

THE

9

JAMAICA IMPERIAL ASSOCIATION.

ITS ORIGIN AND INAUGURATION.

PUBLISHED BY
THE JAMAICA IMPERIAL ASSOCIATION,
KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

1918.

"NOT PHILANTHROPY, BUT BUSINESS."

"There are grave questions confronting us which demand thoughtful and earnest consideration from all who have at heart the welfare of the island, with which is bound up the interest of each and all of us."

COUNCIL:

A. W. FARQUHARSON <i>(Chairman)</i>	...	...	Kingston and Clarendon.
L. DEMERCADO <i>(Hon. Treasurer)</i>	...	...	Kingston.
JAMES DOUGALL	...	...	St. Ann.
W. H. FARQUHARSON	...	...	Westmoreland.
JOHN C. FARQUHARSON	...	...	St. Andrew.
W. BAGGETT GRAY	...	...	Kingston.
HON. C. W. HEWITT	...	...	Hanover.
F. M. KERR-JARRETT	...	...	St. James.
ERNEST H. KERR	...	...	St. Mary.
CLARENCE LOPEZ	...	...	Clarendon and Trelawny
EASTON W. MUIRHEAD	...	...	Manchester.
HON. J. H. PHILLIPPS	...	...	St. Thomas-ye-East.
H. P. SEWELL	...	...	Trelawny.
HON. S. S. STEDMAN	...	...	Portland.
HON. W. A. S. VICKERS	...	...	Westmoreland.
WILLIAM WILSON	...	...	Kingston.

(Four Vacancies to be filled)

HERBERT G. DELISSER (*General Secretary*)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

A. W. FARQUHARSON (<i>Chairman</i>).	F. M. KERR-JARRETT.
LIONEL DEMERCADO.	ERNEST H. KERR.
JAMES DOUGALL.	J. H. PHILLIPPS.
JOHN C. FARQUHARSON.	S. S. STEDMAN.
W. BAGGETT GRAY.	WILLIAM WILSON.

All communications and enquiries to be addressed to the General Secretary, HERBERT G. DELISSER, CORONATION BUILDINGS, KING STREET, KINGSTON.

Telephone No.

578

Cable Address—

“EMPIRE,” JAMAICA.

The Jamaica Imperial Association.

The Jamaica Imperial Association was founded on December 19th, 1917, for the following objects :—

- (a) To support the objects of The West India Committee, The Royal Colonial Institute and The British Empire Producers' Organization, and to work in concert with them or other similar bodies with the special object of ensuring that Jamaica shall play a worthy part in the consolidation and development of the British Empire.
- (b) To consider, debate and deal with all matters which may affect the economic, social, agricultural, industrial or commercial welfare and development of Jamaica or any part thereof.
- (c) To create and foster a sound public opinion in connection with such matters.
- (d) To represent the views of the Association to the Local or Imperial Governments or to any Governments or other Public Bodies in any part of the British Empire.
- (e) To secure the co-operation and support of The West India Committee, The Royal Colonial Institute, The British Empire Producers' Organization, or any other institution or person, in advancing the views of the Association.
- (f) To do all such other things as are in the opinion of the Association necessary, proper, or advisable for the advancement generally of the interests of the Island or which are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above objects.

On November 21st a circular setting forth the necessity of such an Association, accompanied by a circular letter, was issued by Mr. A. W. Farquharson to local members of the West India Committee, Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute, and Associate Members of the British Empire Producers' Organization. Both documents were published in the Island Press, which welcomed the idea of a Jamaica Imperial Association with favourable comment. The letter and circular are here produced verbatim :—

THE LETTER.

Kingston, Jamaica,

21st November, 1917.

Dear Sir,—Herewith you will find a Circular referring to the proposed formation of an Association to deal with matters affecting the economic, social, agricultural or industrial welfare and development of the Colony.

The subject has been discussed with several leading men, and it has been suggested that the principal members of the community should be invited to attend a meeting to consider the advisability of taking action.

It is of vital importance that immediate steps should be taken to cope with the impending danger arising from the threatened depletion of labour on which the future of the Island depends. This subject would be probably the first to engage the attention of the Association.

You are therefore urgently requested to attend the proposed meeting to inaugurate the Association.

Please note that the meeting will be held at the Edmondson Hall, East Parade, Kingston, at 11.30 o'clock on Wednesday, the 19th day of December, 1917.

Yours truly,

A. W. FARQUHARSON,

Secretary pro. tem.

THE CIRCULAR.

There is perhaps no feature of life in Jamaica that strikes a thoughtful observer more forcibly than the apparent apathy and lack of interest in public affairs.

This indifference is perhaps more apparent than real.

Considerable discussion takes place from time to time, but for lack of some machinery whereby discussion may be led into definite channels and whereby opinions may be crystallised and put in a concrete form, the consideration of questions of the greatest importance seldom gets beyond the stage of general discussion.

Institutions such as the Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce undoubtedly perform useful functions, but their suitability for the particular purpose under consideration is limited.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society is perhaps the most useful educational Institution in the island, and is by degrees producing a revolution in agricultural practice particularly among the smaller cultivators ; but it is an institution which is supported by Government grant, and its Board of Management is presided over by the Governor.

It does not therefore offer the best medium for the discussion of questions of public importance.

The Chamber of Commerce is mainly concerned with matters that affect the commercial community.

Planters' Associations are practically non-existent.

There would appear therefore to be ample scope for an institution the functions of which would be to consider, discuss and deal with any question affecting the economic, social, agricultural or industrial welfare and development of the Island. Sane, temperate discussion with a view to appropriate action on any such questions could not fail to be productive of beneficial results.

