ramsay were standing and we again addressed the crowd. This was after ten. We continued appealing to the crowd and after about 15 minutes, the Riot Act Proclamation was read quickly by Mr. Legge in English and it was then interpreted by me and by Kunnarine and Kawall in a loud tone in Hindi. We continued appealing to the people all the time to go back. Captain Ramsay then pointed to an electric wire pole and said they must get beyond that pole. The people then went beyond that pole and Corporal Reid in charge of 4 or 5 mounted police was posted with some detectives to keep them beyond that pole. They kept calling in loud tones but peacefully that they must go to see Critchlow. Several suggestions to send delegates were made by us and they picked out five East Indians and five Blacks to send. The others objected shouting they must go to town. A few gave up their sticks and said they must go on to Georgetown. The crowd behind objected and the delegates never went. We continued to appeal to the people and we appealed to the Orderly Officer, Captain Ramsay, to give them a chance, as we felt our lives were at stake. We appealed continually to the people, I went to stop the band. I then returned. The majority of the crowd was then over the trench on Ruimveld on land east and west of the main road. There were about 14 mounted Police then came forward in addition and half went to the east and half to the west of the main road on the estate land. Then Kawall told Captain Ramsay that he is going to the Immigration Department or to His Excellency to get them on the spot and he left going to Georgetown. I then told Captain Ramsay to wait till the people get hungry and they will clear out. I then gradually leave Captain Ramsay myself. The troopers were then returned to the road from the estate lands. I heard Captain Ramsay then give an order to the ten police armed with guns. The police then fired the guns; I was about 12 feet from Captain Ramsay going north then. I had passed him. I was walking sideways. I heard two more volleys before I reached where the Deputy Inspector General was. I then spoke to Inspector Gamble while the artillerymen were very vigilant and I feared they might fire the machine gun as I heard some motor going as I want to get out. It was mounted on a lorry on the bridge. I then joined Mr. Kawall in a car and proceeded to the Immigration Agent General. I did not see if any one was killed.

By Mr. Browne, K.C.:

I went up on the Wednesday with my son who was learning to drive. I went to Diamond Hospital. I heard Kawall was up there with Singh. I saw groups going up towards Diamond. I met Kawall coming from the attorney's house. I then returned to town after talking to Kawall. He said the people is striking for more money. Inspector Jones and Mr. Legge were there. I was stopped at Farn by the dispenser. I reached town about 12 midday. I am a member of the East Indian Association. I am a member of the Committee. I have been on the Committee since August, 1923, or so. I attended meeting at the London Theatre on 30th March, a Sunday. There were both members and non-members present. Probably over 200 present, not 400, mostly East Indians. We elected office-bearers there. There were some East Indians I recognised from the East Bank, one in particular, with a long beard from Grove. Sirikissoon's name is familiar but I do not know him personally, Kawall presided and addressed the people. I did not read the "Chronicle" report of the meeting.

Report "E" of the President's speech is substantially correct. In particular he referred to the two delegates of the Association who had gone to India, and said they would do their best to bring the grievances of the people before the leaders in India. Ramnarine Pundit was in the body of the hall, he did not interpret Kawall's words. Ramnarine explained what election en bloc meant and the people then said they were satisfied.

On Thursday there was a band and banners and sticks. We went on to the Immigration Agent. I heard Kawall say you talk about colonisation and you see what happened. He said he speak to the people and as he was going to see His Excellency to get a hearing, the shooting take place. He said we tried to get a hearing but the people would not give us a hearing. He said some people went to his store on Monday and he enrolled them as members. He said to Mr. King that they had no grievance to send on to the Immigration Agent so he enrolled them as members and sent them away. He said something about the people repeating on the East Bank what they saw on Tuesday in Georgetown. Captain Ramsay suggested delegates being sent in by the crowd. There was some discussion of this with Mr. King. Kawall said they did not want to see Crosby but to see Critchlow. Reference was made to water at the London Theatre meeting. I do not remember wages being referred to.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

MacDoom's house is a mile from Dr. Earle's bridge. We motored slowly to about twenty-five rods south of Dr. Earle's house, we then got out and the car was sent on towards Georgetown. Captain Ramsay said this band must be stopped. He did not tell me to go and speak to the crowd. I made the suggestion that I should try and pacify. I did not say I was afraid the crowd would beat me. I was afraid of the police. I understood the Riot Act Proclamation and I translated it repeatedly. I know Golamjelally, he is a member of the Committee, he is not Kawall's right hand man. He did not go up with Kawall on Wednesday. I saw Kawall coming from Mr. Anderson's house that day. I did not see Golamjelally, I do not know Sirikissoon Maraj, the name is familiar. I don't know what Kawall said to the people. I don't know anything of Golamjelally ringing a bell or telling the people not to work, or that he would get them more wages. Handbill "F" put in, I have seen similar ones at the place at which I work. The black people had them on the Monday before the demonstration. I saw none distributed on the East Bank. I saw missiles thrown on the Thursday. No bottles, only sticks being thrown on the western side. People were throwing sticks to defend themselves, some hackia sticks and round wood that they sell at the koker, they were throwing them at the police that were mounted. I would not say they hit them. Perhaps five or ten sticks were thrown by people in a running condition. I saw no one breaking off the bottle necks to throw them. Probably they pelted other missiles but I did not see. I was standing by Captain Ramsay when the pelting took place. I saw nothing thrown on the road. It was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour from the reading of the Act to the first shooting.

By Mr. King:

I saw a proclamation like C or D posted on my house but not up the bank. We warned the crowd from Houston that they would not be allowed to go to town. About $\frac{3}{4}$ turned back in consequence of our warning. I was not frightened by the crowd at Ruimveld.

By Mr. Crane :

The procession was quite peaceful while we motored down with them. I heard Mr. Kwall say that the Manager will do his best for them. I did not hear one single mention of Crosby. No one said they were going to Crosby, they said they were going to see Critchlow to get grievances redressed. They were quiet when the Act was read. No assaults or damage had been done then. The Act was to get the mob to move away. They said they were going to town peacefully to see Critchlow. The ones near gave up their sticks. The police made suggestion that delegates should give up sticks and pass. The distance from Diamond to Dr. Earle's is about 5 or 6 miles. Portions of the crowd came from Diamond, I heard of no outrages between Diamond and Ruinveldt, they have no interests in Georgetown, they are pauperised people, there is valuable property on the way. No disturbances went on until we found the road stopped and a machine-gun mounted and 10 police with fixed bayonets, and infantry in khaki and special constables, about 20 in khaki I should say. I met Mr. Legge there when I got there. He remained about 15 minutes. Mr. Gamble was there but I did not see him when I arrived, also Inspector Murtland. The khaki men had not got rifles. The Police authorities suggested sending delegates and offered to escort them to town and back. The crowd said they are not to go as the Police might carry them as ringleaders. I did not hear the crowd agree to send the delegates at any time before the firing. I was there 1½ hours or more. The Act was read five or ten minutes after I got to the bridge.

I did not hear the crowd agree to let delegates go. I took it Captain Ramsay would permit the mob up to the pole indicated, but they must not come further. It was after that the people began dispersing to right and left on to the estate land by way of the stop-off. It was then that the mounted men began riding and invaded them on the private land. Some of the people lived there, and it was then the missiles were thrown. No one attempted to cross the line set by Captain Ramsay except ourselves up to the time the order to fire was given. The volleys were fired from the road at an angle towards the estate ranges. Captain Ramsay could see the ranges. All ten police fired their volleys first towards the ranges, then at a narrower angle, none straight in front as the mounted police and detectives were there. The third was towards the western ranges, they could also have been seen by Captain Ramsay. The mounted police were in front keeping the crowd back from the pole. They were merely standing up.

The only difference in the behaviour was when the horses invaded them. I saw no breach of the peace by the front row. The band continued to play. I heard the rumbling of the machine gun after the firing. The houses are about 50 yards from road centre on East, about 25 yards on West. The special constables never charged the crowd with sticks nor did the mounted police charge the crowd on the road. They simply formed a line. Captain Ramsay was in charge but spoke to Inspector Gamble twice. I heard the Riot Act read in 1905. I did my best to translate it this time. Mr. Legge read it and Ramnarain and I translated it line by line. We are all Hindus and speak Naeri. There were some Mahomedans and Madrasi in the crowd, only a few Madrasi. The Mahomedans speak Urdu and the Madrasi Tamil. I interpreted in Hindi only. The crowd was for the major part illiterate. I did not see any of the dead or wounded. I was not interested when I went away. The band was being

played in a private yard to the west of the road. I went across the bridge to ask them to stop. I suppose bill "F" is issued by the Labour Union.

By Mr. Cyril Browne :

No one suggested sending for Critchlow. I did not see him up the bank earlier in the week. Captain Ramsay said "the crowd will have to clear away." When Kawall said he will go to His Excellency I received the same reply to my remark. From my experience they might have dispersed about 1 or 2 if they had not had breakfast. I gradually left. Mr. Legge had already left. The people were quiet because the police kept them in subjection, I will not speculate if it was necessary to read the Riot Act. I was surprised at the order to shoot. The only necessity was when the mounted police invaded the people and things were thrown on the western side, the troopers had sticks, but the place was bad and I do not think they used them. Every one was standing, no one sitting I saw.

By Mr. Fredericks :

Captain Ramsay was quite brave, not excited. There was nothing to excite him. The police who fired were on the public road, they fired after the mounted retired; the police who fired were not attacked.

The public road was their only way to Georgetown. The police had complete command of that road. The people did not attempt to out-flank the police. The people mostly crossed to the private land by the stop-off.

By Mr. Singh :

Mr. Soobrian is the Madras Interpreter of the Immigration Department. I did not see him there nor any one from the Immigration Department. Mr. King said they had not been communicated with. I have not seen any proclamation except in English. There are cottages on the western side. I saw some East Indian women standing all about. I could not see inside the houses. They were not making any noise.

By Mr. Humphrys :

None of the people said the manager had made promises which he had not kept. They usually take their implements when they go to Crosby, and they usually go to Crosby if they have any grievance. We did not distribute buttons or enrol members at the meeting on 30th. I cannot remember any one present except that one man. I speak Hindi and English. The Mahommedan generally speaks and understands Hindi.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C. :

The people who pelted were over the trench, they got across by the stop-off and a bridge by a cottage. I did not see where any one fell.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C. :

I think Corporal Reid had 4 or 5 troopers. I did not see Billyeald, and I saw no charge by the police on the road at all. I only got afraid after I saw the magistrate and other commissioned officers returned back to the bridge and got away from the zone. I should say there were 24 mounted police there in all. They got on the side-dam back where Mr. Gamble was.

By Mr. Crane :

The police only made one attempt to arrest while I was there. His flannel tore and he got away and Corporal Reid said if you arrest that man you are going to humbug the whole thing. He was by the band but not a musician.

(Sd.) RAMPRASHAD.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 12th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

14. Ramnarine Pandit on oath saith:—I live at La Penitence and am a rice-miller. I was present on Thursday, 3rd April, when the shooting took place. I went up 8-9 A.M. on that morning with Kawall and Ramprashad in a car. Kawall asked me to go up to speak to the crowd which was coming down. I met the crowd at Houston, we got out of the car and stopped them on the road. The first batch was 15 to 20 children, after that some Madras people came and told us they were going to town to see Mr. Critchlow, we said let us go back to the estate, speaking broken English and Hindi. Others came up with a band, a black man leading. The man I know he is the traitor. He pushed Mr. Kawall aside and said to the crowd do not mind them, let us go on. A portion of that crowd went on, perhaps 100 went on and about 100 stayed with us. I went to MacDoom's house and telephoned to Dr. Earle's residence, the dispenser spoke, "everything like yesterday evening." I ask him to get the Inspector. Some one else then replied and I said we were doing our best to stop the people from going forward, and that some had gone on. I asked him to be patient, not to be impatient. He said "yes" and rang off. I went back to road. There was then 300 or 400 in crowd, who agreed to return back. Kawall and Ramprashad were still speaking to them, the crowd said some have already gone. I then said to Kawall we can get back to Ruimveld and see what we can do. The crowd came on with us, some remaining behind. We reached Ruimveld about 10. We met a crowd of 600 or 700. I cannot remember where the band was. We got out about 25 rods from Dr. Earle's and a few feet before where the police about eight or ten P. C.'s on foot with guns drawn across the street. Captain Ramsay was with them. Britton was with us having left his bicycle at MacDoom's. We then began to speak to the people again. The coroner passed through going south a few minutes later. Mr. Legge also came up a few minutes after we did. After about ten minutes he read the Riot Act. We all four continued to address the crowd until things got worse. Captain Ramsay insisted on us turning the people back. They were orderly, there were some people on the side dam. The mounted men and the machine-gun were then back at the bridge with more police and special constables and militia. After some time Captain Ramsay gave an order to the mounted police who went to the east and west of the road and began chasing the people back from the side-lines. The crowd on the road was remaining where we were, but the crowd at the sides was getting large, about 2,000 being there then. A little later some other mounted police, about 10 or 12 came, but remained at the back until Mr. Ramsay ordered them forward to chase the people on the road. All the time the mounted men to east and west were trying to chase back the people at the sides. The horse

guards on the road had batons up and proceeded on and chased the people back for 25 or 30 rods, then the shooting took place. I had seen some bricks pelted from the sides at the police on the road, there might be other things. I saw no sticks pelted. I should say less than half, about a quarter or a third, of the crowd had sticks. About ten police fired about three volleys, first direct down the road, then about five to the east and five to the west. I saw about three or four people fall on the road. Two men and a boy from Peter's Hall, Ramharack, also some one on the west side. I remained after Kawall and Ramprashad left. The crowd fell back but remained in groups after the shooting to see who was hurt. I remained until they took the bodies to Dr. Earle's place. There is only one body I could identify, that was Badloo, he had already been picked up. I saw him the day before at Providence, I was speaking to a crowd there among which he was. 4 to 5 P.M. I was speaking to them generally with Kawall telling them not to come to town. We went as far as the Police Station on Wednesday, that was the only other time I went up that week.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

The stones were pelted at the police on the road. I could not say if bottles were thrown. I saw nothing done to the police at the side. The police at the side were keeping the crowd from coming round on to the road. I saw Inspector Gamble there. I was not threatened. Mr. Kawall telephoned too from MacDoom's.

By Mr. King:

I did not hear the people say the day before anything about trouble in Georgetown. We simply warned them about martial law being proclaimed and that they will get into trouble. It was not on the strength of the proclamation I warned them.

By Mr. Crane:

There were no police there when we passed up about 8 A.M. I gathered from the dispenser the bridge was guarded. Some had croton trees, it is useless as a club. The crowd seemed more joyful than angry. They had their crotons uplifted swinging them joyfully. There are two stop-offs, if troopers had been put there the people could not have passed from the side lands on to the road.

There is no other way out except the trenches about 3 feet deep. The trench on the east is about 12 to 14 feet wide. There is a dam beyond running up to the ranges about 7 rods away. At the time the Riot Act was read the state was that Captain Ramsay was telling the crowd to go back there was no disorder except that the black man I referred to was nearly arrested. He kept shouting he must go to town, his flannel tore away. There was no other incident before the Riot Act was read. After it was read they started to disperse on to the lands at the side the people were crowded right up to the houses. The houses are near each other for 100 rods on east and west. The first row of police was by the tamarind tree. I cannot say if Inspector Gamble was there at the firing, he was a few minutes later. I cannot say if Captain Ramsay withdrew the men at the sides. Some of the troopers were in front of the shooting party but were falling back on it when the shooting took place. The mounted men on the sides had not reached so far south as the line where the men on the road were posted.

The mounted troops at the sides at the east chased some of the people along a road to Alexander Village. I do not think many of the people being driven on the east came from the bank. I could not say where they came from. I recognised some of the people as being residents of La Penitence. The police got to the west by a stop-off, about 5 rods from the Alexander Village road. They could go that side and chase the people back. A coloured stout gentleman was in charge on the road. He was charging in a rougher manner than they do in Georgetown but I did not see batons used. The creole gang is 10 to 16 years old. There were about 200 of them in the crowd. I could not see anything extraordinary to cause the order to fire. I think they would have gone away in time if hungry. The crowd agreed to send delegates if they could wait till their return but they did not select delegates. I told Captain Ramsay but though he offered to let 10 delegates through he would not agree to the crowd staying on the road till their return. He then ordered the mounted police to drive the crowd back. The next act was shooting.

The specials, P.C.'s or militia never charged the crowd with their batons. Captain Ramsay never said that they would be shot if they did not draw back. I went up to Diamond the same afternoon. I made no enquiries otherwise. I was born here. I was told Narine was picked up shot on the road.

By Mr. Fredricks :

❧ No. 3 Ramharak fell on the road. The crowd never pressed to come on the road. They were standing. When the Captain first ordered the crowd back to the line they obeyed. I saw the sticks raised at Houston. I never saw the Police in danger. Whoever came in front of the crowd at the Captain's line the Police demanded their sticks, likewise at the sides. No one I saw wrestled for his stick. Some constable held the sticks. The black man in front kept saying "Must go to town to Critchlow." No one used threats.

By Mr. Cameron :

I am a Brahmin. I have not been to worship at the temple on East Bank for last six months. I had not been to Diamond for 3 years. I went at Captain Murtland's request the night before to Providence. I am not of a warrior stock. I could not say where the crotons came from. I did not see the police collect crotons.

By Mr. Browne, K.C. :

I am not a member of the East Indian Association. I attend meetings but do not wish to join. I was at the Sunday meeting, 20th March, there were Indians from the bank there, 400 to 500 people were at the meeting. It was the annual meeting. Wages not discussed at all. It lasted 2-30 till after 4. I belong to the Congress merged with the Association. Some of the crowd wanted to see Crosby but they told me personally they were not shouting it.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C. :

I was just to the south of the southern end of the car loop. I stayed there all the time. I met the police there first of all and I remained there until the firing. When the police drove the people back I retired a little. It was volley firing, not individual firing. I was near Captain Ramsay.

I did not see any reason for firing. The police were being pelted but I would bear more pelting than that for peace. I only saw the woman after she was shot.

(Sd.) RAMNARINE PANDIT.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 14th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

15. Deponent Francis Kawall on oath saith:—I live 12, Queen Street, Georgetown, and am a general merchant. On Thursday, 3rd April, I received a telephone message from Aaron Britton. Ramprashad and Ramnarine came to my store. We got a car and went up the East Bank to Houston, reaching Houston about 9-30 A.M. Britton followed on his bicycle. There we met a crowd of boys in front, then a crowd of blacks, East Indians and women mixed by MacDoom's house, people were coming up all the time and getting thicker. We did our utmost to turn them back, they listened and stopped, but some had passed on. We tried to recall those, but eventually a black Barbadian came with a hackia stick to me, braced me with his arm and stick and shouted "Let them go don't stop them." I think the band was behind him. I could make no resistance and we went to telephone and I spoke to the Inspector General and he agreed that he would allow five delegates to pass. (I believe he meant five Blacks and five East Indians). We then returned to the car but the crowd had passed or was passing by then and we motored down after them. Stopping behind at Ruimveld we got out and I went through an opening they made to Captain Ramsay. I told him what we had received about delegates. He said yes and we tried to get the crowd to select their five, but they insisted that they all should go. This was after ten. The people were excited about the selection. A little while later Mr. Legge read the Riot Act in English and it was translated by Ramnarine and Ramprashad. Finally they agreed to send delegates but said they (the crowd) must remain on the road till the delegates return. Captain Ramsay said they must disperse. I told him in the hearing of the crowd that I will get the Immigration Agent General and I told the crowd I will fetch His Excellency if they wanted him. I left and went to Inspector Gamble who was further north. He agreed and I proceeded to my car which had been brought through to the first shop in La Penitence. Before I got into the car I heard three volleys in succession. Some one ran and said six were killed. I got into my car with Mr. Ramprashad who had followed me. The horse guards came from the south towards my car as I got in and we proceeded to the Immigration Department. On arrival there I saw Mr. King who did not know of this affair. I was up the East Bank on the Wednesday before in consequence of a telephone message from Cyri Kissoon that something was happening on the East Bank. I said he must let me know. He said there was trouble and he saw lorries and mounted police going up. I picked him up and the two of us went up about 9-15 A.M. to Providence where I saw the crowd going to the manager at Diamond. I went up and stayed at Diamond till the crowd arrived.

Mr. Anderson, Magistrate Legge and Inspector Jones were there and I spoke to the people as did Mr. Legge. Mr. Anderson said he would not

speak to a noisy crowd like that, but he would speak to selected delegates, five from each estate. I explained that to the crowd, they could not agree on delegates then, and I told the people to go back and I would speak to Mr. Anderson that he must go to the estates and meet them on the spot. The people then started and the majority cleared away. I then spoke to Mr. Anderson and he agreed to go to Providence, Peter's Hall and Farm to meet delegates the following day to decide the wages question. They had come to Diamond for more wages. Some elderly East Indian men were asking for five shillings and the black man whose shirt was torn. At Providence I had stayed five minutes but did not address them. Our meetings are all held in the day-time.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C. :

I was not out of my store on Monday or Tuesday. I had not been at any meeting on the East Bank, from July, 1923, to this Wednesday. I explained the Riot Act in Hindi. I spoke to them in English and Hindustani. I said "Go back," etc., "Chela jau yuhan na raho!" That was the meaning of the Riot Act. At our meetings I and others speak. I was at our annual general meeting. Nothing was said about wages. Viapree was president in 1922. At the arrival of the delegates Mr. Luckhoo clamoured for presidency. Viapree was not vice-president, he writes as ex-president. He telephoned to me on 1st or 2nd April to dissociate myself from the Labour Union. I said we never were associated and he got vexed. He never mentioned about summoning a meeting of the Association. I think we meant a committee meeting but he did not mention any meeting. I cannot remember if he said so. He might have asked me to call a meeting. He was talking so much, he was not a man to come to me, he is vexed because he is not associated with the lawyers on this Inquiry.

He did not mention "Government," he might have mentioned a meeting, but he did not say "he wanted to assure the Government." I found it a strange suggestion and I refused to do what he asked. Cyri Kisson said he saw the artillery and police going up the bank. On Wednesday 7th, the second time he telephoned he said he see some more of these things passing and he said "It is good for us to go up." I passed a machine-gun at Farm. I did not stop at Farm. The people at Providence said they are going to Mr. Anderson. I did not like to ask the militia men at Farm anything. Hundreds of these people I passed on the way, it was a demonstration. I did not ask them what they were going for. They said they were going to ask for more money. I am not so rotten as to give them advice. I heard no grievances, it was a confused disorderly mob, and I got it to go home. I was satisfied the Manager could not listen to them. I did not like the way they went there. I have never seen a crowd like this before. I think they thought they would do the same thing as they saw in town on Tuesday.

I blame the people in town. It was in the newspaper. The demonstration meeting was published on Sunday. I think if the mob of 4,000 had been allowed to come on Thursday if they had been properly guarded nothing might have been done but without a police escort they could not have been admitted. I always prepare grievances for Mr. Hill's hearing and he generally goes up to investigate. I had no complaints of any kind that week. The Association name has been used on the bank. They could not have acted in the way I saw unless they had been stirred up by someone.

Bills "F" were distributed in Water Street and probably on the East Bank. I do not like the chorus at all. It is not a decent bill. That might create a disturbance.

They are very easily led and follow the crowd. If they get roused they are dangerous but on these days they were not roused. I know Goolamjelally, he is a Committee but is illiterate, there is 13 Committee. He was not authorised to ring any bell. I do not know if he did. I have not spoken to him since. I did not like to ask him. I do not like these things as he is not authorised. I did not believe it as he will be cast out of the Association. The mob on Thursday were up against the police by a pole. The horse guards were in front when we arrived, the men behind. There was no charge by the time I left. I heard a sound of the volleys. It was all in five minutes. I was not frightened, but I was not marching so quietly. I left Ramprashad. He met me by the car later. I don't know anything of the attacks on the police, except the charge at the western side as I left. I think the crowd was about 2,000 there, with people coming up they were a bit excited, they were mixed, they had sticks at Houston, but I saw no sticks at Ruimveld. I did not see a single stick.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C. :—

A few shouted for Crosby. I went on to Crosby. I said to Mr. King that some had been to me on Tuesday but had no grievance or I should have brought them on to the Immigration Agent General as before. There was a machine-gun at Mr. Anderson's house but it may have been the same one as I saw at Farm. After coming down on Wednesday, the Inspector General of Police sent me up again on Wednesday afternoon. They have been coming to me since 1923 when I received a reply from His Excellency to an address of welcome. Mr. Hill always attends to complaints. I made a long speech at the Sunday meeting. I cannot say if I told Mr. King that there was any danger in their coming to town. I know that some of Thursday's crowd were in town on Tuesday. On Thursday I telephoned the police as I was convinced the people would insist on going on to town. I wanted the police to stop them as I knew of the Proclamation. They were very excited, one black man spoilt the show. They were out of hand and I telephoned to Brickdam to say so.

By Mr. Fredericks :

Copy of our Rules put in "G."

By Mr. Cyril Browne :

At our Sunday meeting the water at Grove was the only grievance discussed.

I said delegates had gone to India to represent them and to do their best for them. I did not say to get wages increased, but it came to that. I never spoke to Critchlow and never worked with the Labour Union. The crowd got quieter after the Riot Act and kept behind the pole. I did not know why the police charged to the west. The people were standing easily and some were sitting on the bank. Captain Ramsay agreed to the delegates going through but when Captain Ramsay said after the delegates had gone through the balance must disperse no selection was made. There was no fighting when the Act was read. I did not see the necessity.

By Mr. Cameron for Demerara Company :

I knew nothing of any suggestion of five shillings a day. It was an impossible suggestion for all to have that and it was quite an improper way to put

it forward. It was a noisy mob and I never heard of such a way of approaching the manager. The usual way is to see the manager first, then to get Crosby to investigate. The Immigration Authorities never refuse to act and I cannot say they act unfairly. If it had not been for the strike this demand would not have been made, at any rate not in the way it was made. No complaints had been made at all that week to me.

By Mr. King:

I did not tell Viapree "Man you do not know what you are talking about. The people are working for starving wages".

(Sd.) F. KAWALL.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 14th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

16. The deponent Reginald Charles Clegg on oath saith:—I am a clerk at the Colonial Bank, Georgetown, and I was acting as a Special Constable on Thursday, the 3rd April. I went to La Penitence about 10 A.M.; a force of police and militia arrived there shortly afterwards. Captain Ramsay went up at the same time. We all got out by Dr. Earle's house, there was no special crowd there then, just the usual onlookers. Some time after we got there a crowd arrived from Diamond direction in a mass, with others coming up behind. A squad of armed police were marched on foot to about 150 yards south of the bridge and posted there with about half a dozen mounted men and they formed a barrier as the crowd were coming along. Captain Ramsay was with this party. I was on the bridge. The crowd halted and were addressed by Captain Ramsay who told them to go back. I walked up to them while he was speaking to them. This continued for some time. Mr. Kawall was there with Ramnarine and Ramprashad but I did not see them arrive. They were also addressing the crowd for some time, about half-an-hour, the crowd were repeatedly told they would not be allowed to go through. During this time I was sent back to the bridge to form a barrier to keep back the crowd who wanted to go through from the north. There was a very big crowd to the north also to the south. I could not estimate the numbers. Special constables were then ordered up and we took up a position in front of the armed police. We were armed with batons. The Riot Act was then read by Mr. Legge and I believe translated by Kawall and Ramnarine to the crowd. The people were continually addressed by Captain Ramsay and it was impressed upon them that the Riot Act had been read. During this time one of these people (Ramnarine, Kawall or Ramprashad I do not know which) said that someone in the crowd had said that they were starving on the estate and as they had to die on the estate they did not mind if they did die. I think it was Ramprashad who said this. They did not disperse. The crowd at the sides was advancing all the time across the other sides of the trenches and we were told to urge them to go back by Captain Ramsay and we shouted to them across the trench, it had little effect. Some one was beating a drum all the time. Ramsay ordered it to be stopped, I cannot say if it stopped, I heard it still playing at least twice after. Soon after this we were ordered back to the bridge. I then saw another squad of mounted men had arrived who proceeded down the road and rode into the crowd which

rapidly broke up, people getting through trenches or across bridges one of which broke, the people falling in. The trenches seemed to be about 3 or 4 feet deep. The crowd then began throwing missiles at the police on the road. Judging by the litter I saw after on the road it was chiefly bottles. The road was covered with a large quantity of broken bottles. Soon after that the mounted police were withdrawn. The foot police were drawn up across the road and a volley was fired apparently down the road. While that was happening I saw one man come round from behind a house on west side and throw something like a bottle or brick at the kneeling police on the road. I cannot say whether East Indian or black. After that I heard intermittent shots fired for two or three seconds and the people dispersed on either side into the ranges and the road seemed clear. I then walked down the road through the police cordon and I saw two men lying on the tram-line, one was badly wounded and the other appeared to be unable to rise. I also saw two people who appeared to be dead, one on the right across the trench and one on the left. A wounded man also came across from the west being helped and I told him to go to the rear which he did. I then returned to the bridge and remained some time there. There was a very big crowd at north to the east of the bridge. They were told by Captain Ramsay to disperse but took no notice. After that the wounded were put in cars and I drove one car to hospital.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

I understand by volley that the firing is all at one moment on the order being given. I was about 150 yards away when the troopers charged with batons. They were swinging these round their heads, and I presume using them. I did not see Sergeant-Major Bilycald arrive. I saw him there. There was a big noise. I could not say exactly how the charge of the police was done. The mounted police circled and tried to drive the crowd back; it gave way but the police re-assembled and seemed to come back. I saw many people in the attitude of throwing but could not see what they were throwing.

