

GENERAL MEETINGS

MINUTE BOOK

ICS 97/1/1/1

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The West India Committee

Established circa 1750. Incorporated by Royal Charter.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the members of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE (Incorporated by Royal Charter) will be held at the Committee Rooms, No. 15, Seething Lane, in the City of London, on Thursday next, the 30th day of April, at 3 p.m.

AGENDA.

1. To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the Audited Statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1913, and the Balance Sheet.

2. To elect eleven members to the Executive Committee in the place of the following who retire by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation but are eligible for re-election: R. Rutherford, Esq., Cyril Gurney, Esq., G. R. Alston, Esq., W. Gillespie, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., N. Malcolmson, Esq., W. Mitchell-Thompson, Esq., M.P., Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G., and Mr. H. A. Trotter.

By order of the Executive Committee.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

April 23rd, 1914.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
Incorporated by Royal Charter.
15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.

1914

The Annual General Meeting was held at 3 P.M.
on Thursday April 30th 1914.

Present Mr. G. Middleton Campbell in the Chair

Mr. R. Rutherford Deputy Chairman.

Mr. G. J. Aldenbaven	Mr. E. Luxmore Marshall
" G. R. Alston	" A. J. McConnell
" G. H. Alty	Dr. H. A. Alfred Nicholls C.M.G.
" H. Berger	Mr. C. Sandbach Parker
" D. V. Bryson	Sir Owen Philipps K.C.M.G.
" G. Carrington	Mr. H. F. Devitt
" Gordon Davison	Mr. A. Hankin
" Ivan B. Davison	" F. I. Seard F.I.C.
" E. A. de Bass	" G. D. B. Shephard
" George Farmer	" H. Hamel Smith
" G. Fawcett B.Sc.	" G. Bestall
" G. Gillespie	" H. H. White
" Lionel Harvey	" C. H. White
" Howard Marks	" Algernon E. Caspiall Secretary

The Chairman moved the adoption of the

1915

The Annual General Meeting was held on
Thursday May 13th at 3 P.M. at 15, Seething Lane.

Present Mr. G. Middleton Campbell

Mr. R. Rutherford

Mr. G. Abbot

Mr. E. L. Marshall

Mr. Barclay

" Howard Marsh

The Very Rev.

" R. J. McCannell

The Dean of Georgetown

Sir Owen Phillips K.C.M.G.

Mr. C. Algernon Campbell

Mr. T. Prentice

" E. R. Dawson

" J. Rippon

" J. J. Pastick

" F. I. Seard

" Stephen Owen

" H. Sculltan

" C. H. B. Fryer

" G. P. B. Shephard

" G. A. Griffin

" H. S' E. Spomer

" Cyril Gurney

" G. H. Trollope

" H. Hamel Smith

" F. C. Gortus

" R. K. Ke

" Algernon E. Aspinall
Sec.

The Chairman moved the following resolution:

That the West India Committee in General Meeting this day assembled desire to record their deep sense of sorrow at the death of Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., successively Deputy-Chairman (1874-1884) Chairman (1884-1909) and President (1909-1914) of the West India Committee, and desire to place on record their high appreciation of the eminent services which he rendered to the British West Indian Colonies, more especially in connection with the abolition of the foreign sugar bounties, the inauguration of the central sugar factory and cane farming systems, and the maintenance of East Indian immigration."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. G. Rutherford
and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved:

That pursuant to Article 5 of the Royal Charter of Incorporation the Right Hon. the Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O., be appointed President of the West India Committee with such honorary powers of advice and counsel as the President may be willing to exercise on reference being made to him by the Executive Committee."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Rutherford
& carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved that:

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the Audited Statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1914, and the Balance Sheet be and is hereby adopted.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. T. Prentice
and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved that Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton and Mr. H. D'Estere Spooner be elected members of the West India Executive Committee and the resolutions having been seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney and Mr. Shephard respectively, were carried unanimously. Mr. Rutherford moved that Mr. William Augustine Griffin be elected a member of the West India Executive Committee. The resolution was seconded by Mr. W. Abbott, and carried unanimously. Mr. T. Prentice then moved the re-election of the nine members who retired by virtue of Article VI. of the Charter and were eligible for re-election, namely, Mr. W. H. Alty, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Oliver V. G. Hoare, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. A. J. McConnell, and Mr. W. P. B. Shephard. The resolution was seconded by Mr. J. Rippon, and the meeting was then brought to a close by a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, moved by Sir Owen Philipps, and seconded by Mr. Bailey.