It is obvious that if an Association of the kind were linked up with other important Associations having similar objects in view in respect of the Empire generally, or in respect of that portion of it of which Jamaica forms a part, its influence and practical usefulness would be greatly increased.

The driving force resulting from the sympathetic and active support of such institutions would raise the initiative of the local institution to a power far higher than could possibly be attained by its unaided efforts.

Fortunately there are such institutions in existence.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, an Association of representatives of the West Indies, founded in 1760 and since incorporated by Royal Charter, has by its beneficent activities earned for itself the well deserved reputation of the watchful guardian and champion of the interests and rights of the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras, its aim being to use every possible means to induce a healthy development of the resources of the Colonies in question.

THE ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE, an Organization which has been in existence for half a century, the main objective of which is the promotion of Imperial unity and strength. One important branch of its activities is under the management of an influential Committee termed "The Empire Trade and Industries Committee" the aim of which is to encourage trade relations between various parts of the Empire.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION, an Association representing capital close on 1000 million pounds, has as its special object the linking together and giving force and direction to every effort throughout the Empire which aims at the development of each and every part of the Empire.

The three Institutions above referred to, as recently as November 1916 collaborated in a Deputation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in connection with the development of the natural resources and the improvement of labour supply, transportation and intercommunication services of the Crown Colonies and Colonies not possessing responsible government, so as to make the Empire more self-supporting.

With such a precedent it would appear sufficiently obvious that any well directed local efforts could count on the support of the Institutions referred to.

If all the members of the local institution were also

members of all or even one of the three organizations, the claim to their support would be greatly strengthened.

There are in the Island to-day many who are members of the West India Committee, Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute, or local Associate Members of the British Empire Producers' Organization.

The combination of existing conditions appears therefore to clearly indicate the feasibility and desirability of forming a strong local institution, the beneficial results of which it is believed might be incalculable.

The war is producing a world-wide revolution in economic and social conditions.

There are grave questions confronting us which demand thoughtful and earnest consideration from all who have at heart the welfare of the island, with which is bound up the interest of each and all of us.

Merchants, traders, professional men, landowners, labourers, are all deeply concerned in a sane and equitable adjustment which will further the development of our rich resources in order that we may play a worthy part in the process of Empire building.

Your attendance is invited at a meeting to be held to consider and discuss the terms of a draft of the Constitution and Rules of an Association to be formed for the objects indicated in this Circular. The date and place of the meeting will be intimated to you in due course.

A. W. FARQUHARSON,
Secretary pro. tem.

The Inaugural Meeting.

It was evident, from the reception of these circulars, that the time was ripe for a movement of the sort proposed.

A draft of the Rules and Constitution of the new body was prepared by Mr. Farquharson and sent to members of The West India Committee, Fellows of The Royal Colonial Institute, and Associate Members of The British Empire Producers' Organization. This draft was reprinted in the

Kingston papers days before the meeting, and through the same medium it was intimated to the public that their presence at Edmondson Hall on December 19th would be welcomed. Many citizens availed themselves of this open invitation.

In spite of other business meetings being in progress on that same day, a very representative audience was gathered in Edmondson Hall at the hour fixed for the meeting (11.30 a.m.) Among those present were :—

Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G., Hons. Dugald Campbell, W. A. S. Vickers, B. S. Gosset, Philip Cork, C.M.G., D. S. Gideon, Sydney Couper, Henry Cork, R. P. Simmonds, C. H. Hewitt, S. S. Stedman, W. Coke-Kerr, T. L. Roxburgh, C.M.G., W. B. Esson, H. W. Griffith, F. E. Reed, Drs. J. A. Allwood, C. Redwood White, Messrs. A. H. Rowley, Henry Holgate, Arthur Douet, T. H. Sharpe, Jnr., Thomas Abrahams, Jnr., J. B. Kilburn, O. K. Henriques, Ernest Kerr, J. Tapley, Frank Cundall, A. H. Ritchie, A. W. Farquharson, J. C. Farquharson, W. H. Farquharson, W. R. Turner, H. M. Orrett, W. Baggett Gray, William Wilson, E. W. Muirhead, J. C. Elliott, Ellis Wolfe, Herbert G. deLisser, E. B. Nethersole, John McDonald, H. P. Sewell, Lionel deMercado, Walter Woolliscroft, W. Gamble, John Barclay, George Muirhead, Leonard deCordova, Alfred Pawsey, S. R. Cargill, J. H. Cargill, Thomas Kemp, R. S. Haughton, Clarence Lopez, S. Glanville, A. C. L. Martin, J. H. Phillipps, Kenneth Robinson, J. Dougall, Alfred deC. Myers, F. M. Kerr-Jarrett, A. Spooner, H. M. Littlejohn, J. H. McPhail, A. D. C. Goffe, J. Henderson, G. D. Murray, A. J. Lecesne, Wm. Morrison, Altamont DaCosta, C. Lyon-Hall, A. C. Bancroft, Adam Roxburgh, E. Melville, Rev. W. Graham and A. Bain Alves.

At the hour fixed, Mr. A. W. Farquharson intimated that the meeting was called to order and moved that the Hon. Philip Cork be asked to take the Chair. Mr. Cork begged to be excused. Mr. Farquharson next proposed

that the Hon. T. L. Roxburgh should take the chair, but Mr. Roxburgh also declined.

It was then proposed and unanimously agreed to, that Mr. Farquharson, as convenor of the meeting, should preside.

Mr. Farquharson took the chair, saying:—I find myself in this position with very much regret. I think that the gentlemen who were moved to the chair have not treated us exactly as they should, but under the circumstances I think it is undesirable that we should delay the meeting longer for want of a Chairman. I propose to ask Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett to act as Secretary.

Mr. Kerr-Jarrett accepted the position.