By Mr. Crane:

We all arrived about the same time, about 20 or 30 Specials. There were about two dozen foot police armed with rifles. Some militia, about six. Three on a lorry with a machine-gun and two or three others. I cannot say which got there first. There was no more crowd than usual when we arrived. Captain Ramsay was up in front when the crowd arrived. I should judge the first violence was after the mounted police charged the crowd. Mr. Reid came through with a party of armed police in a lorry with rifles before the mounted police arrived. The lorry went through the crowd to the south. Mr. Reid got out at the bridge but then went on to Diamond. I daresay there were eighty-three including police, specials, mounted police, and militia. We were normally under Captain Ramsay's direction, we were never ordered to charge the mob, most of the time we were enjoying a smoke on the bridge. I have served in the army, you can smoke in a battle, you are not on parade then. I did not know what was going to happen. I saw plenty of cause for alarm if a mob like that gets the upper hand. The mere fact that the crowd was accumulated with sticks in that way gave me cause for alarm that their attitude might become violent, they were not attempting any violence at the time. I come from London. I

have not seen crowds on strike. I have seen demonstrations, people often have walking sticks and banners there, but I never saw any cause for alarm there. I always had sufficient faith in the police force and no reason to think the people would get out of hand. Sometimes there would be practically no police as there was no need; they were peaceable demonstrations. This crowd was peaceable in so far as it was not attempting violence when it got there. I did not hear the conversation about deputations. I cannot say how the crowd at the sides was formed. I do not know about any line drawn by Captain Ramsay so cannot say if the crowd went north of it. I saw no cause for arresting any one at the bridge except as a precaution. The drum appeared from the sound to be on west of road. Playing the drum did not seem fitting. After the first volley there may have been several shots fired.

I did not know any order to fire had been given and I did not expect it. I went about 100 yards down the road beyond the police line after the firing. I did not go as far as the trolley line across the road.

By Mr. C. R. Browne :

My orders were to go to La Penitence and wait. Dr. Haslam arrived after I left. I did not see Dr. Earle nor any ambulance. I saw a man I was told was a dispenser helping the wounded.

By Mr. Singh :

I took four wounded to the hospital in an ordinary car. I rode on foot-board. I did not see the wounds. One was a woman, East Indian. I saw fags among the crowd being waved but paid no attention. I saw no sticks thrown. We collected sticks on the bridge from any one going through. Some resented it. There was a crowd over the trenches. I could not see in houses. I saw no police wounded, I will not say there were none. I saw no property destroyed.

(Sd.) R. C. CLEGG.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 15th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID.

Coroner.

17. The deponent Charles Christie Wood on oath saith:—I am a clerk in the Colonial Bank. I was on duty as a Special Constable on 3rd April I was sent to La Penitence arriving about 10 A.M. I arrived about the same time as some 12 P.C.'s on foot, about 30 special constables and 3 militia with a Vickers gun, Captain Ramsay was there. A crowd arrived soon after from Diamond direction, the foot police were marched up and placed across the road with a few mounted police in front. The Riot Act was read. I was posted behind the police, but could not hear the words. The crowd were waving flags and shouting. About an hour after I got there, the mounted police were trying to push the crowd back on the road; they did not succeed. Later, S. M. Billyeald came with reinforcements with drawn sticks and tried to chase the crowd off. They moved them off, but the crowd crossed the trenches by wading or jumping as best they could. Then the throwing began. I saw what was happening more to the east. There were quite a few men throwing. I saw one man throw a bottle. He held it by the neck and let go, but I could not see what most of them

threw. I could not see to the west. Some of the crowd throwing had come past to the north of where Captain Ramsay was keeping to the sides. As the mounted men fell back from charging, the crowd followed them up all the time; they did not actually run after the mounted men but surged in from the sides again. I had gone back to the bridge. I did not see the police shooting. I heard the firing, it sounded like a volley to me with intermittent shots following. That drove the crowd off the road; they mostly ran to the ranges at either side and the road was fairly clear except for the wounded and police. I went to help with the wounded. I saw about four lying on the grass by the tram track almost immediately after the firing, they were all men. I saw a black and East Indian, apparently dead, lying on the western side over the trench. I crossed the trench to see and some one then threw a lump of burnt earth at me. I then took 3 East Indian wounded men to hospital in a car.

By Mr. Crane :

The special had batons, the police rifles. We seemed to be there an hour before the mob arrived. The Riot Act was read about half an hour after that. There were several people disorderly at the bridge. The front row seemed very excited but I did not see them try to push their way through.

I did not see Captain Ramsay point out any line. He was moving up and down. The crowd lapped round beyond where Captain Ramsay was. I saw a tidy bunch to the east, but I cannot say which of them belonged there. I saw no police wounded. I did not expect the firing. I have served in the Army. I saw nothing to frighten me. We were told to stop the crowd coming to Georgetown. I don't think there was time to have got the people I saw from the ranges to where I saw them lying. It was only two or three minutes after the firing stopped. I could not understand what the crowd wanted. I heard Ramprashad say "that they did not care if they were shot, they might as well be killed as die on the estate" or words to that effect. He was addressing them in Hindi and they were shouting yah, yah, or something back.

(Sd.) C. C. WOOD.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 15th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

18. Stanhope Billyeald on oath saith:—I am Sergeant-Major of Police. I am a member of the Regular Army, viz., Queen's Bays 2nd Dragoon Guards. I served in the late war. On 3rd April at 11-35 A.M. I was instructed at Brickdam by the Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General to proceed with B troop (17 men) and half of A troop (8 men) to La Penitence and report to Captain Ramsay. The remaining men of A troop had preceded me to Ruinveldt leaving Brickdam at 10-5 A.M. under Saddler Corpl. Reid. I reached La Penitence about 11-45 A.M. I met Captain Ramsay about 5 yards north of the bridge and reported to him. He gave me orders as follows: "You see this crowd." I said "Yes, sir." "They must be dispersed by the mounted police. Send a party on either side of the main road, and clear the main road yourself." I gave the command "Draw batons?" I detailed Lee.-Corpl. Pompey and 5 men to cross the wooden bridge to the right or west. I detailed Lee.-Corpl.

Moe and 7 men to go to the east and work through on that flank and I left two men—one a trumpeter—on Ruimveldt bridge. With the remainder I went forward at a trot, passed through a line of foot police and met up with Corpl. Reid's party lined across the road. I gave his party the order "Draw batons." I placed myself in front with Troop Sergt.-Major Jupiter and gave the order "Trot." The point I started from is a few yards north of a stop-off on east leading to a Chinese shop. The head of the crowd broke to either side, the majority going west among the houses. I met with no actual resistance till a point ten yards beyond the 1st mile stone; there several East Indians with shovels, cutlasses and one fork I saw made a stand brandishing their implements. The man with the fork made jabs at me and I struck him with the baton across his right shoulder. They then broke and crossed the trench to west to the houses. From the time of starting, bottles, jugs and burnt earth were pelted at the mounted police, but not severely up to the first check.

The greater portion of the crowd retired in the direction of Meadow Bank, but seeing this check, turned about and came running back. I formed my party in line and charged again in that direction. I halted four or five yards from the trolley line across the road, but before that I told the files to watch the rear. I pulled up short on hearing a shout "they are coming from behind Sergeant Major." I halted my party, went to the rear and faced north again. I gave command "Sections about" and faced north. There were a lot of children coming out of school who ran to join a crowd by the deputy manager's house. I called out "get inside your houses" to warn the children; several of my men repeated the warning. I then gave command "Trot" and returned to a point ten yards north of the milestone to disperse the crowd that had come back on the road again from the neighbourhood of buildings to the west. It was here we were very heavily pelted with bottles, jugs, and other missiles. Some even came over the wooden bridge over the trench to take better aim. I saw an East Indian deliberately knock top off a glass bottle and throw it from the west. At that time I heard rifle firing. And looking behind, I saw an East Indian man fall on the tramway track apparently dead. 15 or 20 yards behind him another man had fallen to the south. I saw another man further south but could not see if it was an East Indian or black. The pelting of bottles and jugs still continued. I called again to the people to the west—get in your houses. For a space of two minutes those people did not seem to realize what was happening and continued to throw. The people then realized and scattered in all directions and got away. Captain Ramsay then came up and ordered me to retire on Ruimveldt bridge. I met Mr. Gamble there, who instructed me to patrol as far as Sussex Street bridge and clear the streets. I proceeded to Sussex Street bridge and all the way called on the people "The best advice you can get from Horse Guard is to get off the street and into your homes." In most cases they did so and we cleared the street.

At Sussex Street bridge I found District Inspector Long with a party of armed foot police lined across, and I told him my instructions and proceeded further down Saffron Street warning the people. I then returned to Ruimveldt bridge and reported that streets had been cleared and the people warned. Mr. Gamble then instructed me to proceed to Brickdam with one-half of the mounted police and I reached there with B troop only at 12-35 p.m.

When I arrived first at the bridge, I asked if the Riot Act had been read. Captain Ramsay replied: "A long time ago."

By Mr. Crane:

The full strength of the mounted police is 40 men, 20 per troop—A and B troops. When I reinforced Corpl. Reid, I had 34 at my disposal. Cavalry were used very early in the war. I have some experience of handling mounted men. Their power depends on the features of the land, natural or artificial. 17 to 20 would line the street in the usual case, 12 to 16 would be sufficient to line the street at Ruimveldt. I had 17 on the road and the tramway track.

When you charge an enemy you go at some set pace using sword or lance. I charged this crowd at a fast trot, "trot out." The greater the pace the more effective the charge. We used our batons if we met resistance, otherwise we carry them at the slope. There was no need to use batons at first, the crowd broke across the trenches as we advanced on them. Batons were not used in the second charge as there was no determined opposition. After we put about and charged back, we still met with no determined opposition; the people got off the road as we advanced, the road immediately filled up again with people, there were at least 200 to 300 people back on the road as we charged back. I only used the baton once. The people ran away as we advanced. The men with shovels and forks seemed to be agricultural labourers. They were swinging them about with an intention of hitting us. The man I spoke of as jabbing at me certainly intended to strike me. When I got up first I heard the same volume of sound as you would hear at a cycle race. I saw no violence when I arrived. There was a distance of 20 yards, or so, from the crowd when I first moved off to charge. There was little water in the trench to west and the people ran straight across. Very few I saw come back from the east; the trench was deeper and wider and only few stop-offs. My flank section was working at the east. A trooper placed at each stop-off would have stopped any one coming from east. There are two stop-offs and the end where the path passes round. I did not post any one there. The stop-offs are about 1½ feet wide. The buildings would have prevented our clearing the western side with as few as 17 troopers. Any large body sent that side would have been split up into small groups. I expected him to keep in line with me dispersing as he went along. I saw the houses were there. I could not send a third column behind the houses as there was no third column available. The people did not get behind the houses till I went down the road. I didn't mind where they went so long as they dispersed. I do not admit it but it is possible that if a third detachment had been available the dispersal would have been more effective.

I do not agree that of the eight I sent to the eastern side, six would have been unnecessary if I had placed two men at each stop-off. I was in front of the firing party. I heard the shots as we finished the last charge about 100 yards south of the firing party; none of us got hit by shot. My attention was not on the firing party. I was giving attention to the crowd to west and cannot say how many were on the road when the firing took place. To my left rear as I was facing west, I saw an East Indian fall on the tramway track. I should say about 25 yards beyond the Chinese shop. I heard some-one shout "they are shooting". It is always possible that there will be shooting when the Riot Act is read, but I confined my own attention to the mounted police action. A few missiles came from the

cast, but mostly fell short. I had my back turned to it. I did not report any incidents to Captain Ramsay till afterwards. I do not know if it was within his observation that we met opposition. The fork jabbing was quite 120 yards away from the line of the foot police. I did not see Captain Ramsay until he told me to retire to the bridge. The only civil affray I have been in was a small affair at the cycle sports.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

There was no necessity to place a trooper on the stop-offs, my order was to disperse. Most crossed to the west, it seemed to me not to have much water in it. There were a lot of people about the houses. My N. C. O., on the west, went as far as the palings of a cottage and he reports he was very heavily pelted with missiles and had to retire. I did not see him. We charged in line myself and Jupiter Trooper Sergeant-Major in front. In a field eight troopers could drive a line through a crowd but the crowd would run round them and reform behind. We were pelted not very heavily at first, but were pelted very heavily later and one order I gave was "mind your heads"; the air was thick with bottles. Five men of A troop, six men of B troop and myself reported being struck by missiles. I was struck on the knee by a beer jug and twice on the arm and once on shoulder. It was duly entered in the Troop Diary. Corpl. Reid was struck on head. I left "A" troop at Ruimveldt. Mostly the missiles came from west among the houses. Captain Ramsay must have seen the bombardment. There was a great deal of jeering going on when I arrived—a sort of pandemonium. In view of the fact that the Riot Act had been read, I took it to be hostile noises, but I could not say what they were saying, they were highly excited and hostile. I had no time to consider the question as my orders were to clear the street. The police damage was mostly contusions. I did not see any of the active stone-throwers shot. I had no report of a man being trampled on and shot afterwards.

(Sd.) S. BILLYEALD, S.M.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 15th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

19. Deponent John Christopher Reid on oath saith:—I am Corporal-saddler of mounted police. On 3rd April I left Brickdam at 10.5 A.M. and went to La Penitence with 8 troopers. On arrival I reported to Captain Ramsay. I was detailed to stop a crowd which was proceeding from Diamond direction. On arrival of the crowd my men were lined across the road just by the Chinese shop at the southern end of the troop. I heard Captain Ramsay ask the crowd to send five black and five East Indians as delegates to Georgetown. The ringleader, or bandmaster, turned and said "Should we go"? He replied "No" and the crowd shouted "No". Then Mr. Legge approached them and asked that five of each go. They again shouted "No". At this point, some one from the tram-line to the south of shop threw two jugs that just fell short of the horses. Captain Ramsay then said you must all go back to your homes. Some of the blacks and East Indians then shouted they must get to Georgetown dead or alive.

I was asking them to return home. They all say they not going. Some moved but as soon as I moved forward a little, a lot of stones, jugs and bottles were being pelted at the police on the road. At this stage Captain Ramsay called on some East Indian to speak but he said he had no control of them. At this stage the Riot Act was read by Mr. Legge, then the pelting came from east and west and the centre. Then Sergt.-Major Billyeald came up and we began to disperse the mob. I remained at the centre. I received three blows, one on right ear, one on knee and one on right hip. I went with the troopers to try and disperse but as fast as we go forward the crowd re-formed. As we returned the mob was just as thick, and the pelting still continued; we then followed Sergt.-Major Billyeald to the bridge. At the time of the shooting we were to the south of the firing party. I did not notice any one hit by the shots.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

I have been twenty years in the force. I was at Ruimveldt riots in 1905. There was some shooting there. They were pelted there too. In my belief the pelting was much more severe at Ruimveldt in 1924 than in 1905. I felt bad and had to get attended to by Dr. Earle. I really was alarmed when I got the second blow. One of my stirrup leathers got broken as I was dodging a bottle. I must notice it. We were dodging bottles all the time. It was only by skilled riding and horsemanship that we were saved from casualties. I made no charge before Sergeant-Major Billyeald came. We kept moving forward but each time the crowd came back. As we charged after the Sergeant-Major came the crowd kept on reforming in our rear. After the firing the crowd soon came from the direction of the ranges and ran up the road. Mr. Legge spoke to the ringleader, a black man with trousers, but his shirt tail flying. Mr. Legge: "Did not I warn you yesterday about leading the crowd?" The man said "We want money, and we intend to get money".

It was a disorderly crowd. They shouted out "We'll get to town alive or dead". They were angry and excited.

By Mr. Crane:

I have been a corporal since 1909. I did not give evidence in the 1905 riots. I went up with the first detachment to Ruimveldt this time. I received my first orders from Captain Ramsay. I took up my position at the Chinese shop by the loop and I think the firing party came after. It was about an hour before Sergeant-Major Billyeald's party came up. I did not take any particular notice of the time. Mr. Legge came up about 10 minutes after I got there. The crowd got there before Mr. Legge. I did not notice when he left. He was there a good time, I should say over 15 minutes. There was pelting while he was there from the east from some one to the southern side of the Chinese shop. The crowd was two rods off me when I halted them. The crowd then divided themselves on either side on the dams at the sides. They were there before the Act was read. They went east and west when stopped. There are entrances on each side to the coolie ranges. No charging done before Riot Act. I expect missiles were thrown because they objected to being stopped. I have stopped crowds before. They have thrown missiles at me before, once at Bourda. Not often. I was in Court yesterday, but not the day before. I did not hear Messrs. Clegg and Wood's evidence. I know a missile was thrown long before the Riot Act was read, I do not know what Mr. Clegg saw, I was a little excited, but I don't think I am mistaken when the

pelting began. I am a Barbadian, I don't know if the shirt-tail man was my countryman. I think it was two jugs and a bottle pelted before the Riot Act was read, from the centre, perhaps eight or nine from the east and some from the west, probably more, perhaps a dozen. None of the mounted men were hit at that time to the best of my knowledge. I began to get fear if they had got a closer range from the east. The missiles were dropping short.

I don't know if any dropped near Mr. Legge. It was not a crowd that disappeared as we got near it, but before the Act was read the crowd advanced close up to the horses about six feet off the horses heads. None of them struck us at that time nor committed any violence. I did not notice any crotons. I have seen East Indians come to Georgetown to Crosby before. They usually march quietly. This was quite a different kind of crowd, with drums and waving sticks. They have brought their tools down with them in my previous experience. Some of their sticks were collected by some one but some one in the crowd shouted "Don't give your sticks up", and the crowd then got back the sticks that had been stacked. I did not see the sticks bundled up and removed after the Riot Act was read. They did not give them up easily, they argued about it. I was in the centre of the charge. We made three charges. I do not remember exactly when we heard the shots, somewhere about the second or third charge. I did not see what Captain Ramsay was doing then. I think all the troopers struck was struck in the charges. I could not say if any of the mounted party had returned to Captain Ramsay before the firing. I don't know if any of my seventeen had returned. I was down south when the firing took place and cannot say how many people were on the road nor exactly where we were when the firing took place, we were dodging about among the crowd. It was then I got my stirrup leather broken. It was not rotten. I did not hear of any of my men getting wounds, I got three blows. No property destroyed, nor attempt on life. I don't think that was a usual Demerara crowd. The usual crowd is harmless when they intend to be harmless. A crowd of East Indians is more harmless than blacks usually. I knew the crowd said they were coming to town about wages. I believed it. I would not have stopped them unless I had orders. If there had been no disturbances I would have regarded the crowd when I first saw it as an orderly one. The waving of sticks was going on in front of the band. I don't see that in Georgetown when the police escort a band. I have seen people imitating the bandmaster when the Militia Band passes, the police do not interfere then. The people were not waving their sticks in that way on this occasion. They had no kerchiefs tied to them. It appeared to be a jollification before the band.

By Mr. C. R. Browne :

The crowd came about ten minutes after we got to Ruimveldt. I saw a lot of people lined along the bank then, but do not know where they came from. I did not ask. About 24 bottles, jugs or bricks I saw thrown before the Act was read. I could not say how many after, dozens and dozens were pelted after from right and left. I did not see where they got them from, I saw the sticks. They must have got them from the houses. There was plenty of pelting after, but I can't say whether more bottles or bricks, or if the same ones were pelted more than once. I was not surprised when I heard the shots because the crowd was swamping us, but I did not know at whom the shots were fired.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C. :

At the end I went to Dr. Earle as my head was hurting me and he gave me a draught and some liniment, he then attended to bruises on hip and one on legging (mark shown on leggings). I could not put my legging on again for some time. Unless the Sergeant-Major dies, I cannot get further promotion in the mounted police. I could be turned over to the infantry, but I prefer the mounted. There was a black man in the crowd with a piece of iron in his hand as if he was going to take action. I saw Captain Ramsay and warned him. In my opinion, it was an old flat iron without the handle. He did not attempt to throw it. I cautioned Captain Ramsay because I did not feel it was safe for him to go in that man's direction.

(Sd.) JOHN C. REID,
Corpl. 2249.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 16th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

20. The deponent John Fearby Campbell Haslam on oath saith:—I am Medical Officer of Health for British Guiana and Port Health Officer and Surgeon Captain to Local Forces. On Thursday, 3rd April, I got to Ruimveldt about 12-30 after the firing. I met Captains Ramsay and Murland who asked me to attend to the remaining wounded. The majority had been evacuated already and to collect the dead. I found a lorry was available for this and I asked for a party of men to lift them. I collected them—eight in all. I found an East Indian boy on the tram rails. The point is marked "S" on sketch plan (put in and marked "H") about 330 feet north from the milestone. Further south at point marked "E" on map "H", I found an East Indian man lying by the junction of the road and bridge. I found the body of an East Indian woman in a one-storey house at point "B" on map "H". A little beyond the house also on the west on the ground I found a black man dead at point marked "D". I cannot swear to point "D" absolutely but it is as near as I can place it.

On the eastern side of the public road next the Chinese shop to the north is a range TUVWX. In one room in that range I found a young East Indian girl dead ("point 3"). In another room of the same range I found two East Indian men dead ("at point 1") in the gallery of the same range at point "2". I found an East Indian man also dead. I saw one East Indian girl with a splinter or something in the face that might have been caused by gunshot on the public road. I was told at the time by the people in range that the girl at 3 was killed where she lay, that the man in the gallery was killed at or near the point at which he lay, and that the two men in the other room at point "1" that they were hit elsewhere, and came in and died there. It was the East Indian occupants of the range who so informed me. I was particularly told that these two men at point "1" did not belong to that range or neighbourhood. I was asking for relatives to inform them what I did with the bodies and the occupant said "They don't belong this side". I sent all these eight bodies to the mortuary at La Penitence. Some hours later I saw a wounded man in a donkey cart at Ruimveldt, he said he had been dressed at Providence by the dispenser. He was wounded in one arm. I believe he was an East

Indian. I sent him to hospital in my car. To best of recollection, the man marked " E " was bit in head. The woman at " B " in chest. The black man at " D " I think in head. The girl at " 3 " in the neck. The other three at " 1 " and " 2 " I cannot remember. The boy at " S " I cannot remember.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C. :

I do not remember the wounded boy saying he had come to see his sister. I had first field dressings with me. A good deal of dressing had been done before I got there.

By Mr. Crane :

I saw bullet holes through the walls of range near the Chinese shop, about four holes. I saw three different rooms were pierced. There are more than 3 rooms in the range. I don't think the room at " 1 " was pierced. I looked for holes. Where the girl at " 3 " was I saw two bullet holes of entrance caused by two shots, one in door and one in wall. I should say the door was closed when the bullet entered. I was collecting the dead, not counting bullet holes, but as I picked up each dead I looked to see if there was a hole near.

By Mr. Fredericks :

I believe there are other rooms that have holes in them but I am not certain.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C. :

I was at Ruimveldt throughout the day and the following night on duty. My visit was to see if there were any dead in the rooms. Where I saw no dead person I did not trouble myself.

(Sd.) JOHN F. C. HASLAM.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 16th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

21. The deponent Ernest Gabriel Collins on oath saith :—I am Trooper 3798. I went up to Ruimveldt on 3rd April with Corporal Reid, after reporting there to Captain Ramsay I was sent up the road by him to see if any unusual crowd of people coming to town. By the bridge at Meadow Bank I met a large crowd coming with sticks, flags and beating of one or more drums. I then returned and reported same to the Staff Officer and again joined Corporal Reid. The crowd reached us there between ten and eleven. We formed up across the road and barred their passage; Mr. Legge was there when I got back. There was then a body of infantry in front of us. It was about an hour after the arrival of the crowd before the Riot Act was read. I saw some bottles, etc., thrown before that but none of us got hit. Shortly after the reading we were ordered to go through the infantry and told to press the crowd back quietly. We started and got a few yards but the pressure was too great and more pelting at us took place. The Staff Officer then checked us, and we remained at the spot till Sergt.-Major Billyeald came with the remainder of the mounted men. The order was given to draw batons by Sergt.-Major. We then charged the crowds at the trot. The crowd then opened and we went through but closed up and continued pelting us all the time. We came back a second

time and charged again but the pelting got worse. Bottles, bricks, sticks and old pieces of iron I saw pelted. I was hit three times and the horse also got pelted. We charged a third time going south reaching as far as the Deputy Manager's palings, about 50 yards short of trolley line. We then heard a report of shooting while we were going down south on this charge. I saw the agricultural labourers armed with spades, forks, &c., who offered resistance by the Deputy Manager's house. We then trotted back to Captain Ramsay, then returned walking to the bridge at Dr. Earle's house. As we trotted back there were 100 or 200 people who had come back on the road but the remainder had stopped by the ranges over the trenches east and west, more over to the west. I saw one man shot while we were charging for the third time. That was over the trench on the west, near a bridge. I think by the dress he was a black man. I also noticed two on the road as we returned, one dead apparently, the other still alive. The crowd before we charged I think was between 2,000 to 3,000 on the road and both sides. It was a disorderly crowd, apart from pelting they did not seem to be committing any violence.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C. :

By charging I mean at the gallop usually. We did not charge at the gallop that day. The first charge we got up to about 25 yards from Deputy Manager's palings. I stopped there then came back about half-way to where we started from. The crowd had returned to the road. We then turned about again and went about the same distance nearly up to the trolley line, we then turned. I did not feel safe under the pelting. One of the missiles if it hit you might knock you off your horse and we had to dodge them continually. We got an order to be careful of our heads from Sergt.-Major Billyeald. I was in fear of our safety. Until the shooting the crowd kept on reforming. It was only at the shooting that it got fairly clear. We were shouting all the time to the people to get away from the road and into their houses. After the firing I notice the people scampering away. Many run straight up Diamond way. This crowd was different from any crowd I have seen before in the colony. This crowd did not want to hear anything but shouted. When told to give up sticks there were shouts don't give them up and those who had already done so rushed and got them back. When the black man with shirt tail asked the crowd about delegates they all shouted "No." There was one man waving his stick and threatening us. He said "You black man and I coolie but if you bring the horse on me I bust your arse." This was all before Sergt.-Major Billyeald came. Every one in the crowd was vigilant to get to Georgetown. One man said before he go back he will prefer to take off his head. I have seen East Indian crowds coming to Crosby but this was much larger and more disorderly than any I have seen. We were quite in danger, from the pelting. Whenever the crowd closed they came back with missiles in their hands. The crowds came back to fight apparently and I heard people say "Lick them down off their horses."

By Mr. Crane :

I first saw the crowd from Meadow Bank bridge, they were from the Electric Car barn the whole way the road was visible. P. C. Padmore went with me. I was here yesterday afternoon. I heard part of the Sergt.-Major's evidence. I cannot remember the exact place we ended each charge. He is more likely to know than I. I think I was going south when I heard firing. Some 100 or 150 yards were covered in the first two

charges. I never reached the rail. I was by the Deputy's paling when I heard the shots by the school gap. I did not know what caused the firing. I remember the order "Sections about." At one time we must have turned round again. There was a front and rear rank, but we were not in perfect order, usually we go a horse length apart, we covered the red road. I was on the west flank and was at the side of the red road, on the other side they were down the parapet on the east. A man could easily get round us on the east as a horse cannot go as near the trench as a man. They mostly ran across to the west. I got back from Meadow Bank before the crowd came. I did not see any breach of the peace till then but I could not call it an orderly crowd. They had sticks. Riot Act was about three-quarters of an hour or an hour after the crowd came. We went to the crowd, they did not attack us. We had halted about 10 ft. off and then were ordered to press the crowd back. This is my second year in force but I had nine years previous service and got to Lance-Corporal. We did not charge before the Act was read. Attempts were made to strike us, but we gave them no occasion. There was pelting before the Act but no one struck. I did not see who pelted but I saw 6 or 7 missiles thrown before that, burnt earth and such. I do not know where they got it from; I saw none loose on the road. I never left duty till seven o'clock at night. I was not very tired. Reid might be more tired than I. Those in front, say in first six rows, did not pelt, but some at back did. The crowd was quite threatening but those in front did not pelt. They said that they would not go back and kept their sticks waving and shouted they must go forward. No one advanced at that time on us. The crowd was not fighting among themselves then. They had no guns. We had batons only. I was afraid of getting licked down off the horse. I do not know it is part of my duty to get a broken head.

By Mr. Singh:

I was struck on back, arm and head. I did not see who threw any of them. I heard the drums but did not see it till they got to Ruimveldt. It was like masquerade band. They had flags. I do not know Special Constable Wood. I was not surprised when I heard firing. I heard a gun before the Act was read. I believe it was one of the men who was loading I heard a remark "We don't want war, we want money."

By Mr. Ogle:

We told the people to get in their houses.

(Sd.) ERNEST GABRIEL COLLINS,
P. C. 3798.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 16th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

22. Charles Ponsonby Widdup on oath saith:—I am acting Inspector General of Police and Commandant of Local Forces for British Guiana. On the morning of 2nd April I received a report from Manager of Pln. Providence that a crowd of people had invaded his house, threatened his servants and made them leave work. An armed party was dispatched there under acting District Inspector Jones. The Magistrate, Mr. C. H. E. Logge, also either went with him or followed immediately after. I later heard from Mr. Jones the same day, that these crowds had gone on

to Pln. Diamond driven the servants out of the houses of the Estates Manager and Management Staff and the crowd were in a "frightfully excitable state". That morning earlier I had driven through La Penitence and the people I met in the street appeared very sullen. On the Thursday morning I received reports from Mr. Anderson, the Attorney of Pln. Diamond, and from District Inspector Jones that a large number of people were parading the streets with sticks and accompanied by a band, and gave it out as their intention to march on the City of Georgetown. I instructed Mr. Jones to make it perfectly clear to the people that they were then committing a breach of the law and that under no circumstances would they be permitted to enter Georgetown. Mr. Jones rang up later, shortly after or about 9 A.M., and said that the people were then leaving for Georgetown. I then instructed the Staff Officer, Captain Ramsay, to take a party to La Penitence and to prevent the crowd from entering the town. About 10 A.M. I saw Mr. Aaron Britton in my office. I asked him what he wanted. He said something about Proclamations. I said I understand you want to be made Special Constable. He said "I will be more useful outside." I asked him if he knew Kawall. He said he had just come from him. I told him he could be of use in inducing Kawall to speak to his people on the bank, and Mr. Britton would use his influence with his race to turn this crowd back from Georgetown. Mr. Britton then left and later spoke to me on the telephone from Mr. MacDoom's house at Houston. He said the people were in a terrible state and would not listen to him but had assaulted him. I told him again to do his utmost to let the crowd know they would not be permitted to come to town. He asked me to speak to Kawall on 'phone which I did. Kawall said pretty well the same as Britton. He spoke of the excited state and that he had lost all control over them. One of these two suggested their trying to get delegates from among the people five of each race to come to town. I agreed and said I would instruct Captain Ramsay to allow them to pass. I did not hear if they succeeded but I gave the necessary instruction to Captain Ramsay. I later heard about 11-30 I think from Murtland that the crowd were trying to get round the party. At 11-40 I heard that the Riot Act Proclamation had been read since 11-15 that the crowd were in a very excitable turbulent state. 11-55 I was informed that the party had to open fire on the crowd, Shortly after I heard that a crowd was running down Sussex Street and I despatched District Inspector Long and an armed party to stop them. My objections to this crowd being allowed into Georgetown were that on Tuesday the disorderly elements in the town, more especially from Charlestown and La Penitence districts, had assaulted law-abiding people, driven them from their work, entered private residences, committed acts of theft and terrorised the city. And if I had allowed a riotous mob of this sort to enter the city the restoration of law and order would only have been obtained with great loss of life. The city had been proclaimed on Tuesday (Proclamation "I" put in) and the whole Colony on the next day. Proclamation "J" put in.