See Ric: 434
of May 18/15

W. Middleton Campbell
4. May 1916

1916

The Annual General Meeting was held at 3. P.M.
on May 4th 1916.

Present Mr. G. M. Campbell in the Chair
 " R. Rutherford Deputy Chairman
 Mr. G. R. Alston Colonel Sir J. Roper Barkington
 Hon. A. G. Bell c.m.g. Mr. D. Mackintosh
 Mr. C. A. Campbell " Howard Marsh
 " Harold Carey " E. Luxmore Marshall
 " George Carrington " Joseph Rippen
 " Edward R. Dawson " F. I. Seard F.I.C.
 " E. A. de Bass " G. P. B. Shephard
 " A. H. Dix " G. Moody Stuart
 " J. J. Partick Sir William Trollope Bart
 " G. S. Pwen Mr. Cecil White
 " C. H. Barr Fyler " Harold White
 " G. A. Griffin Representatives of Messrs Jones Brown
 " C. Lyen Hall & Son, C.M. & C. Goodhouse &
 " G. F. Huggins Mr. Algernon E. Aspiell
 Hon. Secs.

The Chairman moved Mr. Rutherford seconded
 and it was resolved that Annual Report of the
 Executive Committee, the Audited Statement of the
 Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31

1915 and the balance sheet be and is hereby adopted.

Mr. George F. Huggins then moved the re-election of the following members of the Executive who retired by rotation: Mr. Edward R. Davson, Major Ivan B. Davson, Mr. Humphry Crum Ewing, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Major H. F. Previté, Mr. J. E. Tinne, and Sir William Trollope, Bart.

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. Rippon and carried unanimously.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Bell that a Member interested in Oil should be co-opted by the Executive & the Chairman promised that this would receive attention.

Mr. Rutledge moved:

Whereas in the year prior to the outbreak of the present war the United Kingdom was dependent on foreign countries for no less than 95 per cent. of its sugar supply, and whereas in the opinion of this Committee an adequate supply of sugar could be produced within the British Empire to meet the requirements of the Mother Country,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That it is desirable that British produced sugar should for a period of not less than ten years be accorded such preferential treatment as would suffice to encourage the development of both existing and potential sources of sugar supply within the Empire; and that His Majesty's Government be urged to take the necessary steps to bring this about.

Mr. J. J. Partick moved as an amendment the substitution of the words "Empire" for "Mother Country" and the resolution as amended was then adopted unanimously.

Widdell Campbell

1917

The Annual General Meeting was held at 15,
Seething Lane, London E.C. at 3 P.M. on Thursday
May 10th 1917.

The Members present included:

	Mr. G. Middleton Campbell
	" R. Rutherford
Mr. G. R. Alston	Mr. F. Knocker
" H. G. Bailey	" Norman Malcolmson
" G. C. Benson	" A. G. Marks
" G. G. Broome	" E. Luxmore Marshall
" C. Algernon Campbell	Miss Moseley
" Harold Carey	" G. Moody Stuart
" E. A. de Pass	" C. Sandbach Parker
" A. H. Dix	" J. Rippen
" S. Ewen	" F. I. Seard F.I.C.
" Mervyn Gamitt	Miss Lillian Trollope Bant
" G. Gillespie	Mr. C. H. Threlby
" Thomas Greenwood	" H. A. Trotter
" Cyril Gurney	" C. White
" H. Hamel Smith	" L. A. Wolsey
	" C. Carter
	" Algernon E. Aspinal

Sec:

In moving the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, the Chairman said that members would note with satisfaction that on December 31st the total membership of the West India Committee was 1,564, the highest figure yet attained. They had, on the other hand, to deplore the death of 23 members, including Major C. George Carew, who had died on active service. The financial position was not quite equal to that of the preceding year, there being a debit balance of £19 1s. 8d., as against a credit balance of £82 18s. 9d. When the figures were examined, however, it would be found that the debit balance was more than accounted for by two items, namely, an allowance to members of the staff on active service, which he thought would be regarded as a very proper expenditure; and the cost of a testimonial presented to the Secretary on the occasion of his having risked his life, which he hoped he would not do again.