The Circulars convening the meeting (which are printed on the foregoing pages) were then read by Mr. Kerr-Jarrett, who also read letters from several gentlemen who were not able to be present that day.

Brigadier-General L. S. Blackden, the Officer Commanding the Local Forces, wrote to express his entire sympathy with the effort to mobilize public opinion, and to organize a means of expression for it. As a member of the Government he was precluded from taking an active part in the proposed Association, but he hoped that the objects in view would be attained. He wished all success to the movement, which he considered useful and necessary.

Mr. H. E. Crum-Ewing, Custos of Manchester, expressed regret that a previous engagement would prevent him from attending the meeting, but hoped for the success of "this most wanted Association." He added that he would be pleased to do anything in his power to help the Association in his parish.

Mr. Robert Craig, of Chapelton, wrote to express his hope that the proposed Association would be a success. He felt that if it was, it might create a renaissance of much value to the island.

Mr. W. J. Jacobs, of Bryan's Pen, wrote to say, "Jamaica

needs sorely such an Association, and I hope it has come to abide with us and to bless us for all the future.”

The Rev. A. A. Barclay wrote on behalf of the Western St. Mary Citizens' Association conveying the latter's congratulations and good wishes, and its suggestion that provision should be made for the affiliation with the Jamaica Imperial Association “of smaller organizations in the island already established and working within a smaller area to accomplish the same ends.”

The following gentlemen also sent letters expressing their sympathy with the objects of the movement, and their good wishes for its success :—Mr. George Taylor, of Etingdon, Mr. G. P. Dewar, of Harmony Hall, Mr. J. H. Milholland, Crown Solicitor, Mr. E. C. MacLeod, Manager Bank of Nova Scotia, Mr. Storks de Roux, of Alexandria, Mr. E. T. Forrest, of Black River, Dr. William Henry Strachan, C.M.G., Mr. C. Watson, of New Yarmouth, Mr. A. J. Webb, of Llandoverly, Mr. W. T. Lannaman, of Nuts River, Mr. S. Cotter, of St. Ann's Bay, Mr. Thomas Abrahams, of Chapelton.

After the letters had been read, the Chairman announced that the next item on the agenda was a short Paper by Mr. Cundall, Secretary of the Institute; on the steps taken in Jamaica from time to time to obtain representation in England in view of the fact that official representation was inadequate to secure the objects desired, and also on the character of the work done by the West India Committee, the Royal Colonial Institute, the British Empire Producers' Organization and other Imperial bodies.

Mr. Cundall's Paper.

Mr. Cundall then read the following paper :—

These few notes are presented in an historical form, for it is only by reviewing the past that we can wisely plan for the future.

Many of the troubles which have arisen during the growth and development of the British Empire as we know

it to-day, have been the results of misunderstandings arising from lack of knowledge on both sides—a lack of knowledge of local colonial conditions on the part of those at home, and a lack of consideration for the other side of the question on the part of the Colonies.

To take as one example of the American Colonies—as they were then called—in Jamaica, with which we are most familiar, the need for supplying the Lords of Trade and Plantations with trustworthy local information soon impressed itself on those in authority in the Island: Sir Thomas Modyford being particularly insistent on the fact that the man on the spot knew best. And a little later this argument was used with great effect, in Jamaica by the Assembly, and in England by Long and Beeston, in combating the attempt to enforce Poyning's Law on the young Colony. The other side of the question suggests that one obtains the truest perspective at a distance.

The result of this desire to inform those at home of local conditions was the appointment, as early as 1664, of Modyford as Agent for the Colony in Great Britain, a position held by one or two other ex-governors such as Sir Thomas Lynch, who were not infrequently consulted by the Lords of Trade and Plantations, who in turn reported to the King in Council. As early as 1689 Edward Littleton, the Agent for Barbados, published "The Groans of the Plantations," pointing out the ill-effects of the impositions placed on sugar.

Later a joint Committee of the Council and Assembly of Jamaica was formed to correspond with the Agent, who during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries held an office of considerable influence, having at his back members of Parliament and other men of note. Lord Mayor Beckford, a wealthy Jamaica proprietor,—for example—was the friend of Pitt: and the West India Members of Parliament could always be sure of a hearing at Westminster.

In 1845—as a result of false economy—the office of Agent was abolished, at a time when Jamaica's affairs were at a low ebb.

In the development of peoples it early became apparent that official representation was not sufficient to obtain the objects which sections of the community had in view. The means taken by persons in a corporate capacity for the dissemination of information on subjects of interest to the community date back to the Revival of Learning in Italy which saw the establishment of Academies—consisting of men interested in the cultivation of the Humanities, or the advancement of natural knowledge with the purpose of mutual improvement or the promotion of common objects. This movement reached England through the guilds of Germany and the Netherlands.

The Royal Society—the oldest learned institution in Great Britain—dates from the same period as the inclusion of Jamaica in the British Empire.

In 1743 Benjamin Franklin published a “Proposal for promoting useful knowledge among the British Plantations,” which led to the formation of the American Philosophical Society. In 1781 a Society of Arts was started in Barbados, but it was not until many years later that a similar movement took place in Jamaica.

In London the West India Committee only claims that it was founded about 1760, but there is evidence that West India Merchants combined for the purpose of pressing West India views long before that date, and the Committee has not infrequently acted the part of Agent since the days when Agents ceased to exist. But the only occasion in their history when the West India Colonies have truly collaborated was at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886; and this was, in great measure, due to pressure from outside.