By Mr. Fredericks:

On Tuesday the crowd looted several houses, it was impossible to make arrests owing to the small force of police available. The police knew there was going to be a demonstration but did not know that it would develop into a disorderly rabble. Every ordinary precaution was taken. I got S. O. S. messages that houses were being looted at about one a minute. I sent every available man. I enrolled special constables from 2 on. The attack on houses had finished by them.

By Mr. Crane:

I made no official record of these reports. It was impossible to do so. I remained at Brickdam throughout with the exception of one or two short journeys to La Penitence and Water Street. I am Commandant of the whole of the local forces. I do not know exact strength of Artillery and Infantry. Captain Ramsay is Staff Officer for entire colony in the Police Force. He ranks as County Inspector. He is here on a three-year contract I believe and has been here about half his time. He has had the training of a large number of the Police Force through his hands. He probably does not know as much of the people as if he had been born here. Deputy Inspector General Gamble has been here over 20 years and has a thorough knowledge of the people and at one time worked on a sugar estate.

I regarded this crowd as very dangerous to the community. The best man is the man available. Mr. Gamble is the next man in rank. I was born here. Perhaps Mr. Gamble knows the people better but he is not the better man from the point of view of handling a dangerous situation simply for the reason that he is not a soldier and has not the same military experience. Mr. Gamble handled the riots on Tuesday admirably. Mr. Ramsay was not out then. He was otherwise engaged mobilising the forces. The disturbances ended on Tuesday without any loss of life. Captain Ramsay was the only available officer at Brickdam at the time. I had to send this force to La Penitence. Captain Murtland has great experience of the people. Mr. Gamble was sent to La Penitence soon after 11. Captain Murtland before that. They were all there when the shooting took place. The cane-fields come nearer to the road at Providence than in Ruinveldt. But cavalry would not operate better there. Barbed wire fences have not yet been used to stop a crowd like this. The use of shot-gun has not recently been discussed officially for the Police Force. I believe it was used here years ago. Possibly they would cause less loss of life. Lee-Enfields were used, sighted up to 2,000 yards. The department fully recognises the danger to peaceable citizens of the use of rifles in a case like this but the danger would have been far greater if they had to be used in Georgetown. Reads Lord Haldane's statement in 1914 Military Law Manual, p. 231. I do not think the police and specials available from what I heard could have dispersed this crowd or prevented it from coming to Georgetown by the use of batons alone. I accept Lord Haldane's statement as true but it all depends on the circumstances. I recognised the principles laid down in "Military Law" when I despatched Captain Ramsay. I hoped the crowd would be dispersed without use of fire-arms. I hoped the sight of the military forces would turn the crowd. I expected Captain Ramsay would use every method available including batons, before using fire-arms.

It would surprise me to hear that batons had not been used, in fact I have received reports of people being treated for baton wounds later on that day or early next morning at the estate hospitals through Inspector Jones. He was at Providence but a lot of the wounded went up the Bank. I did not fight in the late war. I have heard of the use of Tear Shells for clearing crowds. We have none in this colony. I suppose they could be obtained. I have thought of them but have heard they are not effective in the open for any length of time, only in confined spaces. I did not discuss the possible use of fire-arms with Captain Ramsay. I heard some report from Mr. Gilchrist who said there had been shooting about 11-30, it probably referred to one of the police accidentally letting off his rifle as he loaded. I was disturbed by the police having to resort to extreme measures.

I did not meet Captain Ramsay at Eve Leary on the 3rd. He came later to Brickdam when relieved. I did not say when I saw him "What the devil is this shooting about," not a word of that is true. I approved of the number and composition of the force sent and their arms. I know a Vicker's gun was sent on a lorry. I considered it wise to send it there as a preventive measure. I thought it might be possibly necessary to use it. (Reads p. 226 on "Military Law.") I do not entirely agree with para. 118, it depends on all the circumstances. I do not think the appearance of the military was an offence against the law on this occasion. I cannot remember that Captain Ramsay mentioned any specific act—as causing the order to fire. He spoke of the general safety of his men, that they and the whole position were endangered. I received a report in writing from him of which I sent a copy to the Governor. It is confidential and at present I claim privilege for it. They were sandwiched between a hostile crowd from the south and the lawless elements in Georgetown. I was never told the people at the Georgetown end tried to rush the bridge but I heard they were menacing. I gathered this from reports by Captain Murkland or other Inspector. Crowds were gathering in his rear. In the light of what had happened two days before, I regarded the position as dangerous with a crowd on each side. What I heard about this northern crowd was after the shooting and caused me to send District Inspector Long there. My action was the result of the whole situation including the Proclamation. It did not seem to me that the Proclamation did anything to entitle me to send more force than I otherwise should have done. It had the effect of making certain acts a breach of the law, but had nothing to do with the shooting.

By Mr. C. R. Browne:

I should think it is the duty of the officer to direct his men where to shoot. I have visited the district since, but not the houses. I heard that one woman shot belonged to the neighbourhood. I would not say it was my duty to direct shooting at legs or my particular part of the body. It depends on the circumstances, it used to be an order I believe to fire high for the first volley, but that has been abolished, at any rate, there is no such order now. I understand from Captain Ramsay that the order was to fire at those people only who were engaged in assaulting the mounted police, that is my impression of what Captain Ramsay told me and that no indiscriminate shooting took place. I did not give instructions to shoot at all when I sent Ramsay on. We did not have time to discuss all possible eventualities. It would have been impossible to give any such instructions as to shoot low without knowing the position.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C.:

The eventual strength of the entire forces in Georgetown and East Bank including Specials and everyone was about 1,000 on Thursday and eventually 1,200. About 50 up the East Bank, some at Wireless, Power House and Water Works. Very few at the Police Stations. At the time I sent off District Inspector Long I had only six constables left in Brickdam. Before I despatched the Senior officer, I may have had 50 constables and 40 Specials, 40 militia and 25 mounted, roughly 100 of all sorts. I think the machine-gun left first, then the foot police in a lorry, also about 30 Specials. Instructions to the Specials were given by Captain Ramsay when they got there. I cannot say what words I used to Captain Ramsay, the main point was that he was to stop the crowd from coming into Georgetown. I may have used the words at all costs but I cannot say the precise words.

I had not heard the crowd stood up and did nothing. I heard that the crowd was disorderly and threatening. Waving sticks and beating drums. If the crowd sat down or stood quietly to await return of delegates I should not have regarded that as justifying shooting but I was not there. Actually delegates were never selected. If they threw bottles and bricks at my force and my position and the lives of my men were endangered I should also have had to resort to fire-arms. If none of those things were present, if the crowd were merely obstructing I should not feel justified in shooting. From what I hear I would have acted exactly as Captain Ramsay did. The reports I got as to the crowds coming down the bank varied from 3,000 to 4,000. I estimated the mob to be dealt with would at any rate be over 1,000. I understand from Captain Murland that the special constables were used only at special places to deal with part of the crowd. Mr. Gamble was out in Water Street. Mr. Murland had just gone to bed after two nights on duty. Captain Ramsay was sent as the man available, not on account of his military knowledge. He was suited to the job on account of his military knowledge of how to dispose of his forces.

(Para. 137 of Military Law). I agree with Lord Haldane as to the provocative nature of the use of military. I say this was one of the occasions on which the military should be used. The force here was a mixed force of police, militia and specials.

I agree with Lord Haldane that the military ought not to be called out except as a last resort. We are a semi-military force. When armed we call it an armed party. The gun was with the militia for the protection of the party. It was not only a demonstration, it was sent to stop the crowd coming to town and to protect the lives of the people who were doing their duty.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K. C. :

On the Wednesday the message I got from Mr. Daggett was the people were storming his house and driving the servants out and asked for police protection. He did not ask to communicate with the Immigration Department. I informed the Immigration Agent General, however, soon after on the telephone. I informed him what had been reported to me, and that I had been instructed to inform him by the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Arthur Hill had been summoned as a special constable and may have been on duty on Wednesday night. He is the officer for East Bank and West Coast. He saw me on Thursday morning early and asked to be relieved of special constable duties to attend to his other duties on the bank. I agreed to release him. I think I told him at this time of the intention of this crowd to come to town, but I do not think I communicated to him later that the crowd was on its way. It was a very anxious time, I had been acting Inspector General since 6th March, and had not acted before.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C. :

The Militia cannot be called out except by the Governor's order. I believe Captain Ramsay has been in India. Aaron Britton and Kawall were obviously in a state of having "wind up" when they telephoned. I am not and no one is in a position to say what he would have done unless he had been on the spot. Under the circumstances as I have heard them I would have done the same as Captain Ramsay did on this occasion. I believe Lord Haldane is not a soldier. Two bundles of barbed wire were sent up to Providence to stop any rush on particular estate buildings the day before. I did not use any at Ruimveldt. It would be impossible to

conduct a baton charge here, on lines similar to that referred to in " Military Law " relying on special constables who have for the most part on military training, and in addition a baton charge in the open where the crowd can envelope the police is a much more difficult operation than a charge in enclosed streets. The foot police here do not practice the baton charge, only the mounted police.

(Sd.) C. P. WINDUP, acting I. G.
17-4-24.

Taken and sworn to before me this 17th day of April, 1924, at Victoria Law Court, Georgetown.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

23. Cyril Henry Ethelwood Legge on oath saith:—I am a Stipendiary Magistrate and have been for over 10 years and assumed duty in Georgetown on the 1st of this month. On Tuesday, the 1st, at midday, I was informed there was trouble in the town and in my absence the other magistrate had gone to Brickdam. I went there later and swore in a number of special constables. On Wednesday, 2nd April, I received a message from Inspector General of Police as to disorders on the East Bank and asking me to accompany an armed force as Magistrate. I left at once and stopped at Brickdam and then proceeded up the East Bank with two lorries one containing police and the other the maxim gun with some militia. About three miles out of town we saw a crowd gathered in the road. We stopped and spoke and got an interpreter to advise them not to gather in crowds and we told them conditions in Georgetown were unsettled and Mr. Jones posted up a couple of the Proclamations near Mr. Daggett's house. There we heard a confused murmuring and a band and later saw a mob all armed with sticks waving and shouting. They were then going towards the manager's house. We went round the bend and met them at Daggett's house. Mr. Daggett informed us in presence of the crowd that members of this crowd had rushed into his private house and ejected his servants. Mr. Jones and I tried to talk to the crowd but were laughed and jeered at and pushed out of the way. The leaders appeared to be black but there were some very excited East Indians in the front rank. The majority appeared to be East Indians. They went on and out of the far gate all on private premises.

The Inspector left two sentries there while we went to the office yard. We posted Proclamations there and gave the people the same advice. I saw several cases of the crowd forcing bystanders to accompany them. We went through the crowd, but at Farm we waited for this big crowd and tried to reason with them. They were then going to Diamond. We ultimately got to Diamond ahead of the mob. There we found everything quiet and people working. The Inspector posted his guards and the Proclamations. The Attorney and the Manager then came from aback. We met them at the factory yard. A part, about 500, of the crowd came into the yard, several hundred stayed outside. The crowd all seemed to have sticks and continued behaving in a disorderly manner. There were men, women and children. It kept up a pandemonium the whole time. Mr. Kawall and Mr. Singh then came up and Kawall said he had come to see if he could assist. This was about 11 A.M. I asked if there were any leaders one black man came forward and an East Indian. The East Indian shouted " Must have 5 shillings a day." How

of why I could not get him to explain. The black man had no grievance of his own, his complaint was that some East Indians had not received their money for forking. We stayed talking for two hours but eventually persuaded them that the proper course was to send a deputation to the Manager. A rush was made at the factory which we stopped. I left about 1-30. On the 3rd I had just opened Court when I got a message from the Inspector General of Police to leave for Ruimveldt. I went in a car arriving 10-15 or 10. I met Captain Ramsay in charge of an armed party, a Vicker's gun and 8 or 10 mounted police and a few police and special constables. He reported there was a large crowd coming to Georgetown, about a mile distant. He posted a line of police about 200 yards from the Vickers, and about 10-40 we saw the crowd approaching. The Staff Officer then posted about 10 or 12 police in front of the mounted. As the crowd came up the Staff Officer halted the crowd which numbered several thousands and was led by a band with red flowers, &c., in their heads and an army of sticks over their heads, shouting and gesticulating. It was a most disorderly mob, a typical mob out for trouble. On either side as they stopped the crowd trickled out over the canals on either side. The band went across to the west by a house. The Staff Officer called out "The Magistrate is here, would you like to speak." The first man to step out was the same black man that I had seen the day before at Providence and Diamond. He came up to me in a truculent manner and had a stick in his hand. I said "You seem to be a ringleader and I warned you yesterday. You broke the law yesterday and you are doing so now." At the order of the Staff Officer he collected a few sticks and they were passed to the back of the crowd.

About that time Kawall, Rampersaud, Ramnarine and Britton arrived from the South. I asked Britton to harrangue or stop the crowd. He said no, I have just been roughly handled and assaulted. We both spoke telling the people to go back, but all they shouted "must have more money," "we are starving and we must go to town." The more we spoke the more disorderly they got. A mounted P.C. then called that bottles and bricks were being thrown. There seemed to be some chance of getting a deputation, but the crowd shouted they are going to Georgetown and are not going to move from here even if we are killed. People kept pressing in and getting noisier. I heard one man shouting "let us smash Mr. Legge's arse." The position seemed critical. They were still armed. It appeared to me that the attitude of that massed mob was threatening and defiant.

From the faces I recognised it was essentially the same mob as I saw yesterday with adherents. They had already committed a breach of the peace, bottles had been thrown and the same mob had out-raged private property yesterday. We were in a proclaimed district. Crowds had assembled to the rear of us and it would have been absolutely impossible for any small force to disperse that assembly without resorting to extreme measures. In my opinion had the police attempted to arrest any of the crowd who had already broken the law, the whole crowd would have rushed us immediately and the few of us in front would have been wiped out. The one united purpose of that mob appeared to be in defiance of orders to disperse to rush armed as a body into Georgetown. Crowds of several hundreds were already drawn up the other side of the bridge at La Penitence to join them. The Staff Officer then turned to me and said it seems as if you will have to read the Riot Act. I then read the Proclamation at the top of my voice, then slowly, and Ramprashad and Ramnarine Pundit translated it in Hindi. Ramprashad had said that he could do nothing to persuade his countrymen to disperse. It was then 11-10 A.M.

I also shouted to the crowds on either side of the trench to go to their houses and disperse otherwise they might go to jail for life. I waited in front for about 20 minutes then I walked back to the Vicker's gun. I then saw the crowd appear to be massing more thickly in the centre of the road and the drum which appeared to have come back on to the road was beating again. It appeared then as if the crowd were preparing to rush the small force about 12 foot and 8 horse on the road. Captain Ramsay came up and I said I hoped there would be no need to fire if you can possibly disperse them by the Mounted Police. He said he had already telephoned and expected more mounted police up at any moment. Shortly after Sergeant-Major Billyeald and the mounted men arrived, and the Staff Officer gave him orders to disperse the crowd which then consisted of anything from 4,000 to 6,000. Some Mounted Police went to either side and the main body drew batons and went at the trot towards the crowd and trotted through, the people giving way and scattering across the bridges and trenches. But these people gathered and were coming back on to the road and I saw numbers of bottles probably hundreds of them, stones, &c., being thrown at the police. The mounted were mostly pelted but some were thrown at the foot police, who then looked to be in a very precarious position, as they would have had to fight for their lives. It was then three-quarters of an hour after the reading of the Riot Act Proclamation. I then heard several shots fired. I was then back by the gun. It was individual firing not volley and only lasted three or four minutes. That had the effect of clearing the mob off the street. Some of the mounted were in front of the foot police. I cannot say if all were. There was no appearance of a mob after that. I saw some of the wounded after but I saw no one actually hit. I telephoned from Dr. Earle's for the doctor to be sent. There were crowds also to the north of the barrier along Saffon Street, but the mounted troopers had already been along and cleared them away to some extent.

I have seen East Indians myself on a strike before. I was through the 1905 riots here; this mob was decidedly worse than any I have seen before. I was afraid that at any moment we might have been rushed by this crowd and at that time nothing but the Vicker's gun would have saved the town.

By Mr. King:

I was Lieutenant in charge of a company of militia infantry at the 1905 riots but was not present at the shooting. I was in charge of the Public Buildings. I felt at the slightest untoward event we might have been reached. The police were calm and collected and there was a complete absence of excitement as far as they were concerned.

By Mr. Crane:—

I was the magistrate taking civil work at Providence Court this quarter, and am the senior magistrate in town. I did not make up my mind to read the Act until just before I did it. The crowd said they must come to town as they must have more money, but they were quite unable either then or before to give any particulars of any wages dispute.

They must either have been dissatisfied or someone must have made them dissatisfied or persuaded them they should be so. I don't know how the idea got into their heads, they could give me no good reason for it. The only purpose they seemed to have in common was to get to Georgetown. They said they must come into town. I did not hear Critchlow or Crosby mentioned and I gathered they intended to behave as the town

mobs had done on Tuesday. I do not know if any or how many of them are members of any Union or Association in Georgetown. If they had wanted to go to Crosby, I think I should have heard, but it is possible some of them may have wanted to go there. They never finally decided where the delegates were to go as the bulk of the mob stopped them going. I had not heard of any violence that morning when I got to Ruimveldt. I had both heard of and seen violence the day before when the same crowd assaulted private individuals and violated private property. The Act was read 11-10, nearly an hour after I got there. I was not panicky at any moment. I was quite collected. I was satisfied it was an unlawful assembly and I might have had to read it 10 minutes or so before I did actually read it. I cannot say how long the expression referred to was made—some time before the Act. No actual attempt to rush the line was made. The position was getting more and more critical. The expression was one of many things showing the temper of the crowd. They were using threats. I was regarding it quite impersonally. The threats were one of many causes for reading the Act. I had the feeling that I was in grave danger. The mob might at any time have proceeded to extremities. Not merely from the expression used. I have often seen numbers of East Indians going to Crosby. They chatter a lot, even noisily enough to attract people from their houses, but they do not drag people along the road with them. If Georgetown had not been in that state this crowd would not have existed. I would have stopped an unlawful assembly of that sort from coming into Georgetown in any event. They were intimidating. This was an unlawful assembly. Their conduct was such that any reasonable person would fear a breach of the peace. I told them they had broken the law and would not be allowed into town. We also mentioned that Georgetown was already in a state of disorder. it was a "mobile" crowd. I told them to disperse to their homes. I knew they came from the south, many of them had told me so the day before. The main direction of their homes was south. Several who said they lived in Georgetown were allowed through, but we intended to stop the crowd as a crowd from going through. I had no conversation as to composition of forces. I did not know it until I got there. There were very few Militia. I gave no advice as to probable effect of arms on the crowd. I went at the request of the police. Captain Ramsay was in charge of the police—he would consult me as the civil authority present—I could have given him orders if necessary—we both agreed that the mob had to be dispersed. I did not formally give him any definite orders. The crowd had become a riotous assembly the day before. It was a riotous assembly before I turned back and went to the bridge. I think it was a riotous assembly before I read the Act. It was an unlawful assembly as it came down the bank. They had committed acts of violence the day before at Providence and Farm. I know they had done the same on Thursday and I saw the waving of sticks and other violent acts and threats and I saw their threatening manner but I saw no actual act of violence though I knew from the police there that acts had then been committed. The P. C. at whom the missiles were thrown was only a few feet off. The missiles could not have been in any quantity then. Mr. Britton said he had just been assaulted. There was a threat of violence to me as magistrate and there was the determined expression of the crowd's intention of going through at all costs or of being killed in the attempt. It was a noisy turbulent armed crowd with an unlawful purpose. These causes to my mind made it a riotous assembly before the reading of the Riot Act Proclamation. Reads Wise

on Riots, p. 28. I think Hawkins, J.'s definition has been modified. I prefer Tindall, C.J.'s at p. 52-3 and Mansfield, C.J.'s.

Reads Military Manual, para. 4, p. 217. That adopts Hawkins' definition. I believe a state of riot did exist both in law and fact. I read the Act. I was present throughout. They were riotous before I went back, but I gave no special directions to fire. If I had acted as you, Mr. Crane, suggest suddenly at an earlier time I might have precipitated a disaster. If we had a sufficiently large police force we could have arrested the ringleaders but it would have been a hand to hand fight. I know Captain Ramsay had all the force available. I did not tell him to get his force increased. He did not consult me at the moment he fired. He did not fire until the police were actually attacked. Mr. Gamble was down by the bridge further north than I was. Captain Ramsay's statement that he thought he would have to read the Act must have had some weight with me as he was in charge of the police, but I decided the point. I might or might not have waited a few minutes longer if he had not spoken. I felt to some extent it was my duty to direct Captain Ramsay's action, but not to be between the police and the mob. I did not have in mind that there was a regulation that there should be a direction in writing to fire. If there is such a regulation it is a police or military regulation and not a rule of law. The Proclamations "I" and "J" I considered some evidence of the state of the people in the district. I did not have that especially in mind at the time. I thought it my duty to call on Captain Ramsay to disperse the mob. Very few sticks were taken by the Police but they were retaken by the crowd. I have no partiality one way or the other. I would avoid any appearance of it. At Diamond I went into the yard to meet the Attorney but he was aback. At Providence the mob were in control and had just committed an act of violence. I saw no children in the mob on Thursday, on Wednesday they were picking them up on the road and carrying them on.

By Mr. Fredericks:

The crowds only practicable way to town was the road. The Police had control of the road when I got there. A line was fixed but they repeatedly crossed that line and they were constantly pushed back to it. They did not actually break through the police. I recognised three or four of the people in front as the same as yesterday. The crowd on Wednesday was not more I think than 700 or 800.

One man who came up with a stick went back when upbraided. I saw far more men than women, but some women, that does not call for more forbearance necessarily as they are often the most ill-behaved of the lot. When the police were stoned on the road and at the sides I could not see entirely where the stoning came from. The stoning from the sides was the heaviest. The crowd did not go back when ordered, it was only moved a little way back when the police pressed them. I think 500 London Police would have dealt with the crowd, that is only my opinion. I did not ring up to ask for reinforcements. No number of police was actually cut off from the main body.

By Mr. de Freitas, K. C. :—

A short time before the reading of the Act Captain Ramsay spoke to me and I said it seemed hopeless and the crowd would have to be dispersed.

and that it would be necessary to read the Act. Sergeant-Major Billeald and his troopers only came up over half-an-hour after the Act was read.

(Sd.) C. H. E. LEGGE.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 22nd April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REM,
Coroner.

24. Deponent Gholam Jelali on oath saith:—I know nothing about disputes or disturbances at Diamond on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, 31st March, or April 1st and 2nd. I live in Church Street, Georgetown. I am the Priest of the Mohammedan Church, Queenstown. I never went up to East Bank at all on any of those days. I did not go round the estates ringing a bell; on Thursday I did not hear of the shooting until 2 o'clock when one Mohamad Hussain who lives on the Railway line came to the church and told me. I then went up to La Penitence market but did not go further.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K. C.:—

I am a member of the East Indian Association: I first received a letter appointing me on the Committee and I still am on the Committee. I was re-elected on Sunday, 30th March. I was present at that meeting. No money was talked about, except how much would be paid over after expenses were paid. Water supply was discussed. Samples were brought from 3 or 4 places, to show the kind they have to drink on the estates. We have a drought but in town we can get it from a standpipe. Kawall said he was sorry to see his countrymen getting such water to drink. He made no suggestions for improving matters. He blamed no one for it. I succeeded Goolamadeen 3½ years ago. We have no bell at the Mosque. Kawall does not attend but he is not my enemy. I have not been talking to Kawall about this story, we must speak afterwards. I cannot remember if we spoke last week, he has not told me he is going to put me off the Committee, he can if he likes. We had a Committee meeting last month. I have not been up the bank for a long time, not before the shooting. I went up after it on Friday to Grove. I went to Kawall's store, and followed him to Providence, there I heard there was a row at Diamond. I went on there but found all quiet and returned. I saw Kawall on Saturday at his store. We did not discuss the shooting. He said he could say nothing about it then. It would be untrue if anyone said I was up there ringing a bell. All my countrymen in Demerara know me.

By Mr. King:—

I do not know Methoo or Ramlal of Providence by name. I may know them if I see them.

(Sd.) GHOLAM JELALI.

Take and sworn to before me at Georgetown, and translated to deponent by Interpreter Soobrian this 22nd April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REM,
Coroner.

25. The deponent Sandar Rai on oath saith:—I live at Providence Pasture. I am a labourer and work on the estate at Providence. I live in the village. I was put off the estate 13 months ago. You (the Coroner) convicted me twice of trespass. My wife's child is dead and I was called to the estate on Sunday, 30th March. I went on Monday night and I heard the people being called by three persons. Chatoo, Rama and Fagurai, who sat under a tree to the east of the road near the cane-piece. I did not go but my range people went and returned 1½ hours later. A boy, Budhai, returned saying we all going to town to-morrow. On Tuesday all of them come to town, one, one, from their houses, I did not go as I was sick. Afternoon they returned, I heard they went to get buttons. I saw four or five wearing buttons, with writing and a picture. On Wednesday afternoon they gathered together again and I heard them speaking. I went there about 8-30 to buy milk. I heard them speaking they are not going to work from to-morrow. I turned out to work on Wednesday but someone struck me on arm, a black man, and told me I must not go to work. I was going to work as porter for a bridge. I had to return home as did the three black men who were going to work with me. There was plenty of people with a band, I went home and told the driver I could not work. I showed him my hand injured. I did not go to Mr. Daggett's house but I had to go home. I saw the Peter's Hull people go up to Diamond with the Providence people. The black man who struck me was searched for by the Manager's order but not found. On Thursday, 3rd, my wife went to the estate hospital, I saw people passing up and down but did not go to town with them. I did not know why they were coming to town. I heard they were coming to ask for more money.

By Mr. King:—

They told me that the buttons mean that the Manager cannot put me off the estate, that I can go anywhere I like to work and go back there to live.

I heard the discussion under the tree was about wages. They swear then they were going to stop working from Wednesday. This discussion was on Monday and Tuesday. Chatoo made them swear they are not going to work, by an East Indian oath (described). It is a very serious oath. I did not see Goolam Gelalli there. I saw him go a week after. Chatoo did not mention Goolam Gelalli's name. I only went for a short time when I went for milk. Chatoo did not tell them how they are going to live. Kawall came and prevented the people going to town in presence of the sicknurse on Wednesday. I heard the people saying they were going to see Kawall from Monday. They got their buttons from Kawall on Tuesday. I was at the Hospital when Kawall came. He told the nurse, Mr. Kerry, condensed milk not good for sick people they must not give them condensed milk. Mr. Kerry said he gives them fresh, when he has it, then condensed when he has used up the fresh. I work in the task gang, I get \$8, \$7 or \$6 according to work. I would not work if the pay were insufficient as I have to pay house rent.

By Mr. Crane:—

There are some blacks on the estate but I don't know where they come from.

By Mr. Cameron:—

I heard the people saying they did not get enough pay but they did not say how much they wanted. I heard no one say they wanted five shillings a day all round.

By Mr. Singh :

My wife was sick, and did not work. I did not work through the others not going.

(Sd.) SANDAR RAI.

X

His mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 22nd April, 1924, the same having been read over and translated to deponent, who appeared fully to understand same and made his mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

On 22nd April, 1924. The Coroner read Order of this date enlarging the enquiry to include the cause of the death of Oree, M., 63,745, and the circumstances connected therewith and stated that any interested party could have any witness whose evidence had already been taken recalled. No one present wished to avail himself of this opportunity.

(Sd.) G. R. REID.

26. The deponent Etwarroo on oath saith:—I live at Grove and work as a carpenter. Oree, now deceased, was my step-father, he lived at Diamond. I saw him at the Public Hospital on Friday, 4th April, 1924, and I saw him there each day until he died on the 18th April. He was shot in the left thigh. I identified the body in the presence of P. C. Rahamat, 3,814, as that of Oree. Oree was an agricultural labourer. I saw him about two days before he was shot. He was not working that week as he was sick.

(Sd.) ETWARROO.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 23rd April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

27. Deponent Sohodie on oath saith:—I am the wife of Oree, M., 63,745, ex Avon, 1894. We lived at Diamond in estate house. I was born in the colony. Ticket put in marked "M." Married in Hindu fashion. I saw Oree at Diamond on the 3rd April. He was sick that week and did not work. He left home at 8 A.M. alone. He did not tell me where he was going. He did not take a stick. He never had one. He had his tea but took nothing in his hand.

After 2 P.M. I hear from my brother Mohabir that he got shot and taken to hospital. Mohabir said he gave him water to drink from the trench when he was shot. I went the next day to hospital, but he could not talk. He was shot in the legs. He told me but I did not see. He could tell me that but could not tell which place he been shot.

By Mr. de Freitas, K. C.

I did not leave home that day. He had a cough two days before. He did not work that whole week. He worked all

the other week before up to Saturday. He get about 10/- pay in shovel gang at Diamond. He stay home all Sunday and Monday. He was home all day till Thursday morning. He did not leave for work on Thursday. He say he not going to work because he have a little cough. He did not go to the Manager yard the day before. He never came to Georgetown for a month before. He had been there always alone. I went back to India with my father and mother when small, then I come back bound to Peter's Hall. We were all sick in India. We find it better to live in India, but we get sick at once over there and must come back.

By Mr. King:

I have been nine years with my husband. I have four children but only one is his.

(Sd.) SAHODRIE.

X

Her mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 23rd April, 1924, the same having been read over to the deponent, who appeared fully to understand same and made her mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

28. Deponent Sundæ Maraj on oath saith:—I am a Driver at Providence, born in this colony. I went to work aback on Monday, 31st March. As I was coming home afternoon time when every one knock off I met a black man on the dam. He hand me one red bill like "K." He had a large quantity of them in a parcel. He does not live at Providence. I do not know him. He shared the bills out to little boys on the road, but my gang had not come there yet. I cannot read. I hand my bill to a young coolie man who asked me to give it to him and I left for home. I gave it to Baldeo. He did not read it to me. He can read Hindi. He is a Catechist at Providence.