The total expenditure for printing and stationery showed an increase, which was almost entirely accounted for by the increased cost of production of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, due to the rise in price of materials and labour consequent upon the war, whilst the revenue also showed some falling off, which was not unnatural. The CIRCULAR, however, had not lost any of its interest and was, he believed, greatly appreciated. He did not propose to deal at length with the work of the Committee, which was outlined in the Report, but he would refer to one or two outstanding features which called for special attention. With regard to East Indian immigration, he regretted that the present Viceroy had followed the policy of his predecessor in condemning the existing system; but the way in which his Excellency had spoken indicated that there was a strong antagonistic feeling in India against emigration, and it was clear that the West Indian Colonies would have to make up their minds to reorganise their labour system, and to depend as far as possible on local labour, whilst endeavouring to tap other sources of supply.

A favourable point, on the other hand, was the position with regard to Imperial Preference. Lord Balfour of Burleigh's report in this connection was very hopeful. Lord Balfour was a strong theoretical Free Trader, and for his Committee to put forward definite recommendations in favour of Preferential trade within the Empire was most satisfactory.

Whilst he was not prepared to say that the federation of the British West Indian Colonies was imminent, the recent meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies augured well for the future. It was a great step in advance to have got business men from almost every part of the West Indies together, discussing matters of common interest, as they had done at the recent Conference in Trinidad, and he could not congratulate Mr. Davson too much for having brought this about. Mr. Davson had been appointed first President of the Association, a compliment which he well deserved. In conclusion, Mr. Campbell said that he wished to thank the honorary Correspondents who, in spite of the difficulties of mail communication, had kept the Committee so well informed throughout the year as to the needs and requirements of the Colonies which they represented. He would now move that the Annual Report of the Executive Committee, and audited statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1916, and the Balance Sheet be adopted.

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. R. Rutherford, who gave some details as to the cost of production of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. C. F. Worters then moved that the following members of the Executive Committee, retiring by virtue of Article VI. of the Charter of Incorporation, be re-elected:—G. R. Alston, Esq., M. Garnett, Esq., W. Gillespie, Esq., T. Greenwood, Esq., C. Gurney, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., N. Malcolmson, Esq., W. Mitchell-Thomson, Esq., M.P., Sir Owen Phillips, K.C.M.G., M.P., R. Rutherford, Esq., and H. A. Trotter, Esq.

R. Rutherford

1918

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Annual Meeting of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, on Thursday, May 30th, at 3 p.m. Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, said that—

On December 31st the total membership was 1,654, the highest recorded in the history of the West India Committee, extending over two centuries, and it had since further increased to 1,726.

They had to regret the deaths of 26 members, including Mr. E. G. Braddon, who died on active service, Sir Henry Blake, a former Governor of Jamaica, and the Hon. A. C. Pensonby, who was closely associated with the West India Committee in the successful appeal for funds which averted the threatened closing of Codrington College, Barbados, in 1899.

The financial position was sound, though owing to circumstances arising out of the war the accounts for the year showed a debit balance of £287 12s. 11d. Of this, however, £110 10s. was represented by payments to members of the staff on active service. The total subscriptions, etc., received amounted to £2,936 19s. 4d., against £2,845 13s. 6d. in 1916 and £3,353 16s. in the pre-war year 1913. Thirty-five members had taken up life membership, and instead of crediting their subscriptions to current revenue—as some bodies had done in order to make ends meet—the Committee held them as an investment, which he ventured to think, was a sounder policy. The contributions from the Colonies which the Committee had been wont to receive in recognition of its general work in connection with publicity and exhibitions had, he regretted to say, fallen from £107 in 1915 to £56. This, as the report stated, was, he thought, particularly regrettable in view of the extra work and expense thrown on the Committee in connection with the West Indian Contingents.

The expenditure amounted to £3,320 2s. 2d. as against £3,045 3s. 9d. in 1916, and £3,180 9s. 5d. in the pre-war year 1913. In 1917 it included:—Salaries and wages £1,249 15s. as compared with £1,180 18s. 3d. in 1916; printing and stationery, £1,140 11s. 9d. as against £1,071 10s. 5d.; postages, £254 19s. 9d. as against £244 14s. 8d.; and general expenses, £67 13s. 3d. as against £67 5s. 10d.