As early as 1731 was founded the Dublin Society for improving Husbandry, Manufactures, and other useful arts; and this in 1749 became the Royal Dublin Society. But the earliest Society of the kind still existing in Great Britain is the Royal Society of Arts which was founded in 1754 as the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce; although a proposal to form such a Society was made in 1721. This Society, though not included in the

scheme under consideration to-day, has, in addition to functions of a multifarious character, done in the past, and is doing at present, a great deal in the interest of the Colonies. In the first half century of its career it devoted itself largely to endeavours for the development of various branches of Agriculture in the Colonies, and up to the time of the formation of the Royal Agricultural Society in 1838 it paid heed to that subject in Great Britain also. In work of a general character its greatest achievement was the organisation and promotion of the great Exhibition of 1851.

It is interesting to observe that, at the very outset, the Society realised that the subscription of members alone would not be sufficient to achieve the objects in view, and subscription lists were opened, and filled, for the awarding of premiums to deserving discoveries and inventions tending to the progress of arts and manufactures. The amount of the subscription was "not less than" two guineas, and for many years the wealthier and more liberal of the members paid more. One of the first conclusions that the Council arrived at was, that if the Society was to progress it must have a competent Secretary; and through successive years the Society has been most successful in this respect. It may be noted that from its foundation women have been eligible for election as members, though they have hitherto played a very small part in its development.

The most important of the Society's Colonial work was done in the American and West Indian colonies before the declaration of American Independence. While Benjamin Franklin was in England he accepted the position of Chairman of its Committee of British Colonies and Trade. Amongst the subjects that engaged its attention were the production of silk in Georgia and other American colonies; the manufacture of wine in Virginia and elsewhere; the production of potash; and the supply of pickled Sturgeon, Isinglass and Myrtleberry Wax. It also helped by sending out machinery to work up raw products in the colonies and in many ways encouraged experiments in the development of industries, which perhaps no personal effort would have achieved.

With the Declaration of Independence, the Society turned its attention more closely to the West Indies, and did much towards introducing the fruits of the Eastern hemisphere into the islands of the Caribbean. The first West Indian premium offered was in 1760 of £100 for cochineal from Jamaica. It organized the expedition undertaken by Bligh to bring Eastern fruits to the West Indies, and Bligh received the Society's gold medal for the introduction of the bread-fruit. Another gold medal was given to S. Mure of Jamaica, otherwise unknown to fame, for a plantation of bread-fruit trees. Dr. Dancer, the island botanist, was in constant communication with the Society and a frequent contributor to its Transactions.

The Society tried to revive the planting of indigo which had been killed by British import duties; and for many years acted the part of technical advisers to colonial officials in matters concerning economic industries.

Later on the disinclination of the sugar growers to see any crop started that would compete with cane had a considerable effect in lessening the Society's efforts in things Colonial; but in 1823 it offered a gold medal or fifty guineas for China tea grown and prepared in Jamaica or other British West Indian Colony. The interest of the Society in the Colonies was re-awakened by the great exhibition of 1851 which saw the arrival of many important colonials in London and in 1852 the Secretary of State for the Colonies sent out a despatch inviting the foundation of Associations in connection with the Society. In 1854 the Royal Society of Arts, the precursor of the Institute of Jamaica, was founded in this Island.

A little later on, the Society endeavoured to include Colonial Institutions in the Union of Institutions, which was then being formed, and the Journal for 21st December 1855 contains a notification that the Council desired to include such institutions, and states the terms on which they could be admitted. In return for the usual subscription of two guineas, the Council offered to represent colonial institutions in London in business matters, to receive any of their members who were visiting London, and to give such visitors the

privilege of temporary membership; to purchase books for their libraries at reduced rates, and to establish centres for the examinations in the colonies. A certain number of colonial institutions joined the Union on these terms, but the response was not very great, and the number of such institutions does not appear at any time to have exceeded sixteen. The Society, in this, was before its time.

In 1869, however, an Indian section of the Society was formed, to be followed in 1874 by an African section, which in 1879 became a Foreign and Colonial Section, and in 1901 a Colonial Section, pure and simple, and before this Section many papers have been read of great value to those interested in the colonies.

During the past half century the Society has expended nearly £3,000 and awarded fourteen gold medals in connection with the Colonies.

But with the formation of the Royal Colonial Institute in 1868 the Society of Arts, not unnaturally, left to that body the work of organizing colonial effort for material benefit. The Colonial Institute was founded to provide a counteraction to the work of the Little Englander, who viewed with complacency, if not with pleasure, the possible drifting away of the British Colonies. While endeavouring to counteract this feeling—which happily is now moribund, if not dead—the Institute has been careful to abstain from interfering in party Colonial politics; and all of the many valuable papers read at its meetings and printed in its journal are free from party bias.

At the time of its formation even the most ardent Imperialists regarded the Colonies as a collection of daughter lands grouped round the Mother Country.

Little by little the idea has developed with the growth of the Colonies that these daughter lands should have a fair voice in the councils of state; and this growth can be traced in the Transactions and Journals—now known as “United Empire”—of the Society, which commenced in 1869. Forty volumes are to be found in the Library of the Institute of Jamaica, where also, it may be incidentally mentioned, are a

large number of works on colonization generally and on individual colonies in particular. The Library is as well represented in this matter as any British Library of its size, and in respect of Jamaica and West Indian Literature it need fear no comparison whatever.

The Royal Colonial Institute gives as its objects the promotion of the permanent union of the Empire ; the provision of a place of meeting for British subjects connected with the Dominions, the Colonies and India, for residents in the United Kingdom who are in sympathy with the objects of the Institute and wish to promote the interests of the Empire beyond the seas, for British subjects and persons of direct British parentage resident in Foreign countries ; the encouragement and facilitating of Empire Trade and Industry ; the bringing about a better knowledge in the United Kingdom of the British Empire ; the encouragement of the study of its History and Geography in the Universities and Schools of the United Kingdom and Overseas, and the giving of lectures and addresses in furtherance of these objects ; and, lastly, the encouragement of the migration of British people to the British Dominions instead of other countries.