(Sd.) SUNDÆ MARAJ.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown the 23rd April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

29. Deponent Badal Khan on oath saith:—Sworn through Interpreter on Khoran. I live at Providence and work in shovelgang. I cannot read. On the Monday before the shooting I was at Nonpareil but came back to Providence in the afternoon at 4 P.M. I saw a motor car with a black man sharing out news. He said it was for the London Theatre, it was all kind of colours, white, green, yellow and red. I did not get one. The papers were the size of "K," and were similar in shape to "L" put in which I got from a store. He was sitting inside the car and a black chauffeur was driving. They were giving out plenty all the way and went on up to Diamond.

By Mr. King:

A coolie man told me he heard that shovelmen would get 10 bitts a day. He had a paper like " K " in his hand. I know Goolam Jelalli. I saw him up the bank on the road on Friday. He had a bicycle and about 10 or 12 people were complaining that they ask for more money for their belly and get shoot and they had no one to listen to them. He said leave it to God. He made no promises.

(Sd.) BADHAL KHAN,

X

His mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 23rd April, 1924, the same having been read over and translated by Interpreter Soobrian to deponent who appeared fully to understand same and made his mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

30. The deponent Siri Paul on oath saith:—I live at Herstelling, East Bank. I am a labourer on Farm estate. I was working on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday, 2nd April, a number of boys came while we were working aback half banking and they waved sticks and said we must stop work and come out. They do not work at Farm and are strangers, 5 or 6 of them, black and coolie mixed. We all stop work and come home. They say they will lick us and we get afraid. There were plenty of us, more than 30, but we not know what their intention is. No one go to work next day or the balance of the week so I got no pay.

By Mr. Singh:

We had shovels and forks.

(Sd.) SIRI PAUL.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 23rd April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

31. The deponent Bandoo No. 2 on oath saith:—I live at Herstelling and work at Farm. I was working aback in the same gang as Siri Paul on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday, 2nd April, when we were working 5 or 6 boys came and waved sticks at us from the dam and tell us must come out or they will lick us. We came out afraid and go home. They were black and coolies mixed.

By Mr. Singh:

They were 40 rods from me. I got 3/- as work not finished. I did not go to town on Thursday. I went to work but the people stop and say no body was going to work. The driver told me no one was working.

By Mr. P. N. Brown, K. C. :

I would have gone on working if those boys had not come. I am satisfied with my wages as I cannot do any better. I made no complaint about wages.

SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY (Sd.) BANDOO No. 2.

BRANCH LIBRARY

X

BOMBAY

His mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 23rd April, 1924, and deponent made his mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

32. Deponent John Patterson Mansell on oath saith:—I am a baker and live at Broad and Saffon Streets. On Thursday, 3rd April, I took a walk to Dr. Earle's house about 11-12 a.m. I saw Captain Ramsay come out of Dr. Earle's. He told everyone to remove from there and go in their homes. There were a good many people on the town side, then after about 10 minutes, I saw a troop of mounted police under Sergeant-Major Billyeald come up. They divided in three sections and one went east, one west, and one up the main street. They went up to the mob trying to clear the mob, but I saw the mob on the western side over the trench began to pelt at the police. I did not see on the eastern side. I saw one or two police hit by bricks. I heard shouting "Do you think the Coolie stupid?" I heard the first volley fired and I left then and went home.

By Mr. Crane :

I saw no pelting before the mounted troopers came, nor any acts of violence. There was a line of police across the road. I did not see any of the police there being attacked by the crowd nor any signs that they would be attacked before the mounted came. I cannot say if the police were in danger. I was afraid that if the crowd passed, my two businesses in the street may get licked up, there are plenty of shops in town. I was not afraid of being licked personally. There are plenty of shops they must have passed. I have not heard of any looting. On Tuesday at 10 o'clock a drove of black men came and forced me to close down my shop. The crowd on Thursday was mostly East Indians. I have never seen so large a crowd as that before. I felt there would be trouble in Georgetown if they come down. Captain Ramsay was by the foot police. The pelting was then going on about 60 yards from where he was. One or two people came back on the road after dodging the horses. I would not swear to how many were on the road after the police charged. I left soon after the charge began, as soon as the first volley was fired. I went and closed up my two businesses. I was only there about 10 minutes. I did not see Mr. Legge. I did not see anything to complain of except the throwing of stones. I saw a line of specials with sticks or batons and police. I did not see them charge. They did nothing. A few militia were there. The mounted men charging was the only means I saw of getting rid of the mob.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C. :

There were some women between the men. I did not see any children. The police with guns were higher up the road from the southern bridge.

The crowd behind consisted chiefly of people like myself. The crowd was about 4 rods from the foot police, but the mounted police who were already posted were quite close to the crowd. More men than women in the crowd. The crowd behind did not take any part. I was born at Golden Grove. The man who sent me estimated there were 4,000 to 6,000 people. I saw the police drive them back as far as the Chinese shop. Captain Ramsay left me and went near the foot police. He was about 60 yards from the mounted police when they first drove the people back. The crowd was turning and twisting this way and that on the move all the time. There was a good space between the armed police and the crowd. A few people came back over the trench. A few were behind the mounted police. I was very frightened as it was a time to be afraid. My nearest business is about 60 yards north from Dr. Earle's. I went to Broad Street without stopping and closed up the business. I had a business at Sussex and Saffron Streets, I did not trouble about that, I left it to the man in charge. The La Penitence shop is grocery. I sent the groom to get my children from school. I found an Inspector and police at the corner, they had not been there when I went to Dr. Earle's. I closed up the shop and stood at the door. My children were at Charlestown Convent. The crowd never came. I was about 8 to 10 rods from the police who fired when the volley went off. I ran. I had a bicycle but there were too many people about.

By Mr. de Freitas, K. C.:

I would say it was a riotous crowd. They were only waiting for some one to touch their finger nail and they would set about their purpose. I am not a coward. I can stand up to a man. I passed the first but not the second bridge. The police were standing to the south of that bridge. I did not estimate the distance. I know the car loop. They were about the north end of the car loop. I did not see which police did the firing. When I went I saw Corpl. Reid and a few police. I think he was somewhere near the north end of the car loop also. I saw some troopers come back driving one or two people, a few came northward after the first charge.

By Mr. Crane:

I did not read the papers this morning. I was too busy. I have seen the word riotous mob in the papers. I do not know the legal definition of riot. My fears were created from Tuesday.

(Sd.) JOHN P. MANSELL.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 23rd April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

33. Deponent Henry Aaron Britton on oath saith:—I live at Plaisance, East Coast, and am a Journalist.

I did go up the East Bank on 3rd April between 10 and 11 a.m. in consequence of a request by the Police. I went to Brickdam and saw the Inspector General between 9 and 10 a.m. to offer my service as a special constable. He told me to see what I could do to prevent the people from East Bank coming into town. I got in touch with Kawall and I bicycled up. I met the crowd coming down all the way from Ruimveldt to Houston. Just beyond MacDoom's house I met a crowd congregated round the car in which Kawall and two others sat. We all tried to dissuade them from

pursuing their course to Georgetown. I passed a band at Houston bridge. We stayed over ten minutes but there was a steady flow of people past us all the time towards Georgetown. I went to the telephone and spoke to Inspector General of Police saying that "I had not succeeded in preventing the crowd getting to Georgetown, they were bent on going." Then Kawall spoke on the telephone. I left my bicycle there as I could not ride safely. Kawall said the same thing on the telephone and he said it was consequent on the failure of the manager at Diamond to meet them. Mr. Kawall told me he had gone to the East Bank the previous day, Wednesday, and it was arranged the labourers would be met the following morning at the estate office at Providence and grievances discussed. He mentioned this to the Inspector General of Police and that the people told him the manager had not met them. I suggested the sending of delegates to town. To the best of my recollection I did not say the people were in a terrible state. I did not say they would not listen except in so far as in not proceeding to Georgetown. I had been pushed about in the crowd. I did say to the Inspector General of Police I had been pushed about. He said "You have been assaulted" and I said, "Yes." I asked him to speak to Kawall. There was nothing on trust between Kawall and me. He seemed very anxious and did not want anything to be said to the detriment of his people. I then followed the crowd down with Kawall's car with Ramnarine and Ramprashad. There was also a steady flow of people behind us. We went right down to where the police were on the road. I should say there were 2,000 to 3,000 people there then, on the southern side of the police drawn up across the road. There were several officers present. I was there for about three hours in all. The Riot Act was read about 20 minutes after I got there. They were bent on going to Georgetown. We spoke about sending delegates, but the crowd wanted to be assured they could stay there until delegates returned. The police were endeavouring to clear the road and told them to get back to their homes. It was more orderly than the crowd I saw on Tuesday. They had sticks. The majority of the men. One black man with blue and red stripes on his shirt had a stick, the police tried to take his stick but he got away into the crowd. He seemed more out for merriment than for any grievance. I saw nothing in the way of violence before the Riot Act was read. The attempt to get the stick from the black man was before Riot Act was read. After the reading it was about half-an-hour before the firing. The Sergt.-Major Billyeald came up just before and on getting the order to charge the crowd divided his troop in three and charged to east, west and centre. I was on the public road close to the firing party. On being charged the crowd fell back 10 or 15 rods. A halt was there made, then another charge to the Chinese shop. People went to the east and west, leaving the road quite clear, crossing to the east by the stop-off. To the west they crossed the drain or went by the boards and bridge. The band was some way back among the crowd. The crowd must have been three to four thousand. After missiles and broken bottles were thrown the mounted men made signals to the firing men, and the mounted men were called back. All of the mounted men on the road got back before the firing began. The firing was all done by about 12 police on the road. I would call it volley firing. Some fired to the west, some to east, and some straight up the road several volleys. They were firing until a whistle was blown by Mr. Gamble and then they stopped. I saw several, about eight bodies lying on the road, two dead, and I helped bandage two wounded on the road and put them in a car. I saw two dead, one at point "E" on plan "H,"—an East Indian and one in the drain. At the other side of the bridge,

black man who came from Covent Garden. I saw two of the eight mentioned on the tramway line. All the eight on the public road were East Indians. The crowd got away after the shooting, but many came back to find out the casualties.

By Mr. de Freitas, K. C.:

I am the editor of the "Tribune." I refuse to say if I am the writer of the Black Thursday article on April 13th. (Paper ".") I read that article before it was printed. I refuse to say if I am "Britannicus." I said "yes" to the Inspector General of Police's suggestion that I had been assaulted. I merely said I had been pushed about. I said "They won't listen to me so far as coming to Georgetown goes." I qualified it, and I told him they thought I was a delegate from the estate authorities. They had nothing else to listen to me about. They said the Manager would not meet them. Mr. Widdup told me Mr. Anderson said he would meet four delegates, but instead of four the whole crowd came. I believe that is true. At MacDoom's they agreed to delegates but said they must go on and confer with those who had gone on. I did not get hit, they had crowds of sticks and were waving them, one or two had flags. I said "They had got out of hand so far as going to Georgetown is concerned." I would not say they were out of control at MacDoom's, they listened, but some said they were going to Crosby and some said to Critchlow. Afterwards, about two hours after the shooting, I asked Mr. Murtland for a police escort to get my bicycle because some of the crowd were coming back. Mr. Murtland did not offer me a car, if he says so he lies too. I was not terrified but I thought I should take precaution, not even afraid. Some of the crowd said they were going back and some of the overseers behind on the estate would pay for it. The crowd saw me with the police. I thought I should take precautions although the road was clear so far as I can see. I was not in a blue funk that day. Captain Ramsay never asked me to go over and see if I can get those people quiet. I arrived with Ramprashad but was not with him. We were absolutely powerless to get them to return. They made no selection of delegates but made it a condition that they should wait till their comrades came back. I did not try to make a selection as I did not know them. I cannot say if the black man had his shirt out. I think not. I would not have allowed the whole crowd to come down to Georgetown because it was generally felt there was unsettlement in the city and it was not desirable to augment the number. Not because they were disorderly. Some labourers from East Bank were in town the day before. It was not a turbulent and riotous crowd. My only reason is, it may have excited those in Georgetown who were becoming sober. On Tuesday a lawful demonstration became a rabble. I felt this demonstration too may have led to hundreds being shot down. Also I have some consideration for peaceful citizens.

I felt it was for the safety of all concerned to stop them. It was *not* that I thought that the safety of the citizens of Georgetown was jeopardized. I felt they ought not to come to Georgetown for the safety and interests of all concerned. I would not say their safety was in danger. I say every law-abiding citizen should obey the Proclamation. If they had a legitimate cause to come they should come, but I won't say if they had a legitimate cause. I expressed a desire not to be called but I am not an unwilling witness. I had several things in course of my business in connection with this business from sources interested—communications dealing with the matter I mean. Private letters I might have published if I was not a witness. I did not feel it fair to publish them if I was a witness, as it did

not leave me free to deal with them until the enquiry was closed. I am not a member of the Labour Union. I have a kindly feeling towards them. I never saw "F" or "K." I saw a similar one but could not say how it was worded. I saw it being distributed. I would not say by the Labour Union. I will not say if I think "K" is calculated to promote unity. I did not express any opinion. I said I have nothing to say as the police say that they had to shoot. I said that at Ruimveldt and in Georgetown. Several persons including Mr. Webster asked my opinion, I said "The police they say (meaning the police by "they") they had to shoot." I meant they had orders to shoot when the crowd pelted. I heard the remark behind me "Certainly we can do nothing more, we have to fire," that was after the crowd began pelting. That was what I was referring to and I refused to express any opinion. I know Captain Earle. I did not say in his presence, "The police have done the only possible thing." He came up to me and made that statement and I said "Yes." As an honest man on my oath I refuse to say if there is any difference between the two statements. That was not my honest opinion on that day. That was about twenty minutes after the shooting. I did not at any time speak to Inspector Jones on 3rd April by telephone. I know a telephone message was sent by Inspector Gamble to Inspector Jones. I did not speak to the manager's house at Providence. The only person I telephoned to that day was the Inspector General. I never sent any message to Mr. Jones for an escort. In the article headed "Black Thursday" I cannot say if "Cause" 63 is a misprint. (Article in newspaper put in marked "N.") Paragraph 63 has nothing to do with riots, it refers to "Annual Report". I have a copy of the King's Regulations. I cannot say the year. I refuse to bring it. It is out of Georgetown. It is my private property. On the day in question I was there at Ruimveldt, none of the police made any report to me of injuries. I made no other enquiry to verify my statement that none of the Police received a scratch. I do not consider that a mischievous statement. My view is the Police should have stood up there till the crowd became tired and they would disperse. Apart from the shooting the Police were not guilty of any brutal treatment at any time. They behaved decently to the crowd. The expression in article marked in "N" "tyrannised over in the most brutal fashion by the forces sent," refers to Sergeant-Major Billyeald's charge, the crowd went helter-skelter and some fell down and were ridden over, they rode into them on private lands. As compared with what I saw in Georgetown on Tuesday I consider that brutal treatment. The crowd said they would wait till their representatives returned. I heard several of them say so. I knew there was an enquiry to be held when article "N" appeared. I said in the leader the Coroner had been appointed by the Governor. I referred to the fact that His Excellency appoints Justices of the Peace. In view of the enquiry being pending I refuse to say if I consider the reference to "cold blooded murder, &c.," a proper comment to have made. It is not because I am ashamed of the passage. I am not answering the question. I have exchanges of the "Tribune" to the United Kingdom. I do not know if any went to any member of Parliament. I sent none. I have heard legal men say it was judicial murder; they were competent to express an opinion. It was in casual conversation. That is the only explanation I can give. I was sued for libel by Sergeant-Major Archer. It was for an article in the "Argosy" which I wrote. I have not paid the amount of the judgment. I was advised not to pay.

By Mr. Crane:

There was a solid mass of crowd round the car at Houston. I met a solid crowd at the high bridge too. Behind MacDoom's house there were

some too. A solid crowd was at Agricola. I was not asked to do more than stop the crowd coming down. My statement the people would not listen referred to this. I did not see Mr. Legge at the time of the shooting. I saw Mr. Gamble not far from Captain Ramsay, about 4 rods to the north. Mr. Murtland was there with Mr. Gamble.

I saw about 3 feet behind the firing party. Captain Ramsay was at the side. No warning was given a minute before firing. I did not hear any such warning at all. There was a large crowd on the road when the firing took place. The main body of the mounted police had withdrawn to the north of the firing party before the firing took place. The police seemed to be firing low except in one or two instances. I heard one constable complaining to another as to the reckless manner in which another constable had fired, this was after the cease fire was blown. No whistle was blown to start the firing. I would not say the crowd at the sides was larger I would say that on the road was larger immediately before the firing. Captain Ramsay told the crowd to go back. He went to the bridge for a short time. he was moving about. He appeared to be possessed of an even temper, quite calm. I had no suspicion he was going to shoot. I noticed Mr. Legge had left just before the firing. The only difference in demeanour of the crowd after Mr. Legge left was the crowd pelting the police. The police shot at the people who were pelting and also at some on the road who were not pelting.

I went past the Chinese shop after the firing. There was no baton charge by foot police. I saw no batons used at all. When I spoke to Captain Earle I meant "Yes" more in an interrogative sense. I did not mean to commit myself. I saw the 1905 riots, I was associated with Mr. Dargan and Mr. P. N. Browne, Mr. Ogle and Mr. Marshall in the defence. I helped get up the case in defence of those charged. I saw the disturbances in Georgetown, not at Ruimveldt in 1905. I did not see the firing. My recollection is the Georgetown crowd in 1905 was worse in temper than the Ruimveldt crowd in 1924. There were assaults and destruction of property in 1905. I saw none this time apart from the pelting. Captain Ramsay was quite anxious to have the delegates pass but said the crowd must disperse to their homes. I heard him say so to the crowd about ten minutes before the charge. I am not aware of any selection of delegates, it would have been very difficult. It might have been possible if the assurance was given that the crowd could stay there, and with the same tact as Inspector Gamble used on the Tuesday it might have been possible to select delegates with the assurance the crowd could stay there. I think the crowd should have been humoured more.

When the Proclamation was read I suggested that the Stipendiary Magistrate should have it interpreted. The whole crowd could not hear, only those in front. It was read once and interpreted once. Captain Ramsay called for silence. I would not say there was silence. Those to east and west could not hear. I think Mr. Legge was 40 minutes there after I arrived.

By Mr. Humphrys:

It was at Houston I heard some one say the manager agreed to meet them and failed. I saw them at Houston after 10. I heard the crowd started early in the morning. The only intimation I heard that the manager had tried to meet delegates was the statement by Mr. Widdup over the telephone.

By Mr. P. N. Brown, K.C.:

I was not sent for to Brickdam. I went of my own accord as names were being given in for enrolment as special constables. I was willing to do duty. I was not afraid. I asked for police protection as I thought I might be shot at. There were crowds from the Bank coming to town when I first went to Brickdam. It was the Inspector General's idea that I should go. The Inspector General told me to get Mr. Kawall. I do not know why he asked me to go. Nothing was said about the Immigration Department. The only mention of the Department was at Houston bridge when some of the East Indians said they were going to see Crosby, also at MacDoom's house. Kawall said they must wait a bit, he is going to see what can be done. I never telephoned the Immigration Department nor did Kawall. I said to the men "Crosby is in the District." I thought so because of the proposed enquiry. The selection of delegates was suggested first at MacDoom's house, but was attempted at Ruimveldt. I am satisfied no good purpose would have been achieved by letting the mob through to Georgetown.

By Mr. de Freitas, K. C.:

I saw no baton used but the brutal treatment was they rode more aggressively than usual spurring all the time. Sergeant-Major Billyeald was not on the road at all. He was with the mounted troopers round to the eastern side. After getting instructions from Captain Ramsay he went to the east. Corporal Reid remained in charge of the party on the road. I did not see Sergeant-Major Billyeald come back. The mounted men were called back as soon as the pelting began and got entirely back behind the armed party. My idea is there was not a single mounted police south of the armed party when the firing took place. I was not too frightened to observe correctly. I was not there when Mr. Legge arrived. Corporal Reid was then in front to south of the armed party. I did not see Corporal Reid's party fall back to join Sergt.-Major Billyeald. By humouring the crowd I mean telling them to wait. The police should not have been so persistent in saying the crowd must go to their homes.

(Sd.) H. AARON BRITTON.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 24th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

85. The deponent Hugh Joseph Meredith Earle on oath saith:—I live at Ruimveldt. I am a Civil Servant and late Captain in the Essex 4th Batt. I was at Brickdam on the morning of 3rd April. I went to Ruimveldt with the Staff Officer as a Special Constable arriving there about 9-30. I think I was moving between the two bridges and the armed party. I was back at the bridge when the firing took place. I would say it was a riotous crowd, they came down with sticks. I was in front and heard them informed they must go back home. I heard one East Indian say he would be shot first. I would say the crowd to the south of the police was about 4,000. I saw some pelting, it came from the flanks. It might have been bottles or earth. I did not see the police shooting, I only heard it. I did not have a conversation with Britton. I did not speak to him. I heard him say after the firing was over when talking to two others, "The police had done the right thing." I did not speak to him at all.

I saw several of the wounded but did not know their names. Dr. Earle's dispenser helped dress them. I saw two or three brought out of a range on East. I saw the body of the black man on the west lying at about spot " D. " I also saw the East Indian woman shot at about spot " B " on plan " H. "

By Mr. de Freitas, K. C.:

It is not true that I spoke to Mr. Britton at all. I only know him by sight. I forget the exact words either. " The only thing possible " or " The right thing. " I heard him say nothing of disapproval. I saw civil disturbances in Egypt in 1919. I thought the police used extreme tact and patience on April 3rd. I heard the attempts to get delegates appointed. The crowd was told we would send 10 delegates, I understood from the crowd they were to see Critchlow, but we said they could see anyone they wanted. There was one black who seemed a ringleader and shouted " Are you willing to send a deputation? " Before they could reply he got out a shout of " No " and they also shouted " No " after him. There was another black Mr. Legge spoke to, who was armed with a bit of iron, the other had a stick. I would say it was not a peaceable crowd. They were not attempting violence when I was up in front, but they refused to go back. There were about 30 specials I think. I walked into the head of the crowd like the others did to persuade them. If 30 specials had charged a crowd of 4,000 like that it would be disastrous. I had a wooden baton about a yard long. I think they would have put their sticks on us if we had attempted to drive them back with batons. Under no consideration would I have ordered specials to make a baton charge. I am 27 and have been 3 years in Government Service. I received my Commission on 1st September, 1914, and was disembodied 2nd August, 1919. I got my Captaincy in 1917. I served in Egypt, Palestine and Syria and was wounded. I saw missiles thrown before and during the firing but was walking northwards at the time with an order.

By Mr. Crane:

I did not see any refreshments served to the forces at the bridge while I was there. I saw the troops who were there at night having some food. I think it was got from the Chinese shop. I have read the newspaper accounts. I have seen the term " riotous " used in these. That in my opinion is a correct description of the crowd. They refused to go back. They were armed. The East Indian shouted he wanted to be shot. The general demeanour of the crowd. I saw no signs of rushing the troops. I saw no one assaulted nor any personal attempt at violence before the pelting. I was only up in front twice for a short time. I saw Ramnarine Pundit the day before up the Bank, I went up as a ' special ' in one of the cars, I did not know Ramprashad before, but I asked who he was. The remark of Britton's I heard was in casual conversation. I am sure he did not put in a negative in the sentence referred to that I omitted to hear. Britton's words were that the " Police did what was right or necessary. " What he said was in that sense, he did not use the word " not. " At least I did not hear it. I was standing by, watching the wounded into the cars as they came up. As far as I saw personally the only thing to account for the firing was the throwing of missiles from the flanks. I was not up in the front then. It seemed to me the black man had a pyjama jacket over his trousers.

He was not the man Agada that was shot. You would expect the crowd if they had an intention of fighting to throw things as the troopers charged. In Egypt the crowd fought the troops. The troops used their rifles. I did not see any axe handles on the Thursday. I saw them first several days later. We had heavy sticks. I would have put the mounted troops in if I had them and not the foot in. I cannot say if it would have been effective to use the whole 34 men on one flank, the crowd would have come back. I saw Mr. Legge just after we got there, up in front. I did not see him leave, he was there each time I was up in front. I have seen some of the houses to the east since the shooting. There are some bullet holes in the range by the Chinese shop. The two short times I was in front the crowd was not aggressive. There was a great noise when the troopers went in. It would not have been safer to try clubbing the people or arresting them. I think that crowd was just waiting for some spark of that sort. When charged the crowd ran to the sides; up to the time I left the front I did not see in those short periods any signs of attacking the police.

If the 34 mounted men had gone on charging up and down the road all the afternoon that might have cleared the road.

By Mr. King:

The horses would have got tired.

(Sd.) H. M. EARLE.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 24th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

36. The deponent Joseph Gamble on oath saith:—I am acting Deputy Inspector General of Police for the Colony. I have had 18 years and 11 months' experience in the Police Force. There were disturbances in Georgetown on April 1st. I was engaged round the town, but there were no disturbances on 2nd. On 3rd I came in from Water Street about 11.35 to the Inspector General of Police's office. He was then speaking to Captain Murtland on telephone. He told me to go to Ruimveldt. I got there shortly after. I found Captain Murtland by the Vicker's gun and a few artillery men, Captain Ramsay 150 to 160 yards up the road with some troopers under Corpl. Reid and an armed party behind the mounted police. There were some special constables holding a bridge to the west and also holding back the crowd on the dam to the east. There was a noisy crowd wrangling with the constables there and demanding a passage through. I spoke to the crowd on the bridge and told them they were not coming through.

Every one of them had a stick. I think I then went up to Captain Ramsay. He told me the Riot Act Proclamation had been read. The mounted police there were faced by a huge crowd and a drum was beating behind. There were also great numbers to the east and west. The crowd seemed to me to be in a state of high tension, and the atmosphere was electrical. I spoke to Captain Ramsay and told him not to move or take action till mounted reinforcements arrived and just then Sergt.-Major Buijveldt arrived with his troopers. I went down to meet them with Captain Ramsay who told the Sergeant-Major to clear the land to east and west as well as the road. One section

was detailed for west, one for east. The main section under Sergt-Major Billyeald went up the public road. The people on east and west scattered among the houses. Those on road gave back and went down the parapets and then surged back as the horses passed. The trench to west was nearly dry but the bank is deep and there is a large margin where the horses cannot go and the people got down there.

Then I noticed bricks and bottles in showers flying at the mounted police, thrown by the people across the trenches. I could not see what the people on the road were doing. Billyeald seemed to me to be walking but he tells me it was a trot. He went a short distance, then came back, then made another drive. Hundreds of the crowd came back on the road after the horse had charged down. I was back at the bridge by Dr. Earle's from the time the horse police arrived. I was on the way back when I first heard the shots fired. I started back as soon as I saw the missiles flying as I realised that something would have to be done. On the way I heard the shooting. It was not volley firing. There was nothing between me and the firing party. The pelting continued even after the firing and then broke. The crowd went on as if nothing had happened for some time, then I saw it begin to break and I shouted "cease fire" and blew the whistle. Firing ceased but people continued running from the ranges heaving bricks and bottles. Those engaged in the pelting were singly and individually fired at by one man. I had told them when I got up to fire at those only who came across the bed to pelt. That order was carried out. Sergeant-Major Billyeald and his troopers were still to the south of the armed party firing, when the firing took place, they were receiving the bricks and bottles. Box "O" containing samples of the missiles and articles picked up on the road immediately after the firing. The road was simply strewn, these are only samples. After the firing ceased I saw three bodies on the tramline, one of whom sat up before I felt. I stayed about half-an-hour but as soon as I saw everything was safe I returned. There was a large crowd of onlookers north of the bridge, growing larger all the time, there was no disorder north of the barrier except that they refused to disperse when told. Before I left the road was opened and trams were allowed through—also anyone who had business to go through for either way. Almost immediately after my arrival I met Kawall, Ramnarine, Ramprashad and Britton at the concrete bridge. Mr. Kawall spoke to me saying "I can do nothing, the people won't hear me. I had better go and get the Immigration Agent General." I told him he better had. He asked Ramnarine and Ramprashad to accompany him. Ramnarine refused and remained, the other two went away behind me. I did not see them again. If Ramprashad was still in the neighbourhood he was away out La Penitence way, north of the cars by the gun. I should have seen him otherwise. Ramnarine remained by the bridge. I would not swear where Britton was when the firing took place. My impression is he was by the bridge too. Britton told me he had been roughly handled. This was before the firing took place. I returned in the evening to visit the post. When I returned about 12-30 p.m. I brought Mr. Legge, who was there at the time of the firing. I saw him just before and just after in the neighbourhood of the bridge.

By Mr. Crane:

I have been in the Colony 24 years. I was an overseer before I went in the Police. I have had experience of handling natives. I would not say I have greater experience than my brother officers, two of them have

been longer in the Force than I. I have had experience of the 1905 riots, there a gang marched through the streets for two days, then got obstreperous and finally riotous. My recollection is the rioting lasted one afternoon and one day. Several people were wounded. I was stoned. The crowd was violent. There was shooting but not so many were shot as in this riot. There was wrecking and looting in 1905. There were no fires. The rain kept the people quiet at nights. This crowd at Ruimveldt this year was quite as bad as any I saw in the 1905 riots. In 1905 the acts of violence were committed before the shooting. I was not present then at any of the shooting. I was in charge of Water Street and Tiger Bay. I believe the first shooting in 1905 was at Ruimveldt where deRinzy was. There had been violence and destruction in Georgetown.