The cost of production of our CIRCULAR, which continued to be much appreciated, had again increased owing to the rise in price of paper and wages consequent upon the War. To this would now be added the extra cost of postage under the new regulations. Though upwards of 1,200 newspapers had now increased their subscription rates no change had been made in those for the CIRCULAR, though 3/3 of every annual guinea subscription was absorbed by postage on that publication alone.

Within the compass of the Report it had not been possible to deal with all the numerous activities of the Committee, which had ranged from such comparatively minor matters as assisting members to obtain passports, to obtaining valuable concessions for the cocoa industry, for which they had received the thanks of Grenada and Trinidad. Sufficient was said, however, to indicate that the work had again undergone considerable expansion and that it had been of general value to our West Indian Colonies. In this connection he would like to remind the meeting that the entire clerical and office work of the West Indian Contingent Committee had been conducted by the staff at 15, Seething Lane.

Imperial Preference.

They would hardly expect him to review all that had been done during the past year; but there was one matter of interest to which he would specially like to refer. Mr. Middleton Campbell, presiding a year ago, referred to the position with regard to Imperial preference, which he considered favourable in view of the Report by the Committee presided over by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who put forward definite recommendations in favour of preferential trade within the Empire. The final report of that Committee had now been issued. It was not unanimous, but taking it as a whole, it gave a united voice to the view that British industry after the War would need certain measures of protection. For instance, under

the heading "Fiscal Policy," the report said: "A serious attempt should be made to meet the declared wishes of the Dominions and Colonies and of India for the readjustment and development of their economic relations with the United Kingdom. Preferential treatment should be accorded to the British overseas Dominions and possessions in respect of any Customs duties now or hereafter to be imposed in the United Kingdom, and consideration should be given to other forms of Imperial preference. As regards duties, the Committee cite the cases of the revenue on sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, wines and spirits, as to which they have already recommended in an Interim Report that these should be utilised for the purpose of giving a first measure of Colonial preference." It would be noted that the Committee foreshadowed a preference not only on sugar, but also on coffee, cocoa, tobacco and spirits, all of which were produced in the West Indies. Meanwhile, so far as sugar was concerned, we were in the anomalous position of being under a pledge not to give preferential treatment to our Colonies without giving six months' notice to the signatories to the Brussels Convention. This unnecessary pledge was given when Great Britain withdrew from that Convention in 1913. The Committee maintained that the Convention was at an end; but the Government being unable to make up its mind on the subject had referred the question as to whether the Convention was at an end or not to a Committee. It could not be too strongly emphasized that it was of the utmost importance that a decision in this connection should be arrived at without delay. Plans for the extension of sugar production within the Empire could not be matured in a day, and proprietors must be put in a position to face competition which would be severe with countries which have not been subject to the restrictions which are necessarily imposed on British producers during the War.

In connection with the foregoing remarks he must not omit to mention that the replies to the enquiries instituted by the West India Committee in 1916, throughout our tropical possessions as to the possibilities for the expansion and development of the British sugar industry had paved the way for constructive work in this direction. These replies were published in a pamphlet which had been very widely circulated and quoted.

He could not conclude his remarks without asking the meeting to join with him in congratulating their Secretary on the honour recently conferred upon him and in recognising the good work done by the staff under circumstances which had been particularly difficult and trying.

In conclusion he begged to move that the Annual Report of the Executive Committee and audited statement of the income and expenditure account for the year ended December 31st, 1917, and the Balance Sheet, be adopted.

Mr. Trotter, seconding the resolution, said that he would like to take the opportunity of testifying to the time and labour which the Chairman gave to his duties, and added that he feared that he, the speaker, had not been able to give him so much assistance as he would like. The year covered by the Report had been a particularly busy one for the Committee and the present year was proving to be one of still greater activity. The great lesson which we were learning from the War was the importance of sticking together and working together. We must have organisation and efficiency. We were learning that every day more and more, and he hoped that this lesson would also be learnt in the West Indies where the value of co-operation was of increasing importance. It was well to remember the old West Indian adage, "Too much sit down break trousers." The West Indies were not sitting down, they were standing up; but he should like to see them run.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Lieut.-Colonel J. C. Collens then moved the re-election of the following members of the Executive who had retired by rotation: Mr. W. H. Alty, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. A. J. McConnell, Mr. J. H. Scrutton, and Mr. H. D. Spooner. The resolution having been seconded by Mr. C. Worters and carried unanimously, the proceedings were brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

? Election Col 9 and Lane to be recorded

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1919

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Presiding at the Annual Meeting on May 29th, Mr. R. Rutherford referred at the outset to the death of his predecessor, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, who had filled the office of Chairman for nine years, during which it had been his (the speaker's) privilege to act as his deputy. He felt sure that it would be the general wish that the Committee's respect for the memory of their late Chairman, and appreciation of his services, should be recorded.