This, it must be admitted, is an ambitious programme, but the Institute can claim that it ably lives up to it.

Amongst its various activities may be mentioned the Empire Trade and Industry Committee, which, started before the war, is working with a view to the possible condition of affairs arising from peace, and controls an Information Bureau ; the Emigration Committee representing both the Institute itself and leading Emigration Societies, in connection with which reference may be made to Sir Rider Haggard's recent tour round the Empire ; and the Empire Land Settlement Committee (for sailors and soldiers) ; the Imperial Studies Lectures Sub-Committee, which aims at creating a better knowledge of problems to be faced throughout the Empire ; of a similar nature, the Essay Competitions for schools and universities of the Empire ; local branches throughout England and in many of the colonies ; the very valuable library of books and pamphlets to the number of

107,000 volumes, dealing with colonial subjects from all standpoints; the journal already alluded to which claims to cover the whole field of Imperial activities; the ordinary general meetings of the Institute from November to June, and lastly the clublike nature of the Institute in Northumberland Avenue—and the membership of Fellows and Associates of over 12,000. The Colonial Institute is essentially an institution that not only moves with the times, but aims at being a slight step in advance.

Since the war the Institute has done much by the dissemination of literature to lay the true aspects of the war before all English-speaking people; and hardly a mail arrives in Jamaica which does not bring a packet of such pamphlets for free distribution.

As the great Exhibition of 1851 re-awakened interest in the colonies, the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886 brought home to the people of England the life of their brethren overseas, in a manner that had never been attempted before. From it resulted another institution which has done much for the well-being of the colonies, the Imperial Institute, founded in 1883, one of the purposes of which is the collection and dissemination of information relating to trades and industries of the Colonies and Indies.

A stubborn fight was fought over the question of site. Commercial men wanted to see it in the city; those who regarded it as a kind of perennial Colonial and Indian Exhibition were in favour of South Kensington, where a site was ready to hand; while a third set would have fain seen it on the Thames Embankment, a suitable half-way house. The choice of site probably hampered it on the commercial side.

Twenty-seven years ago the Institute of Jamaica got together a collection of local products for the Jamaica Court at the Imperial Institute, but the vote for its maintenance was soon discontinued, and the Court had to be taken over by the Imperial Institute authorities. A few years ago at the request of the Director arrangements were made to have certain things done to render the Court more representative, but the war stopped the work. Only latterly, however, the

Institute has appealed to Jamaica for geological specimens, in order to obtain information on that head with a view to a trustworthy survey of the mineral resources of the Empire after the war.

Of recent years the Imperial Institute has published valuable pamphlets of a technical character in connection with the industrial resources of the colonies.

The League of the Empire has a distinct educational aim and it has issued valuable publications dealing with the history of the Empire. It also works in conjunction with the educational authorities of the various colonies.

The British Empire League, on the other hand, deals principally with the promotion of trade within the Empire, and the means to that end; publishing a fortnightly "Review" dealing with the aims of the League.

The British Empire Producers' Organization, of more recent date, has, perhaps, a more personal element in its constitution.

It aims at assisting in maintaining and developing all parts of the British Empire by promoting trade within the British Empire.

As a direct means of furthering the spread of intimate understanding between the colonies and the mother country, with a somewhat more social character than the other associations, is the Victoria League, with its numerous branches throughout the Empire, of which there is one in Jamaica.

The last organization to be considered is the West India Committee, not because it is of less importance, but because it is only indirectly Imperial, dealing as it does with only a section of the Empire. All in Jamaica are familiar with the Committee, either from its fortnightly journal, or from extracts from it, which appear from time to time in the local press, and all know the amount of valuable work which the Committee does for the West Indies.

It would seem at first that there was a considerable waste of energy in the number of similar institutions above

alluded to, but each has been formed in furtherance of objects which, it was felt, were not fully dealt with by the existing organizations. In a small community like Jamaica, however, it would seem that amalgamation is necessary if the result is to be successful: the more especially as the British Societies show increasing desire to collaborate and thus avoid waste of effort.

Suggestions have been made from time to time for the formation of a branch in Jamaica of this or that institution, having for its object the progress of the Empire, but a Society embodying the aim of the various institutions above mentioned, and having a claim on the co-operation of each, would have a fairer chance of success. All the associations mentioned have the same aim, though travelling by different routes, and they are all willing at any time to assist as far as they can any laudable colonial object.

So long ago as 1886 the Poet Laureate sang, and years have intensified the feeling :

“ Britain’s myriad voices call—
 Sons, be welded, each and all
 Into one Imperial whole,
 One with Britain heart and soul !
 One life, one flag, one fleet, one Throne !
 Britons, hold your own.”

The Chairman’s Speech.

Mr. Farquharson then rose to address the meeting. He said :—Gentlemen, the next matter on the agenda is a motion standing in my name. I somewhat regret that I have to keep myself in order in connection with it, but that is not my fault but the fault of the meeting. I shall read the motion standing in my name :

“ That this meeting of Members and Fellows of the West India Committee, the Royal Colonial Institute, and the British Empire Producers’ Organization, hereby resolves to form a local Association to support the objects of the said Bodies and to work in concert with them or other similar

Bodies with the special object of ensuring that Jamaica shall play a worthy part in the consolidation and development of the British Empire, and that the meeting do now proceed to consider in detail the draft Constitution and Rules of the Association."

First of all, I know you will all join with me in felicitating Mr. Cundall on his very able paper (hear, hear). He has given us, in plain terms, a summary of the efforts made from time to time by our forefathers, who realized that official representation was insufficient to obtain all the objects they had in view, and that what they wanted was more direct contact with bodies at home that could help them.