Colonel Lushington was in command, he was in the Royal Artillery. Major deRinzy was second in command, he had been in the Donegal Artillery Militia. I would not say that the crowd behaved worse in Georgetown on 1st April than this crowd at Ruimveldt. I would not say their psychology was so lawless. The crowd in Georgetown were not of one mind and you could turn them out of any place easily. Most of the prosecutions are for trespass. The crowd in Georgetown was dangerous, but it was not keyed up like the Ruimveldt crowd. They broke into private houses, they stopped the Electric and Water Works, but except in one or two little matters there were no serious offences, no attempts on life or to wreck property. I have always found the Labour Union, as far as the executive is concerned, law-abiding and peaceful. It is very easy for any demonstration or procession to attract the lawless elements of the town. I was the senior officer present and virtually in command, it would depend on circumstances whether I would be consulted as to any action taken by Captain Ramsay, I was about 140 yards from him at the time. What I saw was grave enough to justify action. Things like exhibit "O" being thrown. I would not say none were thrown at the men firing. I could not see. They were being thrown in showers by a great number of people. It seemed to me Sergt.-Major Billyeald was about 20 yards south of the armed party after the charge but if he says he was by the mile-stone that would be about 60 yards. So far as I could see the stones appeared to be thrown at the mounted police from the two flanks. The street there would not ordinarily be strewn with similar missiles. You would not find any like samples "O" on the burnt earth road in the ordinary way. You would not commonly find bottles and jugs on the country roads. One tin (indicated) I do not think would cause death. It might take one's eye out, the same applies to several others, some are bits of earth, several might be dangerous to life. Bundle of 8 sticks in "O" appears to weigh 6 or 7 pounds, the largest of those is about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, they were probably dropped or thrown away as the people ran. If one man fired one of those at me I should not shoot him. I do not suppose the police would have fired if the crowd had not thrown missiles. It was forcible opposition that called for the shooting. Nothing else caused such forcible action. I do not think the police were called upon to put up with being bombarded in that way. None were wounded but many were hit. I did not know the police feared being killed. I have not enquired as to their state of mind. I cannot say what Captain Ramsay thought when he gave the order. If I had been in Ramsay's place I would not have left my force at that moment to consult my superior officer. He left the force earlier but nothing was happening then. He could have sent a man to fetch me but it was not necessary to do so, he was entitled to act. I was 140 yards away in sight. He could have signalled if I was looking, but he might have been

knocked down by a brick before I looked. I did not discuss the possibility of shooting beforehand. I spoke to him a very few minutes before, probably less than five.

It did not occur to me then there would be cause to shoot, I was hoping there would be no cause. I cannot remember being startled or surprised when I heard the shots. I saw the bottles and bricks flying at the time. I did not think it was too early to fire, five minutes earlier there was a state of stalemate and no cause to fire. The crowd then exhibited no intention of attacking but the crowd was massing then both to the north and south, I heard no one there say we are not out for fight, I heard that from lots in Georgetown. I knew that crowd had been rushing about getting keyed up from Wednesday. Their purpose was to come to Georgetown, I gathered some said they wanted to see Critchlow and some Crosby but they were shouting all sorts of things. My knowledge of their purpose was only hearsay; they might have remained a longer time but they always get worse as time goes on. They get hungry but they might have thought of the shops in town instead of going home. The only thing I heard of delegates was while the Inspector General of Police was speaking to Kawall and Britton on the telephone.

I saw no children on the road. I saw one boy of 10 come out afterwards and throw a brick. They took aim at him but I stopped them as he was only a child. I reckoned the crowd was about 5,000. I might be badly out one way or the other. Not all the crowd came from the East Bank. Lots afterwards gave up their sticks and went to Georgetown where they said they came from. The East Indian singly is not usually dangerous, but when keyed up you don't know what he will do. On Tuesday, order was restored in Georgetown about 2 p.m. outwardly I would say a truce was called for the next meeting. Critchlow went down Main Street and helped to call the people to Bourda Green. The serious way the Government faced the situation also had a lot to do with the restoration of order. Outwardly there has been peace as far as one can judge in Georgetown since. On Thursday Georgetown was quiet, but I would not say most of them had resumed work. The Union men worked the Borden and Trim's men the Chignecto. There was a conference sitting. It was necessary to stop this mob from coming to Georgetown.

Under all circumstances I should have thought it wise to stop that crowd whether there was unrest in Georgetown or not. Taking its temper and the kind of crowd into account I would have stopped them. They had already been into the houses and behaved in an unlawful manner. My advice would have been to stop them as the hooligans would have joined them and my impressions is that Tuesday's happenings would have been repeated by that crowd even though there was no labour demonstration. I had no fear of the crowd to the north while we held back the one to the south. That one made the attempt to break through. I do not object to the drum, but I think Captain Ramsay was wise to try and stop it as it was part of the keying up. There were only 42 shots fired altogether, it was only a matter of seconds not minutes before I blew the whistle. I probably pulled it out as soon as I heard the firing. I shouted before I blew but they did not hear. The firing had ceased before I got to them and when I got up I directed one man when they came back to pelt to pick off one man out of about four or more who were pelting. I did not notice any one fall then. That attack was not a shower, it was only a few who returned to the attack when I gave this direction. If I found one man riddled with holes I would argue several police had aimed at the same man, not that it was valley firing. I believe several good shots

were present. I believe it was a militia man who let off his gun accidentally. I never heard a complaint was made of reckless firing till I saw it in the paper this morning. I think I was more than half way when I shouted, but the firing party could not hear. I did not want an unnecessary round fired. Being the senior officer I stopped the firing the moment I saw a sign of wavering in the crowd. I did not hear it Ramsay repeated the order. I did not see the dead afterwards. After the firing the bulk scampered up the road but groups remained among the houses. We did not trouble them as they were doing nothing then.

The mounted force was formed in 1906 in consequence of the 1905 riots. Some few tried to make capital out of the shooting, Dargan in particular. The mounted were intended to form a mobile striking force as the foot police always used to arrive just as the crowd had left for some other point. It was intended to obviate as much as possible the use of shooting. In my opinion they were used as well as they could have been on this occasion but the ground was not suitable. If all the infantry available had fixed bayonets, and the foot had gone where the horse could not get to, we might have driven the crowd back, but the crowd would have come back behind the police. When the police charged the crowd surged sideways and came back on the road. If the foot had gone with the horse the whole lot would have been surrounded. We had 102 there all told. I think the 36 mounted were the only part that could be used to disperse the mob. The mob in London do not have sticks and heavy bricks and bottles. The police there can charge down the streets. We do not touch the baton charge here. I do not think much of the baton against bricks and bottles. The mounted learn tent-pegging. I do not call that a waste of time. "O" is only a boxful off the road, it would have taken a Town Council cart to take the lot. Britton did not look much the worse for his rough handling. I would swear Rampashad never went back to Captain Ramsay after being asked by Kawall to go. I know he must be lying if he said he heard Ramsay give the order to fire. I did not hear it and I know Rampashad was away to the north of me. I believe Britton was too but I will not swear. I believe Mr. Legge was on the bridge too but will not swear. I believe the display of military force may irritate people sometimes, you have to judge your mob, in some cases you want to show force. No one in the crowd would notice the Vicker's gun. It was in a lorry. They would not know it was there. There were three artillery men sitting in the lorry. I did not hear Mr. Murtland give any order. The people on the bridge could see the muzzle. It was, if I recollect aright, trained for Captain Ramsay's head but I did not look at the aim. We hoped to scatter them by the mounted. That is why we waited for crowd there. I gave it consideration that we might be enveloped. I did not think that the crowds intended to surround and destroy the police.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C.:

One of the men killed must have been very close to the mounted police. I do not know his name. That shows that some of the firing must have been towards the road. There were a dozen in all shooting. I would not call it necessarily bad soldiery to shoot at the crowd containing some of the police, it would be bad generalship to fire with your own troops in the line of fire. It might indicate all sorts of things, bad judgement, lunacy, etc. I should think it has often happened that one officer gives the order to fire and the other to cease fire. The officer in charge of a firing party might at any time receive an order from a senior officer. I am in charge automatically when I get there, and I blew the whistle to save unnecessary casualties

so soon as I thought I saw signs of the crowd breaking. I had not noticed any casualties at all but I thought it was highly probable there were casualties. In my opinion some casualties were necessary but I cannot say in any particular case if the casualty was necessary. I had no idea how many were necessary. The pelting did not stop while the shooting when on, I blew as soon as I saw a lull. I was not excited. I was anxious. I hope I am humane. I was perhaps 100 yards off when the firing began. There was no one with me that I was conscious of. It might be thirty seconds or less between the firing of the first round and the whistle, judging by the number of the rounds and the distance I went, I must have gone about 40 paces I cannot remember if I was doubling. I was not running to stop Captain Ramsay. I shouted an order, "Cause fire" nothing else. I shouted this to the whole party, Captain Ramsay and the party firing. I cannot remember how long the firing lasted, about 30 seconds I should judge. One or two went off after I started to blow. It is necessary occasionally to interfere with an order given by another officer. I did not do so on this occasion. I merely exercised my prerogative as senior officer to give the order I thought proper at the time. I do not know what order they acted on in ceasing to fire. I think the proper time to commence firing was just about when it did begin. I say that on my own judgment not because I think Ramsay ought to know. There was no necessity to fire 5 minutes earlier. The crowd had assumed the offensive and in my judgment it was time to fire.

By Mr. de Freitas, K. C.:

I was moving towards the armed party because the crowd assumed the offensive and something had to happen. We could not allow that to go on and force had to be used. The whole thing lasted a very short time. It was a dangerous crowd but I am not a prophet and cannot say what they might have done. Any amount of missiles fell short or went right over into the far trench. Any amount went right over the police. Captain Ramsay was in a position to judge better than I was. Many of the things thrown would inflict mortal wounds. Any of the horsemen might have been stunned at any moment; there was great anxiety in Georgetown among peaceable citizens. I have not seen a baton charge in London. The baton is not effective against bricks or across a trench.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C.:

A rumour came on Wednesday that an army of East Indians was marching on Georgetown. I went out with the mounted then, but the crowd turned back. I thought possibly the same thing would happen on Thursday. I heard they were quiet on Wednesday evening and did not expect this crowd again on Thursday. I saw Mr. Hill at Brickdam somewhere about 9 to 10. I was with the Inspector General of Police. None of the crowd asked me to let them see the Immigration Agent. Kawall was the only one who mentioned it. Delegates would have been let through. I took no steps to inform the Immigration authorities about delegates as I understood they did not want to see the department, they knew already the state of affairs.

By Mr. Fredericks:

I did not know a line was made across the road by Inspector Jones at Providence with Militia and that the men were given an order if the line was forced to shoot.

(Sd.) J. S. GAMBLE.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 25th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

CORONER.

36. Deponent William de Weever Wishart on oath saith:—On the 3rd April, 1924, about 5 p. m. I went to the Mortuary at Le Repentir. There were then 8 dead bodies there. Realising I should not have time to examine them all, I telephoned to Dr. Rose to help me.

I made an examination of the body of Gangaya No. 2, male East Indian, about 30 years of age, about 5-40 p. m. Body was identified by P. C. Rahamat. I found externally about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the right of the middle line of belly and 2 inches below the breast bone a circular wound $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. In the lower part of back about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to left of spine there was a circular wound almost as large as the first, slightly less.

On opening the belly, I found a large quantity of blood and extensive laceration of the lower portion of the left lobe of the liver. A portion of it was loose in the abdomen. The pancreas was lacerated. The opinion I formed was that death was due to shock and hæmorrhage from the injuries received. The wounds referred to could have been caused by one bullet.

Taking everything into consideration, I think the bullet entered from the front but I am not sure.

The body of Bambarak was identified by P. C. Rahamat (No. 3, deceased). I made the *post-mortem* examination at 6-15 p.m. The body was that of a fairly well-nourished East Indian lad of about 14 years of age. Just below and to the right of the navel there was a small circular wound admitting just the tip of my little finger. On the back there was a wound of similar shape but a little smaller, on the right side of spine about 2 inches below the top of hip bone.

On opening the abdomen a large quantity of blood was found and there was a large blood tumour on the front and right side of the spine.

In my opinion the cause of death was shock and hæmorrhage caused by the wound received.

The same bullet, if it was a bullet that caused it, caused both the wounds referred to. I am not so clear in this case whether the bullet entered from the front or back.

I performed a *post-mortem* examination on the body of Jasodia No. 4, about 5 p.m. when I first arrived at the mortuary. The body which was identified by P. C. Rahamat was that of a fairly well-nourished East Indian woman of about 30 years of age. The external marks were a circular wound about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in diameter on the front of the breast bone at the level of its junction with the third rib. There was another wound of similar shape and size on the left side of the back near the lowest part of the shoulder blade. Dissection showed that the breast-bone and heart were perforated and the rib subjacent to the second external wound was fractured. The space between the left lung and the ribs was filled with clotted blood. In my opinion death was due to shock and hæmorrhage from the injuries received. That wound could have been caused by a bullet which entered from the front in my opinion and went out at the second wound referred to.

The body of Baldeo No. 1 or Buput, also identified by P. C. Rahamat, was performed by me at the same place at about 5-30 P.M.

It was that of a fairly well-nourished East Indian man of about 35 to 40 years. I found externally on the left side of the back of the chest in the posterior fold of the armpit and just below the level of the lowest portion of the shoulder blade, a circular wound about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter.

On the outer surface of the right upper arm about 2 inches below the top of the shoulder there was a circular wound about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter.

Dissection showed that the space between the 6th and 7th ribs on the left side subjacent to the first external wound was perforated, with laceration of the upper border of the seventh rib. Both lungs were perforated and the large blood vessels issuing from the heart were damaged. The sac around the heart was filled with blood and a similar condition was observed in the spaces between both lungs and the ribs covering them. The space between the 3rd and 4th ribs on the right side was perforated, the 3rd rib being fractured.

In my opinion death was due to hæmorrhage and shock from the injuries received.

In my opinion one bullet could have caused all the injuries described. It probably entered on the left side and went out on the right upper arm.

I made the *post-mortem* examination of the body of Beeput, No. 11 deceased, at 6 P. M. on 3rd April. The body was identified by P. C. Rahamat.

It was that of a fairly well-nourished East Indian woman of about 30 years of age. External marks: I found on the right side of the neck about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. below the ear there was a lacerated gaping wound into which a finger could be inserted. On the left side of the neck, at its junction with the back of the shoulder, there was a gaping wound of about similar size. Dissection showed that these two wounds were continuous and that one of the vertebrae of the neck was extensively damaged. In my opinion death was due to shock from injuries received. The wound could have been caused by a bullet, the probability, in my opinion, is that it entered by the lower wound.

In all five cases death had occurred within a few hours, the bodies were still warm.

By Mr. Crane:

I did not find signs of being hit by more than one bullet in any case. In no case did I find the bullet in the body.

(Sd.) W. DE W. WISHART.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 25th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

37. Deponent Frederick Gardiner Rose on oath saith:—I am a Registered Medical Practitioner, Government Officer and Government Bacteriologist for British Guiana. On 3rd April in consequence of a telephone message, I went to the mortuary and met Dr. Wishart.

I saw there the body of No. 1, James Green Agaday, which was identified in my presence by P. C. Rahamat as that of No. 1 *deceased*. The body was that of a well-nourished muscular man of black race and about 21 years of age. Over the left eyebrow I found a small circular perforating wound; behind the head a circular lacerated wound about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. There was a comminuted compound fracture of the skull and there was lacerated brain protruding from the orifice behind, which appeared to be the wound of exit. The wound was obviously caused by a bullet. The cause of death was fracture of the skull and cerebral hæmorrhage. There was no other wound on the body.

I also performed a *post-mortem* examination on the body of No. 5 deceased Somra, this was identified by P. C. Rahamat. The body was that of an East Indian male, fairly well-nourished and about 35 years old. On the right side of the skull, about 4 inches above the ear, there was a lacerated incised wound running transversely about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The bone was fractured and comminuted and lacerated brain protruded through the wound. This was probably the wound of exit of the bullet. On the left side opposite the wound above described was a small perforated circular wound, probably the wound of entry. The cause of death was compound fracture of the skull and cerebral hæmorrhage. The internal organs were free from internal disease. In this case the wounds described were obviously caused by one bullet.

I also performed a *post-mortem* examination on the body of Bodie, No. 7 deceased, which was also identified by P. C. Rahamat in my presence. The body was that of a well-nourished East Indian male, about 35 years of age.

Just above the middle of the left clavicle there was a small circular perforating wound, this appeared to be the wound of entry. Another similar wound was at the back opposite the lower angle of the left shoulder blade which appeared to be the wound of exit of the bullet. There had been considerable recent hæmorrhage into the left pleural cavity. There was a perforation right through the upper lobe of the left lung continuous with the two external openings. The 1st, 5th and 6th ribs on the left side were fractured, the 1st in front and the 5th and 6th behind. Death, in my opinion, was due to hæmorrhage. The wound was caused by one bullet only. I found no other wounds on the body.

On the 4th April at the Public Hospital I performed a *post-mortem* examination on the body of Badri, No. 6 deceased, which was identified in my presence by Nathoo Singh, the watchman from Diamond, and by P. C. Nestor and P. C. Williamson.

The body was that of a poorly-nourished male of East Indian race, aged about 40 years. On the front of the trunk to left side of the abdomen, below the umbilicus, there was a longitudinal surgical incision secured by six stitches.

Exactly opposite to this on the back just above the left buttock was a small circular perforating wound. A probe could be passed through the body from one opening to the other. The left side of the pelvic bone was fractured and the intestine perforated. This was obviously a wound caused by one bullet.

Death was caused by shock and hæmorrhage from these injuries. It was not possible to distinguish between the wounds of entry and exit owing to the surgical interference.

On the same day at the Public Hospital I performed a post-mortem examination on the body of No. 8, Gobin, deceased. The body was identified by Nathoo Singh in the presence of P. C. Williamson. It was that of a poorly-nourished East Indian male of about 50 years. On the abdomen a little to the right of the middle line below the level of the umbilicus was a longitudinal incised wound secured by six stitches, this was evidently a surgical incision. On the back just above the left buttock was a small circular perforating wound through which a probe could be passed into the wound on the front of the body. There was a large amount of hæmorrhage into the peritoneum. The small intestines had been perforated and there were indications of acute general peritonitis. Death was due to shock and hæmorrhage. The wounds, in my opinion, were caused by one bullet only.

On the same day, 4th April, I also performed at the Public Hospital a post-mortem examination on the body of No. 9, Molai, deceased, which was also identified by Nathoo Singh and P. C. Williamson. The body was that of a male of East Indian race poorly nourished and about 60 years old. On the front of the right shoulder joint was a small circular perforating wound. Opposite to this on the back was a similar wound, the surrounding muscles were lacerated, there was no fracture and the hæmorrhage was slight. It was impossible to tell which was the wound of entry and which of exit. There was no other bullet wound and no gross organic disease. Death was due to shock.

I performed a post-mortem examination on the body of Ramphal which was identified by Changuri, the mother of deceased, in the presence of P. C. Iton. The body was that of an East Indian male fairly well nourished and about 16 years old.

There was a small circular perforating wound on the right side about midway between the shoulder and hip. This appeared to be the wound of exit. There was another similar wound on the left side about 3 ins. above the hip. The spleen, which was enlarged, was ruptured near the lower end. The liver and right kidney were also ruptured. The mesentery and the pancreas were lacerated and there was a large amount of recent hæmorrhage into the abdominal cavity. Death was due to hæmorrhage due to these injuries. The wounds were caused by only one bullet.

On the 19th April I performed a post-mortem examination on the body of No. 13, Oree, deceased, identified by Etwaroo, stepson of deceased, in the presence of P. C. Rahamat. The body was that of an East Indian male poorly nourished and anæmic, about 50 years of age.

The left leg had been recently amputated about 6 inches below the hip joint. There was extensive sloughing and gangrene of the soft parts in this situation.

There was chronic pleurisy and bronchitis, the spleen was largely converted into fibrous tissue and there was disease of the arteries. Death, in my opinion, was due to gangrene. I saw no evidence to show that he had been shot.

I could not say to what cause Agadáy's muscular development was due. All the deaths except that of Oree were so far as I could see due to the bullet wounds.

(Sd.) F. G. ROSE,

26-4-24.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 26th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

38. Deponent Charles Campbell Murtland on oath saith:—I am County Inspector for Police. I have been in the Police Force for 16 years. On Wednesday, the 2nd April, I went to Ruimveldt with the Artillerymen and Specials in consequence of reports received as to a crowd coming to Georgetown. No crowd arrived and I returned to Georgetown about 11 A.M.

On that day as we were returning stones were thrown at the motor lorry by La Penitence bridge between Dr. Earle's and the tennis club. One Special Constable had the skin over his eye cut and others complained of being hit but had no apparent injuries.

On Thursday, about 10-28, I received a message from Inspector General of Police to reinforce the police at Ruimveldt. I took out 24 armed police and went there by car, 4 or 5 cars being used. We arrived about 10-35. There was then only a small number of people there. I saw Captain Ramsay with I think 10 mounted police about 10 artillerymen and 38 special constables. The Vickers gun was there. I put it on the bridge and parked the cars leaving the tram-line as the only approach. I spoke to Captain Ramsay who took 12 of my armed party, and they were posted on the public road about 80 or 90 yards south of the bridge. Four out of the remainder were posted to the left or east of the bridge by the stop-off opposite Dr. Earle's house. Three were sent down to the sea dam to the west, and the remaining 5 were left on the bridge. Some of the special constables were posted on the bridge, some on the road to Alexander Village, and some on the other side of the road leading to the ranges and some were in front with Captain Ramsay. The crowd arrived about 11 I think, and were stopped on the road about 100 yards from the bridge. They were spoken to by the police and Captain Ramsay, and I saw other people harranguing the crowd. The crowd had sticks, cutlasses, some had forks, bits of Saloo and some flags. There was a band. I put down the number as 5,000 on the road and about 2,000 on the flanks when the crowd was largest, i.e., just before the firing. There were at least 2 tom-toms in addition to the band by the ranges to the east of the road. I heard them beating after the shooting and they certainly were then to the east among the ranges.

I went into Dr. Earle's house several times to telephone to the Inspector General of Police as events went on, so I did not see everything that went on but I was near by when the Riot Act was read by Mr. Legge and translated by Ramnarine or Ramprashad. At that time the crowd was much noisier than they had been before, also bigger, as small parties had been coming down all the time. The crowd was abusive. I did not see any pelting before the Riot Act was read. They were constantly told to disperse and go home. Their intention was to go to Georgetown. They kept shouting they must pass. I saw the mounted police arrive under Sergeant-Major Billyeald. I do not know the time. They reported to Captain Ramsay. I was then on the bridge. It must have been 45 minutes or so between the reading of the Riot Act and the mounted police charge, but I cannot say how long Billyeald was there before he charged. I saw some mounted police trying to drive the crowd south, also a small party to the east and another to the west, the people on the road then rushed across the

trenches and down the sides towards the bridge. The first pelting I saw was towards the police on the flanks. I saw no pelting from the people on the road. I was not near enough to the police on the road to see whether they were pelted or not. I saw bottles and other missiles thrown, I should say it was some little time between the first pelting and the firing. I was back at the bridge, some of the troopers were in sight on the road, they appeared to be beyond the men firing and among the crowd. Only 12 policemen could have fired. I did not see how many did fire. So far as I could see several fired to the east, several to the west and several down the road, but I could not from where I was distinguish how many did fire. It must have lasted less than a minute, it was all independent firing. Deputy Inspector General Gamble was in front of me. I did not hear him blow his whistle. I heard a mounted man, I believe it was Corporal Reid, call out "Oh Christ" once and put his hand to his head. He was by the bridge to the west of the road at the time on the road parapet. He was hit on the side of the head. I saw his stirrup leather on the road and I picked it up and gave it to him. I went up to the firing party several times but I cannot say exactly where this was. I think it must have been before the firing as I was back at the bridge when the firing took place.

I should say it was about a minute or 45 seconds after the firing before the crowd broke. They then simply melted away down the road and round the ranges, only a few were left on the road. I sent for the Doctor, warned the hospital, and the Public Works lorry was sent down to pick up the dead and brought them to the mortuary under escort. It seemed to me there were four or five bodies on the road but whether wounded or dead I could not say. I saw one lying over the small trench near a cocconut tree. The wounded were sent to hospital in motor cars.

I only noticed Britton after the shooting. He was then about half way between the bridge and the firing party. He spoke to me and said he had left his bicycle at MacDoom's house, would I allow the police to go with him to get it. I told him I had not got the men to waste. I said why don't you go yourself. He said he was afraid to go for it. I then said if a motor car is going up we can give you a lift to MacDoom's house. Soon after I stopped and passed through a car with two shopkeepers in it. I asked them and they agreed to take him. I went to Britton but he said he was not going without a police escort and walked towards Georgetown. I did not see him again that day. I was at Ruimveldt till about 8 P. M. when I was relieved by Captain Irving. It was all quiet after the shooting.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

I sent for detectives to pick up bricks, etc., ("O") chiefly opposite the Chinese shop. There were hundreds on the road and many in the trenches. There were not on the road before; they were picked up after the crowd dispersed.

You don't find them in town or in country districts except in Leguan where you find old Dutch bricks. The majority of the people were armed with sticks in the crowd. Many had newly cut sticks, about an inch and a half in diameter. Also those hardwood sticks toed with brass. I was in the crowd for some time. It was a crowd that was out for damage to life and property. I have seen many crowds and strikes. I have never seen a crowd like that. They threatened to cut my arse, they raised sticks. I was abused by the crowd on several occasions. I was called a white

bastard and a white son of a bitch not by East Indians, they were insolent and refused to listen; their demeanour was threatening. There was no effort to strike me, they were all shouting and dancing about in a disorderly manner. It would not have been advisable to try to arrest anyone. I do not think Britton was necessarily a coward, he certainly had "wind-up." I saw the shops being closed, both the Chinese shop (Wong's) and the two at the bridge. Henry and Williams, I think, closed up very hurriedly when the crowd appeared. They seemed like a barrel of gunpowder and it only wanted a spark to go off. I saw no such crowd on Wednesday, then it was only a black crowd at La Penitence that pelted us; perhaps there were 1,200 behind to the north of us on Thursday. The crowd on Thursday was a dangerous one without meeting any other, but it would have been disastrous to allow that into Georgetown. There might have been rape, looting and fire if it had got into Georgetown. There was the danger of being attacked. I heard Mr. Britton deny on oath that he asked for a police escort. My statement as to this is true.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C.:

I remained at Ruimveldt the whole time till 8 P. M. We had the road blocked with a very narrow entrance and only passed people through one or two at a time. I think Inspector Long arrived after the shooting. I think Mr. Hill came about 2, but I do not think I passed him through.

By Mr. Crane:

I had no means of gauging the sexual inclinations of that crowd. I saw nothing to indicate they were bent on rape. I am senior to Captain Ramsay under the Police Ordinance. I have worked in every district in this colony. I would not say I have more experience of the people than Mr. Gamble. So far as I know there was no connection between the crowd at La Penitence on Wednesday and Thursday's crowd, except that the crowd on Wednesday was of the centipede type, and some of Thursday's crowd was of the same type. On Wednesday I should say every member of the crowd was of that type. That element was present on Thursday; I do not know what their intention was in coming to town. I heard that they said they were coming to see Critchlow. Some shouted that he is the Secretary of the Labour Union, whose registered office is in Regent Street, Georgetown. The East Indians were mostly agricultural labourers I should think.

If East Indians go to Crosby they usually give up their implements at the Police Station or when demanded. It is a Police order. I think it is an order circulated among the police. Some did give them up on Thursday. I would judge they were hostile by their demeanour and not merely by the presence of agricultural implements, these would not alone show a hostile intent. I do not attach any importance to the salloo, I only mentioned it. I was circulating between the crowd, the bridge and the Doctor's house. I attach importance to the tom-toms. They are used to excite and the tunes are used in obeah at the time of sacrifice. Tom-toms are also used at funerals and dances. I could not say where they came from. They might have belonged to the ranges. The crowd was guilty of disobedience, general disorderliness, obstruction of the road, indecent language. I saw no actual violence at first. I was in charge of recruiting specials. Mr. Marshall assisted the Government on a fixed point. It is a lie that he suggested points of attack. You could easily collect 100

able men from the offices of Georgetown within two hours in the daytime. There must have been about 400 special constables sworn in by Thursday. When we took the 38 to La Penitence there must have been 38 left. Those off duty had a pre-arranged signal for an emergency call. Just before the firing I formed an idea that we could hold the crowd unless beaten and surrounded. The 38 specials at Brickdam were in reserve. I did not see any need to call for reinforcements after the mounted men had come, though I should have preferred a larger party of police. Some of the pelting at the mounted came from ranges close to the bridge on both flanks, about 80 yards away. The missiles were thrown at the mounted police. I saw people breaking necks off bottles and throwing them. I saw others throwing stones or bricks. At times I had not got a fair view. I was north of Gamble when the firing began. I could only see the heads of the mounted troops on the road but I could see to the flanks. I did not see any attempt to break through. I would not say I did not see an attempt to surround the armed party. The crowd did get partly round the armed party, on the flanks. I will not say what their intention was. I think it would have been possible to pick off particular persons throwing missiles on the flanks by using two or three crack shots. I would not think it necessary to shoot every person throwing. The crowd does not realise anyone is shot unless close to them. I believe this "picking off" is what was actually done. There was a slight lull in the firing and then it began again. Independent firing is when each man is firing at some particular object without any time given. I did not see how Reid lost his stirrup leather. I saw them picking up missiles ("O"). There was nothing on the road before. I did not look for missiles before, but I must have seen them if they had been there. It is a perfectly good burnt earth road and perfectly clear. The bundle of sticks in "O" is not a type of the sticks they were armed with; those are some that were left on the road. I saw no crotons. The waving sticks I referred to was only a demonstration, not an attempted assault. I was not here in 1905.

I have not heard of crowds committing rape here. I had no means of judging they were out to kill or destroy property. The police here do not get touchy over obstruction, in my opinion they are far too lenient. Only certain people said they wanted to see Critchlow and they were offered an opportunity to send delegates. They would have a right to go if they were not disorderly. There might be one or two there who genuinely wanted to see Critchlow but the majority did not want anything of the sort. I heard that Britton was trying to persuade the crowd to go home. It is quite possible he was accused of being an Emissary of the Government and an enemy of the people.

If he was frightened it would be the right thing to ask for an escort. I tried to help him. The Vickers gun was pointing up at an angle of about 30° to horizontal. The tail board of the lorry was up and you could hardly see the gun unless tall. The East Bank crowd could not see it possibly. The La Penitence crowd might see it or some of them might. I was in charge of that gun.

We always realize the importance of not irritating a crowd by a show of force. I do not suppose one in a thousand of the La Penitence crowd knew what it was if they saw it. I think the Police were exceptionally good, they had not got cold feet. It is not our method as soon as there is a disturbance to concentrate the maximum forces of destruction. The Vickers was only the second line of defence. The first was the mounted

men, the specials and the armed party of 12. There was a large reservoir of men in Georgetown to draw upon. The crowd showed some determination after the first firing but after the second firing it broke. It ran before the horse but then returned. The pelting was the only violent thing I actually saw the crowd do. I saw no offensive taken by the crowd against the police except this pelting. The people I saw pelting had trenches and bridges between them and the police. There are 7 bridges on the west to the mile post. Each attempt the police made to get at the people pelting they scampered round. I saw no attempt to surround and cut up the police.