Proceeding, Mr. Rutherford said that they now met in circumstances very different from those which prevailed a year ago. The dark days had passed, and they were now entering upon the period of reconstruction. Business conditions had undergone a change, and, whilst in many ways they would be more difficult, there seemed every reason to expect that the prosperity which the West Indies generally had enjoyed since the outbreak of war was likely to continue for some years to come. After referring to the good work done by the staff, not only for the Committee, but also for the Contingent Committee, Mr. Rutherford proceeded to deal with the various matters referred to in the Annual Report, and, in conclusion, moved the adoption of the report and accounts. The resolution having been seconded by Mr. Gurney and carried unanimously, Mr. Trotter moved the re-election to the Executive Committee of the following members, who retire by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation: S. Cameron, Esq., Sir Edward Davson, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan B. Davson, Humphry Crum Ewing, Esq., W. Fawcett, Esq., B.Sc., G. Macgregor Frame, Esq., G. Moody-Stuart, Esq., C. Sandbach Parker, Esq., C.B.E., H. F. Previté, Esq., J. E. Tinne, Esq., and Sir William Trollope, Bart.

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. E. A. de Pass and carried unanimously, Lieut.-Colonel G. A. O. Lane, Coldstream Guards, a Barbados Estates proprietor, was elected a member of the Executive.

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1920

The Annual General Meeting was held at 15, Sutherland Lane, London, E.C. at 3. P.M. on Thursday May 27th 1920.

The Members present included

Mr R. Rutherford, Chairman.

Mr Cary-Elwes	Mr T. Greenwood
" H. Crum Ewing	" C. Holden White
Lieut. Col. I. B. Davson, O.B.E.	" H. H. King
Mr W. Fawcett	" A. J. McConnell
Mr G. M. Frame.	" G. Parrott
" C. H. Barr Fryer	" J. Rippon, O.B.E.
" W. Gillespie	" J. H. Scrutton
"	Sir W. Ansell, Bart.
	Mr C. F. Workers
	Mr Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Secretary
	Capt. Gifford N. Knight, Asst.

Presiding at the annual meeting on May 27th, Mr. R. Rutherford referred to the past year as one of the most prosperous ever enjoyed by the West Indies. The West India Committee had successfully urged the release of most West Indian staples from Government control.

Continuing, he hoped that Imperial preference had come to stay, but it would none the less remain necessary to demonstrate its advantages by developing to the fullest possible extent those British industries which would enjoy the resulting advantages. To this end, improved steamer and cable communication between this country and the West Indies was imperative, and the Committee were working incessantly to bring about these improvements. He went on to say that the West India Committee were fully alive to the desirability of establishing closer trade relations between the West Indies and their younger brother, Canada. Mr. Rutherford then proceeded to deal with the various matters referred to in the Annual Report, and, in conclusion, moved the adoption of the report and accounts. The resolution having been seconded by Lieut.-Colonel Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E., and carried unanimously, Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., moved the re-election to the Executive Committee of the following members, who retire by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation: A. Duckham, Esq., M. Garnett, Esq., W. Gillespie, Esq., T. Greenwood, Esq., C. Gurney, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., N. Malcolmson, Esq., Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., R. Rutherford, Esq., and H. A. Trotter, Esq. The resolution having been seconded by Mr. Carey-Elwes and carried unanimously, on the motion of Mr. G. M. Frame, seconded by Mr. C. H. Barr Fryer, Mr. R. Montgomery Parker, of the Wales Estates, Demerara, was elected a members of the Executive.

In the course of an account of his tour to the West Indies, Mr. Aspinall said he had returned with the impression that the two crying needs of the West Indies were improved steamer and cable communication with this country. He had not noticed any pronounced wish for political federation with Canada; on the other hand, there was a real desire for closer trade relations with the Dominion.