Therefore from time to time they adopted various methods of attaining that object.

Now one of the objects of the proposed Association is that we may have bona fide representation in London by powerful bodies. The history of this movement is that I have been in correspondence with these bodies for a considerable time. They were desirous that steps should be taken to form local branches of the several societies, but it appeared to me that the best plan was to form a local Association of men affiliated with the English Associations, which would carry out the objects of all three, advancing their interests and extending their influence here, and at the same time securing their interest on behalf of Jamaica in England. I think you will agree with me that that is a desirable thing.

Gentlemen, I do not want to make a very long speech, but there is one subject that has been very near to my heart for years, and near to the hearts of all those who feel as I do: that is Free Trade. Now, gentlemen, we in Jamaica have for some years past felt very bitterly on the subject of Free Trade. We have felt again and again that the West Indian sugar planter was ruthlessly sacrificed for the British manufacturer. Perhaps it may mitigate the bitterness of our feeling if I remind you that we were not alone in that sacrifice: the British farmer was sacrificed at the same time.

There are some very interesting pages of history in connection with the matter. I do not know if you have ever heard of a gentleman named Sir John Bowring. He was one

of the chief apostles of Free Trade and a close friend of Richard Cobden. Unfortunately he failed in business, he was a gentleman who wrote hymns (laughter), but in addition to that he had very excellent qualifications. He was a cosmopolitan philanthropist (laughter). In the year 1840 he was selected by the British Government, then under the control of Manchester School, to pay a visit to Germany and report on the conditions existing there. In order that you may understand the position clearly, I will briefly tell you the conditions obtaining at the time Sir John Bowring made his visit to Germany, which subsequently resulted in the British farmer being sacrificed. Great Britain had had a tremendous trade in Germany, for many generations Germany had been the happy hunting ground of the British manufacturer. But in the year 1833 there was a union of Prussia with certain German States, and they established a Customs Union under which they imposed a duty on British goods. Goods of British manufacture were hard hit, and German manufacturers were benefited. The British manufacturers found that the German States which before the Union used vast quantities of their goods, did not want their products again: the policy adopted by the German Government was driving British manufactured goods out of the German markets. Towns which had been practically British for years no longer required British goods; even Berlin, in which such a large British trade was done, that a portion of the city was known as Petty Manchester, ceased to take British manufactured goods. Sir John Bowring was sent over to learn the secret of the progress of the German manufacturers and what was the most essential thing to be done by Britain to recover for her manufacturers the market which they were rapidly losing. Sir John investigated and sent in a long report to Lord Palmerston. I quote one paragraph of that report. It is very illuminating, and it was subsequently acted upon by the British Government:—

“Were foreign markets accessible to the German agriculturist,” he wrote, “there is no doubt the flow of capital towards German manufactures would be checked, first, by the increased demand for agricultural labour, and secondly by the loss of advantages which the German artisan now possesses in the comparative cheapness of food.”

In other words, he suggested that if food were made dear for German artisans, capital would be withdrawn from manufactures and would flow into agriculture. Therefore he proposed to open the markets in Great Britain to German agriculturists as a means of scotching German manufacturers. That policy was adopted.

Again, as you know, Richard Cobden laid it down that in a short time every country would adopt free trade. You may perhaps remember a speech he delivered somewhere about the year 1843. He said—

“You might as well tell me that the sun will not rise to-morrow as tell me foreign nations will not adopt free trade in less than ten years from now.”

But foreign nations have not followed England.

And here, as we are quoting Mr. Cobden's views, I think it opportune to refer to a statement made in Mr. Cundall's paper where he tells us that the Royal Colonial institute was established in 1868 for the purpose of counteracting the work of the little Englander who viewed with complacency the possible separation of the Colonies from the Motherland. These separatist tendencies were the fruit of Free Trade. In proof of this I cannot abstain from making a further quotation from a speech of Cobden. Listen to this :—

“Free Trade will gradually and imperceptibly loosen the bonds that now unite us to the Colonies under a mistaken notion of self-interest.”

Gentlemen, I have no more quotations to make from Cobden.

I return to Sir John Bowring's ingenious scheme for restoring the German market to the British manufacturers. The sacrifice of the English agriculturist and the West Indian planter was accepted by Germany. Without giving any return she took the free market for Prussian food and on it built up that gigantic system which has enabled her to bring about the present world struggle.

I would like to read to you a page from the latest German history written since the war : it gives you the views that Germans hold as to British Free Trade. I quote from a book by Scultz Gaevermitz, “England and Deutschland” on page 22 he writes :

“ By her free trade England has done us more good than whatever harm she has done us by her political opposition. Where would the German sugar industry be, the pioneer of our industrial progress, where the German textile and iron industries ; where the whole body of the new German finance without the rich all-absorbing English market ? Carried on her back by free trade England we ventured to reach out for English world-power . . . really we cannot reproach the Briton.”

This is a German tribute to what British Free Trade has done for Germany.

This war must be determined some time. One naturally asks the question, What does the future hold for us ? What will be the after-result ?

There is, I think I may say, a very general realization that there is no prospect whatever of Germany abandoning her warlike aspirations and that peace will merely mean preparation for another war.

This realization has increased the activities of existing Associations, and has brought into being and active operation new Organizations, foremost among which is the British Empire Producers' Organization.

Mr. Cundall in his paper made but scant reference to this Organization.

Now, while on this occasion I do not feel it is possible to deal at any great length with the subject, I propose to refer briefly to the aims and objects of the British Producers' Organization.

Its grand object may be described as the creation of conditions which will make, not merely for the opulence of individuals, but for the strength, security and economic independence of the Empire.