By Mr. Singh:

A single shot was fired by a P. C. in the road in loading. The shot would fall about a mile and a half away. I do not think the crowd were in view then. I think the band was the ordinary Bajan Foo-Foo Band. It was somewhere in the middle of the crowd. I should think 75 per cent. of the crowd had sticks. I saw no Portuguese in the crowd. The crowd on the east had more blacks than the other crowds. About 12 per cent. or 15 per cent. of the whole I should say was black, the rest East Indian. I do not think Crosby or anyone would have had any effect on that crowd. There would have been no harm in sending for him, but no good as they would not even listen to their own priest. I think his name is Rujoomar, a man with a forked beard. The people did not personally assault me. I thought the interval of time between the first shot and the last was about 45 seconds.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

I think the mounted had South African hats on. The waving of sticks was a sign of excitement, they were doing it to encourage each other.

(Sd.) C. C. MURLAND.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 26th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

39. Deponent Robert Ramsay on oath saith:—I am Staff Officer to the Local Forces. I hold the King's Commission as a Lieutenant in the Black Watch and local rank as a Captain in the Colonial Forces. I have been in the Army for 16 years. I have served in India, West Africa, Ireland and have seen active service in France and Northern Russia. I was also stationed in Upper Silesia during the plebiscite.

On Thursday, 3rd April, about 9-30 A.M., I was talking with the Commandant of the Local Forces. We received information from District Inspector Jones that a large crowd was on the march to Georgetown. He spoke from Farm or Providence. I was ordered to proceed to La Penitence and to stop this crowd from entering the city. I left immediately with five sections (about 35 men) of special constables under Captain Earle's orders. I also took the Artillery Vickers gun on a lorry manned by the Artillery militia about ten men in all. I was told I would be met there by a section of mounted police. I arrived at La Penitence about 9-45. The mounted police were in file on right of the Public Road about 100 yards south of the bridge by Dr. Earle's house. Corporal Reid was in charge. I spoke to him and sent a file 400 yards south to the first bend and told them.

to return and let me know when the crowd came in sight. I then disposed my special constables one section to right, one to left, and one forward with the mounted police and 2 back on the bridge. I wheeled the P. W. D. lorry into a position on the bridge, where it could command the road and the canal. There is no other public road in that vicinity leading into Georgetown but there is a small passage by the koker called the Sea Dam about 150 yards to the right. I placed a few Artillery men there, with orders to allow no one into the City by that way. The Vickers gun also commanded that Sea Dam. About 10 I was reinforced by a party of armed foot policemen under Captain Murtland. ($\frac{1}{3}$ Platoon). I disposed them as follows: I brought one section of 12 men forward, this section contained 4 N.C.O.'s, 3 of whom were my depot instructors.

The other men were disposed round and about the bridge. About 10-30 my two mounted police returned with information that a huge crowd was advancing on the City. Mr. Magistrate Legge had joined me before this and said he had been sent up by the Inspector General of Police. I aligned the mounted Police across the road facing the south. Mr. Legge and I stood in front of them and about 10-40 the crowd appeared at the bend of the road. They were dancing, waving sticks, yelling, beating drums. I was under the impression it would be a difficult job to stop them. I filed the armed foot police in front of the mounted. I called on the crowd to halt. They did so after several attempts to stop them about 20 yards from my file. I told them their own Magistrate was present and if their leaders would come forward and tell him what they wanted he would do his best. But such a large crowd would not be allowed to enter Georgetown. I would place the numbers then at 3,000 to 4,000. As the head of the crowd was halted the tail of the crowd bunched up to either side across the trenches in shape of a U round where we were standing, leaving 500 or 600 on the public road. The first man that came forward Mr. Legge spoke to, and said "What, you here again after my warning you yesterday?" He replied nothing but afterwards said he was "going home to Barbados." In accordance with instructions I received from the Inspector General of Police, I informed the crowd that three East Indians and three blacks would be allowed to town; this was changed to five later by a telephone message. They made no attempt to appoint delegates, they shouted "One go all go." About this time a car pushed up through the crowd from south, containing Kawall, Ramnarine, Ramprashad and Britton. They told me that the Inspector General of Police had offered to let a deputation of 5 in, and they also spoke to the crowd. I told them to get in amongst the crowd and get the deputation; they made no attempt to get into the heart of the crowd but stayed where we were and shouted at the crowd from there. An East Indian youth used abusive language to Kawal: "You, what can you do for us, you have taken our money all these months, what can you do,— nothing." Britton did nothing whatever to help us, he stood by and shivered. I asked Ramprashad to get in and tell them they must go home or they will get shot.

He (Ramprashad) replied "if I get in they will beat me." He was in a frightened condition and I ordered him to get out of my way as useless. After many warnings and a complete failure to get a deputation or to get the crowd to disperse, the Riot Act was read by Mr. Legge about 11-10 A.M. He also spoke three times to the same effect to the crowd in front and at either side warning the people to get home, and the Proclamation was translated by an East Indian. There was a priest with caste marks

on his face, he did get in among the crowd and appeared to get some respect but he came and said he could do nothing with the crowd. I now tried to work the crowd back along the public road, using the special constables; they gained about 2 yards. Next I used Corporal Reid's mounted section, they gained about 60 yards, but the crowd instead of going back simply squeezed out to either side and formed up on the banks. Some of the mob to the west began pulling up and breaking down the wooden bridges. Some missiles were thrown at the mounted police, one at me. Some of the horses were struck. I halted the police by Wong's shop. I sent back for all the remaining police and I spoke to the Inspector General of Police from Dr. Earle's and told him I required all the mounted police then in reserve. They arrived in about seven minutes under Sergeant-Major Billyeald (of 2nd Dragoon Guards). I gave him orders to put one section on either side across the trenches and to stay in the centre on the public road, and gave orders to draw batons and disperse the crowd. He acknowledged his orders, asked if the Riot Act had been read, gave his section leaders the necessary orders and began to work the crowd.

The work of the Mounted Police was simply splendid. They got the crowd moving without using undue violence but were handicapped by the nature of the ground which was full of trenches and dotted with houses. The public road was cleared for about 200 to 300 yards but as soon as they had passed the crowd simply surged back on the road again. The section on east flank made a little progress but that on west made none. To east one or two files got right through and joined the Sergeant-Major on the road. Hundreds of missiles were being thrown at the mounted police. Sergeant-Major Billyeald's party at this time was entirely cut off. The crowd was not only throwing missiles but was manhandling the police and trying to pull them off their horses. A grey and a bay horse were so frightened by being hit by missiles that they foundered into the trench, the riders keeping their seats. There was a great danger of some of these mounted men losing their lives. The mob was fiercely offensive. Some pelting came from the road and more from the sides. Nearly everyone was throwing missiles which they brought forward from the houses bringing an armful forward at a time. I saw people hitting bottles to break off the necks on palings or houses before throwing them. The section on the east was entirely surrounded, that is, where the grey and bay horses came from. They got across the trench while being chased. They would not have got across if I had not fired. Sgt.-Major Billyeald was then on the road keeping the crowd on the west from crossing back by the bridges.

A very ugly rush was then made by the crowd on the east by Wong's shop to get at him. Between two houses on west showers of missiles were coming from people secreted there.

I called on my section leaders to pick off the ringleaders who were attacking the mounted police. They immediately opened an independent fire. One section, the left section, fired towards the range to the north-east of Wong's shop, they were facing south but fired half east. The whole armed party was standing at the south end of the tramway loop. The centre section fired along the car rails at the crowd which had made a rush behind Sergeant-Major Billyeald's back. The section on the right fired at a large crowd who were rushing the bridge to cut off Sergeant-Major Billyeald from west (point "E" on Map "H"). The rifle fire was effective. Twelve men fired in all, three sections of 4. Up to that time 16 to 18

rounds had been fired, possibly 20. The crowd did not then know they were being fired on and still carried on the fight. I was easing the men saying "No, steady" and pointing to particular men to pick off. I knew as soon as they realised men were being killed the crowd would run home. It was still necessary to shoot the ringleaders who were urging the others on in their attacks on the mounted police. At this moment one of my section leaders informed me that a whistle had been blown and the order to cease fire had been given. I could not pay attention to it at the moment but as soon as the mounted police were back behind the firing line I gave the order cease fire. Mr. Gamble was then to my left rear. The crowd now continued to disperse quickly and by 12-5 they were entirely gone, only leaving bunches here and there. The wounded were attended to by Dr. Earle and his assistants gave us great assistance. The dead were picked up by Surgeon-Captain Haslam. Some people were arrested and about 3 o'clock I handed over to Captain Irving, late K. O. S. B.'s and I returned to Brickdam to make a personal report having already reported the incident by telephone. I saw the black man killed by palm tree near "D" on Map "H." He had run out several times with handful of bricks to pelt Sgt.-Major Billyeald's party. I told a man the next time that chap comes out get him and he was killed at about his third sally out to pelt missiles. The man I saw killed at point "E." was one of the ringleaders scuffling with Sgt.-Major Billyeald's party. Three or four were stretched out on the tram-line of whom one was dead. They were of the party that came across the stop-off to unhorse Sgt.-Major Billyeald's party from "E." There were two East Indian men fired at who dropped just outside the range (marked TUVWX) who had been pelting the grey and bay horses. One of these was actually in the act of firing a missile; he did not fire it but dropped, rolled about six yards and disappeared in some dead ground. The woman killed at point "B." I account for either by the fact that I had one man kneeling to fire at a man's head that would be a rising shot at point "B." or it may have been a ricochet off an iron post or similar obstacle on or off the road.

I cannot account for the two men being dead in room at point 1 which Dr. Haslam pointed out to me. There were no bullet holes in that room at all and I think they must have crawled in or been taken in there. At point 3 the girl lying there may have been killed in that room as there were several bullet holes adjacent but her feet were covered with mud. The total expenditure of ammunition was 44 rounds, two of which were loosed off accidentally in the air, one while the foot police were loading about 10.30 and one went off about 3 o'clock when the militia took over. It caused some commotion. I was using Mark VI. bundle packet ammunition.

By Mr. Crane:

I rank after the Inspector General of Police, the Deputy Inspector General and Captain Murtland on the Pay Roll. I do not take orders from anyone in the Police Force except the Inspector General of Police. I was given an independent job. I take orders from Mr. Legge. He was the only one present who could give me orders. If satisfied that either of these officers had orders from the Inspector General of Police to take over, I would have handed over. Mr. Gamble did not ask to take over. I was put in command that day. I would not have handed over without any such authority. I did nothing to the road whatever. I disposed of the

forces I had before the crowd arrived. All told I used about 40 unarmed mounted, about 40 specials, 20 armed foot police and 10 armed militia men—about 110 all told. The mounted police were unarmed. I was commissioned in the Black Watch in 1917. I came through the ranks. I spent several years in India in the Army. When I left India I was a Corporal. I was in Gold Coast about 2 years after the War. I was not concerned with large civil commotions in India. This is the first I have dealt with as being in command.

I have not had anything to do with dispersing civil commotions except some Chinamen in France. They were civil population under contract with the Government. You deal with people under military control more severely than you deal with people under civil control. There was no need to ascertain the purpose for which they came to town. I did not worry about their purpose. I was there to stop them. I have read the Manual of Military Law. I have not specially studied the part dealing with civil commotion. Reads para. 25, page 222. I had knowledge to that effect, I must have read it in that book, possibly I did understand the principle laid down, this Manual of Military Law has nothing to do with this riot, it is written for the guidance of military officers at home when sent to help the civil authorities. I did not on Thursday consider the instructions I received before Thursday.

The instructions are a good guide but have no application abroad, you have to take the particular circumstances into account. I draw no distinction between the way in which His Majesty's subjects should be treated at home and abroad. It was a mixed force, I suppose, of special constables, mounted police and artillery men. I had no force armed with guns. The Vickers machine gun is not technically a "gun." I would call the party armed with the rifles an "armed party." The militia in this colony is counted in the military forces of the Colony. They are not distinguished in this from the police, the police are also part of the military forces of the colony. The Manual of Military Law applies to me as a soldier as it is issued by authority. I do not know if it applies otherwise in this colony. I would adhere to it as closely as circumstances would admit. I knew the purpose for which the crowd came down. Some said to go to Barbados, some said to see Critchlow, some to see Crosby, some simply said they must come to town.

I heard there had been a labour dispute in town on Monday. I understood also there was some trouble on the East Bank on the Wednesday, there was disturbance and they attacked the manager's house and we had had to send an armed party to protect the houses, some of them said they wanted 5/- a day. I heard that the labourers had struck work on the East Bank and were coming to town. Their purpose in coming to town played little part in the way I handled them. I handled them with every consideration. I was most gentle with them at first, we had no intention of using firearms, some of the crowd had shovels, forks and cutlasses, I thought they were a most dangerous crowd and dangerously armed. The girls in the crowd had more cheek than the men. I was not annoyed throughout the whole morning. The girls may have belonged to state gangs. Their presence did not show an absence of evil intention. I told them to get back behind two posts. With difficulty I pushed them. I said "not a damned word will I speak to you before you get behind that post." I had assistance from seven special constables. Each time they bulged

back on the other side. We never got those at the sides back to the post. It was simply to test whether they would obey me. I never succeeded in getting them all back behind the posts. They gave way about a yard at the post. I don't think they got back to the post. I got them about 60 yards back by the mounted police near to the stop-off, but they worked to the sides. I think the stop-off is about 10 feet wide. By stop-off I mean the mud dam opposite Wong's shop. It is marked seven feet on the plan. When Sergeant-Major Billyeald came, the crowd was in the form of a U round us. Corporal Reid did not actually drive the crowd back they came back along the dam. When the Sergeant-Major arrived the crowd on the road was cleared for about 60 yards, but massed to the sides. Sgt.-Major Billyeald got to about 350 yards from the concrete bridge but the crowd closed in and I could only see their heads bobbing in the crowds. The crowds got into the trench to prevent the horses treading on their toes. They were not afraid of getting contact with the police. They got contact with missiles and bottles. The crowd frequently surrounded him. I saw the Sgt.-Major hit one man with a baton. I would not say the crowd melted.

I told Ramprashad to use his influence to get the crowd to go home. but I would not say whether before or after the reading of the Act. I told him to get in among the crowd, etc. This was before I told him to get out of my light. It is quite possible this was before the Act was read, the crowd stood a chance of being shot at before the Riot Act was read.

I had nothing further from my mind than shooting when I went there. I know many arguments besides shooting. I used them. I did not know where Mr. Gamble was when I gave the order to fire. I accept his statement. He may have spoken to me five minutes before the firing, there was no necessity to fire then or I would have fired. I am not frightened to fire. My reasons for firing were that mounted police were being attacked, both by firing and actual handling. I have not seen a more determined attack in my life. I admit the lack of experience in dealing with civil commotions. The men and horses were being hunted by men on foot with missiles and trying to get hold of them and unhorse them. Some people were between us and the mounted police when I saw people running after the mounted men. They were chasing the mounted police for about 10 minutes. The largest number between Sergeant-Major Billyeald and me on the road at any time was about 150. Sergeant-Major Billyeald had to charge north to clear them. I do not agree that the mounted men would know more than I about what was going on. They were protecting their heads. I saw an attempt to unseat several of the mounted police. I was there to see they did not do it. None of them actually held a mounted policeman. If they had held one for two seconds he would have been killed. My firing was actually to save life. To prevent them doing this. I could not then tell whether any had been hurt or not. I saw the rush behind Sergeant-Major Billyeald; that he could not have seen himself. Things were moving fast that morning. It was the attack on the mounted police that prompted the firing. Everything that the crowd could lay hands on they threw, bottles, jugs, bricks, stones, sticks, and any other missiles. Just before the moment I gave the order to fire, I think there were about 6 people on the red portion including parapets of the road between me and the first party of the mounted police. Part of the police were still further to the south. About 4 of those six were shot. I think only one was killed. I can only identify them from where they were picked up. They were

engaged in picking up the staff off the road and pelting them. There was any amount of stuff on the road by them. They were by the Chinese shop, we had a clear view of them and they of us, I should say. Some were standing sideways. The men were firing independently carrying out their orders. I did not direct each one to be picked off. I was just north of the men firing. It was one of them who said the whistle had gone and the order to cease fire had been given. I do not think he could have taken the whistle as "cease fire" I took no notice at the time, as I was too busy as I had not extricated my mounted police. I did not notice it because I could not. I think the firing went on for twenty seconds. I continued to direct it. I did not hear Mr. Gamble's voice.

At that point there were only myself and the 12 armed men that I was interested in. I was too engrossed in extricating the mounted police. I saw them being struck and bruised by missiles. I saw no one actually cut and bleeding, except myself. I got cut by a splinter from a bottle. A boy threw a brick, it sailed over my head and it broke a bottle at my feet; it was a wound according to your definition. I think that was before the Riot Act was read; the mounted policeman saw it and called my attention. I think it was Corporal Re'd. But it did not in the least actuate me in trying to give the crowd what I had got. No one reported maimed or disabled, several reported being hurt, but I said "that is all right lad, you have to take knocks these times". I do not know what the effect of the stones was on the heads of the police. I saw the effect on the horses at the time. I love work and I am never happier than when I am doing a job of work. I have shot people in the war, and people have shot me.

I continued to extricate my men after the cease fire order had been mentioned to me. I was not enjoying it. I was pained. It was one of the most painful sights I have ever seen to see ignorant people urged on to attack the police up against rifle fire. I was not under Mr. Legge's direction at the time. He gave me no directions. I acted on his advice. I had no directions from anyone to place myself under his directions. I was not under his directions as he gave me none. I consider it a grave matter. I had no time to consult Mr. Gamble. I knew he was behind in the vicinity of the bridge but I did not think either of him or the magistrate at the time. I consider the K. R. and A. O. binding on me. I have read them, not studied them. I remember there is an order about the officer commanding placing himself under the orders of the magistrate if one was present. I think it is said that one should get orders in writing if possible. The same book says the officer should act on his own initiative if there is an emergency, or if the magistrate is not present or if necessary from any other cause. I did not get Mr. Legge's order to shoot, he was there a short time before, but I am not certain where he was at the precise moment of firing. (Crane reads from Odgers Common Law, Vol. I, p. 163.) (1911 Ed.) I believe a felony had then been committed. I think that is a very sound statement. The necessity to fire opened up so quickly I had no chance to consult the magistrate. I do not know that it is necessary to get the magistrate's order to fire at home. It all depends on circumstances. We have no reason to explain to the crowd that we should fire to kill before hand. We had no intention of firing then. I simply told the people they stood a

chance of being shot. I did that before the Riot Act was read as well as after. We argued, cajoled and threatened for about an hour.

Para. 1311 of the King's Regulations read. I took action although I did not know where Mr. Legge was at the moment. I saw rows of wooden huts on both sides. I had a good idea people lived there and might be inside. I did not give the men warning not to fire towards the house. I knew there was a likelihood of the houses being hit. Possibly innocent people would be inside. I know care should be taken not to hit people separated from the crowd. I do not consider the failure to warn the men firing negligence. I did not examine the houses closely. I merely looked for gouges in the walls. I would not swear they are bullet holes. I know it is my duty to exercise a humane discretion. I consider it was my duty to continue the firing after the cease fire had been given by Mr. Gamble. I advised and the Commandant decided on the force present. The Vickers was due to my advice, not the armed foot police. It was on my advice that the Maxim was sent up the Bank. I carried the Vickers as a protection. If I had failed to stop the crowd in any other way, the Vickers would have stopped them. We discussed the matter of Tuesday's happenings afterwards, and learnt several lessons from it. I thought that crowd should have been stopped. I did not think it should have been shot at. I think it should have been stopped by force. The mounted police did everything they could do. I did not advise how the crowd should have been dealt with then. I did not set out determined to drive that crowd back. I set out to carry out my orders. I usually have about 5,000 rounds in reserve for the Vickers gun. I had 750 in three belts with me that morning. I have heard but do not know the legal distinction between an unlawful and a riotous assembly. On that day the Magistrate told me himself they were a riotous crowd. He told the crowd so. I used about 5 different methods of dispersing the crowd—threats, special constables, mounted police without batons, also with batons. I did not use rifle fire to disperse the crowd. I only used that to protect the lives of the police. I had no infantry to charge the crowd. I made no request for any infantry before the necessity arose, in order to charge the crowd with batons. If any one had attacked that crowd with sticks, they would have had their sticks taken away and been beaten. It would have been a wrong tactic as I had not sufficient numbers. (Reads Manual of Military Law. Opinion of Lord Haldane) I agree with that opinion. I do not agree that the rifle is worse than useless. I have an even temper. I did not irritate the crowd. It is one of the principles of the army not to irritate crowds, but on this occasion we were on show from Tuesday. We made no show of force till the crowd got out of hand. I received several anonymous letters after Thursday's doings. I may have passed by coincidence over the place to which I was invited. In one I was invited to D'Urban Street with the Governor and Mr. Lupton, but I do not know where D'Urban Street is, I do not know if any innocent people got shot. It was necessary to clear the flanks. The majority of the crowd was there. The owner did not request me to do so. I knew that the crowd at the flanks were not part of the public road. The Artillery men I sent to the Seadam were armed with rifles. Their orders were to allow no one to pass. They had a Bombardier with them. He would have to use his discretion. He was behind a barbed wire fence, I had fears the crowd might get to the city. They moved towards us several times. I could not say it was an attempt to rush us off our feet.

By Mr. Fredericks:

My orders before I left Ruimveldt were to proceed to La Penitence and stop the crowd going to Georgetown. I understood they were striking for more pay.

I got information as to their approximate numbers, between 5,000 and 6,000, were marching on Georgetown. When I first heard, it was about at Farm. District Inspector Jones was up the Bank with a Maxim and 9 men (Militia). No orders were issued to him about those rushing away from us. I knew roughly the size of the crowd coming. I do not think we decided on the foot police coming when I left Brickdam. I do not know when they were decided on. The force I took was based on availability. I did not ask for reinforcements, there may have been some talk of reinforcements. I did not ask specially for the foot police. At the moment the crowd arrived our disposition was first a line of armed police about 100 yards from the bridge, behind them a line of mounted police which had been in front until I saw the crowd. I had the armed police up for the protection of Mr. Legge and myself. He needed their protection, if you had heard the remarks of the crowd. At that time the mounted were purely for protection. The Vickers was part of the defensive forces, but I had no intention of using it at that time. My intention then was to persuade rather than compel the crowd to disperse. The Vickers was on the concrete bridge to the east of Dr. Earle's and commanded, the road and canals. It was a splendid machine gun position. Men with batons could not have stopped the crowd anywhere. The crowd could have crossed the trench. We tried to disperse the crowd without armed force all the morning. I did not want to employ fire arms and I masked the machine gun so as to avoid exciting the crowd. No one from that south crowd could see it. The crowd to the north knew it was there all right, and there was one machine gun at Providence. The total strength active and reserve of the Militia is about 250. I had 10 there that day, some were in reserve at Eve Leary or the Depot and some at fixed points round town.

The crowd had to be stopped as quietly as we could do it. The rifles had the sights right down. The first range you can put on is 200 yards. The bullet if fired horizontally drops 6 inches in 300 yards. I did not specially notice any woman to the left. There were women in the crowd. Not very many of them, I should say. The men fired at the ring-leaders—meaning people who encouraged the others to pelt. I did not specially notice any of the groups of women. My firing was to extricate the police. I had already brought several of them back. I believe I recalled Corpl. Reid as he had broken his stirrup leather and his horse was restive. Parties of the Police were surrounded and being pelted and I extricated them by rifle fire.

I saw one fellow with half a flat iron. I did not see any crowbars or pick locks, mostly they were armed with sticks and some had stones and missiles even at an early stage.

I shot at those people because they were attacking my mounted police. There were missiles thrown before the Riot Act was read. As soon as they began to work the crowd, the more serious pelting began. That was not the first time missiles were thrown. In my opinion the mounted police were in danger of losing their lives. There was a small section to the right completely cut off, the people who were cutting off that section were armed with very dangerous weapons and I am sure if any

or those men was unhorsed he would have been beaten to death. They would never have advanced to the attack on the police if they had not been determined to do this. The attackers were being supplied with more missiles constantly. I left certain sections on the bridge as a protection. I had an all-round defence. I gave consideration to the possibility of an attack from the crowd to the north. I did not regard them as only onlookers. I do not agree that as soon as Mr. Gumble came he was in command. I was specially sent by my own Commandant to do a job of work. I did not regard Mr. Gumble as my senior officer. He is acting Deputy Inspector General of Police, but I do not know that he is Deputy Commandant of the Local Forces.

I was the man on the spot. I was the only officer who could fully appreciate the situation. I spoke to Mr. Legge about 10 minutes before at the bridge, when Sergeant-Major Billyeald arrived. There was a dense crowd all round us when the Riot Act was read, we had no Trumpeter then, he came with Sergeant-Major Billyeald. I had only my own voice I was able to call attention with it. Paragraph 1309 of the King's Regulations, 1923, says the alarm should be sounded where possible. I did not think a bugler was necessary, all the buglers have gone to the Empire Exhibition. I got silence for Mr. Legge to read the proclamation from those near. I gave an anticipatory fire order with regard to the ring-leader who kept on popping out. The picking off of one ring-leader would not have stopped the whole crowd. He was a most persistent fellow. I assume the responsibility and would have neglected my duty unless I had given the order when I did. I say the same duty applied in spite of a Magistrate and a senior officer of the B. G. Police 100 yards away.

I informed the Magistrate I was proposing to disperse the mob by mounted police. I consider the use of the fire engine would have been wrong tactics, as it would have suggested arson to the crowd to require the use of the engines elsewhere and they would simply have got out of range and laughed at us. We had hot steam and other similar methods available at the Power House from the Tuesday afternoon but they were not used as there was no attack there after they were installed.

By Mr. McArthur, K. C. :

I did not say the Manual of Military Law does not apply here as I do not know. I said it affords an excellent guide for military officers at home when called to help the civil authorities. I look on it as a guide to me, though I do not know if it applies in this Colony. I am not tied hand and first by that Manual at home. It allows me great latitude in special circumstances. I look upon it as a guide. I said the crowd wanted to rush me and get into Georgetown. I believe the man who said this was a black man with whiskers and a half iron. We collected a few sticks. I collected none. Some, I think, were taken to the motor lorry and they may be at the Fort now. The crowd never appointed a deputation, they made no attempt. Some one asked if the crowd could stay there. It may have been one of Kawall's lot. I thought that a foolish suggestion. The crowd had not attempted to rush us till they rushed the mounted police. They rushed the mounted police. I was there to stop them. I shot them because they were actually making a determined attack on the mounted police. They made a determined attack on Luce-Copls. Bolders and Ross on the grey and bay horse who were floundering in the trench and on Sergt. Major Billyeald's back. I did not allow them to get near enough to get a hold on

any one's leg. We shot at and hit about four behind Sergt.-Major Billycaid and we hit several who were attacking Moe and Pompey's section. Every-one we hit we shot for that reason. The pelting was part of the attack on the mounted police, I judge the intention of the crowd by their attacks. They were hunting the whole of the mounted police, their intention was to surround the police having got them into small parties. I did not see them get physical hold of any of the police, they may have done so, I could not see all the police. I fired on them as they were actually endeavouring to get at close quarters. They counterattacked, rushing on the police. If they had actually got physical hold of the police I could not render the police any assistance, as I should have risked shooting them instead. As the police passed they closed in behind and hunted them. My instructions were to prevent the crowd coming to Georgetown, I would have neglected my instructions if I had not also dispersed the mob. Firing was about noon. Every officer of the local forces had specific instructions to disperse any unlawful assembly from Tuesday. Major Widdup did not mention dispersing on Thursday. The fire had the effect of dispersing the mob. I did not fire to disperse the mob. If I had done that we should have had an Officers' conference with the Magistrate and would have decided on the number of rounds and mode of fire.

The mounted police behaved excellently, but though they cleared the road and kept the people at bay for some ten minutes, they were unable to disperse them. The machine gun was taken not to disperse the crowd nor to prevent the crowd. I carried that merely to protect the forces I had for the main purpose. My original intention was to get the mounted police up as soon as possible and I had hopes that they would have succeeded. I had a revolver but did not use it as I had men with rifles. I did not personally use a rifle. I unloosened my revolver in the holster but did not even have it in my hand. If I had not had the armed police I should have had to use the machine gun. I can fire single shots or any larger number out of the machine gun. I think the other went up to Providence on Wednesday. Violence was committed on the Manager and his house. It was raided by the mob. The machine gun was sent to protect life on the estate. It would have protected the manager and any loyal workman who liked to take protection in the house. That machine gun was one of the last things I withdrew. I know Plantation Diamond. The crowd went up to Diamond to assemble; they were not stopped at Providence. They were warned and told to disperse and return to their homes. It is in one of District Inspector Jones' reports that the crowd was fully warned. I was impossible to stop them there though I did not look for a machine gun position there. I think there is no machine gun position where you could stop 5,000 anywhere else on the bank to my knowledge. I went up before to collect reports and to have a look at the situation. I feel quite satisfied in mind there is not a machine gun position that would keep a 5,000 crowd back. There is open cane or shrub ground on each side. At Ruimveldt there is a deep canal on either side. The deciding factor in favour of choosing Ruimveldt as against Providence was that it was near town and within reach of unarmed reinforcements. The mounted police could be got there in time and we should then know the definite intention of the mob.

The scheme at Providence was to wire in the houses and put the machine gun under the house. The gun could then be wheeled to the required position. I had seven Militia men there. I would not necessarily have to have

it under the Manager's house. I do not think the crowd asked to stay at Ruinveldt till delegates came back. I never heard any such request, the suggestion was put to me I believe by Kawall. I may have discussed it with the Magistrate and he told them "they must go home". He said "You are all breaking the law in being here". I do not think he threatened at that time. I spoke to the crowd about having delegates in the first instance. Several others tried to carry that out but I never heard the crowd suggest staying there. I said they could hear on the return of the delegates what had been done. I said the others must go to their homes. I cannot say exact words, but I made it clear they must disperse. The dispersing was part of my general orders and I took it for granted.

Mounted men got bruised on heads, backs, thighs, etc. We sent no one to hospital, some ought to have gone in ordinary course, but I could not spare them as we wanted every unarmed man we could get. I have been told by many including the Sergeant-Major, the Police Surgeon, Dr. Earle and others of these bruises. It was left to the discretion of the firing unit leaders as to the particular ringleaders attacking the police they fired at. I believe Corporal Reid's knee was bleeding, the skin was cut through the legging I believe. I did not see it. In the rush across the stop-off opposite Wong's shop they came from the north and south of the shop and pelted the party which was facing west. Some of those fell on the tram-lines, some went back. They were armed with stones and broken bottles or other sharp missiles. The party of police attacked were facing the bridge on the other side of the road. We saw several knocking off heads of bottles on the side of Wong's shop. There was a big pile of bottles beside the vat. I visited Wong's house later and there was there a large pile of bottles inside the house. I had special constables up there at night. I did not supply them with drinks

By Mr. C. R. Browne :

I do not agree that the crowd would not have attacked the police if the mounted police had not gone in among them. There was an attack before the Riot Act. It was reported to me long before that the crowd were collecting missiles and had thrown some. I gave Sergt.-Major Billyeald the job of clearing the road and dispersing the crowd. I only gave the order to fire after they had been attacked some ten minutes. I could see that Sergt.-Major Billyeald could not complete his job. He did not report to me as he could not, he was tied down to the ground. He dared not leave the ground as he had a crowd in front and a crowd behind. If he had come back he would have exposed both flanks. He was in line. If he had turned to come back he would have been in file, a most fatal formation. I shouted an order to retire after the firing ceased.

They could not have got away from that position. There were six of them, if they had given way from the bridge the Sergeant-Major was holding the crowd would have surged round them from across the bridge. When Corporal Reid came back he was dazed and had broken his stirrup leather and was swaying in his saddle and I opened to let him through. There was no chance of withdrawing the mounted and giving the crowd a warning. The crowd was beyond hearing any warning. I would have liked to have given a warning but was unable to do so on account of the danger to the mounted men. There were about four separate parties of police surrounded, and I could not direct each individual man shooting. It would not have

been advisable to shoot at their legs, it would have caused a more dangerous ricochet.

By Mr. deFreitas, K.C.:

Corporal Reid came back immediately before the firing with two others. If they had all come back, I would have opened up and let them all through, I could not protect the others in any way except by firing. "Manual of Military Law," p. 232, question 161. It is the duty of the officer to protect the lives of his own men, etc. There was no other means I could use, to protect the lives of my men, and I used no greater force than was necessary. I could not withdraw the mounted police then. The crowd was strongly resisting the mounted police. Up to that I would not have fired to disperse the mob, they had been resisting the police, but that would not have induced me to fire except for the attack on the police. It was all over half an hour after the reading of the Riot Act. (Refers to p. 230, question 134). I referred when I said a felony had been committed to a felony under the Riot Act. In this colony it is fifteen minutes after the Act is read. In spite of the fact that felonies were being committed I would not have used firearms on my own initiative if it had not been for the determined attack on the police.

It was impossible to withdraw the mounted police, but if possible it would have been inadvisable as I should have failed to carry out my orders to stop the mob. The mob would have rushed us at once. I am satisfied now in my own mind that that crowd would not have dispersed for anything less than rifle fire. That is my honest conviction and I gave it careful thought in the time I had, and used my discretion to the best of my ability.

I resented Mr. Crane's suggestion that I take a brutal delight in slaughter. I think he was presuming on his position as a solicitor. The special constables are civilians, one or two may have war experience but they were not chosen for that and have, to the best of my knowledge, no experience in using batons. If I had put them into that crowd they would have been torn to bits. Even if they had been trained you would have wanted 1,000 specials to disperse that crowd with batons. Looking back I cannot think of anything that I could have done to disperse or stop that crowd that I omitted, consistent with my duty.

In the morning I had every hope that I would have dispersed it without use of firearms. The armed party and the Vickers were entirely a precautionary measure. It was my duty to be in the best possible position to see what was happening around me. The attempts to unhorse the police I referred to, were at Wong's shop. The crowd followed up the grey and bay. They collected missiles as they went, there were lots on that part of the road. They threw them at the backs of Sergt.-Major Bilycald's party, and three or four of them were actually rushing in on that party with arms outstretched when I first gave the order to fire. The Sergeant-Major was facing an ugly rush from the west across the bridge. The firing party was in three sections under my trained N. C. O. instructors, about three men to each instructor. Each instructor had his own front. There was no volley firing whatever. On giving the fire direction the fire unit leaders would then give a quick fire order to the three men under their command. The men of each section would then get the first shot off almost simultaneously. To trained soldiers it would be unusual for two men to be aiming at the same objective.

It sounded to me more like drum-fire. In front of rifle firing there is a peculiar crack which dulls the report of the rifle and it sounds quite different from the sound behind. The shouting of the mob might too have drowned the sound for some time. As soon as the men attacking Sergeant-Major Billyeald's party dropped I stopped and directed the other firing. Very few rounds were fired except under my own personal supervision. When I stopped one section the leader would say 'Cease fire' and there would be a lull. No one aimed at the range to the left. It is impossible to regulate where ricochets go. My men were standing firing. One man knelt, it may have been by Gamble's direction but I did not hear him.

(Reads Military Manual, p. 231, q. 248: "It always happens when firing takes place that the innocent," etc., etc.) That would be when 80 men fire volley firing. The present case is entirely different. I believe the woman killed in the hut at point "B" to the west may have been innocently there, but I cannot say any thing about the girl to the east. In the present case I do not think more than one or two can have been innocent. The three wounded picked up on the line deserved all they got. I commanded silence before the Riot Act was read and did all I could to enforce it. When I put the armed men in front of the Magistrate and myself I did not like the attitude of the crowd, most dangerous, and threatening. They came on and their behaviour was such as to give any man of ordinary courage cause of alarm. Mr. Britton was terrified out of his wits. Kawall dared not or would not get into the crowd. I am certain he could have done a lot more for us than he did that morning. I showed my cut to Mr. Tigar of the Colonial Bank. It was on my right hand. The whole time taken by the firing was about 40 seconds all told.

(Sd.) R. RAMSAY, Capt.,
The Black Watch,
Staff Officer, Local Forces.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 29th April, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

40. Robert Pemberton Daggett on oath saith:—I am the manager of Pln. Providence, which is owned by the Demerara Company, Limited, Mr. Anderson is the head attorney of the Company. On Monday, 31st March, a few people turned out to work, the normal number, very few work on Mondays normally except in grinding. We have 1,000 to 1,500 on our pay-roll at Providence. I could not say how many there are on the rolls at Farm and Diamond, all these estates are owned by the Demerara Company, Limited. On Tuesday, 1st April, very few turned out, that is the usual day for marking out work. I was told the people were going to town to attend a meeting. I saw a lot of them going down to town in bunches. I was also shown a pamphlet "K" which had been distributed by a black man in Providence and Peter's Hall. At Peter's Hall on Tuesday all the people turned out to work as usual. I think the pamphlets were only handed out in the village not on the estate lands.

On Wednesday, 2nd April, I went out as usual but found no one turning out. I was standing up outside the field office when I saw a large

mob of people come through the building gap armed with sticks and flags with drums. They went past me to the mule-pen, cow-pen, store and the black-smith's shop and turned out everyone that was working. It was a mixed crowd, Black and East Indian and the crowd contained a majority of persons working on the estate. They returned to the office. I got in front and spoke to them and asked what the story was. The leader, a black man, Abrahams alias Francois, said that they had no time to talk to me but will come back later. They left and went to my house. I followed with some of staff. There were 200 or 300 of them. They went in at my gate and a number went up back steps to kitchen. I went up front steps and was met in dining room by two of the servants, males, who said they had been ordered out of the house by the crowd. Many of the crowd were in the house. I told them to go quietly. All the servants left, two butlers, a male and female cook and one boy. The crowd did no damage, they left and went towards Peter's Hall where they repeated the same performance at the Deputy Manager's house and went aback and turned out all the Peter's Hall shovelmens and weeders who were working. They then returned to Providence, came into my yard again. I got in front and tried to talk to them, but they were angry and boisterous and shouted "They would do or die," "they had been down-trodden for years." I kept them in conversation as long as I could, awaiting the police, who then turned up. A lorry load with District Inspector Jones and Mr. Legge turned up. A number of the crowd went in to my house to see if any servants were back. They did no damage again. They eventually left for Diamond with the band playing. It was a howling mob and nothing could be done in the way of talking.

I had had no complaints whatever so far as I knew. None of my labourers had any specific grievance. I am satisfied that nothing would have happened if it had not been for the distribution of these handbills. On the Wednesday I was told that an arrangement had been made for Mr. Kawall and Mr. Anderson to meet delegates at Providence. I did not hear the time fixed. It was a condition that the people were to be orderly. On the Thursday morning between 8 and 9 A.M. I saw a disorderly mob coming down from Diamond all armed with sticks, some with flags and drums, this was a different crowd from the day before. I was told the nucleus came from Grove. They met my people on the road and taking them along they all proceeded to Georgetown. I should say by the time the mob had passed my house including my people there were from 2,000 to 3,000. Later I saw them coming back from 2 P.M. onwards, some by the backdam and the sea-dam and all sorts of funny ways, a good many small groups by the road. A Madras man Gangaya No. 2 was one of my men killed, also No. 12 Ramphal, a boy, and No. 5 George Somra (alias Beeput or Bulla). Badri No. 6 had lived in the pasture for about a month. I cannot say whether any of these were in the crowd on Wednesday. I have no idea what their purpose was in going to town on Thursday. A large number of Wednesday's crowd were wearing East Indian Association buttons. I had not seen these on the estate previously. Button "P" identified.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

On Tuesday a large majority went to town. I went round the yard to find out the cause. I met small groups who said they were going to town to a meeting. I had seen handbill "K" the day before. I was unable to persuade the people to work, they were determined to go to town. Three

fields of cane were burnt at Farm on the Saturday after. I have not discovered who set fire to it. It could not have been accidental from the position of the fields. On Wednesday, 2nd April, a mule was blinded by a man pelting a piece of burnt earth at it—an East Indian, he has since been convicted. He had no quarrel with the mule-minder; the minder had been forced to join the mob earlier in the day but returned to work and was pelted.

By Mr. King:

I have heard of Association meetings on the Bank but cannot swear whether they have been held or not.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C.:

I was told about the East Indian Association subscription (36c. for the button and 8c. or 12c. a month,) by Sundar Maraj. It would not surprise me to hear there is no subscription. I have never troubled to enquire about the East Indian Association meetings. The mob must have left Diamond about 7-30 A.M. Mr. Anderson did not come as the crowd was disorderly one and there was no possibility of discussing any wage question with a mob like that. As soon as they got to Providence the mob carried my people away with them. They did not wait for Mr. Kawall or anyone. Mr. Kawall did not attend. I remained in my house and did not see any compulsion being used on my people that day.

No actual force was used on my servants. I should think the people felt ashamed and scared when they returned by back ways. The public road would have been shorter. There was a machine gun at Providence in my yard. It was put in position at the north gate by the Artillery Militia when word came that the mob was returning. Inspector Jones, I think, put it there. It had been under the house. That could not be the reason, as they could not see the machine gun. They may have heard; but that could not be a reason for avoiding the road if they were orderly. I did not consider the point. An attempt was made to put up barbed wire on Wednesday night, but none was put up. The Maxim came up after the mob on Wednesday, I think. We tried to speak to the mob on the Wednesday. They said they wanted more money, no sum was mentioned. They said they were prepared to do or die. I was told the people in the fields were yelled at and shouted at till they left work. Sundar Rai works for me sometimes. I had not then heard that he was assaulted. I have heard of it since. The damage to the mule is the only damage to property I have to complain of except that they slit the bellows in the blacksmith shop. I think the pelting was at the mule. I heard bricks had been pelted and the mule's eye put out. I was not a witness.

By Mr. Humphrys:

I prosecuted three of the ringleaders who entered my house for entering my house in a threatening manner. They were all convicted. I should say a dozen or more entered the house. The yard was full of 200 to 300 with sticks, etc. Those in the house all had sticks. Mr. Dunn is my head overseer. One Marshall was charged with entering his house in a threatening manner and pleaded guilty.

I had had no complaints as to wages for a considerable time. I was taken completely by surprise. It is absolutely untrue that anyone approached me on Monday, 31st March, for an increase in pay. I went

to Diamond in my car and no labourers asked me for any thing that morning. The servants were taken on forcibly to Diamond but telephoned from there that they would come back as soon as they could. My wife was in the house that is why I told the servants to go quietly.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C. :—

I had no complaints whatever as to wages. There had been no recent change in wages. Rates had been the same for some time. The people have all resumed work at the same rates since. No complaints have been made since. Mr. Hill, the Immigration Agent for the district, comes to Providence every month. He affords them an opportunity of lodging any complaints. They also have access to me with complaints if they have any. I have heard of none being put in to Mr. Hill.

(Sd.) R. P. DAGGETT.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 2nd May, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

41. Deponent Jung Bahadur Singh on oath saith:—I am a Registered Medical Practitioner and Government Medical Officer at Georgetown Public Hospital. On Thursday, 3rd April, shortly after 12 noon, I admitted to the hospital 15 wounded persons as follows:—

Ori, Mulai, Badri, Gobin, Ramphal; all the above died in hospital.

Guyadeen, Ramnauth, Chatterpaul, Heeralal, O'Connor Edwards, Bhagoti, Goodridge, and two or three females who are still in hospital. They were all brought in cars and taken straight up to the wards.

Ori had a bullet wound in the upper part of left thigh, from outer side to inner, the exit wound was on the inside.

He was bleeding profusely and suffered from shock. He was a male East Indian, about 53. We made an operation immediately and found the two main blood vessels lacerated. We arrested the bleeding by tying these. He was sent back to bed. Later he showed gangrenous change and on the 17th his leg was amputated. He died on the 18th. He told me he was standing on the western side of the road at Ruimveldt, facing east, when shot. He did not say if he was in the open or in a house. I merely asked to ascertain the direction of the wound.

His death was due to gangrene. He was quite conscious and consented to be operated on. I visited him daily and he could have explained details in full to his wife or relations visiting him.

By Mr. C. R. Browne :

The wounds I saw are all above the middle third of the leg. I did not see the female cases. Three were shot in the thigh or leg. None of my cases were shot in the head, some were shot in the body.

(Sd.) J. B. SINGH.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 2nd May, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

42. Aziz Rahamat, P.C. 3814, on oath saith:—On Thursday, 3rd April, about 1-35, I went with Sergt.-Major Pollard to identify the dead bodies at Ruimveldt. On arrival I saw a Public Works Department motor lorry 601 with eight dead bodies opposite Dr. Earle's house.

These were taken to the Mortuary and I followed shortly after. I assisted to collect broken bottles, etc., further south in "O." We collected all these off the road and sent them to the detective office in a car.

At the mortuary I made out the death reports for the Coroner's order and I got the bodies all identified the same night. They were as follows:—

No. 10. Badloo Beeput or Baldeo was identified by Hookan.

No. 7. Bodie (or Boodnie) identified by Prince Edwards.

No. 3. Ramharak identified by his father Jiaow.

No. 4. Bifia or Jasoda identified by Etwaroo, her husband.

No. 11. Beeput Sanicharee or Pakalia, identified by Mohamet, Ruimveldt.

No. 5. Geo. Somra identified by Boodnee (Keeper).

No. 2. Gangaya identified by Nallapareddy.

No. 1. James Agaday was identified by Jane Agaday.

I was informed by her husband and others that No. 4 Jasoda or Bifia was inside a house to the west of the road when shot. I went and saw the bullet hole. The post-mortem examinations of all these bodies were made by Drs. Wishart and Rose in my presence and I supplied them with the identifications for their reports.

The bodies of No. 4 and No. 2 were taken away and buried by the relatives, the other bodies were buried by the police about 9-15 p.m. in my presence and that of Sergeant Hazell in the general public ground of the Le Repentir Cemetery.

By Mr. Crane:

I saw bullet holes in the house in which I was told No. 11 lived. I went there to take a statement. I did not go inside. I was in charge of the bodies (except the two given up) until they were buried.

(Sd.) A. RAHAMAT, P.C. 3814.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 2nd May, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

43. Deponent Joseph Robertson on oath saith:—I live at Little Diamond and am a shovelman. On Monday, 31st March, I was returning in a tram-car from the hospital, Georgetown, about 4. I received a roll of bills; a black man was distributing the bills in Camp Street, he gave me some and I distributed four to some people at Peter's Hall, by the car line. I gave to three coolies and a Chinaman. I cannot read and I did not find out what was in the bills. They were all colours.

By Mr. King:

I do not know Critchlow. I was a member of the Labour Union, Berbice Branch, five years ago. I do not know Critchlow by sight. The man who gave me the bills said he was Mr. Critchlow or Crutchelow.

He told me to distribute them in Water Street. I left part of the bills at home with my reputed wife. I gave them to my reputed wife, Rachel Cicero. I told her to give them to Hinds. She told me later she had done so. I do not know why she should give them to him. I thought he might distribute them. He is a Barbadian. He is not a member of the Labour Union. I cannot explain why I wanted to give them to Hinds, he lives at Grove. I only give him what I got. Bill " Q " the policeman said he found in my kitchen. I did not see him pick it up. I call " Q " blue. Hinds works at Diamond estate. I carried the balance back to the same man who gave them to me. He had a flag with three colours in his hand, that was on the Tuesday I brought them back to Critchlow to the man who said he was Critchlow.

By. Mr. Crane :

I came early to town and went across to give them to the man. I did not know him before. There was a roll of bills left. He did not say share them out on East Bank. He said Water Street, I did not expect to meet him there. I went round that way to the station on the chance of meeting him.

(Sd.) JOSEPH ROBERTSON.

X

his mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 2nd May, 1924, the same having been read over to deponent, who appeared fully to understand same and made his mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

44. The deponent Rachel Cicero on oath saith:—Reputed wife of Robertson of Little Diamond. I saw my husband Robertson bring the bills home on Monday, 31st March. They were yellow, white and blue, similar to " Q. " I cannot read. I did not know what they were about. I am a washer and on Tuesday I took less than half of the quantity to Hinds at Grove. I know him. My husband told me to give them to Hinds. I was not present when the policeman found " Q " on the floor. I do not know now what the bills are about.

(Sd.) RACHEL CICERO.

X

her mark.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 2nd May, 1924, the same having been read over to deponent, who appeared fully to understand same and made her mark in my presence.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

Coroner.

45. Deponent Arthur Heyliger Hill on oath saith:—I am a Civil Servant, and am Immigration Agent for the District including East Bank. My district extends from Parika to the Abary. I was appointed Immigration Agent in 1919, but have been performing the duties since 1907. On Tuesday, 1st April, Mr. Hampden King, the Immigration Agent General, rang me up and said the Inspector General of Police had informed him that a number of East Indians were on their way to Georgetown. No East Indians from the East Bank came to the Immigration Depôt to

lodge any complaint that day. No complaint whatever had been lodged by estate labourers. On 25th February a complaint had been lodged by some men from Grove, adjoining Diamond. Fifty-five men came with Kawall. He said he had had an interview with Messrs. Anderson and Speed. He told me then that one of the complaints the men made was that price for work was not stated at the outset. Kawall said he was satisfied with Mr. Anderson's statement and the steps proposed. He said Mr. Anderson had denied it and said they only had to come to him. A complaint was also made about the quality of the water at Grove. I went up 26th and went to Grove with Mr. Anderson and looked at the water supply. And Mr. Anderson gave me the assurance that the price of work was made known at the outset. We communicated with the Local Government Inspector about the water. Mr. Bellamy said a scheme was under consideration and Grove was down for an artesian well. I informed Kawall the results of my visit by telephone. Three days after 35 men came to me from Grove without Kawall and complained that the increase in rates which Mr. Kawall told them had been promised by the estate had not been carried out. That complaint was sent to Mr. Anderson who said no question of increase of rates had ever been raised. I telephoned Kawall and told him. He then denied having told them anything of the kind. I received no other complaint about wages until the occurrence of 3rd April.

The men concerned in the above-mentioned complaint are task gang labourers, *i.e.*, free lances who live in their own houses and can work where, when and how they like. On Tuesday, about 2-30, I telephoned Mr. Anderson to find out how things were and he said except at Providence the people were working. That on Providence the labourers had gone to town to attend a meeting of the Labour Union. He also believed some had gone to Kawall. I reminded him my routine visit was 3rd and asked him if he thought I should come. He said "Yes." On 2nd April about 2-30 P.M. I rang up again and Mr. Anderson informed him Mr. Daggett told him his people were very disorderly and had turned out servants. He said that he had instructed Mr. Daggett to tell the police.

When he (Mr. Anderson) returned at 11 A.M. from aback he found Mr. Legge, Mr. Jones and Mr. Kawall on the estate and a crowd of labourers were parading up and down behaving in a turbulent way demanding an all-round increase in pay and he declined to treat with them on account of their disorderly behaviour, but things had then cleared up. He said most of the mob did not belong to his estate but many came from Grove village. He referred to my visit proposed for 3rd and suggested in the circumstances I should postpone it as it would unsettle people who had no complaint. I put the matter before Immigration Agent General and he concurred in postponing it. On Wednesday, about 7-30 P.M., I was ordered to Brickdam as a special constable and was on patrol 9 P.M. to 12-45 A.M. I got home about 1 A.M. About 9-15 on Thursday, 3rd April, on my arrival at the office, I received a notice to go and be sworn in but the Immigration Agent General arranged for my exemption. I saw Major Widdup about 11-20, he told me there was trouble at Diamond on the East Bank. I went up the Bank after the shooting. Meantime Mr. Kawall had been to my office.

He was accompanied by Ramprashad, who was present throughout. He saw Mr. King and myself. He said he had just come from Ruimveldt where he said six East Indians had been shot and a good many wounded. He said he had been requested to translate the Riot Act to the people

and had done so. He said he had done his best to get them to go back and they would not listen. Some, he said, accused him of being in the pay of my department. I asked him what had become of the people who came in on Tuesday. He said a large number had come to enrol as members of the East Indian Association and that some few had complained of being compelled to do work at Providence that they were not physically able to do. I asked him why he had not sent them on to my office as usual. His reply was that they had not got a grievance that you could put in a grain of mustard seed.

He said the people had now been led away by blacks (on Thursday) and he thought they were trying to join the mob in Georgetown. He said that on Tuesday some of them had attended a meeting of the Labour Union and that some had seen the disturbances in Georgetown and he thought they were trying to imitate what they had then seen. The Immigration Agent General then told me to go to Brickdam and find out what had happened. I went about 1. At the Brickdam the Inspector General of Police said the Police, he understood, had passed five East Indian delegates to the Immigration Agent General. I returned to the Immigration Agent General's office where Kawall and Ramprashad still were, and asked Kawall what had become of these five delegates. He replied that no delegates had ever come through as the others had refused to agree and had said if one comes all come. At 2-30 I went to Ruinveldt but Inspectors Long and Murtland said they thought it inadvisable to hinder the people from dispersing and that if I went up the East Bank they might all come out again. They did not prevent my going, but I decided then not to go. On Friday morning Mr. Kawall telephoned me to ask if he could accompany me up the East Bank as he had received telegrams from Providence asking him to come. He suggested an interview with Mr. Speed. The Immigration Agent General, however, decided that we had better act independently, so I telephoned Mr. Daggett that I proposed to go up, but later I received a message from Mr. Anderson *via* Mr. Daggett that the people were all in their houses and might well be left alone. At 3-30, Friday, two men came from Providence and asked that I should visit the estate. I went to Providence at 7-30 A.M. on Saturday. The people were in their houses but I asked Mr. Anderson to request the police to remove from the Pay Office and I met the people there. I had also been in the hospital to see the wounded. The complaints put forward then were for an all-round increase of wages. The people said they were starved, another complaint was the manager had compelled six in the boy gang who said they were physically unfit to do forking and when they had done it badly had summoned them for "deceptive work." The cases were then pending. The cases were dismissed on a technical informality in the summonses. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Daggett were present. They refused to consider an all-round increase of wages. They had so informed me before on the Friday. On the other complaint Mr. Anderson said they might relax the compulsion on members of the boy gang who said they could not do forking. The compulsion would have been that if a man did not do the work required of him he would be given notice to quit the estate. Mr. Anderson declined to drop the charges for deceptive work. The complaint that they were starving was found to be unfounded. I found that the wages they were getting were adequate. I found that nineteen of the boy gang were earning over a dollar a day at work.

By Mr. Crane :

My department renders assistance to any East Indian immigrants. We regard ourselves as protectors of the East Indians on or off the sugar

plantations and we regard it as our duty to go into any wage disputes for them if they come to us. We do it in the same degree as in 1917 though our powers are not as great over the employers as they were when we had indentured immigrants. There have been prosecutions under the Master and Servants Ordinance on the East Bank, that works similarly to the old indentures except that the labourers can give two weeks' notice and leave the estate. We usually confer with the East Indians on the estate in the presence of the manager. He must hear what the complaint is before he can answer it. In this case the two boys had me to hear the complaint first and asked me not to divulge their names and I did not do so though I saw them in the crowd. I usually hear all their stuff apart from the manager first and latterly they have asked to keep their names out.

We always are primed with the grievances of the labourers before we meet the manager. Except in the buildings, etc., the men work by the task. Of the labourers 90 per cent. work by the task. Throughout the colony the average man gets 50c. a day. A woman about 32c. And creole gangs of boys and girls 12c., 16c. or 20c. In addition they have a house, free medical attention and use of hospital. On most estates people are allowed to keep cattle. I cannot say what people have cattle on East Bank but they mostly belong to the East Indians on the estate. At Grove the trench runs east and west, the burial ground is to the south and if the water rises the water floods the burial ground. There are other water supplies that the people can use. They only use that trench to save a walk of about 200 rods. That condition has been in existence for 30 years or more, it could be remedied.

Mr. Anderson pointed out an alternative canal in the immediate vicinity right alongside the village. That is actually nearer for the people at one end of the village, the people of the other end have to walk the length of the village. There are a few contract labourers from Barbados, some have broken their contracts. They would have as much right as East Indians to come for our assistance. There are only four blacks under contract, so I should be surprised if I heard a whole crowd of black men saying they were coming to see "Crosby." I asked for the Police to be removed as I thought the people might not come as freely. The Maxim gun was not there then. It was never at the Pay Office. The men think they might be penalized for making complaints. The Immigration Agent General can enter on estates, etc. I am here in the interest of the East Indians on the estate.

By Mr. Fredericks :

East Indians have come with their implements right through. That is when the numbers were too great for the police to stop. As a rule the police pile their implements at the Police Station. Under the old Ordinance s. 121, not more than six were allowed in together. It is not my duty to suppress riots or civil disturbances; we had no complaints to deal with from the estates.

By Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C. :

There are now no indentured East Indians in the Colony. In 1917 the last batch came and their indentures were all cancelled in 1921. At the 1921 Census 128,000 East Indians were in the Colony, 47 per cent. of those were born in India, 53 per cent. were born here. The average duration of residence of the Indians who were killed is 17 years in the Colony. 6 Indian born, 6 creole born and 1 black were killed. The

youngest is a boy of 15 and the eldest a man of 50, these are taken from our records.

The wounded I saw in Providence Hospital were being well cared for. All the male East Indians have been discharged from the Public Hospital, Georgetown. There are 3 females still in hospital. My duties were defined by Ordinance 18 of 1891 while the indenture system existed, which contained elaborate provisions for settling labour disputes which we cannot now invoke. That Ordinance allowed an arbitration before the Magistrate which was enforceable by law. The position of free East Indians now is exactly that of any other resident in the Colony so far as labour is concerned, he sells his labour to the highest bidder. He gets advantages which others do not get. We make wills for them and take up complaints and in almost every walk of life we are consulted by them and we carry through nearly all their affairs. The East Indian too, often has an advantage over the other labourers in that he has a duplicate remedy under his Ordinance, *e.g.*, the remedy for interference with his wife, and the division of property. The Immigration Agent General communicates with the Governor direct on immigration matters instead of through a department. On most estates the East Indian resident labourers have cattle privileges and free rice beds and creches where the children can be left. The average wages I gave include men good, bad, and indifferent. The average week's work is four and a half days. The highest earnings for shovelmen run to 50, 60 or 70 bitts a week (1 bitt=8 cents). I have known blacks earn 100 bitts a week, or \$8 a week. The boy gang I referred to is aged 18 upwards; they usually cut canes, weed canals, etc. They were called on to fork as the estate had ceased grinding and there was no other work available for them. The indentured man was bound to remain on the estate, he might be liable to be fined, but he still had to remain there unless transferred by the department. As a rule we dissociate ourselves from the police whether armed or otherwise. We had no word of any complaint of any kind before the climax was reached on Thursday. I or the Immigration Agent General would have gone there at once if I had heard of any such complaints.

(Sd.) ARTHUR H. HILL.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 3rd May, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

46. Deponent Arthur Wellesley Boughton Long: on oath, saith:—I am a District Inspector of Police.

I tender a certified copy put in and marked " R " of the Register of Minutes of all orders up to the 14th April, 1924, of the Georgetown Magistrates' Court against Schultz who was convicted of assault and against Bayley, Jackson, Lewis, Lynch, Dixon, Fraser and Rhugunandan who were convicted of assembling with others in a proclaimed district and against Roopchand who was convicted of behaving himself disorderly in a proclaimed district. These offences occurred at Ruimveldt on the 8rd April 1924, or on lands adjacent.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C.:

All these parties were prosecuted by me for taking part in the Riot at Ruimveldt. In two cases the defendants were discharged on alibis. None of the other cases were defended. I was at Ruimveldt about 12-30

on 3rd April after the shooting. I found three or four of these defendants as prisoners opposite Dr. Earle's house. I prosecuted the cases but did not give evidence as I did not see the rioting.

(Sd.) ARTHUR W. B. LONG,
District Inspector.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 7th May, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

47. Deponent Lionel Clifford Bovell Jones on oath saith:—I am District Inspector of Police for British Guiana.

I tender 2 certificates of conviction. 1st Certified copy Extract marked "S" of the Register of Minutes of all orders of the Providence Magistrate's Court in the Georgetown Judicial District against McDougall Williams, Glasgow, Northey, Samuels, August, Moore, McPherson, Sagmar, Babooram alias Sukwa, Adjodia, Primo, Maloney and Kirton alias Thunderbolt, all of these were convicted on May 5th or 6th of behaving disorderly in a Proclaimed District. 2ndly Certified copy, Extract marked "T" from the Register of Minutes of all orders of the Providence Magistrate's Court against Abdool and Peerbacchus for threats of violence to hinder from work. Against Peer Bacchus for maliciously wounding a mule, against Butts alias H. Daymon and Damon for assault; against Edun for entering a house in threatening manner; against A. Hamid I., Ramoo and Marshall for the same offence; against Makeera and Rahim for threats of violence; against Ramcharita for openly carrying sticks; and against Marshall, Hamid, Seenan, Sarjan, for being disorderly in proclaimed district and against Browne for assembling.