In proof of this I propose to read to you a few extracts from a Memorandum of the Organization which has not yet been published :—

“The aim of the Organization is to promote, defend and develop the industries and resources of the British Empire, and to keep them free from foreign control.”

“ Its field of action is the British Empire.”

“ The policy of the Organization is designed to give security to industry throughout the British Empire, and to encourage technical efficiency, energy and enterprise. To that end it seeks —

“ To make the Empire self-supporting in all essential industries by :—

Ensuring that the food supplies of the Empire shall be primarily secured for the use of the British peoples and produced in such abundance as to maintain a reasonable level of prices. This applies particularly to Great Britain where the necessity for a large development of agriculture is most urgent.

Conserving and developing the resources and raw materials of the Empire for the use in the first instance of its own industries.

“ To advocate such measures as shall secure the control in British hands of transport facilities between the various parts of the Empire.

“ To secure for the workers better conditions of life work and wages than existed before the war.

“ Legislation to attain economic security may take the form of :—

The imposition on a preferential basis of

Export duties to maintain supplies and prevent foreign control of raw materials with a system of rebates.

Import duties to develop Empire manufacture and production.

Countervailing duties.”

“ADVANTAGES TO ASSOCIATIONS.

“ The Organization, by reason of its Imperial structure, affords to the Associations which are its members, the following advantages :—

It is in a position to lay before the Home and Dominion Governments the views of manufacturers and producers on matters affecting their interests.

Individuals or firms belonging to any of the affiliated Associations can, through the medium of their associations, obtain the aid of the Organization in dealing with Governments and Government Departments, and in this connection it may be mentioned that the Organization has already been able to give valuable help to a number of its constituent Associations.”

I think there can be no doubt that the view held very generally in England to the effect that there is no prospect of a permanent peace, is amply justified when one considers the conditions in Germany. For generations past its youth have been taught that their destiny is world-empire, and they have looked forward to building up a mighty empire on the ruins of the British Empire. They have been taught that war is a duty : they have been taught that the army is merely the natural expression of the vital forces of the nation ; and that as these forces increase, so must the German Army and Navy increase. The spirit of Germany has been very aptly described in the words of a German poet :

“ Dream ye of peaceful sway ?
 Dream on, who dream it may.
 War still is Empire’s word !
 Peace ? by the victor’s sword ! ”

That, gentlemen, is what we have to look forward to : that is what will follow a re-creation of Germany’s strength. Even now she is preparing her tremendous machinery for the war after the war. She has intimated that she is preparing to swamp the world’s markets with her goods that she may be able to build up her strength again, with a view to renewing the combat at the earliest possible day.

We in Jamaica have followed with breathless interest the course of this, the greatest of world wars. We have given of our blood and treasure, and will give yet more.

But what I want to ask you is this : do you think that we have approached this subject so far from a sufficiently Imperial point of view ? Cannot we do more ? Is there not an offering that we can yet make to the Empire ? An offering of a new Jamaica ? A Jamaica with an awakened spirit : a Jamaica with a wider outlook : a Jamaica with a clearer vision of the meaning of the Empire and its needs : a Jamaica with a deeper insight into the industrial and social needs of our own people ! That Jamaica would be an offering acceptable to the Empire, and the object of this call to-day is to invite you to join with me in forming a local association which will aim at the development of Jamaica on Imperial lines, so that we may in the future play a worthy part in the building up of an Empire mightier even than it is to-day.

Gentlemen, that may by some be regarded as the sentimental aspect of the matter. I may tell you that it is a subject on which I feel very strongly. I invite you now to consider the practical methods we must adopt to achieve our end.

If we are to do our duty to the Empire, we should make it our duty to increase our production. (Hear hear).

In approaching the subject of increased production there are many obstacles in the path; and perhaps the greatest obstacle we have to contend with is that of labour.

A remedy can be found for this, I am certain, but it is impossible to have a public discussion of the subject, in detail. I might just outline though, in general terms, the methods I think we ought to adopt.

(1) We first have to readjust the relations between employer and employee.

(2) We have to make better provision for the housing of the labouring population.

(3) We have to take steps to eliminate preventable diseases.

(4) We have to take steps to establish and maintain improved sanitary conditions.

All these things, gentlemen, will undoubtedly improve the standard of living, thus creating and keeping alive self-respect, the motive power of all progress.

I have full confidence that, if we proceed on proper lines, we shall do much towards the solution of a very difficult problem.

Our position in Jamaica to-day is certainly a most anomalous one. We are looked upon as the happy hunting ground of other countries which require a supply of labour; and yet we are always complaining that we have not enough labour here. I say, gentlemen, this position is no fault of the planters. I am sure of that because I am a planter myself and have been so for many years (laughter). The explanation, I suggest, lies in this. These other neighbouring countries are developing rapidly. Take Cuba, for instance. There

you have money pouring into the country—new machinery, an enormous competition for labour—flourishing industries and a country rapidly progressing—money to be made right along—a large market for labour. In Jamaica we have had industries in a state of stagnation; we have made very little progress; hence there has been little demand for labour, which naturally flows to the countries calling for it. And the unfortunate sugar planter has been expected to solve the difficulty here, and is blamed in the matter. What I am going to say is this: it is a mistake for us to throw the blame, as some are inclined to do, on the niggardliness of the sugar planter, for existing conditions in the labour market. Speaking for the parish I am interested in, and in reference to which my experience extends over 25 years, I have no hesitation in stating that previous to the war the industry had been carried on for the benefit of labour, because the planters made no profit.

I grant that since the war, by a fortunate combination of good seasons and good prices, we have been enabled to make up some of the ground lost in the past. But we have not yet succeeded wholly in doing so.

At the same time I think the question of paying attention to the condition of the labouring population, with a view to its betterment, is one which requires very careful consideration indeed.

I say this in no spirit of philanthropy. I realize this, that the welfare of any industry must depend upon the well-being of the men and women interested in it, and who are doing the actual work. I realize that the first charge on any industry must be an amount sufficient to keep the labouring population in a decent state of livelihood.

But I think we should even go beyond this. We ought to do more. We ought to be interested in the welfare of the labourer's family, the future labouring population, for it is on them that our future depends.

I say this, speaking as a practical sugar planter. To secure the future of an industry must be one of the main principles of a sound business policy. I am thinking on the lines along which I believe our best interests lie.

I think, gentlemen, you will all admit that it is impossible at a meeting of this sort to discuss the matter in detail. The subject is one which calls for the most careful and tactful handling, with full recognition of the rights and obligations of all classes,—capitalist, employer, landowner, labourer. These matters must be threshed out by the Council of the Association, if one is formed as the result of to-day's meeting.

There are a few other observations I would like to make. You have heard a letter read from the St. Mary's Citizens Association, and there are other Societies, I believe—I believe that there is one called the Jamaica League—which are working for the uplift of the people. I see no reason why these Associations should not be affiliated with this Society we are forming. I have drawn a clause, under which these Associations will be in a position to appoint a member or members to the Council of this Association. We shall thus be in a position to secure the views entertained by all classes of the community, and I am satisfied that this will be of great advantage.

In performing the onerous task falling on the Association, the obstacles we shall encounter are many and varied. Chief among them will be the proverbial policy of *laissez faire* so prevalent throughout the British Empire and not absent in Jamaica. But I am confident of this, that if we are determined to proceed on sound lines, and will devote the necessary time and attention to subjects which come before us, we shall be able to achieve much good.

It will be an inestimable advantage to us to have the assurance of the powerful and sympathetic aid and co-operation of the Associations with which we shall be affiliated.

In addition to this, I would like to direct your attention to the fact that the Secretary of State for the Colonies is strongly appreciative of efforts such as we are now making. I will read one or two extracts from a speech he delivered at a luncheon given in his honour by the British Empire Producers' Association on April 26th of this year. He said—

“ During the last fifty years what real efforts had been made by the business men of the United Kingdom to see that the politicians followed the course that business men knew to be in the interests of the Empire ?

They wanted a more direct interest on the part of business men in what they thought Parliament should do. That could not be done unless business men used their influence to secure the election of men who would think of the Empire first.”

And again—

“The Empire must be looked on as a business concern. Business men could not afford to let the country rest solely in the hands of the politicians, (hear, hear). The true foundation of the State was to be found in the commerce and industry of the men who conducted that commerce and industry, and the workmen who worked with them for its success. He asked them to carry their business energy still further, so that the Government would have in the forefront of its mind the fullest possible development of all our Imperial resources.”

Gentlemen, I do not think it is desirable that I should take up more time in talking to you as we have to get down to business. I will merely say, finally, that I am confident we realize that the interests of all of us lie in the increase of production, and it rests principally with those who are engaged in production to co-operate with a view to advancing the welfare of the Colony and the interests of each and all.

I submit for your consideration the resolution which I have moved (Hear, hear).

Discussion.

The Hon. W. A. S. Vickers (Custos of Westmoreland) then rose and said:—I second the motion. I am in thorough accord with it. If we do not help ourselves we can hardly expect the Government to help us. There is a well-known saying: “God helps those who help themselves.” I am sure that the British Government will do what is necessary, and that we shall, if we go about it in the right way, get over the difficulties in our path.

Mr. Baggett Gray said that he would like to add that a good many persons in Jamaica already belonged to one or perhaps all of the three organizations mentioned in the “Objects” of the Association, and they would be better protected now. He felt sure they were all agreed that the movement was a useful one. It was impossible to think that

those Associations in England already mentioned would not be useful to us in Jamaica. He could not imagine anything more perfect than the proposal put before them.

The Resolution was put to the Meeting and was unanimously carried.

The Meeting also considered and settled the terms of the Constitution and Rules.

The following gentlemen then signed on as members of the Association—Messrs. Clarence Lopez, John McPhail, J. C. Elliott, W. H. Farquharson, Thomas Abrahams, Jnr., T. H. Sharp, Jnr., Archibald Spooner, C. W. Hewitt, E. W. Muirhead, W. Coke-Kerr, E. H. Kerr, Alexander Stewart, J. H. Phillipps, C. H. Levy, Lionel DeMercado, W. Baggett Gray, H. Holgate, T. L. Roxburgh, J. Dougall, William Wilson, D. O. Kelly-Lawson, H. P. Sewell, G. P. Dewar, W. N. C. Farquharson, A. W. Farquharson, S. S. Stedman, F. M. Kerr-Jarrett, W. A. S. Vickers, J. C. Farquharson, R. A. H. Stone, L. B. Melville and A. C. L. Martin.

The election of members of the Council was then proceeded with and resulted as follows—

Lionel DeMercado	Kingston
James Dougall	St. Ann
A. W. Farquharson	Kingston & Clarendon
W. H. Farquharson	Westmoreland
J. C. Farquharson	St. Andrew
W. Baggett Gray	Kingston
C. W. Hewitt	Hanover
F. M. Kerr-Jarrett	St. James
Ernest H. Kerr	St. Mary
Clarence Lopez	Clarendon & Trelawny
Easton W. Muirhead	Manchester
J. H. Phillipps	St. Thomas-ye-East
H. P. Sewell	Trelawny
S. S. Stedman	Portland
W. A. S. Vickers	Westmoreland
William Wilson	Kingston

It was decided to leave four vacancies in the Council to be subsequently filled. The meeting then adjourned.

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, written vertically on the left side of the page. The text is faint and appears to be "C. P. Russell".