I prosecuted most of these cases or was present at part of the hearing. Thunderbolt was prosecuted by Captain Craig.

By Mr. deFreitas, K.C.:

These prosecutions all relate to offences either at Ruimveldt or farm on the 2nd and 3rd of April. I prosecuted Maloney who had a flat iron bar at Ruimveldt on 3rd April on the public road, the evidence was that later on he threw bricks and bottles at the Police, he was convicted.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C.:

I was stationed at Providence in the Manager's house on 3rd April. I went up 8-20 A.M. on the 2nd April with 10 armed police and Mr. Legge, the Magistrate. I left 3 police at Houston, 2 at Peter's Hall. I was reinforced by 2 machine gunners and one machine gun and 3 armed Militia on Wednesday. I found a large disorderly crowd just entering the Manager's house at Providence by the north. I went round to the south as I could not get in by the north entrance. Two or three people got in the house. The crowd left for Diamond. I tried to explain the Proclamation to them and told them to go home. I met the crowd again at Farm and read the Proclamation there, too, and also at Diamond where I again read the Proclamation to the crowd. At Farm I saw Mr. Kawall and made him go on ahead. I got to diamond before the crowd. At Diamond I set out the machine gun in the drive to the Attorney's house. It was not loaded. By that time I had two gunners, three Militia, and two police. I saw the Attorney, he came later. The crowd was very disorderly, the Attorney said he would

not speak to a disorderly mob of that sort. An appointment was made by Mr. Anderson to see delegates of both races at 1 P.M. that day, but later I heard Kawall had postponed the appointment.

The machine gun was only loaded on the Thursday after the shooting at Ruimveldt. I heard from Houston by telephone that the crowd was coming back after the shooting in a very angry condition. I do not know who it was speaking from Pln. Houston. The machine gun was put up in the northern alleyway to the manager's house shortly after noon. I had then three policemen, the two machine gunners and three Militia Infantry. I was told by Mr. Daggett that he had seen the people going home by the sea dam and back dam. I put the gun there to protect property. I did not use the gun but I protected the property. I would have fired if the crowd had tried to enter the manager's house that afternoon. I did not want the chance to fire. The crowd took about two and a half hours to pass in bunches and driblets. There must have been 2,000 or 3,000 returning by the main road. I saw one drummer returning with the drum on his head. The people had no sticks on their way back, they all had sticks on the way in the morning. There were more men than women both going and returning. I did not see Mr. Anderson on the Thursday morning. He rang up and said to Mr. Daggett things were in a very unsettled state and he would not leave the estate. I also heard he told Mr. Kawall he would not come down to meet the crowd unless they were orderly. He said he would have absolutely nothing to do with a disorderly rabble. On Wednesday I followed the mob back to Providence and Peter's Hall where they dispersed.

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C. :

On Thursday morning after the crowd had left Providence coming towards Georgetown. I telephoned to Mr. MacDoom's house. An East Indian boy spoke to me. He said "Wait a minute, boss," "Mr. Aaron Britton here." A few seconds later a man's voice said "Mr. Aaron Britton speaking" and asked me to send some police to give him some protection into Georgetown. I said I was unable to do so. He said the crowd was very excited and was on its way to Georgetown. He seemed very excited himself.

By Mr. Singh :

At Diamond on Wednesday the crowd remained in the Factory yard for about two hours shouting. Some said they wanted \$1.20 a day. Some said the price must be put on the pay office before they went aback. I had long talks with the shovelmen who told me they did not want to go to the Manager as the East Indians were getting too fat. I did not suggest sending for Crosby. Tirjodhan was tried for threats of violence, the case was dismissed. All the witnesses did not give evidence. The man said in court he was only giving advice. Hinds and Collymore were charged with carrying sticks but the charges were dismissed.

Eight cases were tried in one batch, 7 convicted but one girl was given the benefit of the doubt. She was not defended by counsel. Only one was defended by counsel but was convicted. "S" contains some cases tried at Providence and some at Georgetown.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C. :

The first 10 excepting McPherson are for offences at Farm. The remainder are for offences at Ruimveldt.

On " T " the offences were mostly at Providence, Farm and Peter's Hall only. Clifton Browne was for offences at Ruimveldt.

There are other cases pending.

(Sd.) L. C. BOVELL JONES,
District Inspector.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 7th May, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

48. William Cunningham on oath saith:—I am a Land Surveyor, employed in the Lands and Mines Department. I have surveyed the scene of the riot at Ruimveldt on 3rd April and I put in plan " U " showing the locus, from a point to the north of Dr. Earle's house down to and including the trolley way across the main road at Pln. Ruimveldt. Plan " V " shows Etwarah's house, and plan " W " shows range " T U V W X " on plans " H and U." I was informed by Captain Murtland that a wounded man was picked up at point " A."

" B " is gouge in wall of house said to belong to Etwarah.

" C " shows two marks that might have been made by two bullets.

" D " is spot where a dead body of a black man was picked up.

" E " is a point where a dead body was picked up.

" F " is a bullet hole in the wall where a girl is said to have had two arms wounded.

" G, H, I and J " are holes in a fence which might have been caused by bullets.

" K " is a step in front of Purby's house where a man, Nabi, was picked up wounded.

" L, M and N " are bullet holes showing the height from ground.

" O " is the spot at which a body of a wounded East Indian is said to have been picked up.

" P " marks a bridge which was broken up by the mob.

" Q and R " represent two posts at which the crowd was stopped.

" S " is where a body was picked up, a dead East Indian boy. At range to the East " T U V W and X " were pointed out to me as bullet holes but I am pretty sure that " V and N " are not bullet holes. (see plan " W ").

The plan " U " is 60 feet to 1 inch. " V and W " are 6 feet to 1 inch.
(Sd.) WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 7th May, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

49. Deponent Thomas Archibald Greene on oath saith:

By Mr. de Freitas, K.C.:

I am the Senior Overseer at Ruimveldt. On 2nd April except for crowds of people running past nothing extraordinary took place. On Thursday, 3rd, I was at my house on the west side of the public road about point (5) on plan " U." I returned from aback about 10-30 when I saw the crowd

coming from Diamond way. They were beating drums, waving sticks and keeping noise. I was scared of the mob. I am a man of ordinary courage. I went and locked the windows and kept my wife and children inside. I did not know what the crowd were after, but they might have got in the house and done damage. My wife was scared. It was a riotous party. They were stopped by the police who charged them on horseback. I saw them pelting the police from a distance.

By Mr. McArthur, K.C.:

I saw bottles thrown or missiles. I was not near enough to see what was being thrown. You can see clearly up the road from my house. The pelting went on for five or ten minutes. I heard the firing. I was born in Georgetown.

By Mr. Singh:

By riotous I mean they were making noise, waving sticks. I have not seen as big a crowd as this at Tajah Festivals. I should say 2,000 or so passed together.

(Sd.) T. A. GREENE.

Taken and sworn to before me at Georgetown this 7th May, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
Coroner.

GEORGETOWN,
5th July, 1924.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I was required by writing under your hand dated 7th April, 1924, pursuant to section 19 of the Coroner's Ordinance, No. 6 of 1887, to hold an Inquiry into the cause of the deaths of the following persons:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. James Green Agaday | Male |
| 2. Gangaya | Male |
| 3. Rambarak or Ram Harak | Male |
| 4. Jasoda, Jasodia or Biphia | Female |
| 5. George Somra alias Beeput or Bulla | Male |
| 6. Budri | Male |
| 7. Bodie or Boodnie | Male |
| 8. Gobin | Male |
| 9. Umrai or Molai | Male |
| 10. Baldeo, Badloo or Baput | Male |
| 11. Beeput or Sanicharri | Female |
| and 12. Ramphal | Male |

and also within the terms of that section to hold such full inquiry as I might consider necessary into all the circumstances connected with the deaths of the said persons.

2. I opened the Inquiry on the 9th April at the Royal Victoria Law Courts, Georgetown, the Crown Solicitor, Mr. Percy W. King, represented the Government, Mr. G. J. deFreitas, K.C., represented the Police, Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C., represented the Immigration Department. The East Indian Association were represented by Mr. J. S. McArthur, K.C., Mr. Singh, of Counsel, and Mr. Crane, Solicitor, Mr. C. R. Browne, Barrister-at-Law, represented the Labour Union and Mr. Humphrys, of Counsel, and Mr. W. S. Cameron, Solicitor, appeared for the Demerara Company, Ltd., and the relatives of various killed or wounded persons were also represented by Counsel or Solicitor. Throughout I allowed to all these legal gentlemen the fullest cross-examination of all the witnesses called.

3. I continued the Inquiry from day to day as the witnesses became available. On the 22nd April I was similarly requird by you to hold an Inquiry into the death of Ori, male East Indian, M, 68,745, ex 4 von, 1894, and circumstances connected therewith and on the following day I enlarged the scope of the original inquiry to include this death notifying the various parties interested or represented that they could have any of the foregoing witnesses recalled if thought necessary to ask any further questions with regard to this enlargement of the Inquiry. No one wished to avail himself of this offer. In all 16 sittings were held and I took the evidence of 47 witnesses.

4. At the close of the sitting on the 3rd of May I notified the various parties then represented that the names of any further witnesses whose evidence they wished to tender should be sent in by 5th May and that I proposed to close the Inquiry on the 7th.

5. The names of two witnesses were then put forward by Mr. Crane on behalf of the East Indian Association and they were duly summoned by me but at the close of the hearing on the 7th Mr. Crane was not present

and Mr. McArthur, K.C., intimated that he did not wish to call these witnesses. No other party asked for any further evidence to be called and the Inquiry was closed on that date.

6. The circumstances leading up to the immediate subject matter of the Inquiry are as follows:—There was considerable labour unrest in Georgetown leading to a general strike on Monday, 31st March, among the Dock labourers and stevedore porters of Georgetown. The following day, 1st April, a demonstration through the streets of Georgetown was planned by the Labour Union, but what may possibly have been originated or intended as an orderly procession quickly developed by accretions of the centipede or *appaché* class into a lawless mob which terrorised the whole city for some hours, members of the mob forcing their way into private houses, business premises and committing very many criminal acts. It appears that by the close of the day the police had got the upper hand in the city and the police force was rapidly reinforced by Special Constables who were sworn in on this and the following days.

7. On Tuesday, 1st April, Proclamations were issued by His Excellency the Governor for the city of Georgetown and on Wednesday, 2nd April, similar Proclamations were issued by His Excellency for the whole Colony putting in force the provisions of Title X. of the Summary Convictions Offences Ordinance, 1893, and closing the spirit shops—and another Proclamation prohibiting unlawful assemblies and stating the consequences and calling on inhabitants to avoid joining assemblies and crowds as by so doing they would run the risk of being injured or even losing their lives. Posters containing these Proclamations (exhibits "C" & "D") were exhibited at various points up the East Bank and were the subject of general conversation there. Things in Georgetown were comparatively quiet but there was still unrest and the police were kept on the *qui vive* all day and night dispersing mobs in the city as rapidly as they collected, and some violence that is especially material to the present Inquiry was committed on the 2nd, namely, that as the police lorries were returning from the East Bank whither they had been sent to deal with the crowd there, a crowd chiefly of blacks of the centipede type collected at La Penitence and pelted them with missiles, one of the Special Constables receiving injuries to the head (Inspector Murtland's evidence). Up the East Bank of the Demerara River meantime the situation had been developing on different lines. Beginning at a point about two miles out of town and extending for a distance of some six miles of facade the estate land is all under one ownership that of the Demerara Company, Limited, the chief Attorney of which is Mr. Anderson. Apparently there was no labour dispute worth mentioning on any of the four estates amalgamated under this management, *viz.*, Plantations Diamond, Farm, Providence and Peter's Hall. Nearly all the labour witnesses candidly admit that they had made no complaint of wages either to the Manager or to "Crosby" (the Immigration Agent) and did not come out on strike, on a question of this sort, Mr. Kawall said that "they had not a grievance that would fill a mustard seed" (see Mr. Hill's evidence). The two special grievances mentioned by some witnesses, *viz.*, as to the water supply at Grove and four prosecutions at Providence for deceptive work clearly had nothing whatever to do with the assembly of the riotous mobs on the 2nd and 3rd of April and were merely mentioned as afterthoughts when grievances were enquired into. Mr. Hill's evidence shows that even trivial grievances were immediately dealt with by the Immigration Department and Mr. Kawall admits this.

8. It is clear that from 31st March the handbills " K " containing incitements to riot were being distributed on the East Bank by direct and indirect emissaries of the Labour Union, some of the distributors like the witnesses Robertson and Cicero who could not read the bills they were distributing, being merely foolish illiterate catspaws for other people while others came in cars direct from Georgetown to distribute these bills. Meantime though it is far from clear what position the East Indian Association wished to take up, what is clear is that Kawall and his Committeeman Ramprashad wished to preserve as far as possible a position " on the fence " and while not wishing actively to obstruct the police authorities, that they did nothing of any moment during the earlier part of the week to allay the excitement.

9. On the Wednesday the East Indians still working on the estates allowed themselves to be stampeded or intimidated and driven from work; there is evidence of actual assaults taking place, one man being struck on the arm and a mule's eye being knocked out, as well as considerable evidence of threats and intimidation; numbers of labourers were coming and going into Georgetown all the time and no doubt what was happening there in the way of rioting and forcible entry of houses lost nothing in the telling on the East Bank. The effect of all these various contributing causes was that practically the whole working population of the East Bank, black and East Indian, went on strike without in the least knowing what they were striking for. " Striking for Price " was one of the vague expressions which called a whole gang from work, and it is clear that gangs of from 50 to 100 men were driven from their work by handfuls of half a dozen agitators. Having struck work in this foolish way the evidence shows that the mob collected from the estates on the main road and began to re-enact what had happened in Georgetown the day before, in particular the compulsion on law-abiding citizens to follow the rabble and the forcible entry into people's houses (See Mr. Legge's and Mr. Duggett's evidence). They entered and forcibly ejected the servants from the manager's houses at Providence and Peter's Hull—returning later to see that none had come back to work; they then marched to Diamond. An interview with the Attorney and Manager in the presence of the Stipendiary Magistrate and Mr. Kawall there led to nothing as the mob was a disorderly rabble including many people who were not resident labourers. But it was intimated to the crowd that if there were any grievances that could be ascertained and expressed these would be gone into by the Manager and Attorney with delegates of the crowd. An appointment was first made for 1 P.M. and then for next morning but it is clear now that there were no grievances to express and the crowd was too disorderly to agree on any delegates if there had been real grievances. On the Thursday morning early substantially the same crowd with accretions from Grove and Diamond began collecting at Providence, four miles from Georgetown, without waiting for Kawall to attend or any attempt to appoint delegates or to interview the Attorney at Providence as arranged and in spite of warnings by the Police present as well as in spite of the proclamation began its march on Georgetown with a band and flags and armed with heavy sticks or agricultural implements.

10. Possibly some of the members of the crowd considered they had struck for more pay but there is no doubt whatever that the whole purpose and tenour of the crowd and the only purpose it had in common was an unlawful one, namely, in spite of the proclamations and the police warnings

and prohibitions to get into Georgetown as a mob against all opposition. The Police headquarters were kept in constant touch with the crowd on its progress to town, and the Inspector General having ascertained the approximate numbers and the purpose of the crowd rightly formed the decision to prevent its coming into Georgetown at all costs. Many questions were put by Counsel to the police witnesses suggesting that the crowd should have been stopped further from town, but several things show that the proper spot was chosen. (1) The crowd of the day before had turned back on its own initiative before reaching South of Peter's Hall. By waiting so long as he did the Inspector General of Police made certain of the unlawful purpose of the crowd before stopping it by force. (2) The ground at Ruimveldt though not good for mounted police work was better than any of the points named further south where deep trenches and cane-fields would have rendered manœuvring impossible. (3) The distance of Ruimveldt from town (about 1 mile) made it possible to get reinforcements easily to the spot and saved the horses from a punishing preliminary march in the heat of the sun. (4) Lastly the place chosen offered an ideal machine-gun position if the desperate remedy of machine gunfire had had to be resorted to. Against these points the only thing unfavourable to the position was that the police were there sandwiched between this hostile crowd from the south and another crowd from the north which was shown to be also hostile by the attack of the day before on Inspector Murtland's party and which, no doubt, was composed in part of all the lawless and wastrel elements from Albouystown and District immediately adjoining where the bulk of the centipede class of Georgetown reside.

11. The "pros" greatly outweighed the "cons", and it is clear to me that the Inspector General exercised a wise discretion in stopping the crowd at Ruimveldt. It is perfectly clear and a point on which every creditable witness as well as apparently Mr. Crane himself agreed that this crowd had to be stopped at all costs somewhere before they entered the city.

12. At the request of the Police Mr. Kawall with Ramnaraine, Ramprashad and Mr. Aaron Britton went up and met the crowd at Houston and tried by argument to stop it without the slightest success. It is evident that the crowd were very suspicious of these emissaries and the temper of the mobs is evident from the fact that Aaron Britton was assaulted, and Mr. Kawall himself was hustled. Britton rang up Inspector Jones at Providence to ask for police protection. These parties having failed to influence the crowd then followed it down to Ruimveldt. Meantime Captain Ramsay (Lieut. Black Watch) the staff officer of the local forces, had been despatched to Ruimveldt by the Inspector General with a mixed force of 35 Special Constables (batons), 10 Militia with one Vickers light Automatic. Half a platoon (about 20 men) of armed foot police and one section of mounted police also armed with batons. He was accompanied by the Senior Stipendiary Magistrate for Georgetown Mr. Legge, and he had orders from the Inspector General to stop the crowd coming into Georgetown. Captain Ramsay having first suitably disposed of the force he had and having sent forward a file of mounted police to get in touch with the mob drew up the rest of the mounted men and armed foot police across the main road as the crowd arrived. It was about 10-40 A.M. that Captain Ramsay with the aid of Mr. Legge halted the crowd and tried to turn it back. The East Indian Association party and Britton then pushed through from the tail of the mob and at Captain Ramsay's request in turn tried to get the crowd to go home or to

appoint delegates to present any possible grievances. It is clear from a consideration of all the evidence that Kawall, Ramprashad and Britton were all in a scared excitable state and that they refused to get into the heart of the mob for fear of the consequences, they all remained on the northern outskirt and though no doubt at this time Kawall was genuinely trying to allay the excitement and turn back the mob he was evidently mistrusted and afraid for his life to get out of the range of police protection.

13. With regard to the witnesses probably both Kawall and Ramprashad were too frightened to be accurate observers but it is clear that Ramprashad (who says "I gradually left and walked sideways") had got clear away some time before the firing and that what he is testifying to is mere hearsay gleaned from others. With regard to Britton, who is the Editor of the "Tribune", he lied over many points, and admitted (as well as denied) being an unwilling witness. It is a charitable view to take that he also was in a state of abject terror at the time and incapable of observing accurately or consecutively. He admitted at the time that the police had done the only thing possible in firing, then tried to hedge by some ingenious perjury including a manufactured conversation with Captain Earle which it afterwards transpired never took place.

14. It is also obvious that many of the East Indian witnesses to identity are perjuring themselves for obvious reasons as to the details of how the various deceased came to stop work and to join in the demonstration. Practically every relative of any deceased person called told the same story, viz., that the deceased did not strike but was detained from work by sickness—but on the day in question, 3rd April, was sufficiently recovered to walk into Georgetown to see some aunt or other relative. All the time the crowd was increasing in numbers and getting more excited by reason of the opposition to its progress. All the credible witnesses are agreed that it was a turbulent, angry and threatening mob. Kawall, Ramprashad and Britton are the only ones who deny this but they all proved it at the time by the state of panic in which they obviously were and the persistent way in which they refused to risk their lives by getting in amongst the crowd to get delegates appointed.

15. Although for a short time it seemed a possible move to get these delegates appointed it is obvious on hearing all the evidence that no amount of tact or patience on the part of Mr. Legge and Captain Ramsay would have been successful in getting any delegates appointed, or having got them, in turning the crowd home for the simple reason that that was not what the crowd had come for and as Kawall admitted the same day there were no grievances that delegates could discuss.

16. The result of this parley was that the tail of the crowd, now some 4,000 or 5,000 strong, began overlapping and getting to the north of the police on the private land on either side of the public road and Captain Ramsay realising the danger of being surrounded began to use first the specials and then his section of a mounted police to press the crowd back. Some missiles were thrown at the police and threatening and insulting language was used both to the police, the Inspectors and the Magistrate. The crowd resisted pressure all the time and kept surging forward at the sides the moment pressure was withdrawn. It is clear that what had been all along an unlawful assembly had developed into a tumultuous and riotous assembly and the Stipendiary Magistrate at 11-10 A.M. properly read the

proclamation contained in section 320 of the Indictable Offences Ordinance No. 18 of 1893, after due warning to the crowd by Captain Ramsay, and this proclamation was translated into Hindi by Ramnarine and Kwall. It is clear the Stipendiary Magistrate might equally have read the Riot Act without impropriety at an earlier stage. The efforts to press the crowd back having failed Captain Ramsay used his mounted section and actually succeeded in getting them back from the posts (R. Q. on map U) about 60 yards to the Chinese shop, but at that point it became clear that he was unable to go further safely with the force he then had as the crowd was overlapping the police all the time to the sides and began breaking up the bridge to the west of road. At this point Captain Ramsay called by telephone for mounted reinforcements from Briekdam which arrived a few minutes later at about 11-50 under Sergeant-Major Billyeald (of the Dragoon Guards). Captain Ramsay instructed the Sergeant-Major to clear the road which Sergeant-Major Billyeald immediately proceeded to do dividing the forty mounted men he had available, including Corporal Reid's section, into three parties. He sent one under Moe (Lance-Corporal) to the East, another under Lance-Corporal Pompey to the West, while he with the remainder worked the crowd at the "Trot out." This manœuvre was only partly successful, the Sergeant-Major with considerable skill and judgment carried out two charges clearing the road for 250 yards beyond the Chinese shop stop off, but he immediately had to charge back North again to clear many of the mob who came back on the road, and meantime his force from the moment of the first charge became the object of very heavy pelting; heavy stones, bricks, bottles, old pieces of iron and missiles of all sorts were thrown at it by the crowd. Some of these were thrown from the road but more from crowds among the houses or ranges to East and West of the road and at the same time the smaller sections of mounted men to East and West were being pelted heavily at the flanks. Twelve of the mounted police were hit by missiles as well as some of the horses. At this point it became quite evident to Captain Ramsay that the mounted force were not going to disperse the mob which was assuming the offensive from the shelter of houses and trenches to the East and West of the road and that it would reform out of range of the batons immediately after each charge.

17. The houses stand about 40 yards from the road to the East with two trenches between averaging about 25 feet wide and 3 feet to 4 feet and 5 feet to 6 feet deep, respectively.

18. On the West the houses come within 20 yards of the road and there is only one long lateral trench from 3 to 4½ feet deep, but mounted work was equally difficult owing to the ranges and transverse trenches and both the flank parties were in serious difficulties and made no progress in fact two troopers to the East who were pushed into the water, only saved themselves by floundering across the deep trench back to the road. Captain Ramsay appreciated the fact that if either of these parties armed with nothing but batons got cut off he could not help them, as he could not fire into a mob containing his own force, and he was evidently very impressed with the determined character of the attacks and the danger of all three parties. Meantime the mob were surging back over the stop-off from the West, attacking the police with missiles, and trying to get on the road again, and while Sergeant-Major Billyeald's party was drawn up facing West to prevent this attack, a fresh attack was made on his rear by members of

the crowd running back on to the road across the eastern stop-off by the Chinese shop. Corporal Reid having been hit several times and having broken his stirrup leather fell back and the foot police opened to let him through. It was at this point full 40 or 50 minutes after the reading of the Riot Act and after the attack on the mounted police had been going on for ten minutes that Captain Ramsay decided he could not risk their lives any longer nor wait until any section got cut off from the main body and so placed beyond the reach of help and accordingly he gave the order for the 13 armed police on the road "to pick off the Ringleaders attacking the police." This was about mid-day. The police then fired standing in three sections of four to the East, South and West respectively. The firing which was individual and directed throughout by Captain Ramsay and his section leaders seems to have been well controlled and in about 20 to 40 seconds from first to last it was effective, not only in its original purpose of extricating the mounted men and allowing them to withdraw, but it also dispersed the whole crowd and caused practically the whole mass of 4,000 to 5,000 to return whence they came. Acting Deputy Inspector General Gamble, who was further back when the firing began, says that he noticed signs of the crowd breaking and tried to stop the firing after about 20 rounds had been fired by blowing his whistle but as he had time to get up to the line and actually directed some of the firing himself after this point, and there is in all only a period of 40 seconds at most covered by the firing from first shot to last, there can be no serious ground to question what I find was the fact, viz., that Captain Ramsay stopped the firing at the earliest practicable moment. Forty-two rounds in all were fired at the crowd causing in all 13 deaths and about 18 wounded (this number being an approximation, it was not stated in evidence) and of the 13 killed it is evident that at least eleven, namely, all the men killed were engaged either in attacks on the police or inciting others and that all of these were guilty of felony and that their death amounts in law to justifiable homicide.

19. In the case of Beeput or Sanicharie the evidence was conflicting. Some evidence was led that she died in the gallery while handing water to a wounded man. Dr. Haslam, who saw her body in a room, said he thought there were two bullet holes in that room but that the door was shut when the bullet entered and Captain Ramsay said that her feet were muddy as if she had recently crossed the trench. No evidence was led to show she participated in the rioting and as she resided in the Ruinveldt neighbourhood she is probably entitled to the benefit of the doubt though in view of the fact that her relatives did not tender any evidence I am leaving it an open verdict.

20. In the case of the woman Jasoda or Bifia, she was inside her house and was innocent of any participation in the Riot. Her death was a regrettable accident of the kind that almost invariably accompanies the use of fire-arms with crowds and the surprising thing is that with so many thickly populated ranges in the vicinity there were not more deaths of this sort.

21. In my opinion the order to fire by Captain Ramsay was given on a lawful occasion as a matter of necessity and it was the only course open to him at the time to prevent further felonies being perpetrated and to

protect the lives of members of the force under his command. It was only begun at the last moment and was conducted without recklessness or negligence. If he had done less he would have been neglecting his duty and he stopped the fire at the earliest possible moment consistent with that duty.

Details of the verdicts follow:

(Signed) GEORGE R. REID, J. P.,

Coroner.

VERDICTS.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of James Green Agaday.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said James Green Agaday came by his death, and I do say that the said James Green Agaday on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Pln. Ruimveldt, E. B., Demerara, came by his death from fracture of the skull and cerebral hæmorrhage caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Gangaya.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Gangaya came by his death, and I do say that the said Gangaya on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Ruimveldt, E. B., Demerara, came by his death from shock and hæmorrhage resulting from body wound caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924 the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand

Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Rambarak or Ramharak.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Rambarak came by his death, and I do say that the said Rambarak on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Ruimveldt, E. B., Demerara, came by his death from shock and hæmorrhage resulting from a body wound caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Jasoda, or Jasodia, or Beephia.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Jasoda, or Jasodia, or Beephia came by her death, and I do say that the said Jasoda, or Jasodia, or Beephia on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Ruimveldt, came by her death from shock and hæmorrhage resulting from a bullet wound fired by the Police in justifiable circumstances but received accidentally by the deceased at whom the bullet was not aimed; the circumstances amount to accidental death and no one is criminally responsible therefor.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to the 7th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of George Somra, *alias* Beeput or Bulla.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said George Somra, *alias* Beeput, *alias* Bulla, came by his death, and I do say that the said George Somra, *alias* Beeput, *alias* Bulla on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Pln. Ruimveldt came by his death from compound fracture of skull and resulting cerebral hæmorrhage caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Badri.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Badri came by his death, and I do say that the said Badri on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Public Hospital, Georgetown, came by his death from shock and hæmorrhage resulting from body wound caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Bodie or Boodnie.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Bodie or Boodnie

came by his death, and I do say that the sa'd Bodie or Boodnie on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Pln. Ruimveldt, came by his death from hæmorrhage resulting from body wound caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Gobin.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 83 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after Inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Gobin came by his death, and I do say that the said Gobin on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Public Hospital, Georgetown, came by his death from shock and hæmorrhage resulting from body wound caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Umrai or Molai.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 83 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Umrai or Molai came by his death, and I do say that the said Umrai or Molai on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Public Hospital, Georgetown, came by his

death from shock resulting from body wound caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Baldeo, *alias* Badloo or Baput.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Baldeo, *alias* Badloo or Baput, came by his death, and I do say that the said Baldeo, *alias* Badloo or Baput on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Ruimveldt, came by his death from shock and hæmorrhage resulting from body wound caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,

J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Beeput or Sanicharrie.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Beeput or Sanicharrie came by her death, and I do say that the said Beeput or Sanicharrie on the 3rd day of April, 1924, at Pln. Ruimveldt, came by her death from shock resulting from wound in neck caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt; there is not sufficient evidence to show

if death was caused by accidental circumstances or justifiable homicide. No one is criminally responsible for the death.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Ramphal.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Ramphal came by his death, and I do say that the said Ramphal on the 4th day of April, 1924, at Public Hospital, Georgetown, came by his death from hæmorrhage resulting from body wound caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, the circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.

INQUIRY BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

BRITISH GUIANA, COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

An Inquiry taken at Georgetown, in the County and Colony aforesaid, on the 9th April to 7th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-four, before me, one of the Coroners of Our Lord the King, in and for the Colony aforesaid, concerning the death of Ori or Oree.

The testimony of the Witnesses having been taken before me, I do now in pursuance of Section 33 of Ordinance 6 of 1887, proceed after inquiry for Our Lord the King and after having heard and considered the evidence to say when, where, how, and after what manner the said Ori or Oree came by his death, and I do say that the said Ori or Oree on the 18th day of April, 1924, at Public Hospital, Georgetown, came by his death from Gangrene of left leg caused by a rifle bullet fired by the Police at Ruimveldt on 3rd April, 1924, under circumstances amounting to justifiable homicide.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, the 5th day of July, 1924.

(Sd.) G. R. REID,
J. P. and Coroner.